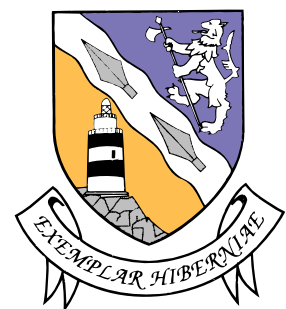
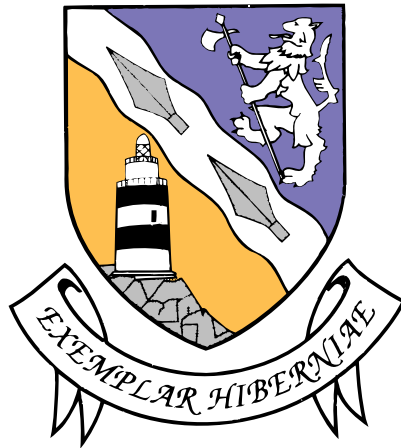




2005

Annual Report
Wexford County Council





Annual Report 05

Wexford County Council



[Contents]

Offices and Opening Hours	3	Dog Licence Statistics	92
Cathaoirleach's Introduction	4	Freedom of Information	92
County Manager's Statement	5	Higher Education Grants	93
Members of Wexford County Council	6	Register of Electors 2005/2006	93
Membership of Committees	8	Veterinary Services	94
Membership of Other Bodies	10	Finance	95
Conferences Attended in 2005	11	2005 Final Accounts Summary	99
Members Expenses	13	Wexford Borough Council	101
Council Staff at 31 December 2005	14	New Ross Town Council	103
Service Indicators	20	Enniscorthy Town Council	105
Housing	26	Gorey Town Council	108
Environmental Protection	31		
Road Transportation	46		
Water Services	49		
Civil Defence	53		
Fire Service	56		
Planning and Development	58		
Planning Enforcement and Licensing	60		
Community and Enterprise	62		
Human Resources	68		
Workplace Partnership	73		
Information and Communications Technology	77		
Arts Department	83		
Library and Archives Services	90		
Casual Trading	92		



[Offices and Opening Hours]

Headquarters:

County Hall,
Spawell Road, Wexford.
Telephone: 053 9176500
Fax: 053 9143406
Email:
postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie
Website: www.wexford.ie

**24-hour Service
Emergencies Only**
1890 666 777

Illegal Dumping
Freephone Number:
1800 DUMPED
[1800 386733]

Recycling Information
Freephone Number:
1800 SORT IT
[1800 767848]

Fire Brigades
All Units 999 or 112

General Office Hours:

9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Motor Tax:

9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Planning:

10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Cash Office:

9.00 a.m. - 12.45 p.m.
2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

LOCATION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
New Ross Area Office,	The Tholsel, New Ross.	051 421300
Enniscorthy District Office & Machinery Yard,	Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy.	053 9233212
Wexford Area Office,	Hill Street, Wexford.	053 9176340
Gorey District Office,	Market Square, Gorey.	053 9483800
Wexford County Council Offices,	Custom Quay, Wexford.	053 9176500



Councillor **Jimmy Curtis**
Cathaoirleach

[Cathaoirleach's Introduction]

I am proud to introduce Wexford County Council's Annual Report for 2005. As illustrated in this Report and previous reports, substantial progress continues to be made year on year across all the Council's services.

The past year saw further progress in the delivery of infrastructural improvements. Progress was also made in advancing decentralisation projects for Enniscorthy and Wexford which will provide a major boost for the local economy. Work on the day to day services continued in the face of growing demand. The Arts programme has been significant and innovative over the past year and continues to provide a strong focus for cultural development in the County.

The highlight for me was the visit to Wexford by the Australian Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. John Herron and Mrs. Jan Herron last August. The Ambassador is extremely proud of his ancestor, also John Herron, who was hanged on Wexford Bridge in 1798.

It was my privilege to be elected Cathaoirleach for the sixth time last June. The past few months have again highlighted for me the importance of a dedicated partnership of elected members, management and employees in ensuring the delivery of a quality service to the people of Wexford. I thank all concerned for their efforts throughout the year. In particular, may I pay tribute to Councillor Larry O'Brien, who was Cathaoirleach for the first six months of the year, and Mr. Eddie Breen, County Manager.

Councillor **Jimmy Curtis**
Cathaoirleach

[County Manager's Statement]



Eddie Breen
County Manager

Wexford County Council enjoyed a busy and successful year in 2005. The Annual Report gives an overview of our achievements and should be of great importance to all who have an interest in the development of County Wexford.

During the year, considerable progress was achieved in the provision of infrastructure – completion of Carrick-on-Bannow Main Drainage Scheme, commencement of Rosslare Harbour Main Drainage Scheme, ongoing work on the Water Conservation Project, commencement of Gorey By-Pass, construction of the N30 Jamestown / Moneytucker Realignment Scheme and construction of a new Fire Station in Bunclody. Significant advances were also made in the provision of social and affordable housing with a large number of house completions.

We have made huge progress in this County over the past year in advancing our Waste Strategy. Our plans received a welcome boost with the announcement of approval by the Environmental Protection Agency for a waste licence to operate a landfill at Holmestown, following the earlier decision by An Bord Pleanála in the Council's favour. The real cost of meeting our waste obligations over the coming years is, however, particularly worrying.

The Council is continually striving to achieve excellence in the performance of its functions and

in the delivery of services. Many changes and improvements have been made in recent years, and we will keep going with a particular emphasis on accessibility to services for people with disabilities. October saw the announcement of the REPAK Recycling Awards. Wexford County Council won an award for the kerbside collection scheme, the introduction of which was supported by the use of market research and an innovative education and awareness programme.

We have now moved to an era of collaboration where local government, State agencies, social partners, including the community, business and voluntary sectors are working together to ensure a coordinated approach to dealing with issues of priority in our County. I look forward to working in close collaboration with all of our stakeholders in the years ahead to ensure that County Wexford becomes ever more competitive on the economic stage, while retaining its unique rural and cultural identity.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Jimmy

Curtis and his predecessor, Councillor Larry O'Brien and all the Councillors for their contribution and commitment to the development of the County. I also wish to commend the staff for their unstinting loyalty and dedication to serving the people of Wexford.



Eddie Breen
County Manager



[Members of Wexford County Council]

Enniscorthy Electoral Area



Peter Byrne
FIANNA Fáil



Kathleen Codd-Nolan
FINE GAEIL



Sean Doyle
NON-PARTY



Barbara Anne Murphy
FIANNA Fáil



Oliver Walsh
FINE GAEIL

Gorey Electoral Area



Lorcan Allen
FIANNA Fáil



Michael D'Arcy
FINE GAEIL



Jimmy Fleming
SINN Féin



Declan MacPartlin
NON-PARTY



Jimmy Curtis
FIANNA Fáil,
Cathaoirleach



Barbara Anne Murphy
FIANNA Fáil,
Leas-Chathaoirleach

Wexford Electoral Area

New Ross Electoral Area



Sean Connick
FIANNA Fáil



Jimmy Curtis
FIANNA Fáil



John Dwyer
SINN Féin



Denis Kennedy
FINE GAEL



Larry O'Brien
FINE GAEL



Leo Carthy
NON-PARTY



Pat Codd
FINE GAEL



Anna Fenlon
FINE GAEL



Ted Howlin
LABOUR



Lisa McDonald
FIANNA Fáil



Padge Reck
NON-PARTY



Maurice Roche
SINN Féin



[Membership of Committees]

MEMBERSHIP	Corporate Policy Group	Planning SPC	Environment SPC	Transportation, Water and Emergency SPC	Housing SPC	Economic and Social Development SPC	Enniscorthy Electoral Area Committee	Gorey Electoral Area Committee	New Ross Electoral Area Committee	Wexford Electoral Area Committee	Protocol Committee	Rents Committee	Local Traveller (Accommodation) Consultative Committee	Rural Water Monitoring Committee
COUNTY COUNCILLORS														
Lorcan Allen		☆						☆			☆			
Peter Byrne				☆			☆					☆		
Leo Carthy			☆							☆				
Pat Codd				☆						☆	☆		☆	☆
Kathleen Codd-Nolan					☆		☆					☆		
Sean Connick						☆			☆					
Jimmy Curtis	☆		☆						☆		☆		☆	
Michael D'Arcy		☆						☆						
Sean Doyle		☆					☆				☆			
John Dwyer			☆						☆			☆		
Anna Fenlon					☆	☆				☆	☆			
Jimmy Fleming					☆			☆					☆	☆
Ted Howlin	☆					☆				☆	☆			
Denis Kennedy			☆						☆					☆
Declan MacPartlin				☆				☆						
Lisa McDonald	☆				☆	☆				☆		☆		
Barbara Anne Murphy	☆	☆				☆	☆						☆	
Larry O'Brien				☆					☆			☆	☆	
Padge Reck					☆					☆		☆		
Maurice Roche	☆			☆						☆				
Oliver Walsh	☆	☆	☆				☆					☆		☆
TOWN COUNCILLORS														
George Lawlor (Wexford Borough Council)					☆									
Bernard Crosbie (Gorey Town Council)				☆										
Ray Lawlor (New Ross Town Council)		☆												
Anna Fenlon (Wexford Borough Council)													☆	
Philomena Roche (Wexford Borough Council)						☆								
Noirin Sheridan (Enniscorthy Town Council)			☆									☆		
Malcolm Byrne (Gorey Town Council)												☆		
Ingrid O'Brien (New Ross Town Council)												☆		



MEMBERSHIP	Corporate Policy Group	Planning SPC	Environment SPC	Transportation, Water and Emergency SPC	Housing SPC	Economic and Social Development SPC	Eniscorthy Electoral Area Committee	Gorey Electoral Area Committee	New Ross Electoral Area Committee	Wexford Electoral Area Committee	Protocol Committee	Rents Committee	Local Traveller (Accommodation) Consultative Committee	Rural Water Monitoring Committee
SECTORAL REPRESENTATION														
Dave Ormonde (Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged)						☆								
Brian Byrne (Development/Construction)		☆												
Mary Connors (Travellers)													☆	
Liam Curtis (Agriculture/Farming)				☆										
Percy Deacon (Templeudigan Group Water Scheme)														☆
Barry Deane (National Federation of Group Water Schemes)														☆
John Breen (Business/Commercial)				☆										
Senan O'Reilly (Environmental/Conservational/Cultural)		☆												
Harry Doran (Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged)				☆										
Donal Doyle (I.C.M.S.A.)														☆
Joseph Bishop (Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged)						☆								
Peter Earle (Agriculture/Farming)		☆												
Tony Sinnott (I.F.A.)														☆
Mary Hughes (H.S.E.)													☆	
Mary Helen Connors (Travellers)													☆	
Geraldine McCarthy (I.C.A.)														☆
Noel Keane (I.R.D.A.)		☆												
Michael Redmond (Community/Voluntary/Disadvantaged)					☆									
Eamonn O'Rourke (Agriculture/Farming)			☆											
John Power (Environmental/Conservational/Cultural)			☆											
John Redmond (H.S.E.)														☆
Philip Scallan (Business/Commercial)			☆											
Vincent Sommers (Killanerin Group Water Scheme)														☆
Margaret Kelly (Travellers)													☆	
Mary Connors (Travellers)													☆	
Michael Wall (Trade Union)					☆									
Anthony Neville (Business/Commercial)					☆									
Billy Roche (Environmental/Conservational/Cultural/Arts)						☆								
Conor Dervan (New Ross) CDP													☆	



[Membership of Other Bodies]

Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly

Lorcan Allen
Ted Howlin

South East Regional Authority

Lorcan Allen
Pat Codd
Sean Connick
Michael D'Arcy
Sean Doyle
Ted Howlin
Declan MacPartlin

South East Regional Authority - Operational Committee

Jimmy Curtis
Lorcan Allen

Wexford Harbour Commissioners

Anna Fenlon
Lisa McDonald

New Ross Port Company

Larry O'Brien

South East Regional Tourism Authority (County Tourism Committee)

Kathleen Codd-Nolan

St. Stephen's Cemetery Joint Committee

New Ross Electoral Area
Committee Members

General Council of County Councils

Peter Byrne
Denis Kennedy
Maurice Roche

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

Denis Kennedy

Library Association of Ireland

Lisa McDonald
Oliver Walsh

County Wexford Tourism Board

Lisa McDonald

County Wexford Enterprise Board

Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Michael D'Arcy
John Dwyer
Lisa McDonald

W.O.R.D.

Jimmy Curtis
Michael D'Arcy

County Wexford Partnership

Kathleen Codd-Nolan

Wexford Area Partnership

Pat Codd

County Development Board

Jimmy Curtis
Barbara Anne Murphy
Ted Howlin
Lisa McDonald
Maurice Roche
Oliver Walsh

Wexford Heritage Trust

Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Barbara Anne Murphy

Wexford Heritage Trust - Reporting Committee

Leo Carthy
Pat Codd
Barbara Anne Murphy

Duncannon Fort

Jimmy Curtis
Larry O'Brien

Hook Heritage

Sean Connick
Larry O'Brien

County Museum Committee

Barbara Anne Murphy

Courtown Waterworld

Barbara Anne Murphy
Michael D'Arcy

Wexford Monument Trust Ltd.

Jimmy Curtis
Denis Kennedy

Fethard Castle

Sean Connick
Denis Kennedy

Local Authority Members Association

Lorcan Allen

Vocational Education Committee

Jimmy Curtis
Lisa McDonald
Peter Byrne
Anna Fenlon
Kathleen Codd-Nolan
Denis Kennedy
Michael D'Arcy
Padge Reck
John Dwyer

Rural Transport Initiative Committee

Pat Codd

Wexford Energy Management Agency

Barbara Anne Murphy

Environmental Monitoring Committee

Padge Reck
Pat Codd

South Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

Oliver Walsh



[Conferences Attended in 2005]

Date	Conference	Venue	Nos. Attending
20-22 January	Duhallow Conference	Kanturk, Cork	2
28 January	"Stigma" One Day Seminar	Waterford	1
29 January	Rural Enterprise Development	UCC, Cork	1
11-12 February	AMAI Spring Seminar	Letterkenny	3
24-25 February	Carlow Tourism National Conference	Carlow	1
25-27 February	16th Colmcille Winter School	Donegal	1
3-5 March	General Council of County Councils	Enfield, Co. Meath	6
31 March-1 April	LAMA - 22nd Annual Conference	Cork	2
7-8 April	National Planning Conference 2005	Cork	2
21-22 April	Sherkin Island - 21st Annual Environment Conference	Sherkin Island, Cork	4
22-23 April	Training Seminar for Councillors - The Local Housing Service	Leitrim	1
28-29 April	Trade Unionism - North South Experience	Drogheda	1
5 May	Cre Annual Seminar	Portlaoise	1
6 May	IPA Training for Councillors	Leitrim	1
19-20 May	6th Annual Conference Southern & Eastern Assembly	Kerry	1
19-21 May	3 Day Conference - Local Partnership - Troubles without End	Mallow, Co. Cork	1
19-21 May	Westport Experience Annual Conference	Westport, Co. Mayo	1
23 May	Combat Poverty Agency - Customer Care	Laois	1
26 May	IPA - Training for Councillors	Enfield, Co. Meath	3
30-31 May	National Housing Conference	Dublin	1
3 June	IPA - Training for Councillors	Cork	1
3 June	A New Reality for Regional Policy - Changes and Challenges Post 2006 Chamber of Commerce	Athlone	3



10-11 June	Sustainable Rural Housing	Bellingham, Co. Louth	2
21-22 June	See the Light 2005 Conference	Galway	1
23-25 June	The Future of Rural Tourism	Roscommon	1
24-26 June	Byrne Perry Summer School	Gorey	2
16-17 July	Douglas Hyde Conference	Strokestown	2
23 July	Jean Kennedy Smith Symposium	New Ross	1
14-19 August	Parnell Summer School	Wicklow	1
23-28 August	General Humbert Summer School	Mayo	1
31 August-1 Sept	Irish Rural Dwellers Association	Clare	2
8 September	Wind Energy in Ireland - Energy from Fresh Air	Johnstown Castle, Wexford	3
9-11 September	National Association of Councillors - National Women's Conference	Belfast	2
15-17 September	AMAI Annual Conference	Clare	3
19-23 September	2005 Energy from Fresh Air	Germany	1
4 October	Review of Joint Waste Management Plan - South East Region	Clonmel	2
6-7 October	Getting a Grip - Counting the Cost	Kerry	2
7 October	Realising the Potential of our Regions - Drivers of Growth Post 2006	Carlow	1
12-14 October	Confederation of European Councillors - CEC Overseas Conference AGM	Berlin, Germany	1
14-16 October	KIMO International Annual Conference - AGM	Shetland Islands, Scotland	1
19 October	Travelling & Settled Communities Conference	Tullamore, Co. Offaly	1
21 October	Local Government Financing - Value for Money & Effectiveness	Tullow, Co. Carlow	1
1 November	Hidden Truths Silent Cries - Senior Help Line - National Conference	Dublin	1
4-5 November	LAMA 25th Annual Winter Conference	Donegal	10
8-9 November	Filling the Vacuum - Ceifin Conference 2005	Ennis, Co. Clare	1
18 November	IBEC Seminar	Waterford	1
25-26 November	Clare Tourism Conference	Ennistymon, Co. Clare	1
2-3 December	European Landscape Convention	Naples, Italy	1
6 December	Anti-Social Behaviours Seminar	Belfast	1
10-12 December	The Local Government Budget	Bunclody, Co. Wexford	4



[Members Expenses]

Annual Allowances

Cathaoirleach	€51,373.58	(incl. €16,373.55 arrears)
Leas-Chathaoirleach	€13,191.57	(incl. €2,225.55 arrears)
SPC Chairpersons	€25,395.00	
Representational Payments	€325,405.39	
Councillors	€134,419.84	

Conferences/Seminars

At Home	€41,414.02
Abroad	€ 7,350.37

Entertainment Expenses

€13,637.00

TOTAL	€612,186.77
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[Council Staff at 31 December 2005]

County Manager Eddie Breen

Directors of Service

Niall McGuigan
Adrian Doyle
Tony Larkin
Anne O'Reilly
Kieran O'Brien

Head of Finance Ger Mulvey

Senior Executive Officers

Niall McDonnell
John Pierce
Maeve O'Brien
Michael Redmond
Martin McDonald
Ger Griffin
Michael O'Reilly

Roads Liaison Officer Don Curtin

Management Accountant Annette O'Neill

Financial Accountant Linda Lacey

Town Clerk, Wexford Borough Council Pat Collins

Senior Social Worker Eileen Wallace

Administrative Officers David Minogue

Hugh Maguire
Noel Stacey
Caroline Kennedy
Martina Donoghue
Dympna Shanahan
Angela Laffan
Ger Mackey
Joe Curran
Patricia Foley
Padraig O'Gorman
Amanda Byrne
Elizabeth Hore

Freedom of Information Officer Assumpta Doyle

Workplace Partnership Facilitator Ann Walsh

I.S. Project Leaders

P.J. Murphy
Pat Sweeney
Peter O'Connor
Catherine Kavanagh

Arts Officer Rosaleen Molloy

Senior Staff Officers

Jacqueline Eydt
Padraig McKenna
Rita Byrne
Anita Ryan
Elizabeth Stanley
Marie Thorpe
Peadar McDonald
Martina Birney
Jackie Murphy
Adrienne Larkin
Niall McCabe

Anthony Bailey
Noirín Byrne
Michele Bridges-Carley
Sean Kavanagh
Tony Nolan
Aedin Hassett
Anita McLoughlin
Jeanne Kiernan

Civil Defence Officer Gabrielle Willis

I.S. Analyst Developer Siobhan Redmond

Staff Officers

Jim Bell
Martin Hickey
Marina O'Byrne
Alice Doyle
Kathy Kirby
Alice Kelly
Mary Bowie
Siobhan Kehoe
Bernie Quigley
Mary Prendergast
Katherine Dempsey
Paula Shortall
Michele Browne
Caroline O'Mara
Tina O'Rourke
Denis Noonan
Anna Marie Colfer
Kathleen Comerford
Margaret Atkinson



Area Housing Officers

Fiona Rooney
Joan Murphy
Mary Dunphy
Aisling Doyle

Social Workers

Teresa Boyle
Carmel King
Paul Phillips
Brendan Hynes

Storekeeper

John Dunne

Traveller Accommodation Officer

Ray Colfer

Anti-Social Inspector

Claire Rochford

Anti-Social Behaviour Officer

John Moran

Tenant Liaison Officer

Alan Keeling

I.S. Technical Support

Liam Buckley
Jane Duignan

Archivist

Grainne Doran

Assistant Staff Officers

Emma Fitzgerald
Alice O'Gorman
Ann Sullivan
Diane Roche
Mary Clince
Bridget Breen
Patricia Devereux
Margaret Corish
Mairead Kavanagh
Monica Gaynor
Dolores Whitty
Breda Bolger
Susan Doran
Roseanne Redmond
Michael McCormack
Lisa Byrne
Siobhan Lynn
Mary Cleere
Robert Cowman
Geraldine Cullen
Deborah Roice
Catriona O'Sullivan
Tara Farrell
Dolores Doyle
Barbara Byrne
Mary Cowman

Pam Morris
Helen Frayne
Stephanie Black
Siobhan Redmond
Michael Sweeney
Cliona Connolly
Geraldine Banville
Mary Coleman
Bernadette Geelan
Mary McCauley
Linda McDonagh
Philip Knight
Caroline Creane
Jessica Siggins
Ann Marie Howlin
Margaret O'Brien
Kate Stafford
Martina Furlong
Helen Meehan
Geraldine Dowler
Antoinette Jordan
Michael Stamp
Thomas Cullimore
Sarah O'Neill
Tracy McGuire
Eric Lawlor
Donna Cullen
Sharon Furlong
John McCormack
Tom Boggan

Clerical Officers

Mary O'Leary
Ray Colfer
Peter Reck
Mairin Ralph
Maureen Roche
Anthony Nolan
Mary Kehoe
Catherine Coade
Patricia O'Shea
Lillian McDonald
Tina O'Sullivan
Geraldine Kennedy
Anne Marie Johnston
Elizabeth Coughlan
Rosemary Sheehan-Doyle
Josephine Kehoe
Margaret Geoghegan
Gerardine Reck
Kathy Frayne
Fiona Wadding
Laura Williams
Anne Marie Devlin
Annette Malone
Helen O'Mahoney
Bernie Doyle
Phyl Healy
Bridget Kelly
Mary Carton
Maria Farrell

Elizabeth Gibbons
Christine Hanlon
Mary Doyle
Angela Sutherland
Anne-Marie Power
Lorna Campbell
Margaret Murphy
Nuala Walsh
Karl Fagan
Mary Long
Diane O'Neill
Kerrie Hayes
Sinead Doyle
Eileen Whitty
Helen Butler
Anne O'Rourke
Anna Whitty
Patricia O'Byrne
Martina Callaghan
Clair Walsh
Audrey Ffrench
Elizabeth Redmond
Antoinette Murphy
Majella Ryan
Susan Montague
Zoe Power
Siobhan Kelly
Siobhan O'Treasaigh
Francis Stafford
Mary Power
Maura Ryan
John Ryan
Anne Culleton
Teresa Codd
Miriam Hillis
Mary Kinsella
May McClean
Anthony Power
Margaret Long
Margaret Wheeler
Ann Meagher
Janice Parkinson
Margaret Kelly
Maire Lambert
Anne Kent
Helaine O'Sullivan
Michael Lonergan
Colm Kielthy
Patricia Murphy
Therese Finan
Davin Connick
Maria McArdle
Valerie Kielthy
Gretta Barry
Derick Fowler
Ciara O'Reilly
Richard Mullen
Jill Latimer
Elizabeth Murphy
Colette Stafford
Adrienne Kane



Patricia Roche
Geraldine Kavanagh
Mary Murray
Serena Rowe
Shirley Berry
Angela McDonald
Monica Siggins
Fionn Stafford
Mary O'Leary
Margaret Dunphy
Lisa Doran
Eugene Campbell
Thomas Kavanagh
Eilish Furlong
Angela Finn
Sinead Boland O'Brien
Mark McGillick
Johanna Quigley
Siobhan O'Dwyer
Ann Marie Laffan
Susan St. Ledger Kent
Siobhan Fawsitt
Conor McRory
Geraldine Tobin
Amy Redmond
Geraldine Ellis
Sharon Codd
Elaine Power
Sharon Ryan
Ann Marie Galway
Agnes Sinnott
Caroline Ironside
Brian McDonald
Stephen Forbes
Nicola Bourke
Claude Clancy
Breda MacFadden
Paul O'Rourke
Breda Quigley
Olwyn McKenna
Mary Moran
Mark Hawe
Eleanor Browne
Catherine Culleton
Bernard Wadding
Geraldine Redmond
Caroline Martin
Alan O'Rourke
Margaret Cullen
Carmel Sherlock
Ann Brazil
Aisling Moran

Web/E-Gov Technician
Fredrik Karlson

**Public Arts Programme
Coordinator**
James Moran

Research Officer
Siobhan O'Neill

**Community & Enterprise
Development Officers**
Sean Cooke
Eileen Coman

County Librarian
Fionnuala Hanrahan

Executive Librarians
Rita Brosnan
Jarlath Glynn

Assistant Librarians
Claire Kelly
Anne Griffin
Hazel Percival
Patricia Keenan

Senior Library Assistants
Joan Lambert
Celestine Rafferty
Angela Parle

Library Assistants
Teresa Kelly
Michael Dempsey
Susan Kelly
Maire Browne
Nicola Bourke
Rachel Lacey
Fiona Walsh

Branch Librarians
Kathleen Gleeson
Lucy Wall-Murphy

Porter/Van Driver
John Hall

Mobile Library Driver
Pat Casey

Veterinary Officer
Larry Forristal

Marine Officer
Aidan Kehoe

Harbour Constable
John Sinnott

Weighbridge Operator
Matt Stafford

Telephonist
Richard Phelan

Canteen Operators
Catherine White
Esther Lanney
Sheila Leacy

County Hall Cleaners
Kathleen Carley
Bernadette McGuire
Theresa Wade
Sabina Eustace
Tracey Quinn
Catherine Flood

Senior Engineers
Darragh Cullinan
Eamonn Hore
Brian Galvin
Ambrose Madders

Senior Planner
Diarmuid Houston

Chief Fire Officer
Maria Melia

Senior Executive Planners
James Lavin
Tania Van Dyk

Senior Executive Architect
Sean McLoughlin

Senior Executive Engineers
Jim Power
Gerry Forde
Noel O'Driscoll
Jeremiah Crowley
Anthony O'Neill
George Walsh
Eddie Taaffe
Tadhg O'Corcora
Craig Innes

Senior Executive Scientist
Yvonne Mullooly

Executive Engineers
Niall Kane
Paul Johnston
Daniel McCartan
Nicholas Rossiter
John Lambe
Eamonn Dillon
Paul Delahunty
Clem Daly
Sean Kavanagh
Michael Jones
Anthony Shanley
Sinead Casey
John Bennett
Leonard Poole



Laurence Lett
Michael Doyle
Rory O'Mahoney

Executive Planners

Deirdre Kearns
Graeme Hunt
Pauline Doyle
Liam Bowe
Niamh Carton

Assistant Chief Fire Officer

David Kennedy

Assistant Fire Officer

John Maher

Assistant Engineers

George Colfer
Mark Collins
Tony Quirke
Abraham Dunne
Dermot Graham

Assistant Planners

Sonia Shiels
Lorcan Griffin
Damian Daly
Ciara Ni Mhairtin
Karina Fitzgerald

Chief Technicians

Nicholas Cloake
John Cronin
Shem Byrne

Senior Executive Technicians

David Codd
Philip Wallace
David Donegan

Executive Technicians

Kevin Hurley
Tim McGrath
Ian Plunkett
Eddie Bolger
James Rattigan
Jackie Power
Tom McLoughlin

Technician Grade I (Architectural)

Shirlee Doyle

Environmental Technicians Grade I

Clare Kelly
Mary O'Neill
Georgina Fleming
Siobhan Donegan

Civil Technicians Grade I

Kevin Kehoe
Oona Ward
Helena Browne
Francis Hobbs

Civil Technicians Grade II

Elisa Woods
Barry Lambert
Andrew Spencer
Theresa Wildes

Clerks of Works

Edward Nash
John Roberts
Mark Roche
Michael O'Leary

Technical Services Supervisor

Hugh Russell

Senior General Services Supervisors

Joseph Bradley (Jnr.)
Patrick Cloke
Tony Murphy
Patrick O'Sullivan

Supervisory Overseer

John Breen

Waste Disposal Supervisor

Peter Byrne

General Services Supervisors

Patrick Armstrong
Myles Byrne
Patrick Byrne
Thomas Goff
T.J. Grant
Laurence Mitten
Martin Shalloe
Martin Tobin
Martin Wickham

Facility Manager - Killurin

William Byrne

Craftworker Foreman

Bernard Dunne

Assistant Foremen

William Buckley
James Daly
John Furlong
Richard Martin
Henry Rochford

Craftworker Chargehand

Nicholas Walsh

Craftworkers

Bernard Colgan
Des Dixon
Joseph Donohoe
John Doyle
Pat Dunne
Michael Heffernan
Patrick Kelly
Dan McPhillips
Christopher Murphy
Martin O'Connor
Patrick O'Leary
Peter Redmond (Jnr.)

Caretaker - County Hall

Dick Donohoe

Sewerage Caretaker

Thomas Doyle

Water Services Inspectors

Michael Bailey
Oliver Bennett
Thomas Byrne
Patrick Colfer
Christy Doyle
John Doyle
James Kavanagh
Paul Kehoe
Peter Kehoe
Michael Murphy
Edward O'Connor
Jim O'Leary
Thomas Quigley
Declan Rattigan
Michael Redmond
Michael Roche

Waste Water Inspectors

Noel Donohoe
Michael Shiggins

CIS Inspector

Enda Lambert

Waterworks Caretakers

Pat Donohoe
Nicky Fortune
Peter Kehoe
Noel McGuire
Anthony Nolan
Daniel Nolan
Peadar O'Connor
Michael Redmond
John Sheehan

Mobile Library Driver

Patrick Casey



Drivers

Michael Armstrong
Jon Birney
Daniel Breen
Stephen Breen
John Cousins
Thomas Cullen
Thomas Dagg
Tony Donegan
Vincent Doran
Brendan Dunne
Patrick Dunne
Andy Fenlon
Joseph Hayes
Pat Leacy
Anthony McGee
John Morris
James O'Brien
Patrick O'Mahoney
Padraig Power
John Quigley
Patrick Quigley
Thomas Shiggins
James Somers
John Tobin

Foremen

Thomas Armstrong
Thomas Byrne
Vincent Byrne
Daniel Carroll
Edward Carter
Michael Carty
William Courtney
Seamus Davis
Joseph Donoghue
Joseph Doyle
James Dunbar
John Dunne
Joseph Goff
Patrick Hendrick
Mark Hogan
John Howlett
James Jeffares
Andy Kane
Denis Kavanagh
Patrick Kavanagh
Thomas Kavanagh
Myles Kehoe
William Kehoe
William Kinsella
Tony Levingstone
James McGannon
John Miller
Brendan Molloy
James Monaghan
Patrick Moore
Aidan Murphy
Daniel Murphy
Patrick Murphy
Paul Murphy

Thomas Murphy
William Murphy (Jnr.)
Thomas Nolan
Eamonn O'Grady
Michael O'Grady
Ger O'Reilly
William Phillips
Anthony Reddy
Sean Redmond
Michael Rossiter
John Sinnott
Peter Tobin
John Tomkins
Thomas Whelan

Machine Operator Kevin Murphy

Ganger Peter Devereux

Chargehands
Patrick Allen
Michael Aspel
James Breslin
Sean Colfer
Martin Connick
Seamus Davitt
Matthew Flynn
John Hanley
John Kehoe
Nicholas Morris
Patrick Murphy
Joseph O'Dwyer
Mark O'Hanlan
Gerard O'Reilly
Brian Pask
James Redmond
Tommy Smith
John Waters

Light Truck Drivers
Peter Allen
Peter Byrne
Thomas Carter
Con Carty
Andrew Dempsey
Seamus Donohoe
Edward Doyle
Philip Flynn
Thomas Goff (Jnr.)
Daniel Grannell
James Hall
Michael Higginbottom
Patrick Howlin
James Kearney
Bernard Kelly
Basil Kennedy
Myles Lawless
Matthew Monaghan
Jim Moore

Joseph Moorehouse
Philip O'Connor
Patrick O'Toole
Frank Rochford
Thomas Sweeney
John Walsh

Refuse Collectors
James Bradley
Martin Byrne
Larry Delaney (Jnr.)
James Doyle
Richard Doyle
Paul Finn
Henry Goff
James Kavanagh
John Kelly
Bernard Kirwan
Joseph Phillips
William Phillips
Myles Quigley
Patrick Quinn
John Roche
Vincent Stamp
Andy Taylor

Craftworker Mates
Gerard Doyle
Michael Griffin
Patrick Kavanagh
Matt Ryan

General Operatives
Patrick Bolger
Robert Bolger
Michael Brooks
Joseph Browne
Mark Butler
Michael Butler
Michael Butler
James Byrne
Matthew Byrne
Thomas Byrne
Noel Cleary
Sean Cleary
Laurence Cloke
John Cloney
James Cooney
Ciaran Cullen
Michael Devereux
Desmond Dolan
Eamon Doyle
Eugene Doyle
James Doyle
John Doyle
Stephen Doyle
Derek Dunne
Eamonn Ellis
Nicholas Eustace
John Fardy
Edward Flood



Christy Fox
Philip French
Richard Gaynor
Kevin Goff
Billy Harris
Philip Harris
Tom Hendrick
Jimmy Hillis
Gearoid Hoare
James Howlett
Jason Hynes
John Jordan
John Joe Jordan
Michael Kavanagh
James Kearns
Eamonn Kelly
John Kennedy
Vinnie Kenny
John Kirwan
Liam Levingstone
Thomas Mahon
Jim McDonald
Francis McGannon
Mervyn McManus
Andrew Monaghan
Peter Moore
Paul Moorehouse
Niall Moran
Richard Moran
James Murphy
Nicholas Murphy
Noel Murphy
Patrick Murphy
Sean Murphy
Thomas Murphy
Thomas Murphy
Patrick Nacey
Martin Nolan
William Nolan
Nicholas O'Brien
Jim O'Connor
Anthony O'Leary
Pat O'Neill
Thomas O'Neill
John O'Toole
David Power
Michael Reddy
Denis Redmond
John Redmond
John Redmond
Mark Redmond
Matthew Redmond
Gerard Roche
Charles Rochford
Philip Ryan
Edward Shalloe
Michael Sutherland
James Thomas
Thomas Tobin
John Walsh
Nigel Walsh

Noel Walsh
Seamus Walsh
Denis White
Joe Wickham

Handymen

Tom Bates
Paul Jordan
Morgan O'Brien

Halting Site Caretakers

Patrick Cowman
George Kelly

Dog Warden

John Colfer

Community Wardens

Thomas Byrne
Donal Donovan
John Grey
Patrick Hendrick
Oliver Hosey
Donal Moran
Mark Mulhall

Firefighters

Edwin Abbott
Tony Black
Timmy Breen
Patrick Busher
Colin Cahill
David Carley
Alan Carty
Maurice Caulfield
Thomas Condon
Patrick Cowman
Wayne Cox
Geraldine Cullen
Aidan Cummins
Timothy D'Arcy
Keith Davis
Billy Dobbs
Denis Doyle
Pat Doyle
Thomas Farnan
Joseph Fenlon
Jim Foley
Bernard Gavin
Tony Godkin
Alan Hammond
Andrew Holden
Owen Kennedy
Michael J. Kenny
Patrick Laffan
Richard Mahon
Paul Malone
Grant Masterson
John Masterson
Sylvester McGarr
John Melay

Joseph Millar
Richard Millar
Warren Mitten
Myles Morris
Anthony Nolan
Barry O'Brien
Daniel O'Connor
Patrick O'Connor
Terence O'Connor
Anthony O'Hara
Patrick O'Hara
Harry O'Neill
Patrick O'Neill
Richard Pyne
Thomas Roche
Mark Ronan
Kevin Rossiter
Thomas Ryan
Ciaran Scallan
Barry Smith
Brendan Smith
Andrew Walsh
Leonard Warren
Christopher Wildes
Albert Willoughby



[Service Indicators]

H: Housing

H.1 Housing Vacancies

Total Number of dwellings in local authority stock	Overall % of dwellings that are let	Overall % of dwellings that are empty
1,892	96.3%	3.7%

% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	% of empty dwellings available for letting
17.14%	85.71%	14.29%

H.2 Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting 24 weeks

H.3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received 95%

H.4 Average time taken to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:

- the shared ownership housing scheme	6 days
- housing loans schemes	9 days
- local authority housing	4.4 days

H.5 Traveller Accommodation

Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme 70%

R: Roads

R.1

Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square metres)	Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum
1,089,528	6.9%



M: Motor Taxation

M.1 Number and percentage of motor tax transactions which

- are dealt with over the counter	81,226	47.45%
- are dealt with by post	67,591	39.49%
- are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	22,362	13.06%

M.2 Number of postal applications and percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:

On the same day	58,849	87.07%
On the third day or less	8,742	12.93%
On the fifth day or less	0	0.00%
Over 5 days	0	0.00%

M.3 Public opening hours

- average number of opening hours per week	35
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E: Environmental Services

WATER

E.1 Percentage of river channel which is:

Unpolluted	70.4%
Slightly polluted	0.0%
Moderately polluted	24.5%
Seriously polluted	5.1%

E.2 Percentage of drinking water analyses results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to

- public schemes	96.27%
- private schemes (where appropriate)	86.18%

FIRE SERVICE

E.3 Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in

- full time stations	n/a
- part time stations (<i>retained fire service</i>)	6.69 mins

E.4 Percentage of attendances at scenes where

- first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	39.46%
- first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	44.06%
- first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	16.48%

E.5 Fire Prevention

- total number of fire safety certificate applications received	287
- total number of fire safety certificate applications processed	254



WASTE MANAGEMENT

E.6 Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection 100%

E.7 Household waste collected which is sent for recycling

- tonnage 6,018

- percentage of household waste collected 20.7%

E.8 Household waste collected which is sent to landfill

- tonnage 23,009

- percentage of household waste collected 79.3%

E.9 Recycling Facilities

Category	Number of Bring Sites	Number of Civic Amenity Sites	Total Number of Facilities	Number of locations per 5,000 of population	Tonnage of waste collected for recycling per 5,000 of population
Glass	120	2	122	5.25	101.8
Cans	121	2	123	5.3	5.4
Textiles	10	2	12	0.52	3.88
Batteries	113	2	115	5	0.108
Oils	4	1	5	0.21	0.1
Others	36	2	38	1.29	81.6

LITTER PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

E.10 Litter

Number of Litter Wardens

Total number of full-time litter wardens	Total number of part-time litter wardens	Number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) per 5,000 population
13	0	0.6

Number of on-the-spot fines 190

Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines 29

Number of prosecutions secured 5

Percentage of areas within the local authority that are

- unpolluted (i.e. litter-free) 0%

- slightly polluted with litter 23%

- moderately polluted with litter 56%

- significantly polluted with litter 21%

- grossly polluted with litter 0%



E.11 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

- total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	2,394
- number of complaints investigated	2,212
- number of enforcement procedures taken	156

E.12 Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

- primary schools	53%
- secondary schools	70%

P: Planning and Building Control

P.1 Planning Applications – Decision-making

Category	Column A - No. of applications decided	Column B - No. of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	Column C - No. of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	Column D - No. of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34 (9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	Column E - Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	Column F - % of grants	Column G - % of refusals	Column H - % of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	Column I - % of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála
Individual Houses	1,746	832	874	40	82 days	67%	33%	63%	37%
New Housing Development	644	303	323	18	93 days	56%	44%	67%	33%
Other: not requiring EIA	1,550	854	683	13	90 days	89%	11%	77%	23%
Other: requiring EIA	2	2	-	-	-	50%	50%	-	-

P.2 Planning Enforcement

- total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	374
- total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	60
- total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	37
- number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	102
- number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	120
- number of prosecutions	26

P.3 Public opening hours

- average number of opening hours per week	30
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P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	1,362
Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	43 days

P.5 Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority

22.35%



Rev: Revenue Collection

Rev.1 House Rent

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	92.55%
Percentage of arrears:	
- 4-6 weeks old	0.35%
- 6-12 weeks old	13.07%
- more than 12 weeks old	14.32%

Rev.2 Housing Loans

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	101.1%
Percentage of arrears:	
- 1 month old	0.00%
- 2-3 months old	0.87%
- more than 3 months old	7.20%

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	90.57%
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Rev.4 Refuse Charges

- Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end	64.26%
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Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

- Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	62.58%
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C: Corporate Issues

C.1 Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through

- certified leave	3.70%
- uncertified leave	0.75%

C.2 Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs

3.24%



L: Library Services

L.1	Public opening hours	
	- average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	27
	- average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	11
L.2	Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population	14.23%
L.3	Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for:	
	- Books	2.85
	- Other items	0.09
L.4	Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public	100%
L.5	Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	122

A&C: Arts and Cultural Services

A&C.1	Arts Grants	
	- number of arts grants paid	92
	- total value of arts grants paid per 1,000 population	€4,905

Rec: Recreational Services

Rec.1	Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population	
	- directly provided by the local authority	0.14
	- facilitated by the local authority	0.00
Rec.2	Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population	1,656

CP: Community Participation & Cooperation – Your Local Authority

CP.1	Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	95%
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[Housing]



Cllr. Lisa McDonald
Chairperson, Housing SPC



Kieran O'Brien
*Director of Services,
Housing and Environment*



Our overall aim is to provide, maintain and manage housing solutions for persons who are unable to do so themselves, through a range of services. We provide houses to rent, houses to purchase, sites to build houses, grants to improve houses, emergency houses and special needs housing.

Ongoing support is available to housing applicants through our teams of area housing officers and social workers, the anti-social behaviour officer, the traveller accommodation officer, the house repair crews, and the housing office staff.

In-house systems have been developed to manage many functions such as land acquisition, site surveys, design and planning, tender and construction, maintenance and repair.

A range of services are now delivered in partnership with the town housing authorities - Wexford Borough Council, Enniscorthy and New Ross Town Councils. During the year, a process was initiated to bring consistency, delivery and partnership to all housing services both at policy level (councillors) and operational level (staff). It is anticipated that this process will

conclude in early 2006 and result in a range of new initiatives and a better service to all our customers, whether waiting for a housing solution or now living in better and more affordable housing.

Activity Level 2005

Wexford County Council provided 686 housing solutions for applicants for the various housing options available.

Contracts, total value €50m, were signed for the erection of social and affordable houses at Coolcotts, Wexford; Creagh, Gorey; Ballyknockan, Rosslare Harbour; Castlemoyle, New Ross and Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy. The total expenditure on housing in 2005 was €46.5m.

Social	197
Affordable	198
Vacancies	62
Loans	58
Grants	109
Extensions	13
Travellers	10
Voluntaries	3
Sites	24
Repairs in Lieu	12
Total	686

Assessment of Housing Needs

The 3-yearly assessment of needs for local authority housing and an assessment of the number of homeless persons was carried out in March. The results of the assessment show 1,602 applicants in need of re-housing - a reduction of 12% since the previous assessment.



In recent years the supply of housing solutions has expanded with greater resources from central government, speedier delivery of solutions, and more local autonomy and flexibility in provision. Housing authorities are clearly directed to the achievement of solutions tailored to the needs of customers, with targets and deadlines that result in more services for more people. For these and other reasons, the demand in 2002 has been significantly reduced by 2005, despite obvious extra demand created by increased population and increased affordability gap in the private housing market.

Social Housing Productivity 2005

Various schemes were completed this year, while others were started:

COMPLETIONS		STARTS	
Single Rurals	8	Single Rurals	10
Purchases	11	Creagh, Gorey	36
Purchases (Part V)	7	Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy	41
Bridgetown	6	Castlemoyle, New Ross	33
Camolin	7	Coolcotts, Wexford	26
Oylegate	28	Ballyknocken, Rosslare Harbour	28
Rosslare Strand	57	Clohamon	5
Monageer	4	Purchases	18
Rosslare Harbour	3	Casual Vacancies	62
	131		259

Innovation in Housing Design

The housing scheme in Oylegate is an innovative project that has attracted interest due to its use of renewable energy sources. All 28 houses were fitted with solar panels and wood pellet stoves, which will reduce the use of fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases. This will assist Ireland in achieving its targets under the Kyoto Protocol on climate change and avoid the associated fines for non-compliance. The creation of concentrated pockets of demand for alternative fuels will also enable local retailers and fuel suppliers to begin stocking these fuels which, in turn, will allow private individuals to install similar systems, safe in the knowledge that there is an existing demand for the fuels.

Affordable Housing

Under the Affordable Housing Programme, 16 units were completed in the course of the year and work commenced on the following schemes:

Coolcotts	50
Creagh	62
Castlebridge	10
Ballyknocken (Kilrane)	16
	138

In addition, work commenced on the following schemes under the Affordable Housing Initiative 2005:

Coolcotts	30
Creagh	30
	60

The Council has provided serviced sites for houses also:

Rosslare Strand	10
Oylegate	6
Carrick-on-Bannow	6
Rural	2
	24

House Purchase/Improvement Loans

Wexford County Council continued to promote home ownership and improvement in 2005 through its loan schemes - Tenant Purchase, Affordable Housing, Shared Ownership, Annuity and Home Improvement loans. Loans advanced this year amounted to €6.4m, which represents a significant contribution to the housing needs of the people of County Wexford.



	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	LOANS PAID
Tenant Purchase	12	9
Affordable Housing	36	25
Shared Ownership	12	11
Annuity [SDAA]	12	10
Home Improvement	4	3
Total	76	58

Essential Repair/Disabled Persons Grants

The purpose of the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme is to provide financial assistance towards the carrying out of works which are necessary to adapt a house to make it suitable for the accommodation of a member of the household with a disability.

The number of applications for Disabled Persons Grants increased by 70% compared to 2004.

The purpose of the Essential Repairs Grant Scheme is to provide grant aid to elderly people carrying out essential repairs to their houses which are necessary to prolong the useful life of the houses.

2005 saw a 25% increase in the number of Essential Repair Grant applications.

Details of grants processed are outlined below:

	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Grants Paid	Amount
Disabled Persons	185	96	75	€557,874
Essential Repairs	59	40	35	€284,017
Total	244	136	110	€841,891

Voluntary Housing

There are currently 16 Capital Assistance Schemes and 8 Loan Subsidy Schemes in operation in the County Council's functional area, providing a total of 369 units of accommodation.

Capital Assistance Scheme accommodation is prioritised for people with disabilities and special needs, and for homeless and older people. The Loan Subsidy Scheme accommodation consists of two and three bedroom houses for families in need of housing.

During the year, a Capital Assistance Scheme was completed at Cross Street, New Ross comprising accommodation for four people with learning disabilities. 75 units of accommodation progressed to the pre tender stage in a combination of Capital Assistance and Loan Subsidy Schemes. Another three voluntary housing schemes, with 41 units of accommodation for older people and people with disabilities, are at the design stage.

Management and Maintenance of Local Authority Dwellings and Estates

The present rented housing stock amounts to 1,896. A total of €2.4m was spent on maintenance of Local Authority dwellings this year, broken down as follows:

- Day to day routine maintenance, replacement and repair €1.26m
- Planned maintenance programme including the replacement of windows and doors, the installation of central heating, insulation, draught proofing, smoke detectors and, in urgent cases, the replacement of soffits and fascias and defective septic tanks €1m
- Improvement of roads, footpaths and fences within estates €0.14m

Estate Management and Tenant Participation

It is a key objective of Wexford County Council to support residents associations and to provide opportunities for tenants to participate more fully in the management and maintenance of their estates. The Council runs pre-tenancy courses throughout the County.

In October, a seminar was held to provide training in a number of areas, including estate regeneration and conflict resolution. The training was facilitated by the Area Housing Officers and the Social Work Unit.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The prevention and elimination of anti-social behaviour on the Council's estates is also a key



objective. The role of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit is to combat incidences of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy agreements; also, to prevent similar incidences from arising in the first place. The Unit offers the public a structured system of reporting incidents of anti-social behaviour in a confidential and secure environment. It receives information from a number of sources and liaises with the Social Workers, Area Housing Officers and Traveller Accommodation Officer, as well as Residents Associations, An Garda Síochána, and the Health Service Executive. A total of 117 complaints were received during the year.

Estate Regeneration

A project was initiated by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government making funding available for estate regeneration. The following estates are included:

- Crossfarnogue Villas, Kilmore Quay
- Pugin Park, Tagoat
- Abbey View, Campile
- Ounavarra, Ballycanew
- Carrigban, Buncloody

Traveller Accommodation

There are currently 138 families living in Local Authority houses throughout the County and a further 17 families accommodated on serviced halting sites. The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005-2008 was adopted on 11th April, 2005 and shows 111 families to be accommodated during the programme. A Traveller Group Housing Scheme of 8 units

commenced in December as part of the Cherryorchard Integrated Housing Scheme.

The Annual Count of Traveller families, which was carried out on 25th November, 2005, indicates that there are 424 Traveller families residing in County Wexford at present, an increase of 22 over the past year.

314 of these families are in accommodation:

Accommodation Type	No. of families
Local Authority Housing	141
Private Houses acquired with L.A. assistance	22
Other Private Houses	98
Private Rented Accommodation	29
Official Halting Sites	17
Voluntary Housing	7
Total	314

Of the 110 families without accommodation 92 are current applicants for housing.

Land Acquired

The Council seeks to acquire land for future housing development throughout the County on an ongoing basis. 31 acres of land was purchased at various locations this year.

Part V

Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires developers of zoned land to either transfer land or houses to the Local Authority or pay a financial contribution in lieu.

An operational team has been established to assist developers in

making proposals for compliance. Negotiations took place with a number of developers during the year and agreement was reached on the transfer of 40 units of accommodation and 17 acres of land.

Social Work Unit

The Social Worker's aim is to offer a prompt, professional, integrated support structure for County Council tenants and applicants. This involves individual casework, home visits, group meetings, compiling social reports, counselling, as well as liaising with other departments within Wexford County Council, and statutory and voluntary agencies.

The Social Work Unit has provided services in the following areas:

- Arranging individual home visits to provide support/information to families in difficulties, for example, rent arrears.
- Challenging and preventing anti-social behaviour and promoting good estate management.
- Providing a mediation service for families experiencing difficulties with their neighbours.
- Providing information and support to local authority housing applicants/tenants with personal or family difficulties, and presenting social report to facilitate the processing of housing application.
- Assisting in pre-tenancy training programmes.
- Supporting local residents associations.
- Coordinating educational courses for residents, summer programmes for young people, women's groups and educational activities, children's



after-school activity groups, and Traveller pre-schools.

- Conducting the annual census of Traveller families on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and assisting in the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2005-2008.
- Providing a support service to homeless persons seeking accommodation.

The Social Work Unit liaises with the following agencies - Health Service Executive; St. Vincent de Paul; Wexford Women's Refuge; County Wexford Partnership; An Garda Síochána; MABS; County Wexford Traveller Network and Community Development Programmes throughout the County.

During the past year, development commenced on the Council's integrated schemes in Creagh, Gorey; Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy; Castlemoyle, New Ross and Coolcotts, Wexford. When complete, these schemes will provide a mixed development of different house types, community/sports facilities, retail units and amenity areas.





[Environmental Protection]



Cllr. Oliver Walsh
Chairman, Environment SPC

The objective of the Environment Section is the protection, conservation and enhancement of Wexford's environment. The Section has the fullest support of both the management and the elected members of Wexford County Council and continues to engage with the community in order to achieve its objective.

2005 was another extremely busy year for the Section, particularly in the areas of water resource management and protection, waste management and environmental education.

The Council's segregated dry recyclable doorstep scheme (2 bin system) was enthusiastically operated by our customers, with significant reduction in waste going to landfill.

Following the closure of Killurin landfill, it became necessary to transport household refuse to Carlow County Council's landfill at Powerstown, which required additional staff and freighter resources. The extra costs, as well as loss of income from Killurin landfill, have made the provision of a new waste management facility even more urgent. In this regard, Wexford County Council's proposed integrated waste management facility at

Holmestown Forest came nearer to completion with An Bord Pleanála planning approval and land acquisition agreements. Work commenced on construction of the road to the site. The Council has complied with all relevant conditions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) licence and An Bord Pleanála approval to date.

Wexford County Council's Annual Environment Awards night, held in

the Ferrycarrig Hotel in November, was attended by nearly 400 people. It is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous voluntary efforts on the part of community groups, individuals and schools to improve our environment.

While there was disappointment that only one Blue Flag was awarded this year to the Marina in Kilmore Quay, Wexford County Council was awarded five Green





Coast Awards, which reflect its continuing commitment to engaging with local community groups and schools in managing some of the most beautiful beaches in the Country. Throughout the summer season the Council maintained and improved its commitment to our beaches by engaging litter pickers, beach guards and other beach cleaning measures. Importantly, the Beach Bye Laws, 2005, which were adopted by the Council early in the year, provide statutory protection for 48 kilometres of beach as opposed to 11 kilometres under the 2000 bye laws.

The County's rivers and streams unfortunately experienced a deterioration in water quality, with the figures released in 2005 indicating a decrease in the percentage of unpolluted rivers (down to 60.4% from 70.4% in 2004). Implementation of the Phosphorous Regulations, the Water Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive and improved wastewater treatment will see marked improvements in the years ahead.

The number of environmental complaints increased this year, partly due to greater awareness

and concern by the public for the protection of the environment. The Environmental Enforcement Team continued to develop its expertise and linkage with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Much was achieved during the past year with the commitment and dedication of the Environment Section staff together with the outstanding contribution of the people of Wexford, but much remains to be done. There are many challenges ahead and only with the cooperation of everyone can we hope to achieve a clean environment for County Wexford.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management forms a significant part of the service delivery of Wexford County Council. The drive towards waste minimisation, reduction, reuse and recycling is becoming ever more urgent, as the prolonged impact of mounting waste generation on the environment is not sustainable.

Joint Waste Management Plan for South East Region

Wexford County Council along with Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary and Waterford County Councils and Waterford City Council adopted the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region in 2002.

Following a review of the Regional Plan, commenced last year, a draft was published by the lead authority, South Tipperary County Council, with comments being sought from the public by December of this year. All submissions received will be examined in early 2006 and the revised Plan is due for publication by April, 2006.

Refuse and Recycling Collection Service

This year, Wexford County Council collected 14,000 tonnes of waste from over 18,500 households throughout the County, including all major towns. With 9 freighters and 30 staff, the collection involves 7 separate routes, 5 days a week (except a few days at Christmas) every week of the year.

Growth in County Council Refuse Collection Service 1998-2005

Bin Sizes	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
80 litre	-	-	-	-	-	629	1,808	2,621
140 litre	5,783	7,118	7,459	7,630	8,620	8,690	9,038	8,240
240 litre	4,188	3,833	4,196	5,303	5,511	5,714	4,755	3,374
Wexford Borough Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,066	2,633
New Ross Town Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,843
Commercial	175	256	250	310	319	* 35	* 33	* 25
Totals	10,146	11,207	11,905	13,243	14,450	15,068	18,700	18,736

* Commercial bins in New Ross Town Council area only

Due to the closure of Killurin landfill, much of the waste collected was transported to Carlow County Council's landfill at Powerstown, County Carlow.

Private operators provided a service to a further 13,000 or so households.

2 Bin Recycling System

During the year, the Council distributed 2,500 recycling bins to replace the existing plastic recycling bags on the New Ross collection route. Market research had shown that over 60% of people expressed a preference for bins over bags. It is expected that a further 16,000 recycling bins will be issued during 2006.

An additional 3,990 tonnes of dry recyclable material was separately collected for recycling, representing over 22% by weight of all household waste generated. This material was segregated by the householder into a separate container (plastic bag or 240 litre bin) and collected once every three weeks as part of the 2 bin doorstep recycling scheme. The success of the scheme was primarily due to the continuing support and cooperation of each household in its operation.

The material was transported by a contractor to the regional Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Dungarvan for further segregation and sale. Wexford County Council supplied more recycling material to this facility than any other local authority in the region.

The benefits of the scheme are – increased awareness at household level of recycling, reduction in waste going to ever decreasing landfill space, and recycling and reuse of materials collected. A Freephone help line 1800 SORT IT (1800 767848) is available to

anyone requiring advice or information on the scheme.

Pay by Weight/Pay by Volume

The Council provides three bin sizes for its customers at different prices - 240, 140 and 80 litre bins. The trend of downsizing to a smaller sized bin continued this year, reflecting the reduction in waste being achieved by householders due to their recycling efforts. It also reduces their household budget outgoings. Wexford County Council is the only local authority in the Country offering three different sized household wheel bins, with volume based disposal costs.

The current breakdown of wheel bins is:

80L	140L	240L	Total
2,859	9,080	6,772	18,711

A trial 'Pay by Weight' project was undertaken in the New Ross collection area during the course of the year. Over 2,500 bins were distributed, each with a device containing details of the customer account. A refuse freighter was modified also with a weighing

mechanism and the project gathered valuable waste management and collection data. Having run the project for a number of months, a detailed report on it was prepared outlining the benefits and disadvantages of rolling out the project County-wide. A decision to continue with the existing pay by volume system was made based on the success of this system, its high approval rating and also the significant increased costs involved in implementing the Pay by Weight system.

Killurin Landfill

Killurin landfill reached virtual capacity in February with the result that both the Council and other refuse collectors had to make alternative disposal arrangements. On its closure, it became necessary to transport household refuse to Carlow County Council's landfill at Powerstown, County Carlow which required additional staff and freighter resources. The additional costs, as well as loss of income from Killurin landfill, have made the provision of an alternative waste management facility a priority.

Extracts from pamphlet circulated to New Ross households concerning the Pay by Weight project:





Any remaining capacity in Killurin is used for emergencies and Bank Holiday weekends. Facilities have also been retained at Killurin for individual households.

During the year, some 12,328 tonnes of waste was safely disposed of in Killurin, compared to 32,661 tonnes in 2004.

The EPA licence requirements attaching to Killurin landfill meant that a high level of environmental monitoring, maintenance and improvement continued throughout the year. Water sampling, borehole sampling, noise, dust levels, gas measurements and leachate analysis are amongst the many parameters measured regularly at Killurin. Monitoring will continue well after closure.

The gas extraction system allows the methane gas to be actively extracted and flared, thus reducing the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. Around 8,111 tonnes of leachate were collected at Killurin and transported off site for treatment.

Proposed Waste Management Facility at Holmestown

The total area of land involved will be 63 hectares, of which 15.2 hectares will be used for landfilling of residual waste, with a capacity of 900,000 tonnes at a rate of 45,000 tonnes per annum for 20 years. A civic amenity site (recycling centre) will also be provided from commencement of operations.

The EPA granted a waste licence, with conditions, on 10th December, 2004 for the above activities. An Bord Pleanála granted planning approval, with conditions, on 23rd March, 2005 for the facility, following an oral hearing held in October 2004.

Condition no. 9 of the approval provides for the establishment of an environmental monitoring committee prior to commencement of the development. The Committee was set up in July and consists of 2 public representatives, 2 local representatives and 2 Council officials. It held 7 meetings in the course of the year and visited landfills at Bottlehill in County Cork (under construction) and Inagh in County Clare. It has also agreed the terms of the Community Fund management and selection criteria.

Fehily Timoney and Company were selected by tender process and appointed as consulting engineers to carry out the design and supervise the construction of the facility. The immediate design will include phases 1 and 2 of the landfill, the civic amenity site, site office, treatment works, leachate pipeline to Wexford Town, site infrastructure, access road and junction with the N25. The materials recycling facility and composting facility will be excluded from the development initially.

Agreement has been reached with all land owners in respect of the purchase of any lands required for the landfill and road access. The compulsory purchase order was confirmed on 17th November.

The main site investigation work is complete. The successful tenderer for construction of the new public access road is Priority Construction Ltd. and work commenced in December. The contract for construction of the main facility will go to tender in early 2006.

Life Recycling Bring Centres (Glass and Cans)

The Council now has 127 bring sites throughout the County for bottles, jars and aluminium cans, a ratio of one site per 1,000 of population which is in line with performance indicator targets.

During the year, 2,489 tonnes was deposited at these sites, as against 1,919 tonnes in 2004 and 1,335 tonnes in 2003, thus showing the high level of commitment to recycling within the County.



Recycling Network for Newspapers

Wexford County Council, in partnership with Recycling 2000, has continued to provide outlets and a collection service for newspaper recycling throughout the County. There are 25 sites County-wide, with most sites strategically located in schools in an effort to promote environmental awareness amongst the youth of the County.

Over 586 tonnes of newspaper was collected this year. All the newspapers collected are shredded, baled and bagged by Recycling 2000 for sale as comfortable bedding for horses and dairy cows at farms throughout the South East.

Plastics Recycling

There are 15 plastic recycling facilities around the County. In 2005, 88 tonnes were collected.

Civic Amenity Recycling Sites

There are presently two civic amenity sites in the County. The following items can be brought to the site at Killurin free of charge:

- Cans
- Glass
- Newspaper
- Plastic Bottles
- Batteries
- Scrap Metal
- Fridges
- White Goods
- Waste Oil
- Fluorescent Lamps

Also, customers can dispose of household waste using the split level layout for ease of access to waste skips. Almost 20,000 visits were made to the Killurin civic amenity site this year.

The civic amenity site at Rosbercon, New Ross is manned by a FÁS team who operate bring banks for glass, food and drink cans, newspapers and plastic. They also collect white goods for recycling, and offer household compost bins for sale at a reduced price and a back up service for the composting. A tree shredding service was made available at Christmas and bedding plants are grown. A mill size baler and a multi-chamber baler have been delivered to Rosbercon recycling centre.

Provision of New Civic Amenity Sites

New Ross - The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government increased grant aid funding by €600,000 in November. It is hoped to sign a contract early in 2006, with a view to commencing construction as soon as possible thereafter.

Enniscorthy - The Part 8 planning process was completed in 2004. Registration has been granted by the EPA. Approval, in principle, for funding by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has issued and public tenders for the construction of the facility will be sought early next year.

Wexford - Negotiations are ongoing for the purchase of a suitable site in Whitemill Industrial Estate, Wexford.

Gorey - A suitable site location is under consideration in Gorey. An advertisement was placed in the local press for a suitable site in the area. Two submissions were received and the more suitable site is currently being assessed. A site recommendation will be forwarded to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for purchase and development approval.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2005

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2005 came into force in August. WEEE provides for the imposition of an environment charge on all goods of those types and the free receipt of them for disposal at registered sites. The Council is directly involved in the implementation of the Regulations through registration of outlets and provision of civic amenity sites.

Repak Recycling Awards 2005



Wexford County Council was the recipient of the Repak 'Local Authority Initiative of the Year Recycling Award' at a ceremony held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Dublin last October. The recycling award was presented to the Local Authority by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche at a gala event attended by over 350 delegates. It was accepted on behalf of Wexford County Council by County Manager, Mr. Eddie Breen and Director for Environmental Services, Mr. Kieran O'Brien.

The Repak awards are presented on an annual basis and are highly valued by all involved in the recycling business. This year, twelve organisations and individuals shared awards in eleven categories. Two of these categories were open to the Country's local authorities and Wexford County Council was the only local authority to be selected as a finalist in both categories.

Each winner received an award made from recovered/recycled materials by Irish designer, Ronan Halpin. The judges included external industry experts, such as, Padraic Larkin, Director, EPA; Sean Murphy, Chambers of Commerce of Ireland; Tim O'Brien, Irish Times; Terence Cosgrave, Checkout Magazine; Mark Fielding, Chief Executive, ISME (Irish Small and Medium Enterprises) and Andrew Hetherington, C.E.O., Repak.

In announcing the winner in the Best Local Authority Initiative category, Master of Ceremonies,



Miriam O'Callaghan said "Wexford County Council has been awarded the Best Local Authority Initiative for their roll out of kerbside collection to some 19,000 customers in the County. The continuous market research programme carried out by Wexford County Council ensures and facilitates the scheme's development and tracks its effectiveness. The scheme is supported with an innovative education and awareness programme. As a result, Wexford County Council have achieved over a 90% participation rate in the scheme, diverting some 4,000 tonnes of waste from landfill each year. In 2004, the Council invested almost €1 million in the scheme, which continues to grow and grow".

Home Composting

Currently, 6,943 households are composting their waste in bins provided by Wexford County Council. During the past year, 545 compost bins were sold from the Council's outlets at County Hall,

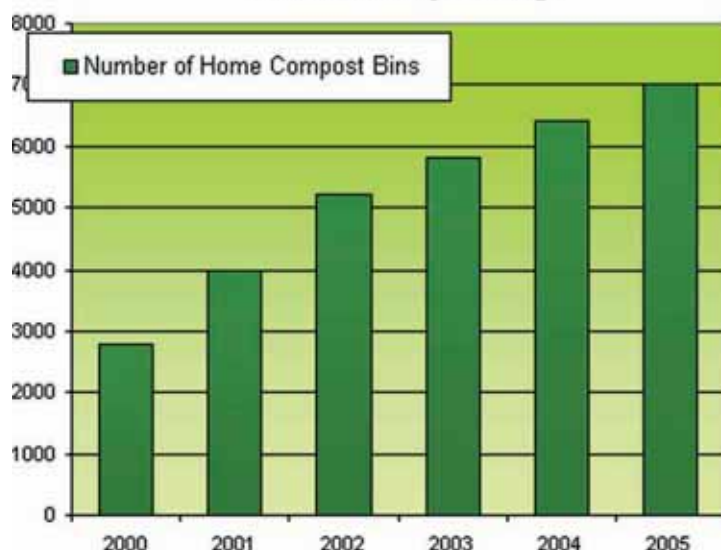
Rosbercon, and Springmount Garden Centre, Ballycanew. The price was reduced to €15.00 at the end of the year as part of a special promotion to encourage more households to compost their organic domestic waste. Composting diverts over 30% of domestic waste from landfill. Over 18% of all households now compost their waste.

Other Waste Management Initiatives in 2005

- The provision of battery recycling facilities to 103 schools plus 3 Local Authority locations in line with the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Wexford is one of only two counties who provide battery recycling in all schools.
- The delivery of the Programme for Environmental Education and Awareness County-wide to over forty schools and community groups by Wexford County Council's full-time Environment Education Officer.

- The permanent display at the County Hall of Wexford County Council's Environment Stand with Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government leaflets, ENFO leaflets and the Council's own publications.
- The production of an hour long video of Wexford County Council's Environment Awards Night produced in-house by our ICT Department.
- The continuation of networking with other Environment Education Officers in relation to the National "Race Against Waste" Campaign.
- The recycling of Christmas trees in January when over 2,200 trees were shredded, turned into mulch and made available for use in community planting.
- The introduction of new Environmental pages on the Council's website, www.wexford.ie/environment, with continuous updates during the year.
- The provision of recycling facilities for Christmas and other greeting cards.

Growth in Number of Households that are Home Composting



LITTER MANAGEMENT

Litter Management Plan 2003-2006

The Council's litter plan provides direction on how everyone in the community can take an active part in securing a litter free environment.

The plan is based on a policy of developing and encouraging public awareness of the litter problem, continuing and improving the litter programmes already in operation and enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. It lists the wide range of initiatives underway and also provides information on how to stay within the litter law.

The Anti-Litter Freephone Number is an essential part of Wexford County Council's action against litter. Members of the public who want to report littering or dumping incidents can call 1800 DUMPED (1800 386733).

ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Together, we can make a
difference

Our aim is to promote awareness and encourage active participation in a wide range of environmental initiatives amongst primary and secondary school pupils throughout the County, as well as the wider community. Following are details of these initiatives:

Education Programme

A new Environment Education Programme has been devised and is due for publication early in 2006. It includes three new programmes – Wexford River Wise Programme, "Display" (Energy Project) and Responsible Dog Care.

All schools have been notified of current environmental matters, with Principals being requested to encourage student participation.

Green Schools Campaign

Green Schools is an Environmental Education Programme of the Federation of Environmental Education (FEE). The programme is coordinated in Ireland by An Taisce in partnership with local authorities. It promotes whole school action for the environment and encourages students towards a more sustainable lifestyle by recognising the importance of environmental issues in their everyday lives.

In County Wexford, 70 schools are registered on the programme and 13 schools have secured the award. Wexford County Council facilitates the schools by organising educational visits from the Environment Education Officer, advising on green school action days and providing recycling facilities.

Below is a list of the schools that have now successfully completed the seven step programme and qualified for the prestigious Green Flag:

- Kennedy Park N.S., Wexford
- St Mary's Secondary School, New Ross
- Gorey Community School, Gorey
- Mercy Convent N.S., Wexford
- St. Aidan's Primary School, Enniscorthy
- Scoil Bhride, Blackwater, Enniscorthy
- Scoil Mhuire, Coolcotts, Wexford
- Scoil Mhuire, Rosslare, Wexford
- Screen N.S., Wexford
- St. Joseph's, Kilmuckridge, Gorey
- St. Kevin's N.S., Tara Hill, Gorey

- St. Joseph's N.S., Ballymittie (awarded in 2005)
- St. Senan's Primary School, Enniscorthy (awarded in 2005)

Gorey Community School and St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross both have achieved a second renewal of their Flag.

Our strategy is to continue to increase numbers registered with the campaign. To this end, it was decided to contact all schools in 2005/2006 by letter and follow up by phone call and visit to school. The letters were issued in September.



Schools Anti-Litter Initiatives

Wexford County Council's "Snap Into Action" competition encourages primary and secondary schools to hold litter action days, including a clean up of their schools. The winners of the 2005 competition were:

- Gorey Community School (secondary school)
- Scoil Mhuire, Our Lady's Island (primary school).

Race Against Waste – Christmas Decoration Competition

15 schools, involving over 3,000 pupils, participated in the Council's Christmas Decoration Competition. The competition



raises awareness of recycling by getting primary school children to make Christmas decorations from waste material. Over 1,200 decorations were made altogether. St. Senan's Primary School, Enniscorthy won the competition and was awarded their prize at a ceremony in the County Hall in December.

Wexford Wetlands Project

19 schools participated in the Wexford Wetlands Project. This project aims to give children, adults, developers and planners an improved understanding of the intrinsic value of Wexford's diverse wetland habitats and to educate in favour of preventing their creeping destruction.

We propose to have all Ramsar Wetlands in Wexford visited and a DVD made of the project.

Mr. Eamonn Hore, Senior Engineer, Environment and Mr. Noel Stacey, Administrative Officer, Environment were privileged to speak at the World Wetlands 2005 celebrations in Dun Laoghaire about Wexford County Council's experience with the project.

Wexford Woodland Project

Wexford County Council is committed to a policy of increasing awareness of the importance of trees and to developing its own planting programmes. The Wexford Woodland Project aims to raise awareness among primary schools of the importance of protecting and celebrating our woodlands.

Community Liaison

Our strategy is to:

- Develop a community information leaflet.
- Attend at community group meetings as requested.
- Issue letter on environment waste matters to all registered groups with emphasis on litter prevention and waste minimisation.

Information on the Environment

The Council plans to continue the publication of an environment magazine. The magazine will become the focus for environmental protection and enhancement in the County.

Tree Planting

Trees were allocated to 120 community/voluntary groups and schools during National Tree Week and our Trees for Wexford Campaign. These trees were well-established native broadleaf species and were chosen to be site-specific.

Tree and shrub grants, up to 50% of total expenditure, were also paid to community and voluntary groups.

National Spring Clean – Clean Up Wexford 2005

A very important part of our environment action programme is the Annual Spring Clean that takes place in April and May. Over 4,000 volunteers were involved this year in cleaning up their local areas and they gathered over 38 tonnes of rubbish. The following groups participated in the campaign:

- 33 Residents Associations
- 209 Community Groups
- 3 Youth Groups
- 7 Tidy Town Groups
- 7 Development Groups
- 9 Schools

Some of the elements of the 2005 campaign were:

- The provision of skips and Council personnel to assist community clean ups throughout the County.
- The assistance of community clean ups by providing bags, gloves and free entry to landfill during Clean Up Campaign.
- The collection of abandoned cars, cookers, fridges, and washing machines, all of which were subsequently processed at Killurin landfill for recycling.

Community Waste Action Days

To further promote recycling in the home and in response to public demand, Wexford County Council held a series of community waste collection days for white goods, textiles and some hazardous household wastes at 8 different locations across the County, during May and June. The waste days were a huge success with the following estimated quantities being recycled:

- Scrap Metal - 3 tonnes
- Televisions/VDUs - 11 tonnes
- Lead Acid Batteries - 12 tonnes
- Batteries (collected in Primary Schools) - 272kilograms
- Fridges - 42.5 tonnes
- Textiles - 5 tonnes
- Plastics - 1 tonne

Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition

The aim of the Keep Wexford Beautiful Competition is to encourage people to become aware of and responsible for their environment and to promote a clean and well presented Wexford. There were almost 40 entries from development groups, residents associations, youth clubs and special interest groups.

The different categories are, as follows:

- Best Environmentally Aware and Presented Residential Area
- Best Environmentally Aware and Presented Town/Village
- Best Community Environment Initiative
- Best Heritage, Preservation and Conservation Project
- Best Community Coastal Management Initiative
- Best Environmentally Aware Commercial Enterprise (e.g. use of energy, water conservation, waste management...)
- Best New Entry

The winning groups were announced at Wexford County Council's Annual Environment Awards Ceremony which took place in November.

Environment Awards 2005

The Wexford County Council Environment Awards Night 2005, held in the Ferrycarrig Hotel, was an enormous success. With an attendance of almost 400 people, 60 award winners, press and radio, the event proved to be a marvelous occasion for all concerned. Master Of Ceremonies, Mr. Alan Maguire of South East Radio, added to the whole event not least because of his insight and interest in the environment. Multi-media presentation, video, cd recording, lighting, music and refreshments guaranteed an unforgettable experience.

Special mention must be given to the pupils of Scoil Chroi Ro – Naofa, Ballymurn, who composed and performed a song and dance routine based on their Wetlands experience.



Foulksmills, Overall Winner in 2005



WEXFORD COASTAL ZONE

Wexford's coastline is one of outstanding natural beauty, from Kilmichael in the North of the County, southwards towards Curracloe, around the coast to Rosslare and Kilmore, along the famous South Wexford coastline through Norman Bannow and all the way to Duncannon and beyond. Some 275 kilometres in length, it has many areas of significant ecological importance. The rocky promontories anchor the coastline but much of the areas in between are of soft sand, backed by fragile dune system or unstable glacial cliffs. Wexford is also blessed with a number of outstanding beaches and strands dotted along the entire coastline, which are important from an environment, recreation and tourism point of view.

Water Safety – The Charles Thomson Award

The Charles Thomson Award, promoted by Irish Water Safety and The Lifesaving Society, North and South, is presented to the

local authority which has done most to promote water safety on the island of Ireland each year.

Wexford County Council was the overall winner in 2004. The award was presented by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche to the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Larry O'Brien in the Brandon House Hotel, New Ross on 30th May, 2005.

The following paragraphs set out the activities which earned the award for the Council, and were carried on during the past year.

Access Points

In preparation for the 2004 season, access to the bathing area in Courtown was improved by constructing a wooden walkway to bridge the rock armouring which protects the eroding sand dunes, with the added advantage of facilitating disabled access to the beach. At Cullenstown, a wooden walkway was also constructed through the rock revetment to afford bathers and walkers ease of access to the beach.

Jet-Ski Launch

A designated jet-ski launch and operations area was agreed in Courtown, in conjunction with local jet-ski operators, in an effort to protect the swimmers who use the designated bathing area further north and make the beach area safer and more enjoyable for all users.

Lifeguards

Wexford County Council employed 20 lifeguards for the past two years on 6 beaches. Each lifeguard was assessed continuously throughout the term of their employment to ensure they would offer the best possible service to the public.

Beach Bye Laws

The Council reviewed its Beach Bye Laws 2000 to include 21 more beaches – an increase from 9 to 30 beaches. The Bye Laws were adopted by the Council in early 2005 and are enforced by Community Wardens and authorised local authority personnel. The Bye Laws endeavour to improve safety at the beaches for swimmers and other beach users by restricting the launch and use of jet-skis, prohibiting quad bikes on the beaches and sand dunes and regulating horse activities, together with standard restrictions such as removal or dumping of material on beaches, lighting of fires, and so on.



Life Buoys

The provision of life saving ring buoys is managed by the four area offices in the County. On receipt of a report of a missing or damaged ring buoy, it is immediately replaced as a supply

of spares is maintained in each area. The lifeguards inspect the ring buoys on their designated beaches daily and area staff, the Water Safety Officer, the Beach Manager and other Environment Section staff inspect the ring buoys and signs at least weekly.

Bathing Water Sampling

The Council collected and analysed bathing water samples from 10 locations along the coast. All samples were found to be within the parameters set down under the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations.

Swimming Pools

There are 3 public swimming pools in the County and these are run by the respective Town Councils, namely, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Wexford. Wexford County Council makes annual contributions to the running of these pools. Water safety and life saving classes are run on a regular basis in these pools.

Coastal and River Rescue Services

Wexford County Council has an excellent working relationship with the RNLI and the Irish Coastguard. These organisations provide voluntary coastal emergency services and have numerous stations and emergency boats and equipment strategically located throughout the County. The Fire Service and Civil Defence, as the Council's emergency services, work closely with these organisations in helping to maintain and preserve life along the coastline.

The Council also works with and supports two community rescue

boat services, one at Cahore and the Slaney River Rescue in Enniscorthy. Close working relationships are evidenced by the mutual assistance and cooperation in search and rescue among these organisations. Exercises and training with the RNLI, Irish Coastguard, Civil Defence etc. is part of the ongoing involvement that the Council has in coastal emergency services.

Community Involvement

The participation of the local community is widely welcomed and encouraged in all aspects of coastal management and water safety and all queries and suggestions are acknowledged. The vigilance of local residents in terms of inspection of signage, buoys, litter and general misbehaviour is of tremendous help to the local authority in the management of beaches and water safety.

County Council Support

The continuing support and interest shown by the elected members and management of Wexford County Council is greatly appreciated by all staff members working in the area of water safety in the County.



Together, we can make a difference

Blue Flag Beaches and Marinas

Wexford again applied for the Blue Flag in respect of the beaches at Courtown, Curracloe, Rosslare and Duncannon, and the Marina in Kilmore Quay. Due to water sampling difficulties, the only Blue Flag awarded this year was for Kilmore Quay Marina. The Council, however, redoubled its efforts during the year to ensure that flags would be awarded in 2006, based on the 2005 summer season activities. The criteria for the Blue Flags are – pristine bathing water quality, educational and environmental criteria and infrastructure facilities. The standards are increasing annually and pose a greater challenge to the Council to meet and exceed the newly set standards.





Coastal Protection

Wexford County Council has submitted 16 projects under the Coastal Protection Programme 2003-2006 to the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DOCMNR) for consideration and funding. The cost of the projects has been provisionally estimated at over €14 million. Approved coastal protection schemes are 75% funded by DOCMNR and 25% funded by Wexford County Council.

In relation to Courtown, if the economic benefit of this famous holiday location is not to be lost to the North Wexford area, major ongoing coastal protection works are required. Site investigations and analysis in advance of designing appropriate protection works began in 2002, continued in 2004 and were finalised in 2005. It is anticipated that the protection works at Courtown will take the form of off-shore breakwater structures and will cost in excess of €5 million.

On 4th July, 2005, the DOCMNR announced grant aid for four coastal projects:

Project	Total Cost	Implementing Body
Continuation of revetment works at Cahore	€30,000	Wexford County Council
Soft engineering works at the beach/dune area of Kilpatrick	€20,000	Wexford County Council
Preliminary Design at Rosslare	€100,000	DOCMNR
Soft engineering works at the beach in Rosslare	€22,500	DOCMNR

Green Coast Beaches Project

Green Coast Awards for 2005 were announced at a ceremony held in Dublin on 27th April, 2005. Wexford County Council received awards for the following five beaches: Morristcastle, Ballymoney, Ballinesker, Culleton's Gap and Cullenstown.

The Green Coast Award is a symbol of excellence that recognises:

- Excellent water quality,
- High environmental standards,
- Good management, and
- Community involvement.

Wexford County Council is the only local authority in Ireland to be awarded Green Coast status for the fourth year in succession.

The award scheme sets a quality standard for quieter, rural beaches with excellent water quality and cleanliness and acknowledges their rural unspoilt character.

Piers and Harbours

Wexford County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of 18 piers and harbours along the Wexford coastline. From picturesque Slade to the busy fishing harbour at Killurin to Courtown harbour, the

importance of these assets should not be underestimated.

Under the Piers and Harbours Programme 2003-2006, 11 projects were submitted to the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources for approval and funding. As with the Coastal Protection Programme, the cost of all works is shared between the Department and the Council.

Kilmore Quay Marina

Marina and Blue Flag

Kilmore Quay was again the recipient of the Blue Flag Marina award this year. However, as Blue Flag standards continue to rise, additional expenditure on the Marina is required in order to meet these standards. The Marina is operated to the highest of standards, as is evidenced by the fact that all 45 of the resident berths are occupied and there was a waiting list of 37 at the end of the year. Additionally, in excess of 1,000 visiting vessels used the Marina during the year without any complaints. Of these visiting vessels, approximately 60% came from other Irish ports and the majority of the remainder were British, from Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and The Isle of Man. Visitors from more distant places came from Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Canada.

There were four major outlays of expenditure in the Marina in 2005:

1. The fittings on the marina structure were secured.
2. Non slip attachments were placed on the access gangways, thus reducing the possibility of accidents due to slipping.



3. There was a complete overhaul of the lighting arrangements and improvements to same as required.
4. The marina entrance was fitted with electronic gates.

Fishing and Passenger Charters

A total of 64 vessels operated commercially from the harbour – 30 fishing vessels, 23 lobster/crab vessels and 11 charter vessels.

Fourteen of the fishing vessels were laid up awaiting decommissioning. During the month of December, three of them were decommissioned, one was sold out of the harbour and another returned to fishing.

Nine of the charter vessels were engaged in sea angling and two were engaged in passenger trips to the Saltee Islands. These vessels carried approximately 8,500 anglers/passengers during the year.

Fishermen Lay-down Area and Piers

Great efforts were put into the cleaning and tidying of both piers. These have proven to be successful, but require constant vigilance and work, on a year round basis.

Facing stones at the end of the West (old) Pier which were knocked out of place by storms in October are scheduled to be replaced in the immediate future.

To date, 4 skip loads of rubbish and 4 truck loads of scrap metal have been removed from the lay-down area, thus clearing a considerable amount of space.

The clean up of this area is ongoing.

Hydrographic Survey

A hydrographic survey of the area was carried out by Malachi Walsh and Partners, Consultant Engineers on behalf of Wexford County Council. The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and the Council will pay 75% and 25% of the survey costs respectively.

WATER QUALITY

Wexford County Council takes samples on an annual basis from 28 different rivers at almost 100 sampling stations. The number of individual samples analysed runs to approximately 1,000 when all the water bodies are included. In the most recent River Quality Report commissioned by the Council and published in 2005, the percentage of unpolluted rivers in County Wexford stands at 60.4%, a reduction of 10%. In the moderately polluted category, there was an increase from 24.5 % to 28.1% and there was also an increase from 5.1% to 11.5% in the seriously polluted category. Unfortunately, this is a reversal in the trend for the previous five years when there was a continuous improvement in water quality.

Implementation of the Phosphorous Regulations, the Water Framework Directive, and the Nitrates Directive, along with improved wastewater treatment will see marked improvements in the years ahead.

Our Lady's Island - Lake Monitoring Programme

The study of the environmental status of Our Lady's Island Lake continued during the year. Surveys of the lake and all the feeder streams were once again undertaken. Also, a further biological assessment of the feeder streams to the lake was undertaken in June and compared to previous results. Of the thirteen sites surveyed, six have improved in quality while all of the other sites bar one have maintained their status. Several of the streams assessed are small and slow-flowing, so it is considered likely that they might not have the potential to show further improvements.

The lake water quality is classed as hypertrophic (nutrient rich, usually from phosphorus). Phosphorus is fixed or bound in sediments and is released into the water column following disturbance by wind. After the inputs of nutrients are reduced, improvements will take place but it may take decades for complete recovery. The length of time depends on the duration of the nutrient loading and the levels of phosphorus in sediments. The internal load of phosphorus in sediments, accumulated over time, may be such that it could prevent improvements in water quality to a level one would expect despite reductions in nutrient levels.

For years, after inputs have been reduced, the phosphorus bound in the sediments is released into the water column. Nonetheless, the most important factor to improve water quality is to reduce the polluting inputs, which the Council has achieved through the noted improvements in water quality from the feeder streams.

Once the lake is in recovery the rate of phosphorus release in the sediments will also decline.



Further fish kills occurred this year at the time when there were algae in the water column of the lake as a result of eutrophication. A full survey of the lake and stream was carried out then and the fish kill was not attributed to any single pollution incident. When the temperature of the lake is elevated during the summer, it reduces the amount of oxygen that is available in the water column; then algae activity increases when light can penetrate through shallow waters. This gives rise to a diurnal variation where the algae give out oxygen during the day but use up the oxygen at night which can cause fish kills. Likewise, the death and decay of a large algal biomass can deoxygenate the water, killing fish and other aquatic fauna. In summer, sediments tend to release phosphorus more than in the winter due to more biological activity and higher temperatures which help stimulate the mineralisation of organic matter and release of phosphorus.

The Council's Water Services Section installed a new wastewater treatment system, incorporating nutrient reduction, in Our Lady's Island Village during the year. Further reductions in nutrients discharging to the lake will occur when that system is connected to the Rosslare Harbour treatment plant.

The lake is a very complex system and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation. Any remediation of the lake itself will require very detailed surveys of the entire eco-system. The solution to the pollution problems at Our Lady's Island Lake will require both short-term and long-term attention and will involve all people and bodies who have the interests of this special area at heart.

South East River Basin District Management Plan

Wexford County Council continued to play an important role in the South East River Basin District (SERBD) Management Plan. This Plan will assist in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Article 5 report was prepared with the collaboration of all members of the WFD National Technical Coordination Group and was submitted to Europe in March. The SERBD have produced a technical summary report for the district with a level of detail similar to the National report but containing results for the district only. The risk to water bodies is summarised in the table below:

Water Body	% At Risk	% Probably at Risk
River water	45	38
Groundwater	5	67
Lake water	25	33
Transitional waters	48	38
Coastal waters	11	56

River Basin Advisory Bodies have been established. Wexford County Council will be represented by Councillor Oliver Walsh, Chair of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee, and Mr. John Power, Member of the SPC.

Phosphorous Regulations

The Regulations governing water quality standards for phosphorous set out improvements in water quality for rivers and lakes, to be achieved by 31st December, 2007. Wexford County Council will continue to monitor and control the discharge of phosphorous to waters in accordance with its phosphorous measures.

Dangerous Substances Regulations

The Water Quality (Dangerous Substances) Regulations, 2001 prescribe water quality standards in relation to certain substances in surface waters including certain pesticides, solvents, and metals. The results of analysis carried out during the year under the SERBD project should be available in 2006.

Pollution Control

The Council's Environment Section staff responded to over 2,000 environment complaints during the past year ranging from water pollution to litter, illegal waste activities to noise and odour problems. Action on foot of these complaints included advice, instruction, written notice or legal proceedings.

Wexford County Council also deals with Discharge Licences, Waste Permits, Bye Laws, Management Plans, environmental aspects of planning and development control and many other activities with the aim of preventing, monitoring and controlling possible damage to the environment.

Dog Warden Service

Wexford County Council is responsible for the control and licensing of dogs in the County. This year, 832 dogs were seized and 649 were surrendered. 203 of the dogs were reclaimed and homes were found for 433 but, unfortunately, 845 dogs had to be put to sleep using humane injection. These figures highlight the high level of irresponsible dog ownership in County Wexford. In an attempt to reduce the problem,



the Council conducted a publicity campaign on pet ownership, in association with the Wexford ISPCA, and attention was drawn to the problem of puppies being given as Christmas presents.

The Council utilises the facilities of three privately owned kennels situated in Gorey, Ballycanew, and Killinick, and further very welcome help is provided by the Wexford Branch of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other organisations committed to the welfare of dogs in the County.

During the year, the licensing of dogs was publicised through radio advertisements, public notices and localised visits. A total of 10,154 dog licences were purchased in County Wexford, an increase of more than 500 reflecting the success of the publicity campaign. The cost of providing the service was €127,371.

Control of Horses

Wexford County Council is also responsible for the control of horses and works closely with An Garda Síochána in an effort to keep public areas clear of the hazards caused by wandering animals. A total of 36 horses and ponies were impounded during the past year.

The Council entered into a contract with Local Authority Services Ltd. to deal with stray horses throughout the whole County – to seize, transport and impound them, and collect appropriate fees before releasing them.



2005 STATISTICS

Killurin Recycling Centre and Life Bring Sites

The following is a breakdown of materials recycled in 2005:

Recyclable Material collected by Wexford County Council	Quantity Kg
Glass	1,815,120
Aluminium Cans	101,280
Scrap Metal	958,020
Large Household WEEE	100,460
Small Appliances WEEE	16,260
TVs/Computers WEEE	55,760
Polluted WEEE	860
Cardboard	52,560
Print Cartridges	120
Plastic Bottles	15,360
Textiles	5,860
Waste Oil/Filters	6,020
Fridges/Freezers	112,780
Tetrapaks	3,400
Fluorescent Tubes	300
Batteries	41,320
Christmas Trees Shredded	9,000 units approx.
Newspapers/Magazines/Phone Books	20,860

Activities under Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 - 1990

Warning letters issued		42
Notices served	Section 12	19
	Section 23	6
Prosecutions		5

Discharge Licences	Total No. of Licences	No. of Licences issued in 2005
Section 4 (Waters)	72	18
Section 16 (Sewers)	17	1



[Road Transportation]



Cllr. Maurice Roche
Chairman, Transportation, Water and Emergency SPC



Niall McGuigan
Director of Infrastructure and Emergency Services



The budget for improvement and maintenance of roads in the County this year amounted to €50,526,677.

The breakdown was:

	€	%
National Roads Authority (National Road Improvements)	28,848,000	57.9
National Roads Authority (National Road Maintenance)	1,469,286	2.9
Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Improvement)	11,799,898	23.35
Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Maintenance)	3,108,000	6.15
County Council	5,301,493	10.5

The entire new road site was fenced and some advance drainage works were carried out in consultation with affected landowners in the Macamore Clay areas of the scheme.

Following a public procurement competition, Roadbridge Ltd. was appointed as contractor for this Design/Build project. In October, the official sod-turning ceremony took place and construction work is in hands. It is expected that the new road will be open before the end of 2007.

National Roads

Set out hereunder is the current status of ongoing major road developments in County Wexford under the National Development Plan 2000-2006:

N11 Gorey to Arklow Link

In 2005, the site of the new road was archaeologically assessed and 53 sites of potential archaeological interest were identified. These sites were subsequently fully investigated and the archaeological reports are now available in Wexford County Library.

N11 Enniscorthy Bypass

NRA approval is still awaited before proceeding to the next phase (Preliminary Design and Land Acquisition Procedures). The Scheme is expected to progress to that phase in 2006.

N25 New Ross Bypass and 2nd River Crossing

During the year, preliminary ecological, landscape and archaeological surveys for the Environmental Impact Assessment commenced. Tenders were also sought for the geodetic survey and the marine and land-based ground investigations, which are necessary to progress the planning of the Scheme.

By the end of 2006, it is expected that the Scheme will have progressed to the Compulsory Purchase Order stage.

N30 Jamestown to Moneytucker Road Scheme

In September, 2004, Priority Construction Ltd. was awarded this construction contract and work thereon is in progress. The contract period was 78 weeks and the construction programme is on target.

N30 Moneytucker to New Ross Road Scheme and N25 Rosslare Harbour Access Road

The Route Selection Reports have been submitted to the NRA and approval is still awaited before proceeding to the next phase (Preliminary Design and Land Acquisition Procedures).

Non-National Roads

During the course of the year, 219 kilometres of non-national roads were improved under the Road Restoration Programme. A further 167.5 kilometres of non-national roads were surface dressed, representing a return cycle of 14.5 years.

Specific Improvement Scheme (EU Co-Financed)

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government allocated €2.75 million for improvement projects on the following roads:

Road No.	Description	Length (kilometres)
R730	Drinagh Roundabout to Wexford Town	2
R733	Arthurstown to New Ross	4
R742	Curraclloe to Kilmuckridge	2.5
L5540	Coach Road Junction	0.45
R741	Wexford to Gorey (Gorey Area)	0.6
R741	Wexford to Gorey (Enniscorthy Area)	2.8
R741	Wexford to Gorey (Wexford Area)	1.2

Low Cost Safety Improvements

The Council received a grant of €75,000 to carry out safety improvements at 4 locations on non-national roads:

Road No.	Description
R742	Gorey to Courtown - studs, delineators, junction definition posts and signs
R733	Horeswood - improve sightlines
R735	Newbawn Cross - improve sightlines
R733	Wexford (N25) to Waddingtown (R733) - studs, delineators and signs

Local Improvement Schemes

A total of €235,613 was provided for improvements to private lanes. Seven lanes, totalling 6 kilometres, were surfaced. Local contributions represent around 10% of the cost.

Strategic Policy Committee

The Transportation, Water and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee met four times during the year. The Committee dealt with the following issues:

- Transportation Department strategic policy objectives for Corporate Plan 2004-2009;
- Off road dump trucks on public roads;
- Review of progress with Road Maintenance Policy Document;
- Adoption of a policy for the taking in charge of housing estates;
- Traffic management in the four main towns;
- Road Works Programme 2005;
- National Roads Authority 10 year strategy to 2015;
- Hire of tractors and trailers from commercial operators for road works.





Traffic Management

Progress was made under the Traffic Management Plans for the four main towns in the County, as follows:

Wexford

Work commenced on the construction of a roundabout at Belvedere Road/Coolcotts Lane. Traffic lights were installed at the Newtown Road/Belvedere Road/John Street/Hill Street junction. The one-way system at King Street/Faythe was completed.

New Ross

New traffic signals were introduced at Hanrahan Bridge on the N25 route, along with a new one-way system in the town centre.

Gorey

The traffic signals at the N11/The Avenue junction were modified to include vehicle actuation.

Enniscorthy

Design work has been carried out for the provision of pedestrian crossings in Market Square and Abbey Square.

Road Safety

The Council's Road Safety Officer works closely with An Garda Síochána and the National Safety Council to promote the message of road safety in County Wexford. Road safety is also regularly promoted through local radio, especially at holiday times, and in the local press and periodicals. In addition, the Road Safety Officer deals with many requests for information and/or advice from the general public, local and national politicians.

Wexford County Council appointed an additional Adult School Warden this year, based at Camolin on the busy N11 route.

There is now only one Junior School Warden Service operating in the County, at Taghmon. A number of others have been discontinued in the last few years on road safety grounds and parental concerns.

The Road Safety Officer, in conjunction with the Cycling Safety and Skills School, has continued this programme during the year in a number of schools. Presentations and talks on road safety have also been delivered at schools in collaboration with road marking contractors. The Council continues to cooperate with school authorities in the provision of signage, road markings and car parking/set down areas outside schools.

The metrication of speed limits was successfully introduced in the County early in the year. Initial steps towards the creation of a traffic accident database were taken in association with the Local Government Computer Services Board. Traffic calming schemes at Kilrane/Rosslare Harbour and Inch were completed during the year. Low cost accident and other road safety engineering measures were carried out at various locations. This work is ongoing and is in conformity with targets set in the Council's Road Safety Statement and Plan 2004-2009.

Community Employment Schemes

Number of projects	6
Number of participants	60





[Water Services]



WATER SUPPLY

Major Water Schemes

Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water Supply Scheme

The Council appointed Consulting Engineers in September for the preparation of a Preliminary Report to improve the water supply in the Enniscorthy and Sow supply areas.

Gorey Regional Water Supply Scheme

Contract documents for the construction of pipelines, the development of production wells and the acquisition of well sites by negotiation and CPO were advanced during the year. Site investigations will commence in early 2006 with test well drilling programmed to start by June/July.

New Ross Regional Water Supply Scheme

The final technical draft of the Preliminary Report has been completed and the Procurement Options Report will be presented to the Partnership Committee early in 2006, prior to submission of the Preliminary Report to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for approval.

Water Conservation

Water conservation is an essential part of the overall management of the water infrastructure in the County, in order to reduce unaccounted for water lost through leaks and to monitor flows and pressures. These aims are being met by active leak control which identifies and fixes leaks in a systematic manner. This

improves the efficiency of water treatment plants and saves water, a scarce natural resource.

The level of unaccounted for water has been reduced from 50% to 41% since the start of the Water Conservation Project, and the target is 30%. The County is divided into 88 district meter areas each of which is equipped with a flow meter and transmitter which sends details of flow to the central office in Mayglass. During the year, 431 leaks were discovered and 252 were repaired. Also, 5.9 km of replacement pipeline were laid in the Ballycanew/Ballygarrett area. Tenders for extensive telemetry equipment were received in late 2005. Once installed, this equipment will allow continuous monitoring of drinking water quality at the Council's major treatment plants.



Non-Domestic User Survey and Metering

All non-domestic users of water must be metered by the end of 2006. Clarkes Contractors were appointed in October and work commenced in December.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

The County Wexford Rural Water Monitoring Committee met four times this year to oversee and discuss the activity under the Rural Water Programme.

Works were completed on the following group schemes during the year:

Water/Upgrade - Private Source

Coolroe, Clonroche;
Carrigmacoge, Wexford; Scar,
Duncormick; Ballinastraw,
Glenbrien.

Water/New - Private Source

Ballyhennigan, Wexford;
Kilbegnet, Gorey; Monroe,
Glenbrien; Ballyyorrell, Enniscorthy.

Water/New - Extension to Public Network

The Dirr, Bridgetown; Ballyharty,
Kilmore; Rowestown, Ballyhine.

Water/Upgrade - Connection to Public Network

Latimerstown, Wexford.

The following group schemes were taken over by Wexford County Council during 2005:

Ballyharty, Kilmore;

Barntown, Wexford.

South Leinster Design Build and Operate Contract

This contract includes Blackstairs, Templeudigan, Borrmount, Kilanerin and Mullaun Group Water Schemes. Letter of Intent has been forwarded to the Contractor. Part 8 planning applications for treatment plant sites have progressed. Advance works on the Blackstairs and Templeudigan schemes have also progressed.

Proposed Takeover by Wexford County Council

Ballymoney - Preliminary Report stage.

Askamore and Dunishall - Two sites have been transferred to the County Council. Work on the transfer of the remaining assets is ongoing.

Monamolín - Preliminary Report stage.

Individual Well Grants

Number of applications received in 2005	255
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Total number of applications received to 31/12/2005	4,042
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Total value of grants issued to 31/12/2005	€4,714,136
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Value of grants issued in 2005	€570,444
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EPA Report "The Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland 2004"

12 group water schemes were monitored in 2004. The compliance rates for group schemes in Wexford are set out hereunder:

Overall compliance	86%
Microbiological compliance	91.9%
Chemical compliance	100%
Indicator compliance	82.6%

WASTEWATER

Major Sewerage Schemes

The following schemes were advanced in 2005:

Bunclody Main Drainage Scheme

Revised contract documents for the procurement of the collection system and wastewater treatment plant infrastructure were submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November seeking approval to proceed to tender.

Carrick-on-Bannow

The construction and commissioning of the wastewater treatment plant at Carrick-on-Bannow was completed in May/June.

Collection System Contract

Consultants were appointed to design and tender for provision of additional wastewater treatment capacity for the villages of Castlebridge, Piercestown, Lady's Island and Taghmon. A Design Review Report was prepared for



each village and issued to the Council in December. Tender documents will be completed by December 2006 for submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government seeking approval to advance to construction.

Coolgreany Sewerage Scheme

Contract documents for the construction of the wastewater treatment plant and the laying of a new sewer to serve the village of Coolgreany were submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for approval in June and November respectively.

Enniscorthy Main Drainage Scheme - Stage 3

Wexford County Council received comments from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government following its initial review of the Preliminary Report in October. A further communication setting out the Department's final comments is due in January 2006.

The Environmental Impact Statement, in draft format, was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for consideration.

Fethard-on-Sea

The Brief for procurement of consulting services was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in September.

Gorey Main Drainage Scheme - Stage 2

The Gorey/Courtown wastewater inter-connection was completed in September and is successfully transferring a significant proportion of Gorey's sewage to the Courtown wastewater treatment plant. The Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the wastewater treatment plant at Courtown was completed in November and an open day was held in Courtown in December to present it to the public for comment.

Consultants have been appointed to prepare contract documents and advance the project through to construction.

New Ross Drainage Scheme

The wastewater treatment plant for the New Ross Main Drainage Scheme was tendered in July and will be awarded, subject to Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government approval, by March/April 2006.

The pipelines contract documents are currently being finalised and the construction of the interceptor sewer along the quayfront is planned to go to tender in April 2006.

Rosslare Harbour Main Drainage Scheme

The tender for the construction of the collection network for Rosslare Harbour was accepted by the Minister in April and work commenced on site in August. This contract is scheduled to be completed by September 2006.

The contract for the construction of the wastewater treatment plant at Rosslare Harbour will be signed in early 2006.

Wexford Main Drainage Scheme - Extension to Carcur

The contract documents for the construction of a new sewer network to serve the zoned land to the west of the Town were submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for approval in March. The report on tenders for the Scheme was submitted to the Department for approval in November. The Council proposes to commence the construction of this Scheme in February 2006.

Small Scheme Improvement Works

The following small scheme improvement works were undertaken by the Capital Office in 2005:

Ballaghkeen

The Part 8 planning process was completed this year for the extension of the treatment works at Glentire. Negotiations are at an advanced stage for the purchase of the pump station site in the Village.

Ballymoney

Tenders have been received for a small sewerage improvement works in Ballymoney Lower. Approval to proceed to construction is being sought at present.

Duncormick

A new 300mm diameter sewer was completed in the village of Duncormick between January and April this year, replacing the existing defective 225mm diameter pipeline.



Wastewater Treatment Plants

Improvements to the treatment process plant to Enniscorthy, Gorey, Ferns and Castlebridge were completed and commissioned during the year.

Village Sewerage Schemes

The Council appointed consultants in August to prepare a Preliminary Report for developing wastewater infrastructure in 11 villages in County Wexford - Arthurstown, Ballycanew, Camolin, Clonroche, Curracloe, Duncannon, Duncormick, Ferns, Kilmore Quay, Oylegate and Wellingtonbridge.

The Preliminary Report and associated Procurement Appraisal Report is planned to be completed by September/October 2006 and will be submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Sewerage Treatment Plants

Wexford County Council operated 64 sewage treatment plants at a cost of €4.8m in the course of the year.

In addition, refurbishment/health and safety work was carried out at the following sewerage treatment plants at a cost of €750,000:

Adamstown, Ballindaggin, Ballycanew, Ballyhack, Ballyhine, Ballyhogue, Ballywilliam, Blackwater, Campile, Carne, Clongeen, Clonroche, Coolgreany, Courtown, Crossabeg, Duncormick(Lough), Enniscorthy, Fethard-on-Sea, Gorey, Killagoley, Kilmuckridge, Kiltealy, Kilmore Quay, Lady's Island, Monageer, Murntown, New Ross, Piercestown, Rathnure and Rosslare Strand, and Wexford pumping stations.

Public Conveniences

The operation of both automatic and conventional public conveniences throughout the County cost €146,000 in 2005. In Courtown, the Council's public convenience continues to be managed by the local development association in a successful partnership arrangement. The public convenience at Bunclody was reopened with vandal proof fittings.

Land Drainage

Works were carried out on the Sow Drainage Area during the year.

Burial Grounds

The Council operates 11 burial grounds and provided grant aid to a number of local community groups who maintain old closed Council burial grounds throughout the County. The mapping of all plots is maintained up to date.

The expenditure for the year amounted to €112,000.



[Civil Defence]



The Civil Defence service is unique among our services in that it is staffed by volunteers who contribute their time in serving the local community.

The objective of Civil Defence is to respond to crises, providing emergency relief and support to ensure the operation of vital services and maintenance of public life. It is significantly grant aided by the Civil Defence Board and Wexford County Council.

Development of Search Management Procedures

Wexford Civil Defence Search and Rescue instructors and volunteers availed of extensive training throughout the year, delivered in the Civil Defence School, Dublin and in Wales. Peter and Joe Ferris qualified at the Rope Rescue Course in Wales.

One of the Wexford instructors, Peter O'Connor, was appointed to the National Rescue Committee, which is reviewing and developing

new Rescue programmes for Civil Defence volunteers.

Training Courses

In addition to the standard weekly training programme, the following courses were provided:

	Attendee/s
Radio Training Course	Tony Forte
Level 2 Boat Training Course	Liam Buckley, Joe Ferris
Leadership Course	Jan Crosbie, Conor Jordan, Séamus O'Brien
Casualty Instructor Re-qualifier Course	Michael Crosbie, Celestine Swords
Search Management Course	Sylvester McGarr, Philip Creane
Search Skills Course	Sinéad Furlong
Basic Life Support Course (including use of AED's)	Eamon Doyle, Jonathan McDonald
Intermediate First Aid Course	Oisín O'Connell, Patricia Walsh, Jan Crosbie, Fiona Phelan, Dorothy McGrath, Danny Meaney, John Dreelan
Advanced First Aid Course	Natasha Rutledge, Nora Connor, Mark Foley, Liam Buckley, James Doherty, Joe Ferris, Teresa Quirke, Dominic Power
Basic Life Saving First Aid Courses	Civil Defence Volunteers, County Council Staff, Outside Bodies



Official Opening of Ardcavan Headquarters



On 19th June, 2005, County Wexford Civil Defence celebrated the Official Opening of its new Training Headquarters, in Ardcavan Business Park, Wexford, by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Larry O'Brien. The centre and fleet of vehicles, boats and equipment were blessed by Rev. Fr. Walter Forde, P.P., Castlebridge.

Mr. Eddie Breen, County Manager, thanked the volunteers for the giving of their time to the benefit of the community and praised their responses to search and rescue call outs in particular. He expressed his pleasure that Civil Defence now has this fine modern training facility. In his address, the Director General of the Civil Defence Board, Mr. Gerry Gervin, complimented Wexford Civil Defence for its influence by its many successes at National level.

After the official ceremony, everyone enjoyed the buffet prepared by the Civil Defence Welfare members.

Competitions

The **2005 National Civil Defence Exercises** were held in Monaghan. Teams from around Ireland were tested in a series of arduous exercises dealing with simulated road traffic accidents, nuclear radiation incidents, rescuing casualties from burning buildings,

sheltering refugees, farmyard accidents, radio communications and team building. They competed for two prizes – the team building award and the overall award. The County Wexford team of twelve, under the guidance of the Civil Defence Officer, Gabrielle Willis, beat all-comers and scooped both prizes with a tremendous performance. It is the first time that the national adjudicators can remember a team winning both prizes at the one competition.

The Wexford team participated in the **National Boat Competition** in Roscommon and did very well.

The **Regional A.F.S. Competition** was hosted by Waterford County Council. The Wexford team of Conor Jordan, Liam Healy, Séamus O'Brien, Thomas McGarr, John Dreelan, Pat Ryan and Paul Malone was trained by Instructor Sylvester McGarr and won the Oral Practical part of the competition. They came third in the Speed Trial section.

Civic Duties

Civil Defence volunteers provide First Aid/Ambulance cover, Stewarding etc. at local events, such as charity fundraisers of all types and sports events. Of the 34 events covered this year, the highlights included St. Patrick's Day parades; a visit by the Beavers to Ardcavan Headquarters; County Track and Field Championships; A.I.M.S. Choral Festival; Dunbrody Festival; Wexford Festival Opera and the Lions Coastal Charity Walk.

Tall Ships Race

This international event was held off the South East Coast, in July. On request from An Garda Síochána, Wexford Civil Defence provided safety cover by powerboat patrol of the shoreline areas around Duncannon and Duncannon Fort. Civil Defence also assisted with the stewarding around the Hook area. The Welfare Service provided back-up.

Wexford Civil Defence also assisted the Health Service Executive at the event by the provision of its ambulances and first aid.

Search and Rescue

In June, Civil Defence participated in a search for a missing person with a positive outcome.

Sadly, in December, Civil Defence responded to a Garda call out to assist in the search for the victims of the Kilmore Boat Tragedy.

Welfare

The Welfare Service was busy throughout the year and provided much needed sustenance for volunteers on call out duties and training courses. Welfare stocks were also prepared and stored for future emergencies.

New Vehicle/Equipment

Wexford Civil Defence acquired an ambulance during the year. It has been assigned to the New Ross area.

Line Rescue equipment was also acquired.

Annual Dinner

The Annual County All Services Training Day and Dinner took place in November. Long Service medals, 10 years, were presented to Tony Forte, Jonathan McDonald, Joe Ferris, Conor Jordan, John Dreehan, Jan Crosbie and Séamus O'Brien. Séamus O'Brien was also presented with a certificate in recognition of his involvement in the National Exercises from 1992 to 2005. Other certificates were also presented.



Publicity

Local radio and the print media were utilised to promote awareness of the organisation and attract new volunteers.

Appointment

Gabrielle Willis, County Wexford Civil Defence Officer, was appointed to the National Civil Defence Board by Mr. Willie O'Dea, Minister for Defence.

Objectives for 2006

- Continue to develop our search management procedures and coordination of services.
- Complete an Advanced First Aid course in the New Ross area.
- Complete an Intermediate First Aid course in Gorey.
- Run Local Radio training courses.
- Continue with boat training and liaison with other agencies.
- Continue to further develop Civil Defence Headquarters, Ardavan.
- Strive to maintain our high standards.

Retirement

Michael Crosbie, Instructor for the New Ross area, retired in December. He was thanked by the Civil Defence Officer for his enormous contribution to Civil Defence over the years. Michael's colleagues and friends wish him and his wife, Kathleen, every success and happiness in the future. His successor is Tony Forte and we wish him well in his new position.





[Fire Service]



Wexford County Fire Service maintains fire brigades in five locations – Bunclody, Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross and Wexford. The staffing level in each station comprises a Station Officer, a Sub-Station Officer and twelve Firefighters, with the exception of Bunclody where there are seven Firefighters.

Fire Operations

This year, calls ranged from large commercial premises to house fires. Once again chimney fires accounted for the majority of calls. There was an increase in the number of domestic fires and road traffic accidents. The number of malicious false alarms also increased.

There were a number of significant incidents during the year. These included a bone meal fire at New Bawn, New Ross (lasted for 4 days), a fire at Davis Mills, Enniscorthy (totally destroyed the building, but the fire was prevented from spreading to adjoining properties) and a major fire at Murphy Floods Hotel, Enniscorthy (resulted in the building being destroyed, but the occupants were safely evacuated).

Fire Services Capital Programme

Approval was received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the construction of the new Fire Station at Bunclody. Work commenced on site in June and the Station is due to be completed in March 2006.

The Wexford Headquarters contract was advertised and nine tenders were received. A recommendation for approval of tender was submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December.

An order was placed for a new Class B fire appliance for Bunclody Fire Station, which will be delivered in January 2006. The purchase of the vehicle will be 100% grant aided. Approval was received to purchase an emergency tender for Wexford Fire Brigade.

Tenders have been invited for the construction of this appliance. In addition, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government sanctioned the purchase of ancillary firefighting equipment to the value of €160,000.





Training

In addition to the standard weekly training programme, the following courses were provided:

	Numbers attending
Induction Course - New Recruits	1
Breathing Apparatus Wearers Course	10
Emergency Medical First Responder Training	28
Manual Handling Training	54
Junior Officer - Unit 1 Course	2
Junior Officer - Unit 2 Course	1
Fire Prevention Course - Junior Officer	2
Junior Officer Course	8
Breathing Apparatus Instructors Refresher	1
Hazardous Materials Course	1

All senior officers attended Fire Engineering and Senior Command courses. The ESB provided training to all stations on the hazards associated with electricity.

Building Control - Part B Fire Safety

A large number of Fire Safety Certificate applications were processed this year, with developments ranging from small residential units to large commercial buildings and hotels.

24 warning notices were issued for unauthorised developments. In most cases, an application was made for a Fire Safety Certificate and/or the required works were carried out to the satisfaction of the Building Control Authority.

In addition, 3 enforcement notices were served in respect of buildings which were not built in accordance with Part B of the Building Regulations

Fire Prevention

The Fire Service is notified annually of all applications to the District and Circuit Courts for licences. A total of 198 applications were received in 2005. The Court and applicant were notified in each case of the Fire Service's conditions and these were included with the licence.

A limited number of inspections were carried out under the Fire Services Acts, 1981 and 2003, leading to the service of 3 Fire Safety Notices where buildings were found to be potentially dangerous.

The Fire Service was consulted in the case of two applications under the Licensing of Outdoor Events Regulations - the fireworks displays for the openings of the Wexford Festival Opera and the Dunbrody Festival in New Ross.

During the year, each fire brigade visited and inspected high-risk properties in their area with a view to formulating a plan for responding to an incident at such premises.

Community Fire Safety

The promotion of fire safety was again high on the agenda in the Fire Service. The Community Fire Safety programme included talks for public groups; also, talks and fire drills in a number of schools, particularly during Fire Safety Week in October.

2005 STATISTICS

Total Number of Incidents 1,299

Incident Type

Chimney Fires	359
Domestic Fires	147
Road Traffic Accidents	159
Industrial/Commercial Fires	26
Forest/Bog/Grass Fires	108
Car Fires	72
Rubbish Fires	132
Non-fire Rescues	23
False Alarms - good intent	78
Malicious False Alarms	37
Miscellaneous	158

Fire Safety Certificates

Number of applications	291
Fees collected	€468,176



[Planning and Development]



Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy
Chairperson, Planning SPC



Tony Larkin
*Director of Services, Planning,
Community and Enterprise*

2005 has been a very positive year in terms of improving the accessibility of planning information to the public and refining the services provided.

Planning Applications

Set out hereunder is a breakdown of applications received and decisions made during 2005 and the comparative figures for 2004:

	2005	2004
Number of valid applications received	4,316	4,232
Number of decisions made	3,946	3,856
Number of applications refused	1,023	992
Number of one off houses granted	1,178	1,445
Number of decisions appealed to An Bord Pleanála	97	99

During the same period, 221 special meetings were held. These meetings are of longer duration and are arranged between the Planner and the applicant or a public representative to discuss issues that could not be addressed within a time frame of 15 minutes.

In addition, 30 official preplanning meetings were held during the period to discuss, in principle, significant developments before submission of any planning application.

Planners' Meetings with the Public

Administrative staff meet with the public and public representatives on a daily basis, but Planners are also available to meet with the public by appointment. A database was designed in-house to monitor the numbers and types of these meetings, which went live

on 28th June. From then to the end of the year, 242 meetings with Planners were held. These meetings between an applicant and the relevant Planner last no longer than 15 minutes and issues such as further information requests are discussed. This line of communication can be invaluable in setting an applicant's mind at rest.

Document Imaging

The Document Management System (DMS) continues to be of benefit in terms of accessibility of information to the general public and the Council's own employees. There is ongoing enhancement of the system to facilitate further



user friendliness. A new scanner was approved to increase the numbers of documents that can be scanned daily and thereby improve the efficiency and value of the system.

Register of Quarries

A register of the quarries in the County was introduced under Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. 38 quarries were registered by the end of April. The Council's planners have been inspecting the quarries registered and will be making recommendations in relation to them over the next year or two.

The Register is available to the public and submissions have been invited. A member of the administrative staff has been designated to liaise with the public in this regard.

Validation Office

The Validation Office, providing a dedicated public counter for the receipt of new planning applications, has improved customer service significantly. Customers, for the most part, now have their application validated at the time of submission rather than being obliged to wait a few days for confirmation that their application is in order. The benefits extend to the overall operations of the Planning Office where the processing of invalid applications has been reduced dramatically.

The Validation Office took part in an e-planning pilot during the year with four other County Councils. The pilot is part of the drive to streamline Planning services and exploit technology, where possible, with the ultimate goal of

providing the best possible service for our customers.

Conservation

The Forward Planning team was very active in the area of Protected Structures, with the Council's grant allocation having more than trebled this year. 29 applications for conservation grants were received and 23 grants were awarded, compared to 9 in 2004.

Forward Planning

Several variations to the County Development Plan were adopted during the past year, including changes to the Housing Strategy, additions to the Record of Protected Structures, Rural Development and the Retail Strategy. There were also numerous variations to the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Plan and the Wexford Town and Environs Plan.

Reviews of the County Development Plan and the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Plan have commenced, as has the new Wexford Town and Environs Plan.

The Forward Planning Section prepared the Wind Energy Strategy and also worked on the targeting of selected villages and settlements for the provision of infrastructure to facilitate growth and development.

Ongoing monitoring of plans and policies continues.



[Planning Enforcement and Licensing]



The number of representations regarding unauthorised developments decreased by approximately 20% in 2005 over 2004, but the number was above that of 2003.

Some of the decrease in activity can be attributed to the streamlining of procedures by carrying out assessments of potentially unauthorised developments before issuing enforcement proceedings.

Taking in Charge of Housing Estates

A new procedure for the taking in charge of housing estates in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 was adopted by the Council in December, following discussions with the Construction Industry Federation and the Irish Home Builders Association. The new procedure will require developers to certify that a housing estate has been completed in accordance with planning permission before an application to take in charge is

made. This should significantly reduce the need for enforcement proceedings in housing estates.

Planning Levies

The review and restructuring of the Planning Levies collection system continued this year. A working group comprising staff from the relevant departments is overseeing the project and work is expected to be completed in 2006.

Caravan Park and Advertising Sign Licensing

The programme of licensing caravan parks and advertising signs continued and fees were paid in respect of the majority of parks and signs.

Dangerous Structures and Derelict Sites

Notices were served in respect of a number of dangerous structures and derelict sites.

Town and Village Renewal

The Minister for Finance designated 31st December, 2004 as the final date for receiving planning applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and all works must be completed before 31st July, 2006 in order to avail of the tax incentives. Works to the value of over €50 million have been completed to date on developments in Gorey, Ferns, Bunclody and Taghmon.

Urban and Village Renewal Schemes to the value of €290,000 were completed this year. The



final round of funding under this Scheme will be allocated in 2006.

Twinning and Tourism

Links between Wexford County Council and Baulkham Hills Council, New South Wales continued in 2005. Two telephone conferences involving interested parties in a number of sectors were held and proved to be of mutual benefit. The new Public Library in Baulkham Hills has a section of books of Wexford interest and Wexford Tourism literature is on display in a number of centres there. A number of visitors from New South Wales visited Wexford in the last year. Contacts with Pembrokeshire County Council continue on a regular basis.

2005 Statistics

The following is a breakdown of activities in relation to planning enforcement:

	2005	2004
No. of complaints received	364	433
No. of inspections	588	607
No. of warning letters served	102	193
No. of enforcement notices served	120	176
No. of cases referred to court	79	113



[Community and Enterprise]



Cllr. Ted Howlin
*Chairman, Economic and Social
Development SPC*



The Community and Enterprise Office provide the executive for the County Development Board and a range of other services for Wexford County Council.

The County Development Board carried out a review of its strategy 'Remodelling the Model County'. The review showed that over 75% of the actions within the Strategy had been achieved.

Following the review, the Board decided to concentrate on the following areas for the 2006-2008 period:

- Sustaining existing initiatives and progress;
- Putting further resources in to areas of work as yet undone in 'Remodelling the Model County'.

The priority actions arise from social inclusion, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, education and research. A particular priority action will be to look for alternative industry to replace sugar beet in the region.

Social Inclusion

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group

The Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (SIM) has been very proactive in the establishment and support of the Traveller Led Network and the Interagency Traveller Forum. The Group has prepared a number of new pieces of work for 2006 and these will be implemented by member agencies and Wexford Local Authorities.

Anti-Poverty Working Group

A cross sectoral staff team, led by Community and Enterprise, has developed an anti-poverty resource for all sections within Wexford County Council. The Group has worked closely with the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network to disseminate

practical information on good practice, improve service delivery and take account of new client needs as they emerge.

Research

The Research Officer collates and interprets a wide range of information related to County Wexford, the South East Region and the State primarily within the socio-economic and demographic spheres. Reports under various subjects are then compiled to ensure the dissemination of this information to key decision makers, policy makers and the general public. A Strategy for the Development of Research will be compiled in 2006 for the County Development Board and the County Council.

Reports compiled during the year include:

- A Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile of County Wexford - Review 2005
- Developing a Playground in your Community - A Step by Step guide
- Wexford and its Hub status - the Impact on Wexford Town since designation under the National Spatial Strategy 2002, *submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.*

Enterprise Development

The Section worked with a number of community groups and secured four community broadband initiatives for the County. Progress was made on the development of the Wexford Metropolitan Area Network. This will ensure increased access to broadband in the coming year. The Section also initiated a process to find suitable uses for the IDA industrial lands in Gorey.

CDB Play Policy Working Group

The Play Policy Working Group consists of representatives from the Local Authorities, Health Services Executive, Department of



Education and Science, Wexford County Childcare Committee, Childcare Network Loch Gorman and the Community and Voluntary Sector. The Group worked on the policy and action plan throughout the year. It was published in December.

Playground Development Strategy

The roll out of the County Playground Development Strategy started this year. Two playgrounds have been officially opened at Gimont in Enniscorthy and Davidstown. Another three have been completed at Rosslare Harbour, Wolfe Tone Villas in Wexford and Wellingtonbridge. A sixth one will be completed at Duncannon in early 2006.

Skateparks

Wexford County Council was successful in securing a grant from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the development of a Skatepark in Gorey Town Park. The design stage was completed this year and the Park will be commissioned early in 2006.

County Wexford Community Forum

There are now 493 groups affiliated to County Wexford Community Forum (CWCF). In addition to an area based structure, a number of interest sectors have been established - Older People Sector, Arts Sector and Irish Language and Culture Sector. A representative of the CWCF addressed the annual conference of the National Council for Ageing and Older People on the Wexford experience of capacity building for older people.

The Community Forum ran a number of initiatives during the year:

- Quality Customer Care/Time Management for Community Groups
- Coaching and its Importance in Community Work





- Committee Skills Training Course
- Internet as a Business Tool for Community Groups
- Funding Sources for Community Arts Activities
- E-Citizen (Computer Skills Programme) - A Pilot Programme for Ireland
- Greenspace Empowerment for Housing Estate Residents
- Community Based Projects Competition
- Community Gatekeeper Courses in Suicide Prevention

The Forum also held over 40 meetings across the County to address issues that affect the Community Sector. Fr. Sean Healy addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Community Forum.

County Childcare Committee

Wexford County Childcare Committee (WCCC) acts as the key local component in the development of a coordinated approach to quality childcare within County Wexford. Since 2001, €17.3m has been awarded in grant aid for staffing costs, capital and community provision of childcare in the County.

WCCC activities included:

- Approving funding applications under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme
- Developing the Childcare Information Centre at 11, Weafer St., Enniscorthy
- Developing services to home based child-minders

Local Agenda 21

The Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) Committee organised a very successful art competition for primary school students. This was publicised through a colour poster which outlined key facts on water conservation. Prize winners were presented with their prizes by Councillor Larry O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, at a ceremony in County Hall on 9th May, 2005.

Environmental Partnership Grants

The following groups were awarded grants:

Group/Organisation	Amount
Enniscorthy Enterprise and Technology Centre	€1,300
SEED Wexford	€2,700
Wexford Energy Management Agency and County Wexford Community Forum	€2,500
Newbawn N.S.	€1,000
Ballyduff Community Development Association	€2,000
Wexford Tidy Towns	€2,500
Eco Unesco	€2,000
Total	€14,000

12 days of Christmas

The LA 21 Committee supported SEED Wexford in running an innovative publicity programme for Christmas 2005 which focused on the key LA 21 concepts of sustainability and looking after our family, neighbours and local environment.

Sustainable Community Buildings Scheme

Wexford County Council introduced the Sustainable Community Buildings Scheme this year to improve the insulation, water conservation, sustainable energy and lighting efficiency aspects of community owned buildings and facilities, using funds generated from Development Levies. The following groups were allocated funding under the Scheme:

Organisation	Amount Allocated
Kilrush Hall Committee	€2,000
Ballindaggin Community Hall	€10,000
St. Mary's Community Hall	€10,000
FDYS Ltd.	€10,000
Campile Community Hall	€10,000
Castlebridge Community Centre	€6,840
Raheen Parish Committee	€7,070
Monaseed Community Group Ltd.	€7,500
Castledockrell Amenity Group	€7,750
Kilrane-Rosslare Harbour Community Centre	€8,345
Kilmore Community Hall	€9,195
Ballymore/Mayglass Parish Council	€9,468

Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID) Programme



The towns of New Ross and Wexford continue to hold RAPID status. RAPID brings together the relevant agencies and communities to work together to devise solutions to local needs through better coordination of services and targeting of existing resources promoting a social inclusion approach. RAPID status means that designated communities will be prioritised for investment by local agencies, and under the National Development Plan. Having RAPID designation also provides priority access to Dormant Accounts Funds and RAPID Leverage Funding.

RAPID initially began with the development of a Strategic Plan 2003-2006 highlighting the priority issues including Health and Well Being, Youth, Education and Training and Community Development. In the past year, the RAPID Programmes in Wexford and New Ross, through the commitment of the Area Implementation Teams (AITs), Community Representatives, Statutory Agencies and staff, have recorded a number of significant achievements.

To date, a total investment of €6.1 million has been invested in the RAPID areas of New Ross and Wexford. Specific projects include:

Pride of Place Competition

This initiative, organised by Cooperation Ireland on a cross-border basis, recognises improvements made by local communities to create civic pride in their area. It focuses on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area. It's about civic pride initiatives, which will have long lasting and positive impacts on communities. Pride of Place is designed to further motivate and reward community groups, residents associations and individuals who take positive steps to enhance the area in which they live.

Wexford County Council nominated the following groups to participate in the Pride of Place Competition 2005:

Category	Population	Group
Category 1	Up to 1,000	Boolavogue 1798 Bicentennial Development Co-op Society Ltd.
Category 2	Between 1,000 and 2,000	Craanford, Monaseed and Hollyfort Explore Group
Category 3	Between 2,000 and 10,000	Senior Citizens Concern Ltd.
Category 4	In excess of 10,000	Wexford RAPID Community Team

A developmental approach was adopted and the groups each received a grant of €1,000 from County Wexford Community Forum to assist them to prepare for the judges' visit on 14th and 15th July.



- Provision of playground facilities;
- Estate enhancement work;
- Establishment and implementation of early school leaving prevention projects;
- Support to communities in applications for funding for community facilities;
- Area enhancements work including traffic calming measures;
- Implementation of training and development programmes for people returning to education and/or employment;
- Prioritisation and additional funding to successful sporting organisations under the 2005 Sports Capital grants.



County Wexford People of the Year

The Wexford County Council REHAB County Wexford People of the Year Awards recognise the important contributions of people from all walks of life to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our County. The County Wexford Person of the Year Award went to Peter Byrne for his tremendous work on behalf of a number of organisations in his parish and county. The Hall of Fame Award went to Seamus Keevens.

The other category winners were as follows:

Youth Work	Aileen Kennedy
Music	Paddy Berry
Courage	Vivian Rath
Sports	Eoin Nolan
Voluntary Endeavour	Wexford Inshore Rescue
Arts and Culture	M.J. Booth
Community Service	Peter Byrne

Young Citizen Awards

The National Young Citizen Awards Scheme is primarily aimed at acknowledging the contribution of young people to their communities. A committee has been formed to implement the Scheme in Wexford. The committee, consisting of representatives from the VEC, FDYS, Wexford County Council, Dáil na nÓg, Libraries, the Community Forum and the County Development Board has made a call for nominations.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg, organised jointly by Community and Enterprise and Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS), was held on 31st January in the FDYS Centre, Enniscorthy with 89 students attending. This provided an important forum to gather young people's views and opinions on the issues that affect them.

FDYS provided support to Comhairle representatives throughout the year, enabling them to participate in a number of other events including Dáil na nÓg held in Croke Park in March. Representatives also attended a special function in Áras an Uachtaráin.

Westgate Computer Centre

Westgate Computer Centre is continuing to take a proactive role in the provision of ICT access and training to all residents of County Wexford. The Centre has recently completed the hugely successful E-Citizen/Internet Pilot Programme on behalf of the ECDL Foundation, and the Country's

first E-Citizen has just graduated. This training programme is for anyone who wants to use the Internet as a source of information, as well as to shop, bank, book holidays, pay bills and access government services.

Participants from Community and Socially Excluded Groups, Senior Citizens, the Local Authority Sector, Government Departments and the local Business Community are all availing of the top quality training which is provided in Westgate Computer Centre. A number of SMEs are currently learning how to create, host and maintain their websites. The Centre is delighted to be able to respond to the urgent and growing need for an increase in e-skills within the community also.





Promotion of Interest in the Community Grant Scheme 2005

Community Grants, totaling €630,000, were awarded to the following organisations/groups in 2005:

Organisation	Amount
Members' Allocation	€84,000
Enniscorthy Enterprise and Technology Centre	€12,700
Wexford County Museum	€10,000
W.O.R.D.	€12,700
Wexford Festival Opera Redevelopment Project	€40,000
Wexford Festival Opera Redevelopment Project	€11,500
Irish National Heritage Park	€50,000
New Arts, Cultural and Community Initiatives	€20,000
Gorey Park	€3,800
Courtown Waterworld	€40,000
Duncannon Fort Trust	€6,500
Fethard Castle	€6,500
Hook Heritage	€6,500
Duncannon/Fethard/Hook Capital Programme - Hook	€10,000
National 1798 Centre	€20,000
Browne Clayton Monument	€25,000
Wexford Information Networks for the Community (WINC)	€40,000
St. Michael's Theatre	€10,000
WCC/Rehab People of the Year Award	€10,000
County Wexford Community Games	€3,000
New Ross Marina	€10,000
Gorey School of Art	€10,000
JFK Trust - Dunbrody Famine Ship	€10,000
Wexford Rehabcare	€10,000
Wexford Racecourse Development	€50,000

Festivals of County Wexford	
Organisation	Amount
St. Patrick's Day Parade - Wexford	€2,500
St. Patrick's Day Parade - Enniscorthy	€2,500
St. Patrick's Day Parade - Gorey	€2,500
St. Patrick's Day Parade - New Ross	€2,500
Bannow and Rathangan Show Society Ltd.	€1,000
Dunbrody Festival	€10,000
County Wexford Strawberry Fair	€3,000
National Sheepdog Trials	€3,000
Wexford Hooves n Grooves	€800
Wexford Viking Ships Festival	€5,000
Gorey Show Society	€1,000
Byrne Perry School	€4,000

Community Development Projects	
Organisation	Amount
Irish Road Club	€3,000
New Ross AIMS Choral Festival	€2,500
Kilanerlin Ballyfad CDA	€10,000
Kilmuckridge Community Enhancement Group	€5,000
New Ross CDP	€2,500
Youth New Ross	€2,500
FAB Community Development Project	€2,500
Ferndale Residents Group	€1,500
South End RAPID Community Team	€1,000
Templeshannon CDP	€2,500
Wexford In Bloom	€1,500
Wexford Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	€1,000
Rural Road Runner (WAP RTI)	€1,000
Future New Ross	€5,000
New Ross Coarse Angling	€7,500
Athletics Wexford	€500
Bunclody Tidy Towns	€500
County Wexford Community Workshop	€10,000
Wexford Arts Centre	€10,000
Old Distillery Press	€5,000
New Ross Town Council - Tall Ships Race	€5,000





[Human Resources]



Anne O'Reilly
*Director of Services,
Corporate Affairs*



Roll out of the national Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) during the year marked a milestone in the development of the Human Resource function within the local authority sector.

The system, piloted in a number of local authorities in 2004, including Wexford, is designed to provide a structure that links staff performance and developmental needs directly to the delivery of the Council's corporate objectives. A PMDS implementation team was established to ensure the successful introduction of the system across the organisation. Their goal is to have the system embedded by the end of 2006 and significant progress has been made to date.

While recruitment continued to be a major challenge for the Human Resource Department, there was a reduction in the level of recruitment activity this year. The Department received approximately 1,300 applications in respect of 41 separate recruitment competitions. A total of 56 interview processes were undertaken, resulting in a total of 54 permanent and temporary staff appointments. Once again every effort was made to maintain the openness and transparency

expected of a public authority in relation to its recruitment processes. A further slowdown in recruitment activity is expected during 2006 as the Government's embargo on public service staff numbers is maintained.

The Department continued to provide support to line managers and section heads in the area of staff policies and procedures. In line with best practice, the devolution of staff matters to section heads continues to be a core objective, with particular emphasis being placed on the expansion of the HR Department's supportive and advisory role in the human resource area.

Wexford continues to be one of the few local authorities with a fully operational computerised Human Resources Management (HRM) System. This System has proved an exceptional addition to the Department's resources since it was commissioned in 2003. It has impacted positively on all areas within the Department,

from staff recruitment through to retirement. Further enhancement of the System is planned for 2006 with the addition of document imaging of personnel files and records. It is hoped that this will ultimately lead to the digitisation of all HR data. A link to the Council's payroll system is also planned.

The Human Resource Department's commitment to industrial harmony through the fullest use of the established industrial relations machinery, i.e. the Labour Relations Commission, Rights Commissioner's Service, etc. was maintained during the year. The Department is fully supportive of the Council's partnership ethos and welcomed the establishment of the Procedural Committee for Handling Significant Change in January. It is hoped that the partnership model, which seeks to harness the capabilities and goodwill of both management and staff, can deliver mutual benefits while successfully addressing the

key issues facing the organisation over the coming months and years.

Staff Training

One of the strategic objectives of the Human Resource Department is to optimise staff potential by providing quality training and career development opportunities.

In 2005, the Council funded 15 staff members to pursue third level work-related courses. A number of staff completed IPA courses: Certificate in Local Government Studies - 14 and Diploma in Local Government Studies - 7. Staff development was also encouraged through participation in training courses, conferences and seminars. Some 470 members of staff, both indoor and outdoor, were approved to attend 159 different training courses Country-wide. Among the areas covered were:

- Budget Management
- Customer Care
- Disability Awareness
- Facilitation Skills
- Site Suitability
- Fire Wardens
- First Aid
- Manager as Coach
- MapInfo
- Office Safety Awareness
- Personal Effectiveness
- Presentation Skills
- Project Management
- Train the Trainer
- Waste Management

Where there was a big demand for specific training courses, training was organised locally to afford the maximum number of staff an opportunity to attend. Also, training was provided by members of staff who had completed the 'Train the Trainer Programme' covering specific areas - the Council's Financial Management System and Library Research Skills.

The Council continued to support the training activities of the Regional Training Centre in Roscrea. Staff attended training courses related to the following:

- Basic Surface Dressing
- Chainsaw Training
- Health and Safety for Roadworkers
- Signing, Lighting and Guarding
- Mini Digger
- Road Materials and Construction Techniques
- Chlorine Handling

- Confined Spaces
- Distribution Systems and Operations
- Taste and Odour Issues in Water

In conjunction with the Water Safety Council of Ireland, all 18 beach guards received one week's training prior to commencement of their employment in June.

10 staff members attended retirement courses, organised through the Retirement Council of Ireland, in preparation for retirement.

The Council continued with its efforts to have all members of staff trained in IT skills, to at least ECDL standard. Additionally, many staff members also completed Advanced Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint courses during the year.





Performance Management and Development System

The roll out of the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) across the Wexford Local Authorities began in April.

A team comprising three members of staff, the Training Officer and two specifically trained Trainers, were assigned to introduce and assist in the implementation of PMDS. It is expected that the roll out will be complete by the end of 2006.

Two pilot areas were chosen to implement the Performance Management and Development System in the first instance - the Water Services Department and the Executive Team. Roll out of PMDS in both areas is nearing completion. As anticipated, valuable lessons have been learned in the pilot areas and, as a result, minor modifications have been made to the PMDS forms in order to streamline the process. The Team values the contributions from staff to date as they will assist roll out in other areas of the Local Authorities.

In tandem with the pilots, awareness sessions were arranged for all staff around the County. At this stage, about 640 staff members have attended. In addition, 12 Team Development Plan meetings have been held, with a total 97 staff members participating in the development of their Team Development Plans (TDPs).

The Management Team has agreed the schedule for the complete roll out of PMDS across Wexford Local Authorities. To achieve this by the end of 2006 will require a significant level of commitment, not only from the PMDS Team, but more importantly from both

Management and Staff. The Executive Team has listed the timely completion of the PMDS roll out as one of its key objectives over the coming year.

Health and Safety

The review and update of the Council's Corporate and Ancillary Safety Statements continued during the year. The process of hazard identification and risk assessment also continued across the Council's operations.

Health and Safety Training is an essential element of the Council's health and safety strategy. Staff education, the promotion of a safe working environment, and the provision of high quality equipment all play a part in the Council's drive to ensure the health and welfare of its staff. This year, health and safety training was delivered in the following areas by both in-house and external trainers:

	Nos. trained
Fire Wardens	7
First Aid	14
Asbestos	13
Manual Handling	84
Safety, Health and Welfare Act	50
Working at Heights (Ladder)	9
Telescopic Handling (Forklift)	4
Chemical Safety	7



Interviews Held During 2005

Senior Staff Officer

	Male	Female
Eligible	7	17
Interviewed	2	10
Appointed	0	1
Interview Board	2	1

Archivist

	Male	Female
Eligible	2	1
Interviewed	2	1
Appointed	0	1
Interview Board	3	0

Public Art Programme Coordinator

	Male	Female
Eligible	3	15
Interviewed	2	9
Appointed	0	1
Interview Board	2	1

Arts Officer

	Male	Female
Eligible	4	9
Interviewed	4	6
Appointed	0	1
Interview Board	3	0

Senior Staff Officer

	Male	Female
Eligible	3	6
Interviewed	3	6
Appointed	0	1
Interview Board	2	1

Assistant Planner

	Male	Female
Eligible	17	11
Interviewed	14	10
Appointed	0	3
Interview Board	3	0

Executive Engineer

	Male	Female
Eligible	12	0
Interviewed	11	0
Appointed	1	0
Interview Board	2	1

Chief Technician

	Male	Female
Eligible	14	2
Interviewed	13	2
Appointed	2	0
Interview Board	3	0

Web/E-Government Technician

	Male	Female
Eligible	10	3
Interviewed	10	3
Appointed	1	0
Interview Board	3	0

Administrative Officer

	Male	Female
Eligible	6	8
Interviewed	5	5
Appointed	1	0
Interview Board	2	1

Executive Technician

	Male	Female
Eligible	7	10
Interviewed	6	9
Appointed	0	1
Interview Board	3	0

Civil Technician Grade I

	Male	Female
Eligible	10	1
Interviewed	9	1
Appointed	0	0
Interview Board	3	0

Civil Technician Grade II

	Male	Female
Eligible	7	0
Interviewed	5	0
Appointed	0	0
Interview Board	3	0

Administrative Officer

	Male	Female
Eligible	1	8
Interviewed	1	6
Appointed	0	2
Interview Board	2	1

Environmental Technician Grade I

	Male	Female
Eligible	4	7
Interviewed	4	7
Appointed	0	0
Interview Board	2	1

Senior Executive Technician

	Male	Female
Eligible	10	5
Interviewed	10	3
Appointed	2	0
Interview Board	2	1

Environmental Technician Grade II

	Male	Female
Eligible	15	23
Interviewed	13	15
Appointed	0	0
Interview Board	3	0

Health & Safety Officer

	Male	Female
Eligible	6	6
Interviewed	4	5
Appointed	0	0
Interview Board	3	0

I.S. Analyst Developer Officer

	Male	Female
Eligible	6	8
Interviewed	5	5
Appointed	0	1
Interview Board	2	1



Retired Personnel

Name	Grade	Date of Retirement
John Murphy	Sub-Station Officer	13/01/05
Margaret Wheeler	Clerical Officer	18/02/05
John Sinnott	Harbour Constable	07/03/05
Thomas Curran	General Operative	18/03/05
Noeleen Troy	Clerical Officer	22/04/05
James Doyle	Driver	05/06/05
Michael Daly	Chief Technician	08/07/05
Kevin Redmond	Senior Planner	15/07/05
John Banville	Light Equipment Operator	18/07/05
John Kennedy	General Operative	22/07/05
Cyril McGarr	Station Officer	12/08/05
Liam Ruttledge	Executive Technician	28/08/05
Michael Dunbar	Driver	07/10/05
Bertie Cousins	Foreman	11/10/05
Eddie Redmond	Chief Technician	21/10/05
Michael Delaney	Refuse Collector	25/10/05
Matthew Kehoe	Driver	10/11/05
Thomas Hughes	Foreman	16/12/05
Fred Carley	Driver	20/12/05
Jim Staples	Assistant Chief Fire Officer	31/12/05

The Council was saddened at the death of Mr. Harry Quinn, Firefighter, who died in service on 3rd August, 2005.

May he rest in peace.



[Workplace Partnership]



Workplace partnership is characterised by activities such as effective communication, shared understanding, employee involvement and joint problem solving, all of which build trust and facilitate organisational change.



The rationale underpinning the process has always been that it offers the best approach to delivering mutual benefits for management, unions, employees and the local authority customer.

The Strategic Plan entitled "Deepening Partnership in Local Government 2003-2005" sets out as a core objective the mainstreaming of the Workplace Partnership process within the local government service. The following paragraphs highlight the continued development of the

process in the Wexford Local Authorities and show the contribution it can make to important organisational issues and the ambitious programme for organisational change and modernisation well underway in local government.

Achievements in 2005

Performance Verification Process

Partnership continued to develop an evolving and supportive working relationship with other processes concerned with organisational change, i.e. industrial relations and participative management processes. It played an important role in the verification of the changes being introduced as part of the public service benchmarking process and in relation to the implementation of the

modernisation objectives set out in Sustaining Progress.

Handling Significant Change through Partnership

In January, the Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group (LANPAG) published a new protocol agreement *Handling Significant Change through Partnership* aimed at helping managers and trade union representatives to handle significant changes with confidence. The protocol sets out a framework within which the parties may raise significant issues and agree on appropriate mechanisms for handling them. It also sets out a number of supports that may be called on in the event that difficulties arise.



The Wexford Local Authorities, together with six other local authorities, were selected by LANPAG to apply the protocol on a pilot basis. The objective for this partnership activity is the development of a culture that embraces change and modernisation, which are critical for an improved local government service.

The County Manager and the senior management team met with the senior trade union representatives and members of the partnership forum on a regular basis during the year, to share information and to identify priority issues that are strategically important to progress in the interests of improving services to the public and the quality of working life.

The priority issues referred to Partnership for the pilot initiative included:

- A review of selection procedures with a focus on specific grades;
- The planning of a new joint depot for Wexford Town and District;
- Staff consultation and support for the successful implementation of the Performance Management and Development System;
- The use of public private partnership procurement options - Water Capital Projects;
- The Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region.

At the end of 2005, there are a number of important achievements to note in relation to the initiative:

- Improved communications and positive collaborative working relationships due to wider involvement in the Partnership systems in the Wexford Local Authorities;

- Fewer industrial relations issues owing to the willingness to address issues through Partnership;
- A focus on solutions through the establishment of common goals around these agreed projects;
- Wider consultation with staff on these issues and better understanding of the need for changes;
- Experience of new skills and methods around the joint handling of organisational change.

Necessary supports have been put in place by LANPAG for the working group members who will work on these significant projects in 2006 e.g. support from senior management and trade union representatives, facilitation support, training, help when difficult situations arise, tools for working together such as joint data gathering and joint problem solving models.

Partnership Working Groups and Task Groups

A number of working groups and task groups established in previous years continued their work during the year under the direction of the Workplace Partnership Forum. Projects provide an opportunity for people to build trust, to apply project management skills and to achieve tangible goals in a relatively short time frame. The key activities in relation to these included:

- **The Return to Learning Programme** - 34 students successfully completed their programme in the spring and received certificates in respect of their achievement. In October, 33 students commenced a new programme and 10 mature students enrolled in

a new advanced programme, integrated with the mainstream local authority training programmes. The programme is delivered by the Adult Literacy Service of the County Wexford Vocational Education Committee. The benefits include personal development for the individual and meeting the challenge of developing and maintaining a highly skilled workforce in the local authorities.

- **Local Authority Workplace Review Report** - the implementation of the recommendations and action plans developed from the *2001 Local Authority Workplace Review Report* was monitored during the year. Considerable progress has been made and the working group is recommending that a further workplace review be conducted in 2006 aimed at identifying the priority issues for staff in the local authorities concerning the quality of their working lives.
- **Pilot Community Warden Service in County Wexford** - continued facilitation support was provided to Representative Group for the pilot service. The permanent establishment of the community warden service in Wexford was agreed in December.
- **Customer Service Training for Front Line Employees** - the specialised training in the delivery of excellent customer service was provided for employees in the Refuse Collection Service and the Town Councils, in conjunction with the Staff Training and



Development Programme. The purpose of the training is to ensure that staff are equipped to deliver on the promises and commitments outlined in the Customer Service Action Plan.

○ **Facilities for Outdoor Staff**

- working conditions for the outdoor staff were further improved with the purchase of an additional mobile staff welfare unit for the Wexford Area.

○ **Integration of Services in the Wexford Local Authorities**

- a range of services within the Wexford Local Authorities are being integrated with a view to achieving efficiency, economy, and effectiveness in the delivery of a seamless service to the people of County Wexford. Plans are at an advanced stage in relation to the implementation of an integrated Financial Management System.

○ **Review of Family Friendly/Worklife Balance Initiatives**

- the report on the review of access to and operation of the range of Family Friendly and Worklife Balance arrangements was published early in the year. The report made a number of recommendations aimed at achieving a workable balance between organisation and employee interests.

○ **Non-Domestic Water Users Metering Project**

- this strategic project is at the forefront in dealing with the introduction of public private partnerships in the Wexford Local Authorities. The work of the task group included the stakeholder consultation process, and the selection

of the best approach to deliver and monitor the implementation of the project. The task group continues to meet regularly and uses the partnership joint problem solving approach to resolve any difficult or contentious issues that arise. This example of a public private partnership project was recognised by the National Centre for Partnership and Performance as representing a break through in terms of an organisational model for the introduction of a public private partnership project in a local authority.

New Projects

○ **Preparation of Internal Communications Strategy Plan**

- the aim of this project is to develop a strategy to guide effective communications within the Wexford Local Authorities. The research for developing the strategy included an organisation-wide survey of all employees, a literature review and an examination of best practices elsewhere in the local government sector. The engagement of an external consultant is recommended to assist in drafting the strategy plan with an eye to publication in 2006 .

○ **Acknowledgement and Celebration**

- in recognition of excellent and long service on the part of individual employees, the Council and the Partnership Forum sponsored and celebrated the long service and retirement awards. In total, 143 employees received awards, those with 40 and

25 years service and those who had retired since 2002. At a function in November, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Jimmy Curtis and the County Manager, Mr. Eddie Breen thanked them for their long service and outstanding contribution.

○ **Internal Customer Service Review**

- this project involves a review of the Internal Customer Service practices within the Wexford Local Authorities and the preparation of a strategy plan and associated action plans, with the purpose of developing an excellent internal customer service ethos. The study will include a staff survey and an examination of best practices elsewhere in the public service. Good internal customer service underpins effective service of external customers.

○ **Identification of Staff Training Needs - Town Councils**

- the objective in the case of this project is to identify the continuing training and development needs of the employees in the Town Councils with the intention of developing and maintaining a highly skilled workforce and delivering excellent services to the customer. The modernisation programme, which includes the integration of services with the County Council, has meant major change and adaptation for the employees.

○ **Staff Handbook**

- the task assigned to this working group is to revise and republish the staff handbook so as to provide a reference document that explains how the Wexford



Local Authorities operate, their aims and objectives and the general terms and conditions of employment that apply to staff. The standard of service provided by the local authorities relies heavily on the personal approach and contribution of each individual employee. This information resource helps to foster the correct environment to encourage every employee to play a full role in the delivery of the services.

- **Gorey District Partnership Committee** - the establishment of a workplace partnership committee in the Gorey district is intended to lead to the development of a model capable of being emulated in all departments and sections within the organisation, particularly in the context of change processes.

Reflections on the Workplace Partnership Process

During the past year, the Partnership Forum successfully accomplished many of the targets and objectives set out in *Handling Significant Change - Protocol Agreement, Deepening Partnership in Local Government 2003-2005* and local Action Plans. In terms of complexity, workplace partnership has moved from first generation partnership - something we do, to second generation partnership - the way we do things.

Partnership is now a key element of delivering innovation and change in local government. The process is moving from largely project-based activity towards an approach that integrates planned partnership activity and process

with the strategic and operational delivery of improvements to services.

The nature of the projects being dealt with under the significant change protocol in the Wexford Local Authorities is indicative of the repositioning of the process towards major organisational change. The challenge now facing the process is to become a valid model for handling significant change, in terms of expediting and enhancing the change process and delivering quality outcomes such as improving organisational performance, meeting customer expectations and improving the lives of all citizens.





[Information and Communications Technology]



The Information and Communications Technology Department reports to the Director of Corporate Affairs and is accountable for the support and maintenance of all computer applications and systems, hardware and software that are used throughout the Council.

Technical Services

Phone System Upgrade

The upgrade of the Council's main phone system commenced in February. This allowed the Council to take full advantage of savings by using the Government VPN (Virtual Private Network) and the recently installed Wireless Network.

The main switches at County Hall, Wexford Borough Council, Enniscorthy District Office and other smaller sites were upgraded. All inter-site phone calls are now routed through our internal network at zero cost to the Council.

The voicemail software was also upgraded to Call Pilot, which allows for the in-house configuration of voicemail options for users.

The upgrade of the system has provided the following benefits:

- Free phone calls between County Hall, Wexford Borough Council, Enniscorthy District Office and many smaller sites;
- Central server for all sites, using the same software version and enabling central configuration of the system;
- IP (Internet Protocol) capability, future proofing of all sites for the use of IP or VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol);
- Centrally managed voice and data IP based network, adding layers of resiliency and organisational cost savings and efficiencies, both immediately and for years to come.

Laptops - New Ross Town Councillors

The elected Members of New Ross Town Council have been provided with laptops. Email facilities for the Members have been provided from the main County Hall email system.

The laptops were officially handed over to Members on 7th March following a training session.

Gorey New Offices

Gorey Area Office and Gorey Avenue Offices were both relocated to a new office block in Market Square in June. Network resources and phones have been upgraded and combined in the new office complex to allow for a more integrated solution for the users.



Wireless Network, New Ross

The second phase of the "wireless project" was commissioned in New Ross with the installation of a wireless connection back to Wexford in July. The Tholsel, Mary Street Office, New Ross Library and New Ross Fire Station were all successfully connected to the network. The elevated site at the New Water Tower in New Ross was used to establish the connection back to Mount Leinster where the Council have a presence on the RTE mast. The new link has significantly increased capacity from New Ross back to County Hall via Mount Leinster.

Financial Management Systems (FMS) Development

Integra Upgrades

A major upgrade of the Council's financial system, Integra, was successfully undertaken. The upgrade included new functionality in all ledgers, an improved user interface, an improved menu management system and also added more robust security features. Integra Version 3.1 was implemented as a published Citrix application, in response to user requests.

A training programme for new and existing users was incorporated into the implementation.

New Systems Implementation

Two new applications, both integrated Integra applications - Wages, and Salaries and Personnel - were implemented successfully during the year by ICT and Finance staff.

The Mobile Credit Control System, which interfaces directly into Integra, was implemented

early in the year, having been piloted last year.

A new information and processing system was designed to cater for the requirements of the Revenue Unit.

County-wide FMS

A Business Process Analysis project was undertaken to determine the most effective and efficient methodology to harmonize accounting systems in the Wexford Local Authorities. Integra is expected to be the common integrated Financial Management System.

The FMS server that runs Integra, was upgraded with additional processing power, memory and storage capacity to ensure that it can deliver excellent performance and provide stability into the future. This upgrade will also enable it to cater for the take-on of additional data and user load when the Town Authorities are included.

Non-Domestic User (NDU) Water Metering Project

An extensive analysis programme was carried out on all areas of the Project, and an Implementation Plan was developed. A new Billing and Information System was designed as an integrated Integra module in a joint project with our FMS supplier and was installed in our FMS test environment. It will replace the legacy Ingres system currently in use.

Planning Contributions MIS (Management Information System)

A project team was established to examine and resolve the issues in

the synchronization of information between the APAS Planning System and the Integra FMS Sales and General Ledgers. This will enable users to produce a Management Information System to facilitate monitoring and control of capital income from planning contributions, and includes forward plans to develop an automated integration facility between APAS and Integra. This proposed facility is being reviewed with suppliers of the applications.

Online Receipting

As part of the SERA E-Receipts project, online facilities for payment of Traffic Fines and Fire Payments were implemented, with interfaces to the Integra Cash Management and Sales Ledger systems, and to the Traffic Fines and Fire databases. This e-payment facility can be availed of by going to the Council's website - <http://www.wexford.ie>.

Housing Loans

A project team was established to evaluate options for a new Housing Loans system to replace the existing legacy Ingres system. A number of options have been reviewed, and the team will produce recommendations for the preferred solution early in 2006.

Energy Billing Management

An interface system was designed to automate the receipt and processing of electronic invoices from our energy suppliers, updating the Integra Purchase Ledger for generation of payments.

ICT Training

A training programme was developed and commenced for IT Analyst Developers to facilitate transition to systems design and implementation in Oracle and SQL (Structured Query Language) environments.

GIS [Geographic Information Systems]

gPlan

gPlan is a Geographical Information System for the Internet which allows the public to search all planning applications received by Wexford County Council by townland or file number. Planning applications from 1985 are available on the System and new planning applications are digitized by the planning technicians as they are registered and updated to gPlan on a weekly basis. Townland boundary maps, network pipes for public water schemes, group water schemes and sewerage schemes are also included on the System.

The System went live in June on the Council's website.

System usage has been monitored during implementation with the number of visits to the site per month rising from 557 in July to 1,554 in November.

Intranet GIS

Many new map layers were added to the Intranet GIS this year and these are listed on the data acquisition table below - see GIS Summary. Training for staff in Water Services, Environment, Enniscorthy District Office and Wexford Borough Council was carried out during the year.

Environment GIS

A generic Internet GIS was purchased from IMGs. The initial roll out on the Internet will cover Environment and will include maps of Recycling Locations, Refuse Routes, Green Coast Awards, Blue Flag Awards, Beach Bye Law Locations, Coastal Walks and Public Slipways.

System development is in progress and is planned to go live early in 2006.

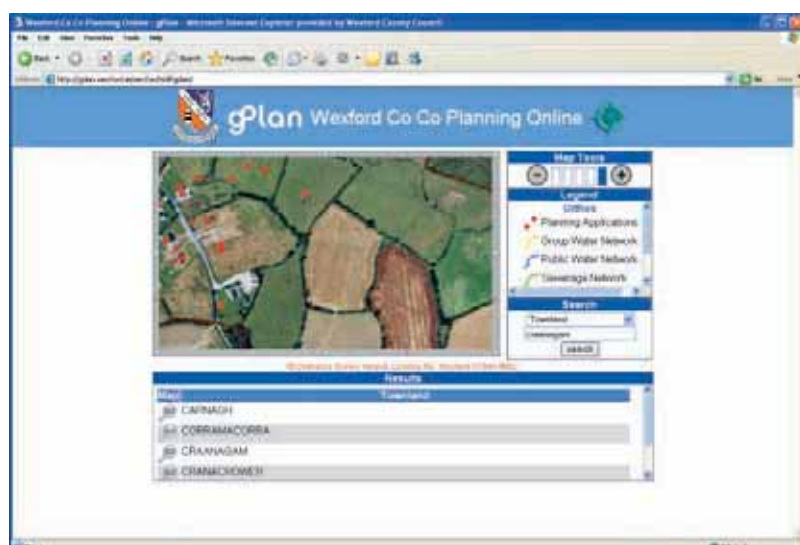
Planning

Work was completed on the conversion of the development plans and local area plans to Adobe's PDF and Mapinfo format. Zoning layers were added to APAS-GIS, the Council's planning system (APAS) and the Intranet GIS, and development plan maps in PDF format are currently being made available on the Internet for public access.

Other new layers were also added to APAS-GIS during the year and these are listed below - see GIS Summary.

Data Acquisition

The contract for the delivery of vector maps for the County was completed. Complete County coverage is now available in vector format to all staff and is in use in all geographical applications including Intranet GIS, APAS-GIS and CIS.





GIS Summary

The following table summarises the new map layers that were either obtained externally or digitized internally during the year and made available to the various geographical systems and to MapInfo and Autocad users.

Department	Layer	Intranet GIS	Extranet GIS	APAS GIS
Roads	National Road Scheme Boundaries	☆	☆	☆
Planning	Development Plan Boundaries	☆	☆	☆
	Zoning Boundaries / Development Plans	☆	☆	☆
	Applications that affect a protected structure	☆	☆	☆
	Applications that require EIA	☆	☆	☆
	Applications granted Extension of Time	☆	☆	☆
	Applications that materially contravene plan	☆	☆	☆
	Declarations on exempted developments	☆	☆	☆
	Sterilisation Agreements	☆	☆	☆
Environment	Corine Land Cover	☆		
	Soils / Subsoils	☆	☆	☆
	Groundwater Vulnerability / Bedrock / Aquifers	☆	☆	☆
	River Basin Districts	☆		
	Hydrometric Stations	☆		
	River Catchments	☆		
	Discharge Licences (S4 and S16)	☆		
	EPA / IPC Waste Licences	☆		
	Public Slipways	☆		
	Beach Bye Laws	☆		☆
	Green Coast Awards	☆		
	Blue Flag Awards	☆		
	Coastal Walks	☆		
	Recycling Locations	☆		
Rates	Rateable Properties – County Coverage	☆		
Register of Electors	Boundary Extensions	☆		
	Proposed Polling Scheme	☆		
Water Services	Sewerage Scheme Boundaries	☆	☆	☆
Mapping	Vector 5000 Maps	☆	☆	☆
	Aerial Photography 1995			☆
	Aerial Photography 2000	☆	☆	☆
	Vector Mapping Grid	☆		

Internet/Intranet

Wexford County Council's Website

The website's backend has been redesigned to help automate many of the services available on the site, such as Notices, Jobs, Planning Applications and Tenders. These are now updated automatically using backend workflow systems. New templates have also been designed to enable a select number of Content Contributors around the Council to update their own content, in preparation for the implementation of a new Content Management System (CMS) which is scheduled for early 2006. Work has also been completed to update code on the site to make it more accessible for people with disabilities. The associated text site map will help all customers search for the wealth of information being added to the site every day.



The average number of visits to the website per month nearly doubled from the beginning to the end of the year.

Wexford County Council's Intranet

The Intranet now has a more user friendly design. It has Java Script drop down menus that help users navigate through the site much more easily and quickly. More enhancements have been made to the database driven phonebook to aid search and retrieval. Regular

updates are posted to the staff news and notices sections. The site also has online picture display.



Visits to the Intranet site have increased from 12,375 in December 2004 to a monthly average of 15,375 for 2005.

New Ross Town Council's New Website



The New Ross Town Council website can be found at www.newrosstc.ie.

The site was completely redesigned during the year. The user friendly navigation system makes the website easy to use, and information is retrieved much quicker than before. Visitors can now view weekly planning lists and other information on all the departments in New Ross Town Council.

E-Receipts/E-Payments



The e-receipts project continues to grow and build momentum. Customers have paid over €180,000 in 2005 to the Council. The facility to pay Parking Fines has been added. Customers can also pay Fire Service charges online. It is hoped to add all debtor accounts, as well as enhanced features, next year.

installing and testing multiple releases of the EMOS software package, and assisting in the generation of the extracts and reports required by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Higher Education Grants (eHEGS) Project

Five local authorities - Cork City Council, and Cork, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown and Wexford County Councils - were involved in the project to replace the existing Higher Education Grants System. This project was a big success and the new system has been fully implemented by Wexford County Council.

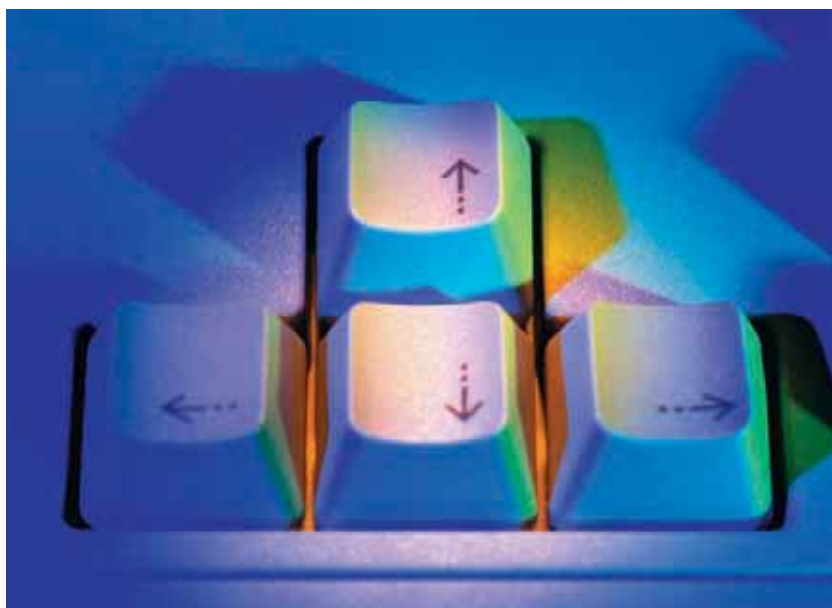
In-house Development

Annual Housing Need (AHN) 2005 Project

ICT were involved in the coordination of the Annual Housing Need 2005 project requirements for the Wexford Local Authorities. It involved

ePlanning Pilot Project

ICT participated in the ePlanning pilot project, providing technical advice and reviewing the sample images supplied by participating planning agents. A number of issues were highlighted, including the complexity of various file formats that were received.





Local Authority Quotes (LAQuotes) Project

Technical assistance was provided to support the installation and configuration of the LAQuotes System in Wexford County Council. This web-based application, developed by Kerry County Council to provide an enquiry facility for tenders received covering maintenance plant and materials, is currently in use in the Roads Department.

Integrated Housing Software Project

The suitability of the Integrated Housing Software (HOME) System for use in the Wexford Local Authorities and its impact on existing systems was evaluated. Preparations are ongoing for the implementation of the system in early 2006. Work has commenced on the preparation of EMOS data for migration to the new HOME application.

Pensions Update System

The Pension Update System, used to calculate revised weekly payments for former Wexford County Council staff in receipt of pensions, was re-written during the year. Pension revisions are based on changes in the current rates of pay for each staff grade. The updated pension amounts are transferred to the Council's weekly payroll system.

Implementation of Document Management System (DMS) in Wexford Borough Council

Work has commenced on the implementation of the DMS in Wexford Borough Council. This project and the roll out of APAS (Planning Application Management Software) in the Borough Council will overlap.

Other Work

- Coordinated development and support of departmental database and web-based applications.
- Coordinated the process of matching Rental Assistance Scheme data from the Health Service Executive (HSE) with existing EMOS database.
- Completed the upgrade of SoftCo's Document Management System, R7, which included updating the public access screens to incorporate the required changes.
- Provided technical support for a range of third party applications, including SoftCo DMS, PEMAC (Housing Maintenance), EMOS, iBistro (Library system) and LAQuotes.



[Arts Department]



Mission Statement: To improve the quality of life for the citizens of Wexford by providing opportunities for people to engage in high quality arts experiences and by stimulating, supporting and sustaining standards of excellence among artists in their practice.

*Ó neart go neart
County Wexford Arts Plan 2005–2009*

Throughout 2005, thousands of children, young people, adults and older people from all corners of the County participated in the high quality multi-disciplinary arts programme offered by the Arts Department. Artists of all disciplines were commissioned to create innovative new art works; children, teachers and artists together engaged in the creative learning process; young people were given opportunities to perform; audiences were developed through new developmental projects; community groups were supported and empowered to work with artists.

Over the course of the year, the Arts Department has continued to deliver a high quality responsive service, which involves directing and managing an innovative and diverse arts programme in addition to providing a range of wide supports to artists, arts

organisations and the wider public from the professional, amateur and voluntary sectors. The Arts Programme facilitated development in the areas of arts education, arts and health, community arts, youth arts and public art. Through working in partnership with individuals and organisations, significant developments and achievements have been achieved.

Arts Education

Art Alongside

Art Alongside is a visual art education project, which aims to provide a dynamic and relevant experience of the visual arts to children and adults, in addition to providing an opportunity for the project artists to maintain their own professional practice. Art Alongside brings together

professional artists and children in local primary schools to work alongside each other based on a chosen theme. The children chose their own theme for 2004/2005 and the year's programme culminated in a County exhibition, entitled *Flotsam and Flying Fish*. This exhibition also featured the work of the project artists in addition to works from the prestigious art collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Altogether, 320 children from 7 schools participated in the programme and the local and County exhibitions attracted 1,800 people.

A significant amount of research on the project has been undertaken since its inception. This research, entitled *Art Alongside: Sustainable and Authentic Arts Practice within County Wexford* and edited by Dr. Patricia Flynn, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, was officially launched during the



year. The publication charts the progress of Art Alongside from 1999 to 2004 and addresses issues for artists, arts administration and communities' engagement with and access to meaningful arts programmes. It provides an account of the evolution of this project and the solutions it found to the issues it was set up to address.

The 2005/2006 programme, *Opposite Ends of the Spectrum*, was launched this year.

Music Development Programme

This programme, aimed at developing structures for the long-term development of music within the County, consists of four strands.

2005 saw activity across all strands:

Professional Development Programme

- Sound and Composition Creative Music Project
- Visual Art and Creative Music Project

Opportunities for Composers

- Composer in Residence Project, which featured County Wexford Youth Orchestra and composer Fergus Johnston, and culminated in The Wexford Suite
- Official Launch of D'Aon Ghuth 1 and publication of D'Aon Ghuth 2 & 3 containing songs by composer Sue Furlong

Music Education Development

- County Wexford Children's Choir 2nd Annual Singfest
- Traditional Irish Singing Project
- Instrumental Tuition Programmes in association with Bridgetown and Enniscorthy V.E.C.
- Establishment of the Local Working Group for the System of Local Music Education Services
- Curriculum Support In-Service Course in association with County Wexford Education Centre
- RTÉ Concert Orchestra Residency in association with Wexford Festival Singers

Community Music Development

- Gateway Orchestra

Community Arts

Summer Fun

Summer Fun is an annual multi-disciplinary arts festival for children and young people in County Wexford. The broad aim of the project since its initiation has been to provide easy and inclusive access to the arts, which provides young people with the opportunity to participate in and engage with high quality arts and cultural activities free of charge in their own local community. This year, the Summer Fun Programme was restructured to incorporate a thematically planned programme, entitled *Summer Fun – A Catalyst for Community Arts Development*, increased collaborative planning between artists and communities and incentive funding to encourage the initiation of longer term community arts programmes.

92 activities were programmed involving 37 communities and 12 artists. Musical composition, drama, pottery, willow weaving, creative writing, tapestry and film making were among the activities included. 14 communities were awarded funding to support the further development of longer term community arts projects.

Youth Arts

Pulse!



Pulse! is a County-wide youth dance initiative for young people, which is run in partnership with locally based Myriad Dance Company. The project is aimed at capturing the imagination, energy and artistry of young people through active participation in creative dance. Just under 110 young people participated in this year's programme which culminated in *Universal Moves* – a delightful mix of highly physical dance and imaginative creativity, combined with a superb and



eclectic soundtrack which explored the theme of the different genres of music through dance.



County Wexford Youth Theatre

County Wexford Youth Theatre (CWYT) provides an outlet for artistic expression among the young people of County Wexford through the medium of theatre production and performance. CWYT develops and presents existing, new and experimental work by young people across the artistic disciplines of drama, dance, music and film. CWYT is inclusive and actively promotes equal access to the arts for all and is facilitated by locally based Barecheek Theatre Company.

CWYT were one of 4 groups chosen to participate in the National Youth Council of Ireland's Artist in Youth Work Programme. Dramaturge Brian Desmond was the featured Artist in Residence who worked with the members towards the creation and production of *Babes in the Hood*. The work was given three performances in Wexford Arts Centre during July 2005 and a further performance at the Granary Theatre, Cork as part of the National Youth Council's showcase for the Artist in Residence Scheme. A new CWYT Junior Group was formed during the year with the aim of sustaining membership into advanced senior level.

Reel New Ross

Reel New Ross is a youth film project based in St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross, initiated in 2005 with the specific aim of strengthening the base for the participation of 13 - 18 year olds in the arts. The two main objectives of the film project are to develop film making skills with the participants and to provide an opportunity for young people to unleash their creative potential through filmmaking.

The key elements of camera operation, sound recording, lighting, scripting, storyboards, acting to camera, directing and editing were included in the programme. 40 young people participated in the programme during the year. Plans for 2006 include the screening of a Youth Film Festival, the formation of a new advanced level youth group, the forging of links with other youth arts organisations in County Wexford with a view to developing joint projects, the development of a secondary schools film outreach programme and the development of the social element of the project by establishing an evening film club for young people.

Arts and Health

Arts Ability

Arts Ability is a project focusing on celebrating the artistic and creative imagination of people who experience mental health problems and/or intellectual/physical/sensory disabilities. During 2005, 1,061 participants were involved in the project, which is currently operating in the following venues throughout the County:

- Occupational Therapy Unit, St. Senan's Hospital, Enniscorthy
- Kilagoley Training Centre, Enniscorthy

- St. John of God House, Enniscorthy
- County Wexford Community Workshop, New Ross

The project aims to address the need for increased access to the arts within the disability sector. Since its inception music, drama and visual art programmes have been developed. The independent evaluation report, entitled *Everyone is an Artist*, provides a detailed account of the project and makes several strategic recommendations for its future sustainability, which are currently being implemented.

One of the highlights of the year was the 3rd joint exhibition featuring the work of Arts Ability and KCAT (Kilkenny Collective for Arts Talent) held at Kilkenny Arts Office Exhibition Space, John Street, Kilkenny.





Public Art

Per Cent for Art Scheme

During the year, 7 Public Art Housing Commissions were completed:

Title	Artist	Medium	Date	Associated Scheme(s)
Fair Gate, Weaver's Gate and North Gate	Seamus Dunbar	Stone and Bronze Sculptures	February 2005	Cluain Huigheid/Hewittsland Housing Scheme, New Ross
Water Story	David Kinane	Bronze Sculpture	February 2005	Termonbarry Housing Scheme, Hospital Hill, Buncloody
Ballagh Caoin	Seamus McGuinness	Tapestry	February 2005	Glentire Heights Housing Scheme, The Ballagh, Enniscorthy
Seed Stones	Alan Counihan	Granite and Limestone Sculptures	June 2005	Cois Doire and Sean Doire Housing Schemes, Ramsfort Park, Gorey
The Hook - A Place and A People	Vincent Kennedy	Musical Composition	September 2005	Slieve Coiltia, Campile and Ashgrove, Fethard-on-Sea Housing Schemes, New Ross
Bóthar agus Éist	Aileen Lambert	Multimedia Artwork - Postcards and CD	September 2005	St. Joseph's Terrace, Ballymurn and Slí an Uisce, Clonroche Housing Schemes, Enniscorthy
In Your Own Words	Martina Coyle	Collaborative Ephemeral Installation and Publication	September 2005	Parc Chuilinn, Ballindaggin and Lewis' Mills, Clohamon Housing Schemes, Enniscorthy

One of the highlights among these commissions was The Hook – A Place and A People, a large scale instrumental work for pipe and brass bands, composed by Vincent Kennedy. The work gives a glimpse of the story, the history, the place and the people of The Hook. It conveys the composer's impressions of landscape, people, times, events, emotions and celebrates the uniqueness of this area. The work is divided into 10 movements and is written for a combination of brass band, pipe band, drum corps and extensive percussion. Some additional electronic music is also used at times, as well as recordings of sounds from The Hook. The work received three public performances in the South West Wexford district during the summer and was extremely well received by audiences.



7 new commissions were started:

Title	Artist	Media	Associated Scheme(s)
Tree of Life (working title)	Denis O'Connor	Stainless Steel Sculpture	N30 Jamestown/ Moneytucker Realignment Scheme
The Smallest, The Oldest, The Most Beautiful	Helen Robbins	Multimedia Tableaus from found and gathered images	Cois Eden Housing Scheme, Castlebridge
Untitled at present	Louise Walsh	Granite, Sculptures	Cois Mara Housing Scheme, Rosetown, Rosslare Strand
200 KM of Wexford Coastline	Gary Coyle, Stephen Gardner, Clíodhna Shaffrey	Multimedia Artwork featuring audio, video and musical composition	Ballowen Housing Scheme, Gorey
Untitled at present	Buí Bolg	Participatory Street Theatre Performance Event	Cum an Tobair Housing Scheme, Oilgate, Enniscorthy
Wexford Calling	Tom Ryan	Multimedia artwork featuring audio and video projections	Slieve Coiltia, Campile, New Ross and Hillview, Garden City, Gorey Housing Schemes
Untitled at present	Rob Canning	Multimedia artwork and Musical Composition	Caislean an Dinigh Housing Scheme, Carrick-on-Bannow





Wexford County Council Art Collection

Many new works were added to the Council's growing art collection this year:

Title	Medium	Artist
Wave Series	Patented Bronze	Leo Higgins
Traces III	Oil on Board	Bridget Flannery
Painted Light ii	Vitrail Paint and Mixed Media on Perspex	Gráinne Codd
Painted Light iv	Vitrail Paint and Mixed Media on Perspex	Gráinne Codd
The May	Oil, Wax on Canvas	Michael Canning
Wexford Skyline	Batik on Linen	Bernadette Madden
Two Bottles and Daffodils	Oil on Canvas	Brian Ballard
North Mayo Pair 2	Acrylic and Pastel	Keith Wilson
North Mayo Pair 5	Acrylic and Pastel	Keith Wilson
The Tree	Oil Pastel	Catherine Jane Ryan
Branchscape	Pen and Ink	Catherine Jane Ryan
Ogham	Oil on Canvas	John Noel Smith

An inaugural series of public talks and tours of the Collection was a huge success, each talk attracting maximum attendance. In addition, twenty works from the Collection were exhibited in Wexford Arts Centre during September.

Artist Bursary Award Scheme

The objective of the Artist Bursary Award Scheme is to support individual creative artists in society by:

- Acknowledging excellence in the arts
- Supporting and improving the quality of an individual artist's existing practice
- Encouraging artists endeavoring to further develop their skills
- Developing and sustaining an artist's career in the arts
- Contributing to the growth of a cohort of skilled County Wexford artists
- Assisting an artist's development

Bursary Awards are open to both established and emerging artists seeking support to:

- Undertake creative research towards the production of new work
- Participate in an initiative, which will expand an artist's existing practice e.g. mentorship
- Pursue a course of study in arts practice i.e. disability, education, health, etc.
- Avail of an opportunity to kick start and/or aid their professional career
- Undergo formal training – undergraduate, postgraduate or professional course and/or apprenticeship scheme



A total of 10 bursaries, each worth €3,000, were awarded to County Wexford artists in the art form categories of drama, dance, literature, music, visual art, film and community arts.

Arts Grant Scheme

The following groups/organisations were supported through Wexford County Council's Arts Grant Scheme:

Group/Organisation	Amount Awarded
Bui Bolg	€2,275
Carrick-on-Bannow Comhaltas	€250
Gorey/Ballygarrett CCE	€800
Grantstown Day Care Centre	€1,000
Hopewire Studios	€800
Launchpad	€800
Music for Wexford	€2,275
New Ross Rock School	€900
Norman Gallery	€800
Raheen Community Development Group	€900
Ros Tapestry	€1,500
Rosslare Musical Society	€200
St. John's Hospital Day Care Centre	€500
Working Group for Wexford Artist Book Symposium	€1,400
Westgate Writers	€600
Wexford Book Festival	€2,000
Wexford Healing Arts Trust	€900
Wexford Reading Circle	€1,050
Wexford Storytelling Network	€1,050

Support Services

A large proportion of the work of the Arts Department is in the area of support services to the public. These services include project management, financial administration, evaluation, advice and consultation, publicity, printing and information dissemination. Information dissemination services were significantly updated during the year through the establishment of an E:Data Base system.

Policy Review

Ó neart go neart – County Wexford Arts Plan 2005–2009 was published and officially launched. Ó neart go neart is the fourth arts plan for the County. Since the inception of the Arts Department in 1994, the work of the Department has always been policy led and research based. This approach has resulted in a strategically planned service with a commitment to long-term investment and development. The 2000–2004 plan focused on growth, development, expansion and evolution. The 2005–2009 plan will build upon the achievements of the last decade and will shift the emphasis to consolidation and sustainability.

Local Authorities Partnership Project

A South East Professional Development Forum for artists of all disciplines was commenced during 2005 in response to the Arts Council's Local Partnership Scheme. Together with Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, and Wicklow County Councils, Wexford made a joint submission to the Arts Council seeking partnership funding for the research and pre-

development stage of the formation of such a forum. The application was successful and an Artist Liaison has been engaged to undertake this work.

The realisation of the South East Professional Development Forum for artists is a long-term project, which will be undertaken in two phases:

- Phase 1: Research and Pre-Development
- Phase 2: Establishment and Delivery

Phase 1, expected to be completed in July 2006, will examine how each county's Arts Service can capitalise on areas of specialisation of each other, the development of accessible professional development services to artists in the South East region, mentorship schemes etc. Phase 2 will see the establishment of the Forum and is due to be implemented from August 2006.



[Library and Archives Services]



Applications for a new library for Bunclody and a new County Library for Wexford Town were submitted to central government. Bunclody library is expected to open in 2006. The County Library project is more complex: opening in 2008 is the target.

Plans for the new Library Administration and Archives Document Centre advanced. The new premises should be in place in 2006. New Ross library was refurbished. An improved premises was located for Gorey library centre.

Developing Readers

As usual, there was a wide range of activities in all the branch libraries. Highlights for adults included:

- the first national Reader Development Week;
- a series of workshops on the life and work of William Trevor;
- support for the development of a FETAC level 2 (post Leaving Certificate standard) course in Modern Irish Literature, and pilot 1 run;
- the first provision of a BA module in Modern Irish Writing, developed with the Institute of Technology, Carlow -Wexford campus.

For children, junior reading circles were introduced in all libraries during the summer holidays. These have continued in New Ross and Enniscorthy libraries. A good initiative, findings were that participants were self-selecting good readers looking to librarians to recommend books and authors that they were not finding through the school curriculum.

Readers as Writers

A literature appreciation course, "Our stories, Our lives", was run with the Young at Heart Learning Group in Ferndale, Wexford in the spring. This also revealed a vast wealth of stories from people's lives in UK cities in the 1950s and 1960s. Throughout the autumn, learners engaged in a creative writing memoirs project on the theme of Returning. Stories will be published in 2006. Childhood was the theme selected by the Slaney Writers Group for an adult writing programme that stemmed from the Summer Fun focus on creative writing. Workshops and

mentoring support was put in place in the autumn. In this case, also, publication is planned for next year.

Research

Research on Marketing of Public Libraries in Ireland was completed and submitted. One practical outcome was the production of a Marketing Plan 2006-2009, the implementation of which will engage library staff with silver/active learners County-wide to improve use of full library services by this sector. Work was funded by the Public Library Research Programme within the current library National Development Plan.

A database of e-learning opportunities was created and established on the Council's website. Courses available in Ireland, UK and USA are covered. E-learning environments and roles for public libraries therein were investigated as well. This was paralleled by research that



resulted in workshops to deliver research and I-literacy skills for adults, and was funded by the Information Society Commission.

A symposium on storytelling investigated community interest in the activity, and also learning needs to extend access to the skill and its practice to schools, playgroups, colleges and other learning environments. Plans are now well developed to bring an accredited course on storytelling practice from the University of Glamorgan, Wales to Wexford early in 2006, for community use and as part of the IT, Carlow - Wexford campus undergraduate prospectus.

Whatever IT Is...

The Public Library Computerisation Plan 2005-2008 was published, and two objectives in particular were progressed well. The Online Library comprising local publications, postcards and photographs was developed during the year and launched in November.

...Our Public Needs IT

A course on Library Research Skills development to Leaving Certificate standard was developed and accredited by FETAC during the year. The course is available on the Council's website since mid December and will be tested and refined further in 2006. An important tool for students, this brings library users through the use of the public library, from a first visit walking in the door to complicated research for business and life-long learning purposes.

Groups and individuals can complete the course in full as a Leaving Certificate subject or pick and choose lessons that best suit their immediate learning needs.

Collections Development

Resources on the themes of Food and Farming in Ireland to assist teachers delivering the Primary School Revised Curriculum in History and Geography were created. Local experts, librarians and teachers worked together to create authoritative content that was then massaged into materials useful for young children. The creations will be launched on the www.askaboutireland.ie website in 2006.

Within the Archives, four collections were listed:

- A collection of deeds relating to Ballynaclash, 1704-1838 (P84)
- The Edward Roe archive (captain of Cushinstown Company of the I.R.A.), 1917-1988 (P97)
- The Walter Hore estate, Kilcormack, 1800-1846 (P137)
- The James Fitzhenry collection (a gunner in the British Army during World War 1), 1914-1918 (P177)

The Francis Danby collection, the property of Wexford Borough Council, was listed also and later microfilmed and scanned.

Conservation of the County Wexford Grand Jury presentments, as well as extant roll books and attendance registers of St. Canice's National School, Rosbercon, New Ross, took place. The latter were also microfilmed and scanned. Extant burial registers for St. Ibar's cemetery were scanned too. In what will be a phased project, the first 20 volumes of Wexford Poor Law Union minute books were microfilmed. The New Ross Standard and the Wexford



Independent were purchased on microfilm. The two earliest registers (1794-1836) of births, marriages and deaths for Crossabeg parish were microfilmed in August. These initiatives will allow the information to be accessed in an alternative format, thereby safeguarding original and vulnerable documents.

A report on burial records in cemeteries maintained by Wexford local authorities recommended that, in the case of registers of burials that are full and have already been filmed and scanned, a printout of the scanned records for the relevant cemetery be bound and given to the caretaker. This allows the original registers to be taken into the custody of the County archive. Caretakers were furnished with best practice guidelines in records administration.

The Archive acquired 15 collections during the course of the year. Many benefactors also donated photographs to the Local Studies Collection for addition to the Online Library.

Publications and Broadcasts

Although many library publications are now electronic, the Local Studies and Archives sections stayed traditional with "Now and Then", a hard copy newsletter launched during Heritage Week. Intended to be biannual, it will include information about forthcoming events, recent additions to stock, new developments and services and any other happenings.

Twelve programmes, broadcast on South East Radio in the autumn, highlighted the range of services and new initiatives available in the libraries. These were complemented by a more popular focus on local and contemporary publications.



[Casual Trading]

No. of Casual Trading Licences issued:	9
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Fees received:	€3,428.28 (€380.92 per bay)
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[Dog Licence Statistics]

No. of Licences issued in 2003	9,125
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No. of Licences issued in 2004	9,513
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No. of Licences issued in 2005	10,154
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[Freedom of Information]

No. of requests received	36
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No. of requests granted	13
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No. of requests part-granted	17
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No. of requests refused	6
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No. of requests withdrawn and handled outside FOI	1
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No. of internal reviews	2
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No. of appeals (Information Commissioner)	2
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Fees collected:	
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Initial Application	€395.00
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Search and Retrieval and Copying	€74.58
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Internal Review	€75.00
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[Higher Education Grants]

No. of students in receipt of a Higher Education Grant	717
No. of Renewals	492
No. of Awards	225
Total Amount of Fees Paid	€566,189
Total Amount of Maintenance Paid	€1,325,237
No. of Irish Colleges	35
No. of U.K. Colleges including Northern Ireland	18
No. of students studying abroad, including Northern Ireland	25
No. of Independent Mature Candidates	49
No. of Dependent Mature Candidates	19

[Register of Electors 2005/2006]

No. of Voters - Constituency of County Wexford	102,037
No. of Special and Postal Voters	399
No. of Polling Districts (of Units of the Registers)	153
No. of Deletion Notices issued in respect of Voters' names being removed from the previous year	3,010
No. of additions, deletions and corrections to 2004/2005 Register to make up the 2005/2006 Register	13,676
No. of Voters on Draft Register printed on 1st November, 2005	102,376
No. of Voters on Draft Edited Register printed on 1st November, 2005	1,725 (1.7%)



[Veterinary Services]

Wexford County Council licenses and supervises the operation of local abattoirs and small meat manufacturing premises in County Wexford, under the terms of a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). The full cost of the service is paid by the Department of Health and Children. The Veterinary Department's outputs were audited by the FSAI during the year. The outcome of the audit was satisfactory.

Food Safety

There are two local abattoirs in the County. All animals sent for slaughter must undergo an ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection which is carried out by authorised Veterinary Inspectors. A health mark is applied to all carcasses deemed fit for human consumption. The small meat manufacturing plants, two manufacturing plants and four distributing plants, are inspected to ensure products are produced and distributed under an appropriate food safety management system.

New EU food safety legislation, in response to the many food scares during the last decade, is due to come into force on 1st January, 2006. The legislation will be applicable to all stages of food production, from the farm to the retail premises.

Milk and Dairies

There are 136 registered liquid milk producers in County Wexford. Inspection of liquid milk production holdings continued throughout the year. Under a new arrangement, the milk processors carry out the majority of inspections, while the local authority checks compliance by inspecting a sample of holdings.

Diseases of Animals

Sheep scab is a notifiable disease which should be reported to the Local Authority. It is the responsibility of the Veterinary Department to supervise the treatment of sheep flocks affected with sheep scab. Restrictions are placed on the flock until treatment has shown to be effective in eliminating the disease. The treatment of four flocks was supervised during the year.

2005 Statistics

Meat Hygiene Service

Number of hygiene inspections	218
Number of enforcement notices	1
Number of microbiological samples	139
Number of meat inspection visits	345

Abattoir Returns

Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Number of animals inspected			
676	3,834	165	4,675
Rejections on ante-mortem examination			
0	0	0	0
Carcasses wholly condemned			
0	0	0	0
Carcasses partly condemned			
1	1	0	2
Organs only condemned			
83	280	0	363
Number of bovine tuberculous lesions			
0			0

Dairy Returns

Number of Dairy Inspections	14
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Sheep Scab

Number of reported Sheep Scab Cases	4
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[Finance]



Ger Mulvey
Head of Finance

The Finance Department provides a support service to the operations of the frontline Departments of the Council.

The mission of the Department is to enhance the effectiveness and value of services to the community in County Wexford through the provision of quality financial services which contribute towards the Corporate Objectives of the Wexford Local Authorities.

The services provided fall under the following headings:

Financial Accounting

- Payments and Receipts Management and Control
- Payroll
- Control Accounts
- System Development and Control
- Final Accounts - Annual Financial Statements

Management Accounting

- Budget Preparation
- Costing
- Treasury Management
- Monitoring of Financial Performance against the Budget
- Provision of Financial Advice
- Provision of Quality Financial Management Information to Budget Holders

Developments during 2005

Business Processes

- A number of procurement initiatives were completed, including a complete review of the procurement policies and procedures for the organisation. A revised policy document was issued in August.

- Further procurement efficiencies were identified for evaluation and a web-based quotations solution was introduced in September which brought significant efficiencies and modernisations to the Materials Tendering Process.
- Low Value Purchase Cards were introduced as a procurement option for dealing with high volumes of low value purchases.
- The new Revenue Section, established in 2004 for the billing and collection of Water and Refuse service charges, brought about a new focus on these business areas.
- Wexford County Council continued to explore value for money opportunities in terms of energy management. A contract for the supply of electricity to the County Hall and a number of other high usage facilities was arranged with our new supplier.



- The Council participated in a project funded by the South Eastern Regional Authority to provide facilities for the receipting of certain charges over the Internet. The project was extended by the Council to provide receipting for a broader range of services and also to provide detailed information on account balances and transactions to customers online.

Financial Management System

- A project was established with a view to achieving greater integration in terms of financial management systems between the County Council and the Urban Authorities.
- Development of web-based software (Integra eSeries) continued, which will provide an easy to use web interface to the financial management system for occasional users.
- A new payroll system was implemented, providing a modern technological solution to this important business process.
- The implementation of a new improved information technology collection system, involving state-of-the-art hand held computers for Credit Controllers, was completed.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 / European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002

Under the terms of the above, Wexford County Council is obliged to make payments for the supply of goods and services as follows:

- On or before the date on which the payment is due under the terms of the contract.
- Where there is no written contract, or the written contract does not specify a payment date, then payment is due within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, or delivery of the goods or services, whichever is the later.

The European Communities Regulations came into effect on 8th August 2002, reducing the standard payment time from 45 to 30 days and removing the obligation to pay penalty interest where the interest value is €5 or less.

Wexford County Council is continuing to comply with the regulations and has modified its systems to allow for the recording of the date of receipt of invoices. Invoices must be processed within the statutory period to avoid incurring interest.

In 2005, the Council paid €4,990 in Prompt Payment Interest in respect of 118 late payments.

Risk Management

This role involves the identification, evaluation, and control of insurable risks and the handling of claims, with the dual objectives of ensuring public and employee safety and minimising the Council's exposure to risk.

The Council continues to carry an excess on its public liability policy, thereby achieving a significantly reduced premium. Claim trends reduced through the year, reflecting more innovative risk management strategies. The recent introduction of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board is likely to impact on claims procedures and experiences.

Internal Audit

Background

Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function established for the review of the internal control system as a service to the organisation. It objectively examines, evaluates and reports on the adequacy of internal controls as a contribution to the proper, economic, effective and efficient use of resources.

Strategic Audit Plan

The second Strategic Audit Plan was published in May. This plan sets out audit priorities for the medium term (3 years) and shows intended coverage of all areas identified in the risk assessment process.

Wexford County Council operates in a dynamic environment. Recent changes, including Better Local Government, have significantly impacted on the structure and functions of the local authorities. The need to comply with an increasing number of regulatory requirements emphasises the need for strong internal controls and ongoing evaluation of their effectiveness within the Council.

Annual Audit Plan

The 2005 Annual Audit Plan (May 2005-April 2006) is the first in the current Strategic Audit Plan Cycle and concentrates mainly on operational, financial and regulatory risk. Internal Audit strives to maintain a consistent approach in conducting audits.

In 2005, significant resources were again used in the carrying out of important Value for Money reviews and audits of services and processes.



Revenue Section

This section of the Finance Department is responsible for the issue of invoices in respect of water and refuse service charges and the collection of these charges.

Water Services Charges

The requirement to implement the Government's National Water Pricing Policy has considerable implications for Wexford County Council. The Council is obliged to identify all non-domestic users of public water services, including wastewater (i.e. sewerage), and to charge them for these services.

In September, Wexford County Council signed a contract for the metering of all existing "fixed charge" water services customers and work commenced in November. This contract is expected to be completed by the end of 2006 and will also provide for the replacement of older meters.

Increased use of new technologies will see the use of hand held computers to record readings from these meters and will facilitate automated downloading to the Council's billing systems, ensuring prompt issue of invoices.

Refuse Service Charges

The Early Payment Discount offered in respect of refuse service charges proved extremely popular, with almost 7,000 customers availing of the generous discounts available. Waivers were granted to approximately 500 customers, reducing the annual charge by approximately €40 per customer.

The introduction of an automated refuse sticker system will ensure the timely issue of refuse stickers and will greatly facilitate on-site identification of unpaid accounts and, where necessary, discontinuance of service.

During the year, several hundred customers reduced their charges by downsizing bins and increasing their recycling activities.

Rates Department

This Department is responsible for the maintenance of the system holding valuation details of properties in the County and the generation of the Rate Demands. The Department liaises with the Credit Control Department, where necessary, to progress legal proceedings for the collection of rates.

Valuable additional revenue for the Council is generated by the continual updating of the rateable valuation of commercial property in the County. The increase in rateable valuations this year was €20,862. The additional rates revenue generated as a result will increase each year.

Work continued throughout the year on the project to further develop the systems/processes in the Rates Department and to increase the use of new technology to maximize the revenue for the Council from rates on commercial property.

The Department's close links with the Valuation Office of Ireland, were strengthened during the year, with an exchange of field trips and movement towards an exchangeable database.

2005 Statistics

2005 Warrant	€14.40 million
2005 Collection	€13.57 million
% Collection	94.24%
Number of Hereditaments	43,839
Number of Demand Notes Issued	1,767
Increase in Effective Valuation	€20,862
Resulting Increase in Warrant	€1,294,070
Revision Requests to Valuation Office	212

Credit Control Department

This Department, established to improve the efficiency of the collection of the various monies due to the Council, focuses on the collection of arrears of Rates, Housing Loans, Housing Rents, Water and Refuse Service Charges, as well as some miscellaneous debtors.

The implementation of a new improved information technology collection system, involving hand held computers, will provide a range of customer information on the doorstep and facilitate the receipting of monies by credit card.



Motor Taxation

During 2005, in addition to dealing with large numbers of telephone queries, Wexford Motor Tax Office dealt with almost 82,000 counter customers and over 68,000 items of post.

Quality Standard ISO 9001: 2000

On 11th April, Wexford Motor Tax Office was formally presented with the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Award by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

Having previously been granted an ISO Quality award in 1996, the management sought registration under the new quality system, with its emphasis on customer service, as a suitable recognition of the strides that have been made in improving the services offered by the Motor Tax Office to the public, particularly in the last four years.

In order to achieve the ISO award, management must continuously demonstrate its ability to consistently provide a service that meets customer and regulatory requirements. Management must also aim to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for continual improvement and assurance of conformity to customer and regulatory requirements.

Motor Tax Online (MTOL)

The Motor Tax Online service was further upgraded this year to include, for the first time, taxation of newly registered and imported vehicles. Previously, the online facility only allowed for straightforward renewals of motor tax for private cars and motorcycles.

Straightforward renewals i.e. where no change has taken place since the previous taxation, are done through the use of a unique PIN number printed on the reminder notice sent from the Vehicle Registration Unit in Shannon.

In the case of new and imported vehicles, an RF100 form is issued by either the Motor Dealer or the Revenue Commissioners. This form contains the vehicle registration number and all details relating to the vehicle including the PIN number. The last six characters of a vehicle's chassis number form the PIN number in the case of new and imported vehicles.

This expansion of the online facility is a further step in the enhancement of service delivery to the public.

2005 Statistics

Newly Registered Vehicles	7,146
Tax Discs	107,820
Driving Licences	17,340
Other Stock	24,929
Total Stock Issues	150,089
Counter Issues	81,812
Postal Issues	68,277
Receipts	€23,853,722
Counter Customers	81,996
Postal Applications Turnaround	3 days maximum



[2005 Final Accounts Summary]

REVENUE ACCOUNT 2005

	2005 €	2004 €
EXPENDITURE	92,500,528	82,223,629
INCOME	93,449,328	83,023,467
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	948,800	799,838

SOURCES OF INCOME - REVENUE ACCOUNT

	2005 €	
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	28,922,208	31%
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND	19,026,652	20%
COMMERCIAL RATES	13,571,845	15%
OTHER SOURCES	31,928,623	34%
TOTAL REVENUE INCOME	93,449,328	100%

CAPITAL ACCOUNT 2005

PROGRAMME GROUP	BALANCE 01/01/2005 €	2005 EXPENDITURE €	2005 INCOME €	BALANCE 31/12/2005 €
Housing & Building	(11,107,646)	35,892,239	37,397,516	(12,612,923)
Road Transportation & Safety	(301,479)	34,906,415	43,702,913	(9,097,977)
Water Supply & Sewerage	(12,405,561)	8,332,385	3,942,531	(8,015,707)
Development Incentive & Ctrls	(11,623,269)	504,069	18,481,283	(29,600,483)
Environmental Protection	(396,868)	8,446,699	9,809,060	(1,759,229)
Recreation & Amenity	(1,280,028)	1,098,669	1,936,204	(2,117,563)
Agriculture, Education	(226,072)	0	0	(226,072)
Miscellaneous Services	(1,196,871)	1,055,834	1,146,708	(1,287,745)
Total (Surplus)/Deficit	(38,537,794)	90,236,310	116,416,215	(64,717,699)



NET CURRENT ASSETS

1. CURRENT ASSETS

	2005 €	2004 €
DEBTORS	29,447,016	21,709,253
STOCK	587,672	549,761
BANK	0	4,408,959
INVESTMENTS	35,569,837	22,689,585
CASH ON HANDS	2,555	2,355
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	65,607,080	49,359,913

2. CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2005 €	2004 €
CREDITORS	7,294,888	10,518,914
BANK	2,901,932	0
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,196,820	10,518,914

NET CURRENT ASSETS (1 - 2)	55,410,260	38,840,999
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DEBTORS

	2005 €	2004 €
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	590,776	944,970
COMMERCIAL DEBTORS	4,953,948	3,676,374
NON-COMMERCIAL DEBTORS	32,159,512	23,703,371
	37,704,236	28,324,715
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	8,257,220	6,615,462
	29,447,016	21,709,253

Please note that the 2005 figures are from preliminary accounts and may be subject to change when formal Annual Financial Statements are produced.



[Wexford Borough Council]



Cllr. Tom Carr
Mayor of Wexford



Adrian Doyle
Director of Service

Housing

The Borough Council carried out the Housing Needs Assessment in 2005. 468 applicants were assessed as being in need of housing.

The Council completed the new Housing Priority List, which prioritized 562 applicants.

Central heating systems, attic insulation and fire alarms were installed in a further 40 housing units under the Central Heating Scheme.

The Council acquired 8 houses during the year. In addition, a further 5 houses were improved under other housing initiatives.

23 applicants from the Housing List were housed.

The Borough Council adopted the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Wexford Borough Council was active in dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour through the efforts of the newly appointed Tenant Liaison Officer, with a number of significant successful outcomes being recorded.

Roads

Under the 2005 Roads Programme, improvements were made to roads and footpaths at College View, Whiterock View, John Street/Thomas Clarke Place, Corish Park, Mulgannon Link Road, South Main Street, St. Aidan's Crescent, Lambert Place, Joseph Street, Talbot Green and Carrigeen Street. Substantial works were carried out at Dolphin Road, Edenvale Avenue and Saltee Avenue and are due for completion early in 2006.

A new traffic layout, roundabout and environmental works were carried out at Coolcotts/Wygram Green. It is intended that the system will become operational early in 2006.

The new traffic layout at Wygram Junction, which includes three pedestrian crossings, came into full operation this year.

The changeover to the Pay and Display System was finalised, with a total of 52 machines now in place.

Plans for pedestrianisation of the Main Street were brought before the Council and advertised for public consultation.

Following local consultation, plans for a new one-way system at Davitt Road North were presented to the Borough Council for approval. It is envisaged that the one-way system will be put in place early in 2006.

The School Warden Scheme was extended to include the Christian Brothers School. The service is now available to four of the Town's primary schools.

Traffic crossings were put in place at The Faythe School and Christian Brothers School.

The Borough Council issued over 180 Skip Licences during the year.

Environmental Protection

Under the stewardship of the newly formed Tidy Towns Committee, the marks in the Tidy Towns Competition improved by seven points, which is the highest increase achieved over the past number of years.

For the fourth year in succession, Wexford Town achieved "Clean to European Norms" status in the Irish Business Against Litter All-Ireland Anti-Litter League.



The Borough Council dealt with dangerous buildings at The Folly, The Bull Ring, South Main Street and Kennedy Park in the course of the year.

The Council also dealt with a number of derelict sites at King Street (2), Whitemill, Whitemill Road, Upper John Street and Distillery Road, all of which have been rendered non-derelict.

Environmental works at the bank at Ferndale Park were completed.

Works were carried out on the roof of the Market Place in the Bull Ring. Proposals for further remedial works and improvements to the building were presented to the Borough Council.

New gates were provided at the entrance to the Ferrybank Amenity Area.

Recreation and Amenity

In conjunction with the Tidy Towns Committee, new banners bearing the Borough Council crest were erected on the Quayfront.

Phase 2 of the Redmond Park Refurbishment continued with the erection of lighting columns, the relocation of the Major Willie Redmond statue and plinth, and the paving and lighting of the statue.

Works at the Pauper's Cemetery, including the provision of fencing and seating, and extensive pruning of trees by the Tree Surgeon, were carried out as part of the RAPID Local Authority Estate Enhancement Scheme.

With the assistance of An Garda Síochána, the Council issued 19 fines in respect of persons drinking in public places in contravention of the Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places Bye Laws.

New Initiatives

The Mayor of Wexford, Councillor David Hynes, unveiled a plaque to commemorate the 1913 Lockout in St. Peter's Square in June.

The Mayor of Wexford, Councillor Tom Carr, officiated at a ceremony in The Bull Ring in August to mark the 100th Anniversary of the erection of the Pikeman statue.

The County Architect presented a Streetscape Plan to the Borough Council, highlighting areas for streetscape improvements in future years.

In association with the Irish National Heritage Park, the Borough Council held a Viking Market on Wexford Quayfront during the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

The Council participated in the organisation of the World Strongman Competition on Wexford Quayfront.

Community Involvement/RAPID

The Borough Council carried out a Traffic Survey in 2005 to increase public participation in the Traffic Management Plan. 22,000 questionnaires were distributed to the public and the results will be made public early in 2006.

Under the RAPID Plan for Ferndale, the new road adjacent to Coolcotts School was completed and opened for public use.

The new playgrounds at Ferndale and Maudlintown, which had been completed in 2004 under the RAPID Programme, were formally opened with ceremonies involving the local communities. A further playground at Wolfe Tone Villas was completed this year.

In conjunction with the Tidy Towns Committee, Community Groups and Residents Associations, over 1,500 daffodil bulbs were planted in Redmond Park in December.

With the support of the Tenant Liaison Officer, two new Residents Associations were formed in Inisfail Court and Windmill Hills.

Gates were provided to close up a number of alleyways in Ferndale and Belvedere, following consultation with local residents.

Under the RAPID Estate Enhancement Scheme, works were completed at Clonard/Coolcotts, Maudlintown/The Faythe and West Wexford.

Under the RAPID Traffic Calming Scheme, works were completed at Clonard/Coolcotts, Maudlintown/The Faythe and West Wexford.



[New Ross Town Council]



Cllr. Ingrid O'Brien
Chairperson



Kieran O'Brien
Director of Service

New Ross is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth in terms of its development. This can be seen by the level of inward and outward development in the Town and environs. This development is supported and nurtured by the Council through all programme groups. Key projects for the Council included the commissioning of the *New Ross Urban Design Study of the Waterfront*, the opening of the *Three Sisters Marina* and the Council's adoption of the Town Manager's *Five Year Plan*.

Housing and Building

Eight houses were completed at Bullawn with a further 28 and a community centre under construction at Morrisseysland. The Council went to tender for 50 houses at St. Stephens.

The Council continued to develop the services of the Tenant Participation Officer which added a key customer service element to the Council's Housing Department.

The use of RAPID funds allowed the Council to continue the Estate Enhancement scheme.

Forty houses were completed under the central heating scheme which was funded by the Department.

The Council's planned housing maintenance programme was rolled out with a total expenditure of €120,000.

Road Transportation and Safety

The short-term recommendations of the Traffic Management Report were implemented in 2005, which saw a radical re-routing of the traffic flows within the Town centre. The upgrading of the downtown streets and footpaths continued with the branding of New Ross as the theme for street furniture and finishes. Five pedestrian crossings were completed in key areas of the Town.

The introduction of pay and display machines were introduced as a customer service measure and have proved to be a success.

Development Incentives and Controls

Development continued unabated in 2005 with a number of the Urban Renewal developments being completed and number of other projects under construction. The Council continued to provide for the cost of a full-time planner for the Town at this critical period in the Town development.

The Council continued to pursue those who were in breach of the Planning Act with a number of enforcement notices being served.

The Council were successful in using the powers of the Derelict Sites Act to Compulsory Purchase the historic Shambles property in the Town centre.

Environmental Protection

The introduction of the Pay by Weight System Pilot Scheme was a huge challenge for all the staff and customers involved. This, coupled with the two-bin system, saw the Council develop and further enhance this key customer service area.



The continued success of the Rosbercon Bring Facility saw this unit operating at capacity in 2005. This flagship project is now seen as the model for the future development of Bring Centres within the County.

Recreation and Amenity

The Council reached agreement in 2005 for the acquisition of the site for the new Swimming Pool. The Council were given the green light by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to proceed to Contract Document stage on this project.

The use of central funding allowed the Council to put a children's playground at The Grant.

The Three Sisters Marina opened to the public in 2005 thus adding to the development of the Town and County.

Miscellaneous Services

The Council were successful in acquiring a premises for the location of a replacement outdoor depot.

The Council have agreed in principal to re-locate the Council's office. Feasibility studies in relation to this project were undertaken in 2005.

The Council will continue to foster and support development across all service areas to ensure that all the citizens of New Ross benefit from the re-emerging New Ross. The Council will continue to poverty-proof services to its customers and continue to play a key and pivotal role in the RAPID 11 programme.

The Town will continue to grow and prosper in a spirit of partnership, based on the fundamentals of proper planning and support, which have been laid down by the Council.



[Enniscorthy Town Council]



Cllr. Keith Doyle
Chairman



Anne O'Reilly
Director of Service

Enniscorthy continues to grow and expand, benefiting from a vibrant economy. We are striving all the time to improve the quality of life for our citizens and the delivery of services. Also, we are always mindful of the need to increase the tourist potential of the Town.

Set out hereunder are the major events of 2005:

Ongoing Housing Programme

Social Housing

Enniscorthy Town Council has been very successful in meeting and achieving its Housing Programme over the last couple of years. Construction of a 23 house scheme continued throughout the year at Ross Road, Enniscorthy and is on schedule to be completed in March, 2006. A pre-tenancy course for all new tenants of this scheme will be delivered in January/February, 2006. The tender stage for a 40 house scheme at St. Patrick's Place was completed this year and construction will commence in 2006.

Affordable Housing

The Town Council has joined with Wexford County Council in progressing affordable housing on lands at Cherryorchard.

Private Sites

Ashcreek Construction Ltd. are currently engaged in the planning process with Wexford County Council for 8 houses at Ross Road. On completion of this process, contracts will be signed.

Housing Maintenance

Enniscorthy has 350 houses in its housing stock. The number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received is 85%.

The average time taken to relet a dwelling is 6/8 weeks.

House Rent

Amount collected	€697,681.71
Amount due	€741,787.09
% collected	94%
% of arrears:	
(i) 4-6 weeks old	37%
(ii) 6-12 weeks old	40%
(iii) more than 12 weeks old	17%

Housing Loans (Purchase Annuities)

Amount collected	€74,718.98
Amount due	€87,995.86
% collected	84.9%
% of arrears:	
(i) 1 month old	33%
(ii) 2-3 months old	35%
(iii) more than 3 months old	16.9%



Roads

Traffic Management

The implementation of the Traffic Management Plan for Enniscorthy is well under way. Further works will be carried out in the coming year.

On-Street Parking

Pay and Display machines are in operation since July, replacing the old system of Disc Parking.

Tidy Towns

Enniscorthy Town gained another three points this year in the Tidy Towns Competition, thanks to everybody involved. The Town Council will continue to support the Tidy Towns Committee in their efforts to build on the Town's success in the Competition.

New Civic Offices

It is proposed to erect new Civic Offices at Arnold's Cross, Enniscorthy and the Members have now agreed to proceed to Part 8 with this development.

Parks and Open Spaces

An additional playground, provided by Enniscorthy Town Council at Cluain Dara in Enniscorthy, was opened in April.

Planning and Building Control

Planning Applications - Decision Making

Category	No. of applications determined	% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought	% of grants	% of refusals	% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanála	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála
Individual Houses	3	75%	4 wks	100%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Housing Development	1	100%	4 wks	Nil	100%	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other: not requiring EIA	29	75%	4 wks	80%	20%	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other: Requiring EIA	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: Planning Applications for extensions etc. are not included.

Planning Enforcement

Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters - 3

Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices - 1

Pre-planning Consultation

Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation - 1 month.

Public Opening Hours

9.15 a.m. - 12.45 p.m.

2.15 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.

Average number of opening hours per week - 30 hours



Twinning

2005 saw the thirtieth anniversary of Enniscorthy's twinning with its sister city - Gimont, France. An eighteen-member delegation from Gimont visited the Town in September, led by Monsieur le Maire Pierre Duffaut. A Civic Reception was hosted by the Chairman and Members of Enniscorthy Town Council in the Riverside Park Hotel, on Friday, 2nd September. The function was also attended by Minister of State John Browne and those who had been involved in the twinning association over the years. The Chairman presented the visitors with a scroll commemorating the long associations of the Town.

Retirement - Town Clerk

On September 30th of this year, Donal Minnock, Town Clerk of Enniscorthy since 1971, retired having served the Council well for 34 years. As Town Clerk, he always had a passion for the Town and Enniscorthy grew and developed immeasurably under his control. He had the ability to deliver the projects demanded by the elected representatives on behalf of the people of the Town - housing, roads, planning, environmental and tourism. Donal was to the forefront in the organisation of the 1798 Celebrations, the holding of two Fleadh Cheoils, the staging of the Tour de France, the Twinning with Gimont, the Urban Renewal, to mention but a few achievements, all of which have helped develop a national and international profile for Enniscorthy.

We wish Donal and Kathleen every good health and happiness in his retirement.



[Gorey Town Council]



Cllr. Jimmy Fleming
Chairman



Niall McGuigan
Director of Service

The role of the Town Council in the community is one of leadership. As the democratically elected representatives of the people of the Town, the Members' role is becoming increasingly more important.

During the year, the Town Council met with the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and with the Industrial Development Authority. The outcome was agreement on a procedure to accelerate the uptake of IDA lands for employment. This is now being progressed.

Civic receptions were held for Mr. Ted Barrington, the ex-Irish Ambassador to U.K., and Mr. Trevor Sergent, T.D., Leader of the Green Party.

A civic reception was also held for the Oban Youth Group, and members of Gorey Town Council visited Gorey's twin town, Oban. An invitation has been issued to Oban, Lorn and The Isles Area Committee to visit Gorey for Saint Patrick's weekend, 2006.

The Town Council approved a Retail Strategy for the Town.

Many social and community issues were addressed throughout the year, in consultation with the Industrial Development Authority, An Garda Síochána, Caredoc and the Health Service Executive.

Gorey Town Council presented a cheque to the local branch of the Irish Red Cross to provide assistance to the victims of the Tsunami disaster.

Wexford County Council worked closely with the Town Council in the further development of the Town and environs. The main projects were:

- New footpath along the Gorey to Courtown road
- Pedestrian crossing at Esmonde Street
- Coach Road junction
- Miscellaneous works in conjunction with the Tidy Towns Committee
- Additional 65 car parking spaces on Council lands at The Avenue and the Market Square

- Rising sewer main to Courtown (Completed)
- Inner relief roads and The Avenue roundabout (Planning Stage)
- Gorey Bypass (Commenced)
- Public lighting at Millands Road, Ramsfort Park and Leather Factory Road
- Housing estate improvements at Willow Park
- Footpath improvements at Pearse Street, Gorey Hill, North Parade and Ramsfort Park
- Road and footpath improvements at Ramsfort Avenue