

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

### Economic Development Report April 2023

#### 1. Rural Economic Development: Towns & Villages

##### Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Waterford City & County Council are currently seeking Expressions of Interest for the 2023 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

The Town & Village Renewal Scheme will concentrate on projects that enhance and develop rural towns and villages socially, economically, and culturally and selection of projects will be by means of a competitive process using DRCD criteria.

Proposals in respect of towns and villages that can demonstrate that they are part of, or a phase of, a more comprehensive development plan are welcome – evidence of involvement by community interests and business interests will be an essential feature of successful projects. The closing date to return completed Expressions of Interest is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



#### 2. Trails

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

- Currently implementing 18 projects around the county, funded under the **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)** between 2019 and 2022. The scheme funds the ongoing maintenance of existing trails and outdoor recreation amenities, development of new and enhanced amenities as well as promotional activities.
- A *Project Development Measure* was also initiated under the 2021 scheme.
- A May call for funding is anticipated for ORIS 2023.

##### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022.

The following ORIS 2022 projects due to commence during 2023:

- Mocollop Walks, Ballyduff – Installation of new Trail signage in collaboration with Coillte and local community: Measure 1. Currently in progress.
- St. Declan's Way – continued trail development in collaboration with St. Declan's Way Steering Committee. This will include re-print of brochure and repair of riverbank section of walk approaching River Licky footbridge: Measure 1. Currently in progress.
- Munster Vales – Installation of information kiosks and digital marketing campaign for the Munster Vales region in collaboration with Munster Vales. Measure 1. Currently in progress.
- Cappoquin Railway Loop Walk – Commencement of development of phase 1 pending planning permission: Measure 3.

- Villierstown Access to River Blackwater – Feasibility study and design of enhanced amenities and access to the water for recreation at Villierstown Quay and environs: Project Development Measure.

#### **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 distributed in late April/early May.
- Installation of 18 footfall counters at key trail locations across Co. Waterford. Tender evaluation complete. Ready to award contract. Project due to be completed before end June 2023.

#### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020:**

##### **Progress: Measure 3 project:**

- Ballinacourty Greenway Spur:
  - Part VIII drawings are at draft stage.
  - Project ecologist has commenced work on field surveys and preparation of EclA.
  - Above is taking place in advance of stakeholder engagement and Part VIII planning process.

#### **Blackwater River Valley Outdoor Recreation-Feasibility Study**

- Public and stakeholder consultation has taken place with regard to this study. To find out more information on this feasibility study, click on this link: [Blackwater River Valley Outdoor Recreation Feasibility Study](#). Report outlining potential projects to be finalised in 2023.

#### **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.

#### **Dungarvan – Mallow Greenway Feasibility Study**

- Project Liaison Officer (PLO) currently directly engaging with land and property owners who may be impacted by the Emerging Preferred Route.
- A number of IFA/landowner organised meetings have taken place within the study area in recent weeks.
- Project team will be organising further stakeholder and public engagement following this phase of direct landowner engagement during 2023.

#### **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](http://www.visitwaterfordtrails.com)

### **3. Tourism**

The West Waterford Food Festival, one of Ireland’s largest and longest-running food festivals, returns for its 14th year. The festival takes place this year 14th – 16th April. The programme of events certainly highlights the amazing food producers & food experiences on offer across the county.

#### **Water Activity Centre:**

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 Ardmore. DHB Architects have been appointed as lead designer for both centres.

### **4. Dungarvan Town Centre**

The next meeting of the Dungarvan TCMG is scheduled for May 2023.