



Funding Schemes

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April 2022

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- Department Rural and Community Development suite of supports and schemes
- Wicklow County Council Community Awards
- Local Sports Partnership
- Heritage funding schemes
- Environment funding schemes



National Policy



Our Rural Future

Rural Development
Policy 2021-2025



Ambitious and Transformative Potential for Rural Ireland





- Tailored approach – every town is unique
- Place based and plan led
- Bottom – up approach – communities in partnership with Local Authorities





RRDF

- Towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000
- Revitalising rural towns and villages through planned and sustainable regeneration
- Providing the necessary facilities and infrastructure in rural communities in terms of remote working, connectivity, town centre residency, economic and enterprise development
- Addressing vacancy and dereliction in town centres
- Tourism development
- Digital and remote working facilities
- Arts and cultural facilities



Town and Village Renewal Scheme

- Supporting the revitalisation of towns and villages
- Emphasis on vacancy and dereliction
- Town centre living
- Bringing vacant properties back into use as remote working hubs or arts, culture centres
- Green spaces and recreational amenities
- Scale of grants:
 - Up to 100,000
 - Up to 200,000
 - Up to 500,000
- Project development measure introduced



Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

Upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades

Painting, murals, shopfronts, lighting of architectural features, furniture, canopies, planting



Outdoor Recreation Scheme



Development and enhancement of outdoor recreational infrastructure such as walking trails, forest walks, beaches, bogs, lakes

3 measures:

€30,000

€200,000

€500,000

CLAR





Connected Hubs Call

- Support the development of the National Hubs Network
- Add capacity to existing remote working infrastructure by upgrading hubs and Broadband Connection Points

Community Enhancement Programme

- Grant scheme for community/voluntary groups for small scale capital projects that will enhance community facilities for communities that are impacted by disadvantage.
- Grants up to €1,000 and greater than €1,000



Community Awards Scheme 2022

- Annual grant scheme operated by Wicklow County Council
- Maximum grant €500 per organisation for small projects and group running costs
- Closing date 4pm Friday 29th April 2022
- www.wicklow.ie
- Email: ccsdadmin@wicklowcoco.ie



Some Examples

Stratford: Community shop, café, space and residence

Rathdrum: Village enhancement

Wicklow town: Enhancement and town plan

Rathdangan: Playground

Baltinglass: Heritage centre and digital hub

Donard: Community Cafe

Blessington: Town enhancement – Greenway

Ballinaclash: Refurbishment of centre



Local Sports Partnership



Sports Grants

Small grant scheme to support training & education of volunteers within sports clubs

Small grant scheme to support inclusiveness in sports clubs i.e. increase accessibility for people with disabilities, new communities, women etc.

COVID 19 – Community & Sports Club Grants

Small grant scheme available to sports clubs & community groups to get back to activity.

Sports Capital Grants

The Sports Capital Programme is the primary vehicle for government support for the development of sports and physical recreation facilities and the purchase of non-personal sports equipment throughout the country.



ENVIRONMENT

Tree Grant

- Annual grant to fund communal planting of trees.
- Announced in summer for autumn planting
- Funds 75% of the cost of trees for planting.
- Native tree and hedging funded.
- eao@wicklowcoco.ie for further details.



Climate Action Fund

- Will be launched this year.
- Will fund Climate Action projects.
- Carbon Tax revenue will create the fund.
- Expected launch in summer.
- Awaiting further details on criteria and eligibility from the DECC



Community Environment Action Fund

- Funds awareness raising projects on a range of themes including Climate Action, Biodiversity, Waste prevention and the circular economy.
- 50% funded by WCC and 50% by the DECC.
- Has been on hold for two years due to Covid.
- Contact eao@wicklowcoco.ie for further details.



Heritage

Community Monument Fund

A relatively new annual grant scheme from National Monuments Service open to owners and custodians of Archaeological monuments (private individuals and public bodies).

Three streams : Stream 1 - Capital works , grants of up to €85,000

Stream 2- Conservation plans, advice and research – up to €30,000

Stream 3- Access and interpretation enhancements – up to €30,000

Grants of up to 100% of project costs.

Applications to Wicklow County Council, Heritage Officer. Application period typically Dec- Mid Feb.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF)

Two annual grant schemes for owners of protected structures, buildings in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), and other historic buildings of funding to carry out works to conserve structures and carry out essential repairs.

Administered by Wicklow County Council on behalf of the Architectural Heritage Protection section of Department of Heritage.



Heritage

- **HSF:** Larger funding stream – competitive process. WCC makes shortlists and Dept make final allocations.
- Stream 1 €15,00-€50,000 per project available representing up to 80% of total project costs.
- Stream 2 €50,000-€200,00- per project available representing up to 50% of total project costs. Project should have community benefit.
- Vernacular Buildings Stream - €5,000-10,000 per project available – buildings not on Record of Protected Structures may apply.
- Shopfront Scheme - €15,000-€50,000 per project available to support conservation of traditional shopfronts.

ANY QUESTIONS?

