

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

**Economic Development Report May 2023**

**1. North Quays**

In mid April a North Quays Newsletter was issued and distributed to local representatives, residents, agencies and local interest groups, providing details on the project, an update on current and upcoming works and contact details for the Construction Liaison Officer.

Harcourt Developments in continuing with pre-planning meetings with the Planning section of Waterford City and County Council, regarding development of the North Quays SDZ site.

David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing well on relocating the Ferrybank Pump Station and Pump Station enabling works contracts. 40 % of the pump station contract is deemed to be complete.

Mallwood Construction has completed the footpath widening works at Abbey Road.

- **City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects**
- The Preliminary Business Case and supporting document for the City Centre Regeneration projects has been approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and represents Decision Gate 1 under the Public Spending Code. This gives approval for WCCC to proceed to the development of Detailed Project Briefs, Procurement Strategies and Tender Documentation for each of the sub-projects.
- **Barker Place, O'Connell Street** (Project L), works progressing well to fit out the ground floor as a community and cultural hub but has experienced delay in supply of materials. Works are due to be completed June 2023.
- **Munster express** (Project F), the planning process for the development of a SMART City Experimental Facility / Gov Labs is due to commence in May 2023.
- Housing, public realm and commercial development on **Parade Quay** (Project Q) – Once the historic and archaeological fabric investigative work is complete and any findings incorporated into the planning documents and proposed development, the part 8 planning process for this development will commence.
- **3 & 4 Georges Street** - Tenders that have been received and assessed 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. Consultants are due to be appointment imminently.

**2. Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

Waterford City & County Council recently sought Expressions of Interest for the 2023 Town & Village Renewal Scheme, closing date for submissions was Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The Scheme was advertised in the local Waterford Newspapers, WLR, PPN Newsletter and the Council's social media accounts. The Town &

Village Renewal Scheme focuses on projects that enhance and develop rural towns and villages socially, economically, and culturally.

There was great interest from the public and the Rural Development Team will now assess the Expressions received in accordance with the Departments criteria.



#### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023.**

- A May call for funding is anticipated for ORIS 2023. Will be engaging with stakeholders in this regard.

#### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2021:**

- Revised 'Walk Waterford – From Sea to Mountains' booklet and trail mapping to include recently developed trails has been developed. New resources will be distributed to stakeholders May.
- Installation of 18 footfall counters at key trail locations across Co. Waterford. Substantially complete.

#### **Waterford Greenway**

- Ongoing development projects are currently being planned and/or implemented on Waterford Greenway with both WCCC funding sources and funding support from TII including.

#### **Waterford Trails**

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors, local trail development groups and other key stakeholders with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. [www.visitwaterfordtrails.com](http://www.visitwaterfordtrails.com)
- New trails booklet and map brochure to be distributed to key stakeholders before end May.
- New resources to be added to website.

### **3. Tramore**

As reported last month, the following items remain outstanding:

- Control of the access/egress to Main St for local residents – manual type folding bollard delivered to site and will be installed this week.
- Removal of O/H electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey's Hill junction – ESB Networks have commenced removal works.
- The link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to the new car park – additional lining, and modifications to opening mechanism of the new gates will be finished once works in car park being carried out by Supervalu works are finished.
- A DMURS Quality/ Road Safety audit has been undertaken, the recommendations are currently being undertaken.

- As reported last month, the Refurbishment to No. 9 Main Street for ground floor commercial use and upstairs accommodation is now substantially completion. Three submissions following the advertisement of a new 'Expression of Interest' have been received and are currently being assessed.

## **Tourism**

### **4. Destination Towns**

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

- *Installation of new Sculptures to guide 'footfall' to and highlight the Viking Triangle* – as reported last month, locations confirmed and works on the 8 new sculptures is now complete. Bases for sculptures to be installed this month and sculpture installation to follow.
- *Upgrading of the existing pedestrian 'Way Finding' Signage and orientation mapping* – contract awarded to 'Truform Ltd' - Civil works sub-contractor being procured by Truform and once appointed works will commence on site towards end of May.
- *Redefining carparks for visitors.* – erection of poles now complete, banners yet to be installed.
- *Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between the Mall and Bishop's Palace* – final design has been forwarded to Roads and a Section 38 process has commenced.

All works will be completed by end of Q3 2023.

### **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**, one to be located in Tramore. Preliminary design is on going for both

#### **Progress is as follows:**

- A variation to the Failte Ireland (FI) 'Exemplar design' has been proposed and is still awaiting approval from FI.
- On receipt of approval, planning and all other associated documentation will be completed and followed by detailed design.
- It is hoped to be able to brief the Metro Council by the end of Q2 2023.