

# Garda injured as Armed Support Unit required to conclude stand-off with knife-wielding man

By PÁDRAIG BYRNE

The quiet village of Castlebridge was a hive of activity on Sunday as armed gardai were required to bring to an end a stand-off which saw a garda injured and brought to hospital.

The chaotic scenes unfolded on Sunday evening shortly after 4.30 p.m. when gardai rushed to the village having received reports of a man wielding a large machete type blade shouting and screaming at passers by and becoming increasingly irate.

Three unmarked garda cars and a garda van sped to the scene, and the man locked himself into an apartment across the road from The Forge Italian Restaurant and beside the chemists in the village.

The man reportedly smashed out the window and began shouting out at gardai assembled outside, who tried to calm him down.

He eventually threw a glass bottle at a member of An Garda Síochána, who had to be brought to hospital as a result of the injuries he sustained and is expected to be out of work for a

number of weeks. The officer reportedly needed to have his head glued after receiving a nasty gash.

A stand-off ensued, which lasted over two hours and the main road through Castlebridge village was sealed off, as crowds of onlookers gathered to see the drama unfold.

Specialised gardai from the Armed Support Unit in Waterford made the journey to Wexford in a bid to bring the situation to a peaceful conclusion and they eventually stormed the apartment and brought him out.

He was detained under the Mental Health Act, but was due to appear before Wexford District Court charged with possession of an offensive weapon. However, more charges arising from the incident are likely to follow. The man is a Wexford native aged in his 40s, is reportedly known to gardai.

The injured garda is expected to make a full recovery. "He took some wallop," a garda source said. "He got medical treatment for it. He was brought to hospital, but he seems to be doing okay."

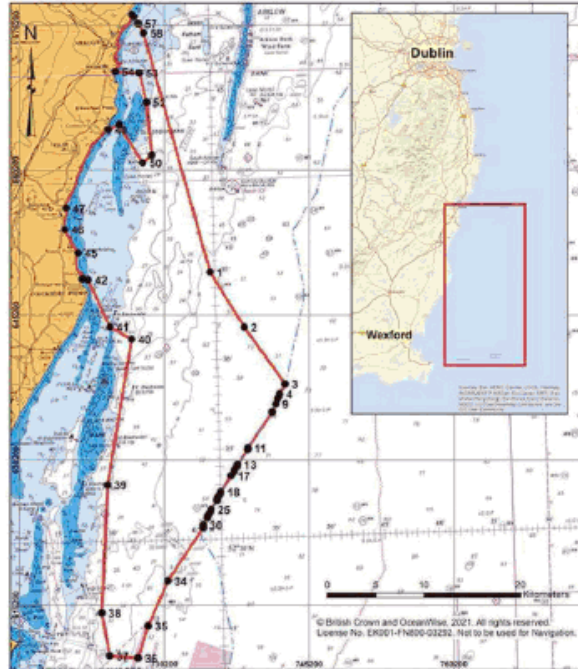


The scene in Castlebridge on Sunday evening.

## PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 42(13) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, of an application for a foreshore licence submitted by Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm Ltd. in relation to an offshore wind farm under development off the coast of counties Wicklow and Wexford, reference number FS007261.

This application is for site investigation works required to inform the engineering and design of a potential offshore wind farm, Shelmalere Offshore Wind Farm, and associated export cable route. The objective of the site investigations is to gather sufficient geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, archaeological and ecological information to inform development of a potential offshore wind farm and export cable route within the Foreshore Licence Application Area. The Foreshore Licence Application Area is shown on the map below.



The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for making a decision on the application and the Minister may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

The Minister has determined, in accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the proposed plan or project. A copy of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment is available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/a43ef-shelmalere-offshore-wind-farm-site-investigations-off-counties-wexford-and-wicklow/>

The Minister will make a determination as to whether or not the proposed plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in accordance with Regulation 42(11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and, in doing so, shall have regard to the matters in Regulation 42(12).

In this regard, in accordance with Regulation 42(13), any person may make a submission or observation to the Minister concerning the proposed project within 30 days of the date of this notice. The Minister shall have regard to any submissions or observations received during the public consultation.

A copy of the application, map of the proposed project, the determination that an Appropriate Assessment is required in respect of the project, the Natura Impact Statement, and the other information and documentation relevant to the application, are available for inspection for 30 calendar days, between 1 November 2022 and 30 November 2022, free of charge at:

- Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35WY93. Open 9am–1pm & 2–5pm Mon to Fri.
- Arklow Municipal District Council, Castle Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14FX63. Open 9am–4pm Mon to Fri.
- Wexford Garda Station, Mulgannon, Wexford, Y14H392. Open 24/7.
- Courtown Harbour Garda Station, Ballinray Lower, Courtown Harbour, Co. Wexford, Y25P239. Open 10am–1pm Mon to Fri & 10am–1pm Sat & Sun.
- Rosslare Garda Station, Station Road, Rosslare, Wexford, Y35AY79. Open 10am–6pm Mon to Sun.

This documentation and information is also available on the Department's website, at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/a43ef-shelmalere-offshore-wind-farm-site-investigations-off-counties-wexford-and-wicklow/>

Members of the public who wish to make a submission or observation in writing concerning the proposed project may do so between 1 November 2022 and 30 November 2022 (quoting ref: FS007261) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshoreORE@housing.gov.ie. The closing date for submissions is close of business (17.30) on 30 November 2022.

Take notice that material to which the Minister shall have regard in making the Appropriate Assessment determination will be published on the Department's website. In this regard, the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

Dated this 1 November 2022

## Cllr Hynes calls on the church to play more active role in homelessness

INDEPENDENT councillor Davy Hynes has called on the Catholic Church to play a greater role in tackling homelessness by opening up some of its many buildings to those seeking shelter.



Cllr Davy Hynes.

While discussing the topic of homelessness at a meeting of Wexford Borough Council, Cllr Hynes argued that the church could have a positive role to play in the housing crisis.

"Have the churches ever been approached," he asked council officials. "I mean they have a lot of buildings around the place. Jesus always talked about feeding the hungry and looking after the poor. It seems to me that opening their doors would be in line with what the church should be doing."

"This crisis is getting worse by the week. There's no end to it."

We're seeing children left homeless. At the end of the day, young children are being victimised here because of a situation that is completely outside of their control and because of decisions that are being made by people in plush offices up in D4."

## Pig farm fined €500 in court for causing 'emissions'

The owner of pig farm in Killliger, Killnick has been convicted and fined €500 under the Air Pollution Act in Wexford District Court after a case was brought against him by the local council. The pig farm, which is owned by Premier Pigs Ltd, was charged for offences dated between April 27, 2020 and May 28, 2020 for causing or permitting "an emission from the premises in such a quantity or in such a manner as to be a nuisance".

The case is one of two which Wexford County Council (WCC) has issued against Premier Pigs Ltd for its activities in Killliger, with a planning enforcement notice issued in late 2020. That case centres around an intensification of use with WCC alleging the number of pigs at the farm has risen from 500-600 in 2017 to approximately 2,000 as of 2020.

Lodged to An Bord Pleanana in September 2021, the case was due to be decided on January 20 of this year but a decision has yet to be made.