

## Niamh White

*Horetown House*



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Horetown House has always been a focal point in the village of Foulksmills where Niamh White's mother grew up. So when it came up for sale, Niamh's uncle, Tom, who had worked there as a teenager, bought it as a development project.

But the White family soon fell in love with the beautiful old Co. Wexford house and lovingly restored it, initially running it as a restaurant, before that closed down during the downturn.

Niamh and her mother, Kate, set up a wedding company — also called Horetown House — and rent the house from Tom to host bespoke weddings.

They saw the opportunity to create a unique venue for couples that wanted an alternative big day. Wedding parties effectively move into the 10-bedroomed house, which — along with the estate — is theirs for the duration of the celebrations.

Over the past year, Kate and Niamh have invested significantly in the house, including installing an indoor vintage pole tent, which allows them to have weddings all-year round.

They have just completed their second summer season of weddings with seven already booked in up until Christmas for their first winter.

The company now hires 18 people and continues to grow. Refurbishments are continuing at the house and they have major plans to build on-site accommodation on the estate next year.

Niamh found the ACORNS programme a great way to step back from the day-to-day work and take stock of the direction the business needed to be taking.

In fact, Niamh was pregnant at the start of the programme and baby Nina became the first ACORNS baby, attending the second residential and some roundtable meetings with her mother.