

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

Economic Development Report April 2023

1. North Quays

BAM Civil Ltd has commenced work on the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project and are currently engaging with key stakeholders and establishing their site compound on Frank Cassin Wharf.

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

Other Contracts

- **Ferrybank Pump station contract and enabling works contract** - David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing works on Ferrybank Pump Station and the Pump Station enabling works contract. The pump station storage tanks are currently being installed.
- **Rock Stabilisation contract** - Cumnor Construction Ltd is has completed the rock stabilization works to the North of Plunkett Station.
- **Abbey Road footpath widening contract** - Mallwood Construction is close to completion of footpath widening works.

- **City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects**
- **Barker Place, O'Connell Street** (Project L), works progressing well to fit out as a community and cultural hub. Works are due to be complete in time for Africa Day on May 25th 2023.
- **Munster express** (Project F), design work has been approved by SETU, preplanning is ongoing to proceed to Part 8 for the SMART City Experimental Facility / Gov Labs. The planning process is due to commence in May 2023.
- Housing, public realm and commercial development on **Parade Quay** (Project Q) – The Council is continuing to meet the requirements of the National Monuments Service, that includes investigative work on the historic fabric. Once the investigative work is complete and any findings incorporated into the planning documents the part 8 planning process will commence.
- **3 & 4 Georges Street** - Tenders that have been received are currently being 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.

2. **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 5th May 2022.



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) 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.

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 and local trail development groups around Waterford regarding ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. www.visitwaterfordtrails.com

3. Tramore

As reported last month, the following items remain outstanding:

- Control of the access/egress to Main St for local residents – manual type bollard to be installed by end of month.
- Removal of O/H electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey's Hill junction – ducting works still to be completed.
- The link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to the new car park – modifications to 'drop bolts' on the gates are required and further flexible bollards to be installed. Works will be done as soon as Quishes works are completed.
- A DMURS Quality/ Road Safety audit has been completed, the recommendations are to be discussed with area engineer prior to items being implemented.

Refurbishment to No. 9 Main Street for ground floor commercial use and upstairs accommodation is now substantially complete. A new 'Expression of Interest' tender for a new tenant has been advertised and three submissions have been received and are currently being assessed.

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 ongoing on sculptures (7 out of 8 now complete), bases for sculptures have been procured and will soon be installed. All works still scheduled to be complete by May 2023.
- *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 May 2023.
- *Redefining car parks for visitors.* – erection of poles now complete, banners will follow next month
- *Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between the Mall and Bishop's Palace* – agreement on final design still ongoing with roads section.

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

Tramore:

- A variation to the Failte Ireland (FI) 'Exemplar design' is being used and is with FI for their comments and approval.
- Once approval is received, planning and documentation will be completed and detailed design can commence.
- It is hoped to be able to brief the metro council by the end of Q2 2023.