

Wexford Local Development is pleased to announce a training programme to assist local communities develop innovative Smart Village strategies, a concept in which participatory approaches are used to create new social, economic and environmental opportunities, enabled by technology and social innovation. The 14 hour programme will be delivered over 7 successive weeks at four locations in the autumn and winter of 2021; details as follows:

Location	Dates
Gorey	7-9pm every Tuesday commencing September 14th - October 26th inclusive
Wexford	7-9pm every Wednesday commencing September 15th - October 27th inclusive
New Ross	7-9pm every Tuesday commencing November 2nd – December 14 th inclusive
Enniscorthy	7-9pm every Wednesday commencing November 3 rd – December 15th inclusive

The programme has been developed rural development specialist Ian Dempsey, [Prescience Business & Management Development Ltd](#), who will guide participants through an enlightening, informative and interactive, 7 module programme. It will explore development opportunities in areas such remote work strategies and hub development; digital transformation; climate change, renewable energy and emission reduction; environmental management, biodiversity and habitat protection; circular economy; digitisation of tourism and recreation; social and community development; resilience; health and wellbeing. The use of case studies and best practice examples will help develop participant’s knowledge and understanding of themes and concepts such as the background and ethos of the Smart Village concept; community and project profiling; project planning and team building; stakeholder management; collaboration and network development; technologies and data; strategic planning and implementation; funding and communications. On completion of the programme participants will be equipped with practical ideas and actions and helped to identify the enabling policies and funding sources through which these can developed and resourced.

The programme is open to all communities throughout Wexford to nominate participants to represent their interests and work on their behalf. They will be tasked with bringing commitment, ambition and a desire to collaborate, rather than technological knowledge. Places are strictly limited. Participants interested in learning more about the course are invited to submit an expression of interest [here](#).