

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Economic Development Report to the end of October 2022

1. Mount Congreve

• **New Visitor Centre**

Due to be substantially complete and handed over to MCT and café operator on Friday 21st October. 'Soft Opening' to the public will take place on Thursday 27th October. The replacement of the east wing roof is complete.

• **Carpark**

Dairy car park is now complete

Bluett O'Donoghue Architects have been appointed to design and project manage the Avenue car park which will accommodate 80 spaces. Its current estimated completion date is May 2023.

• **Integrated Constructed Wetlands**

Substantially complete and ready to take flows. Some minor ancillary works remain such as planting and screening of the inlet chambers which are adjacent to the to the main avenue

• **Interpretation, Orientation & Wayfinding**

Installation of the new wayfinding signage (Martin Contracting) has commenced and is nearing completion. The audio visual story, garden model are in production and nearing completion and will be delivered to site during week commencing 7th November

• **Food & Beverage**

CaToCa Fine Foods Ltd have been appointed and will be ready for the 'Soft Opening' of the Visitors Center for October 27th.

• **Garden Works & Play Features**

The latest update on these works is as follows:

i. The resurfacing 3kms of the path network – nearing completion

ii. Repair works to the waterfall - ongoing

iii. Restoration of the temple - complete.

iv. Cleaning of the façade of the house – complete

v. New Play Scheme – Contractor (Kompan Ltd) has been appointed, installation has been delayed and will not now commence until December with completion in mid to late January 2023.

vi. Repairs to main Gates – contractor appointed

vii. New potable water source – contractor has been appointed, waiting on confirmaiton of start date

2. Trails and Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2019:

- Work currently underway on Durrow Playground, part of the Waterford Greenway play trail being funded under ORIS. It is envisaged that contract to install play equipment will be completed in early November with further landscaping, fencing and access control works required to complete the project before year end.

ORIS 2020:

- Measure 2: Mahon Falls improved trailhead, parking and passing bays. It is envisaged that main contractor will be appointed by late Oct/early November 2022.

ORIS 2021:

- Measure 1: Cleary's Boreen, Portlaw, improvement works. Path improvement works complete. Signage and way marking to be complete by 31 December 2022.
- Measure 1: Walk Waterford ongoing promotion. Revision and re-print of trails brochure and promotional materials. To be complete by 31 December 2022.
- Measure 2: Kilmacthomas River Walk improvement works. Surfacing works complete with further works including fencing and pedestrian bridge to be carried out in late 2022/early 2023.
- Measure 2: Installation of footfall counters at key trails and outdoor recreation amenities countywide. Tender documents being prepared.
- Measure 3: Mahon Bridge/Crough Wood trailhead and improved car parking area. Detailed design-consultant in place.
- Project Development Measure: Copper Coast Walking Trail Feasibility study. Tender documents prepared. Hoped to progress project throughout Q4 2022/Q1 2023.

ORIS 2022:

- Application has been submitted for further improvement works at Anne Valley Walk under ORIS 2022. Awaiting outcome of funding application.

Waterford Greenway

- Very popular 'Spooky Tunnel' to return to Ballyvoyle Tunnel during the Halloween mid-term break.
- 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.
 - Maintenance of Kilmacthomas Viaduct.
 - Architectural conservation survey and report on Durrow Station, signal box and platform.
 - Fencing at a number of locations.

Waterford Greenway to Suir Blueway Connection:

- Public consultation launched with regard to project study area in August, closed on 7th October. Findings will form part of feasibility study which it is envisaged will be drafted and finalised before year end.

Waterford Trails

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors and local trail development groups around Waterford with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. www.visitwaterfordtrails.com
- The DRCD have announced funding for Community Trail Management Organisations which is being administered at national level by Pobal. Five trail development groups in Waterford are eligible to apply for €1000, €2800 or €3000 depending on the length of the trail that the group manages and maintains. Funding announced will support purchase of equipment, small scale maintenance/repair or promotion of eight eligible trails. Eligible groups in the Comeragh MD include:
 - Comeragh Community Development Group
 - Rathgormack North Waterford Community Development Group CLG
 - Anne Valley Walk Committee

3. Rural Economic Development

Portlaw – Town Centre First

The Town Centre First process for Portlaw has commenced. A number of meetings have been held with community groups and community reps. A new community action plan has been launched by Portlaw Community Enhancement Committee CLG. This will act as the basis for on-going work, including the creation of a pipeline of development projects

Shared Island Funding

WCCC has been successful in its application to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. Partnering with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, the Council has received some €230k to undertake regeneration planning in the communities of Dunmore East and Portlaw in Waterford along

with Portglenone and Glenarm in Antrim. It would be hoped that this funding would be a prelude to further project delivery funding in the future. The awards were announced last Thursday by Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Minister Darragh O'Brien.



Coillte Meeting

A meeting was held recently with Coillte personnel to discuss several issues:

- Potential Waterford Greenway – Suir Blueway connection
- Potential Mountain Bike Trail
- Kilclooney / Coumshingaun access and traffic management
- Crough Wood - walk