



## **Waterford Towns & Villages receive over €625,800 economic renewal boost**

Nine towns/villages within County Waterford will benefit from the 2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme from the Department of Rural and Community Development. The allocations are part of an overall €21m fund which will resource over 300 towns and villages nationally in 2017 and is part of the wider Government's Action Plan for Rural Development.

The Town & Village Renewal Scheme fund is available to Local Authorities to support the revitalisation of rural towns and villages across Ireland. In total €720,800 will be available to Waterford with Cheekpoint, Villierstown, Ballymacarbry, Ballyduff Lower, Dungarvan, Bunmahon, Clonea-Power, Portlaw and Tramore all set to benefit from the scheme.

The funding will be used for a wide variety of projects, identified by Waterford City & County Council in conjunction with local community groups and businesses. An expression of interest process was advertised in May 2017 and the nine locations were selected from the towns and villages that submitted interest in the scheme using a scoring framework adopted by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The allocations to the Waterford proposals that will be delivered under the 2017 scheme include:

- Beach boardwalk and trail enhancement works at Bunmahon - €64,000
- Restoration of Tramore Railway Station Building to create an opportunity site - €100,000
- Connectivity works linking Portlaw to Curraghmore Estate and heritage works - €95,000
- Craft hub and vintage tea rooms for Clonea-Power- €64,000
- Connectivity works to enhance access within Ballymacarbry - €24,000

- Public Realm upgrade works for Dungarvan Town Centre - €80,000
- Glamping accommodation project for Villierstown - €90,000
- Ballyduff Lower connectivity works to enhance village centre - €28,800
- Connectivity of Cheekpoint to Faithlegg - €80,000

The wide range of works will help improve the streetscape/public realm and develop key economic opportunities for the towns and villages, making them more attractive and more sustainable places in which to live and work. This scheme is just one of a number of initiatives in terms of Waterford City & County Council's response to rural Waterford. Works are nearing completion on the Dunmore East Cliff Path under REDZ funding and over €300,000 has already been secured for improvement works under the Rural CLAR scheme.

Further funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme has been allocated for trail improvement works across the County. Waterford City & County Council has just started carrying out town & village health checks across the county to help prepare towns and villages for similar future investment and locally developed plans.

Lar Power, Director of Economic Development & Planning welcomed the Town and Village Renewal funding commenting that it was part of Waterford City and County Council's commitment to ensuring that the benefits of economic recovery are felt in every part of the County.

The funding will be used to increase the attractiveness of the towns or villages as local commercial and social centres, increasing their sustainability as a place in which to live and work. He added that these funds will help to enhance the local environment and amenity in the interests of residents, businesses and visitors alike and helps us to promote and develop the rich culture and local heritage assets of the towns and villages within Waterford County.

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