

LECP UPDATE March 2021

Goal 1: Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban and rural regeneration

Regeneration Funding Schemes:

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2019/2020 (RRDF)

Area	Overview of Proposal	Funding Awarded
Baltinglass	Work delayed on restoration of the Courthouse reuse as a library/Heritage and Digi-hub with outdoor event space as library service want to reapply for funding for a larger project. Consultants working on public Realm enhancement, parking improvement, pedestrian crossings, ramps, boardwalk and riverside fencing	€2.7mn (total cost €3,566,968)
Newtownmountkennedy	The tender process for consultants to be appointed for Main St. Design is nearly complete; mobility /transport plan; community facilities	€357,750

Both projects are underway but progress has been affected by COVID-19 restrictions

Town & Village 2020

This funding scheme supports economic and social development projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000.

In 2020 there are two elements to the Scheme.

1. 2020 Accelerated Measure

This measure aims to assist communities and local businesses in the delivery of projects that address the short term challenges of social and economic recovery following the COVID-19 emergency. The focus is on adapting to public health requirements, particularly social distancing.

Funding is available up to €25,000 - €40,000 in exceptional circumstances

2. 2020 Town and Village Main Scheme

Round 1 Accelerated		
Dunlavin	Shop Local campaign	Funded €4,500
Roundwood	Public realm	Funded €36000
Comm Centres	Adaptations for COVID measures for 10 centres	Funded €16,200
Round 2 Accelerated – August 14 th		
Enniskerry	Car parking improvements, new footpath, new public seating, signage & shopfront improvements	Funded €39,600

Ballinaclesh	Renovations to community centre	Funded €39,600
Laragh	Improvements to pedestrian movements; provision of safe pedestrian spaces and public awning	Funded €24,300
Tinahely	Tinahely Mens Shed building refurbishment after a fire	Funded €4,950
Baltinglass	Painting and planting scheme	Funded €9,000
App	App to encourage shop local – county wide	Funded €22,500
Round 3 Accelerated >10,000 – August 28 th		
Kilcoole	Age Friendly benches	Funded €18,000
BCPs	Fit out for BCP centres	Funded €40,000
Rathdrum	Age friendly benches and bus shelter	Funded €24,000
Round 3 Accelerated <10,000 – August 28 th		
Greystones 2020/MD	Footpath improvement around Burnaby Park	Funded €40,000
Arklow MD	Biodiversity project	Funded €35,550
Wicklow MD	Outdoor Shelter/awnings	Funded €40,000

Town & Village Main Scheme – September 30 th		
Stratford	Community shop/cafe/offices/living over the shop/playground	Funded €199,800
Laragh	BCP and remote working hub Brockagh	Funded €100,000
Enniskerry	Public realm enhancement	Funded €98,000
Avoca	Public realm and recreation facility works	Funded €68,455
Annamoe	Public realm enhancement	Funded €100,000

CLAR 2020

Wicklow county council have successfully secured €60,000 for two projects under the Clar programme.

Knockananna Community Group and Asknagap secured funding for carparks

Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship and Public Participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making

Age Friendly Programme

The Age Friendly programme is focusing on the Keep Well Campaign and the Community Call. 500 winter care packs were delivered to those most isolated and vulnerable in the county and were very well received. Tablets and laptops were delivered to participating nursing homes Wicklow in order to assist residents stay connected. Training for setting up a Befriending service in Arklow has started with two sessions complete.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg, through the Coordinator, are taking part in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum, bringing the perspective of young people, and in the Keep Well campaign. Funding has been secured from DCYA to continue to support the Comhairle na nÓg and tablets and laptops were provided to help them to keep the youth council going during the COVID-19 restrictions.

PPN – report attached

Goal 3: Strategic Direction – Develop high quality integrated services, available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy

Round 3 of Programme is underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31st December 2021 has been granted. €30,000 has been allocated to a number of groups under the Healthy Ireland Mental Health Small grants Scheme.

Under the Healthy Ireland Fund, Wicklow County Council has received €67,225 to help with the 'Keep Well' campaign. This is a national campaign, part of the government plan for 'Living with COVID-19' focused on 5 major themes:

- Keeping Active & Being Outdoors – even during winter it is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Keeping in Contact – staying connected with people and addressing isolation as person-to-person connection is important to our wellbeing
- Switching Off and Being Creative - Switching Off and Being Creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax
- Eating Well – by nourishing your mind and body we can positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.
- Minding Your Mood – relaxation, mindfulness and asking for help if needed.

2. Migrant Integration Strategy

The DRAFT Migrant Integration Strategy has recently been completed and was presented to the LCDC. It will go to the full Council meeting in April.

3. County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – Wicklow Naturally

Report under economic update

Goal 4: Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

Social Enterprise development and operation is being supported by Bray Area Partnership in the Bray and north Wicklow areas as follows:

- Working with existing and emerging enterprises locally to build the capacity and skills required to manage effectively and sustain trading. Over the past year a programme of supports has been provided involving access to a mentor for the individual social enterprise and participation in peer group training sessions and networking on relevant business development and day to day operational issues etc. This work has been supported by a combination of programmes resourcing such as the Training & Mentoring Supports for Social Enterprises Pilot grants scheme (DRCD/Dormant Accounts Fund) and SICAP. Delivering programme supports forms part of a collaborative undertaking involving BAP and Southside Partnership.
- Providing advice and guidance to social enterprises with respect to sourcing funding for expansion and development. A number of social enterprises locally were successful in grant applications submitted under the DRCD Small Capital Grants Scheme for social enterprises. BAP is administering the finding allocated under this scheme for enterprises in the Bray and north Wicklow areas.
- Establishing new social enterprises to provide services and employment opportunities for targeted communities. The Targeted Resourced Action Supporting Nurtured Activation (TRASNA) Initiative is a social enterprise proposal being researched with respect to supplying goods and services with ex-offenders being employed in the workforce. A feasibility and market research study will determine the scope and viability for the enterprise to be established. This work is also part of a collaborative effort involving BAP and Southside Partnership.
- Directly managing and operating deficient demand social enterprises for the provision of services and employment opportunities targeting marginalised communities. Over the years BAP has developed and operated social enterprises covering early years services; transport & care services and heating & upgrading works. The BAP Warmer Homes service is an example of such enterprises in the work carried out to retrofit insulation and reduce energy usage in welfare dependent fuel poverty households, connected to the SEAI Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme.

Social Enterprise – Co Wicklow Partnership

- 11 projects have been supported in the following areas – (3) Analysis & Development Projects, (4) small services/ works projects, (4) large scale capital works projects. The value of which is €747,280.56
- Internal CWP Training and Mentoring Programmes have been supported under the current programme, of which the following activity has concluded or is underway -
 - Rural Youth Social Enterprise Climb Programme concluded in December 2020, with a competition for an award pot of €10,000 (funded by DRCD – Social Enterprise and

SICAP). It unearthed in Wicklow 8 new social enterprises, 7 socially aware and developing social enterprises and 4 deciding their path was more in line with enterprise.

- Rural Youth Social Enterprise Summit Social Training Videos - (in production currently) for release in Autumn 2021. These will be hosted on a branded Social Enterprise Platform for Co Wicklow. This platform was funded by DRCD (€4,900) and will include a launch event also funded by DRC (€2,500).
- Covid 19 Social Enterprise Training and Mentoring Ascend Programme is currently underway with a total of 20 participants.
- Eco Tourism - Wicklow Forest Bathing Training Programme – 10 to 12 participants will be trained in the art of Forest Bathing, outside first aid and social enterprise entrepreneurial business thinking.

- Total LEADER investment in Social Enterprise in Co Wicklow - € 984,243.59

- Grant aid for (4) Social Enterprises based in Co Wicklow was secured through the small capital grants award scheme - €36,475 from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

