

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD**

Economic Development Report February 2023

1. North Quays

BAM Civil Ltd will commence the main contract works on site in February 2023 with initial site clearance and compound set up, with more extensive works developing in March and April 2023.

The North Quays main contract groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for 6th March 2023.

The private developer for the North Quays site, Harcourt Development, is commencing pre planning discussions with Waterford City and County Council.

Planning permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for the Flood Defence West application, it comprises 1.1 km of flood protection measures to the west of Plunkett Station along the northern bank and within the foreshore of the River Suir.

Other Contracts

- **Ferrybank Pump station contract and enabling works contract** - David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor has been awarded both contracts. The pump station works are progressing well on site while the pump station enabling works will commence imminently.
- **South Plaza enabling works** – Enabling works are complete and BAM will take possession of the site from February 2023.
- **Rock Stabilisation contract** - Cumnor Construction Ltd is close to completion of works and should commence demobilization from the site in the coming weeks.
- **Abbey Road footpath widening contract** - Mallwood Construction is also close to completion of footpath widening works.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

We are awaiting feedback from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (URDF section) on the preliminary Business Case for all 22 City Centre URDF projects under Gateway 1 of the Public Spending Code.

Works to fit out / repurpose 16-18 Barker Place, O'Connell St (Project L) as a Community and Cultural Hub is progressing well and works should be complete in March / April 2023.

The CE Report for part 8 planning application for the change of use of the ground floor of 120 Parade Quay to restaurant facility was presented to the Metro Council in January 23, it was decided by resolution to proceed with the development as proposed.

The part 8 planning process for the Parade Quay housing, commercial and public realm development (Project Q) will commence in March 2023.

There is ongoing progress and communication with SETU and other funding agencies for the development of the Munster Express building (Project F) as Smart City experimental facility. A DAC (Designated Activity Company) is in the process of being established.

An RFT has been issued on tenders to engage the services of an Architect-led design team to project manage and oversee the refurbishment and repurposing of 3 & 4 Georges Street (Project C) for commercial use. Responses are due to be submitted by 14th March 2023.

3. Town Village Renewal Scheme

Dunmore East

- Fairybush Landscaping Ltd have recently completed landscaping works to remove fire damaged trees in the People's Park, Dunmore East.
- Contractor, Co. Waterford FRS, is currently on site completing the upgrade of the access path from Island Road to Stony Cove."

Tramore

- Feasibility study for the development plan of a multi-cultural centre, including potential locations for the centre, on receipt of the letter of offer, tender documents will be issued for feasibility study and consultation with various stakeholders will be part of the feasibility study.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023.

- Will shortly be preparing applications under ORIS 2023 for submission later in the year. Will be engaging with stakeholders, community groups and trail development groups in this regard.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022.

The following ORIS 2022 projects due to commence during 2023:

- Enhancement of Open water swim amenities in Dunmore East to include handrail at slipway, ladder to access water, outdoor clothes hooks, knee high tap and signage - Measure 1

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2021:

- [Developing a revised 'Walk Waterford – From Sea to Mountains' booklet and trail mapping to include recently developed trails. New resources will be available in Q1 2023.](#)
- Installation of 18 footfall counters at key trail locations across Co. Waterford. RFT has been issued. Project due to be completed before end June 2023.

Waterford Greenway

- A number of projects are currently being planned and/or implemented on Waterford Greenway with both WCCC funding sources and funding support from TII including:
 - Installation of bike maintenance stations along the route.
 - Fencing at a number of locations.
 - Upgrade works to the Greenway near Killoteran in collaboration with WSVR.

Waterford Trails

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors and local trail development groups around Waterford regarding ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development, and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. www.visitwaterfordtrails.com

4. Tramore

As reported last month, the following items remain outstanding:

- Control of the access/egress to Main St for local residents – as reported last month a manual type bollard is being procured and will be installed on a trial basis within the next month.
- Removal of O/H electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey's Hill junction – ESNB have been contacted and met on site, waiting on them to revert with exact ducting requirements.
- The link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to new car park – all works and lining now complete and Supervalu/Quishes has temporarily opened the link.
- A DMURS Quality/ Road Safety audit is scheduled to be undertaken within the next two weeks, on receipt, any immediate safety items highlighted will be addressed.

Refurbishment to No. 9 Main Street for ground floor commercial use and upstairs accommodation is continuing, March 2023 is now the likely completion date. As reported last month the original selected tenant has withdrawn, a new 'Expression of Interest' tender is to be published within the next two weeks to select a new tenant.

5. Tourism

Destination Towns

- The Digital Story Trail, a Destination Town's project, was successfully launched on the 9th February. At the event there were speeches from Mayor John O'Leary, Michael Guerin CEO of Imvizar & Mary Houlihan of Failte Ireland. Prior to the launch the trail has been used more than 6,000 times, the users who primarily were Irish also came from a number of other countries such as France, England & Croatia. The trail is a great addition to the city's tourism offering.

The following outstanding items associated with the original Failte Ireland grant allocation are now being progressed with an anticipated completion date of May/June 2023:

- Installation of new Sculptures to guide 'footfall' to and highlight the Viking Triangle – tender awarded, locations confirmed and works ongoing on sculptures, bases for sculptures still scheduled to be in place for March/April 2023 and sculptures will follow.
- Upgrading of the existing pedestrian 'Way Finding' Signage and orientation mapping – contract awarded to 'Truform Ltd' - It is still anticipated that works will be completed by April/May 2023.
- Redefining carparks for visitors. – contract has been awarded to Finncro Ltd who have commenced works, poles are currently being erected and all works to be completed by end of March 2023.
- Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between the Mall and Bishop's Palace – design options in conjunction with roads still being reviewed. Once finalised, procurement and installation will follow.

Mount Congreve

Mount Congreve Gardens will have their official opening on the 1st March.

Water Activity Centre Tramore

As reported previously, Failte Ireland awarded grant assistance of €1.7m for the design, construction and fit out of two **Water Activity Centres** to be located in Tramore and Ardmore. Progress to date is as follows:

- DHB Architects of Catherine's Hall, Catherine's St Waterford were awarded the contract in September 2022.
- Preliminary design and Part 8 Planning documentation have been prepared for review.
- Preliminary designs have also been forwarded to Failte Ireland for review.
- The Failte Ireland 'Exemplar design' will be used in Ardmore and an amended version being used in Tramore.
- It is anticipated to brief both councils (Metro & Dungarvan Lismore District) in February/March 2023.
- Both centres are still on track to be completed and operational by Q2 2024.