



# Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan District Council– December 2022

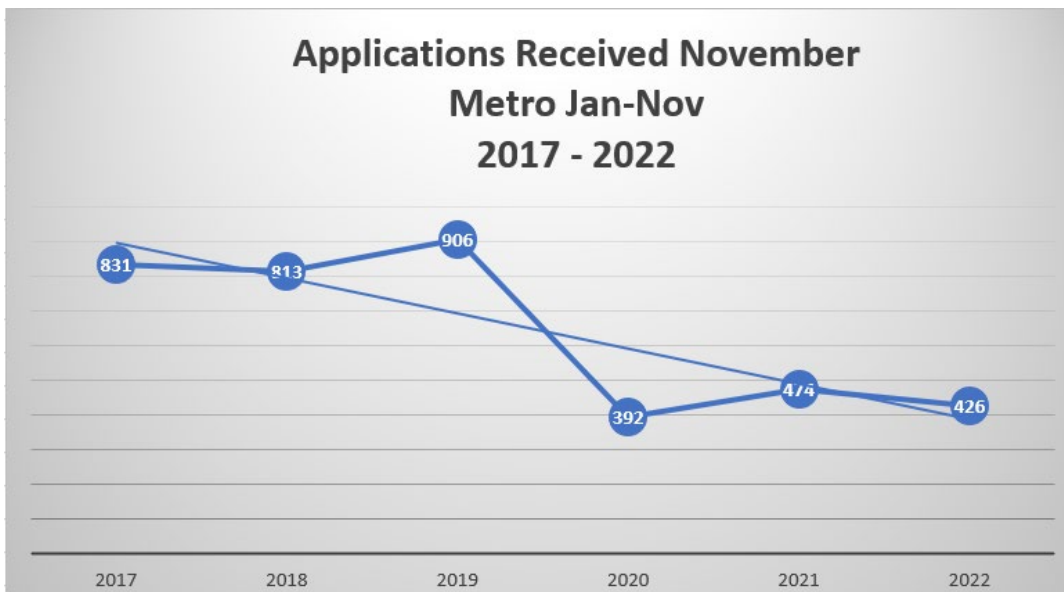
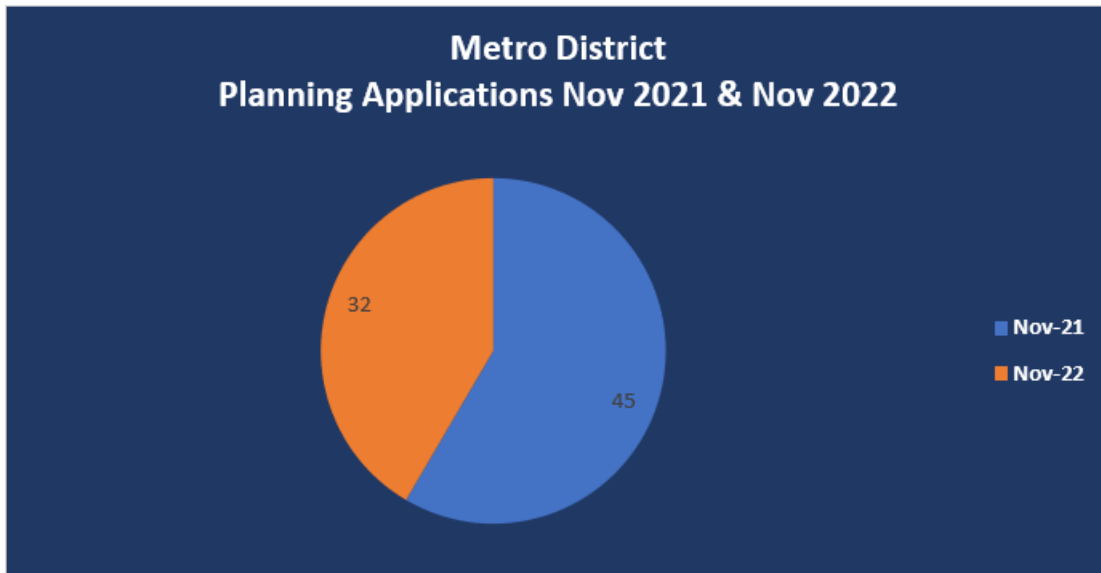
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

## Planning Applications Received – Metropolitan District

32 Planning applications were received in Metropolitan District in November 2022. This compares with 45 planning applications received for the same period in 2021.

A total of 426 planning applications were received in the Metropolitan area in the year to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. This compares to 426 planning applications which were received up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.



## Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) - Update

### Background and Context

- *The RZLT came from 'Housing For All' and then introduced in the Finance Act 2021. The tax will be due from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and payable in May 2024<sup>1</sup>. Its objective is to activate land that is serviced and zoned for residential use or mixed use in order to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations.*
- Although residential properties are excluded from the charge to, however, there is a requirement for registration of properties whose garden and yards exceed 0.4047 hectares (1 acre).

### The rate of the RZLT

- *RZLT will apply annually at a rate of 3% of the market value of the land – payable by the owner. The land will be required to be revalued every three years from the initial valuation date. As the tax is administered on a self-assessment basis, the taxpayer determines the market value. Surcharges may apply if the land is later found to be undervalued.*

### What land does the tax apply to?

- *Is included in a development plan and zoned solely or primarily for residential use, or for a mixture of uses which includes residential use (R1, RE, M1, TC)*
- *Land must be serviced meaning connected to, or have access to:*
  - public infrastructure and facilities necessary for dwellings to be developed and with sufficient service capacity available for such development,
  - including roads and footpaths,
  - public lighting,
  - foul sewer drainage,
  - surface water drainage, and
  - water supply.
- *If lands contain unauthorized development, they may be subject to the tax.*
- *If mixed use land is deemed to be vacant or idle.*

### Criteria for exclusion:

- *If lands are contaminated.*
- *If lands contain archaeology or historic remains.*
- *Lands on the derelict sites register.*
- *If a service/trade/profession is being conducted which is a service to local residents (pays rates) e.g. pub, shops or employment uses.*

### Draft Map

- *Waterford City and County Council draft map of the land considered to be in scope for the RZLT was published on October 1, 2022. This can be viewed at the following locations:*
  - Online public consultation portal [consult.waterfordcouncil.ie](https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie)
  - Customer Care Office, Bailey's New Street, Waterford and Civic Offices during office hours.

### Submissions

- *Landowners can make submissions regarding their land on the draft map from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 until January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. Third parties may also make submissions regarding land that is or should be on the map.*

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<sup>1</sup> The tax will be first due on 1 February 2024 and payable in May 2024 in respect of land which was suitable for residential development on 1 January 2022, because it was both zoned and serviced on that date. Where land becomes both zoned and serviced after 1 January 2022, tax will be chargeable in the third year after the year in which it comes within the scope of the tax.

## Challenges for land included on the maps

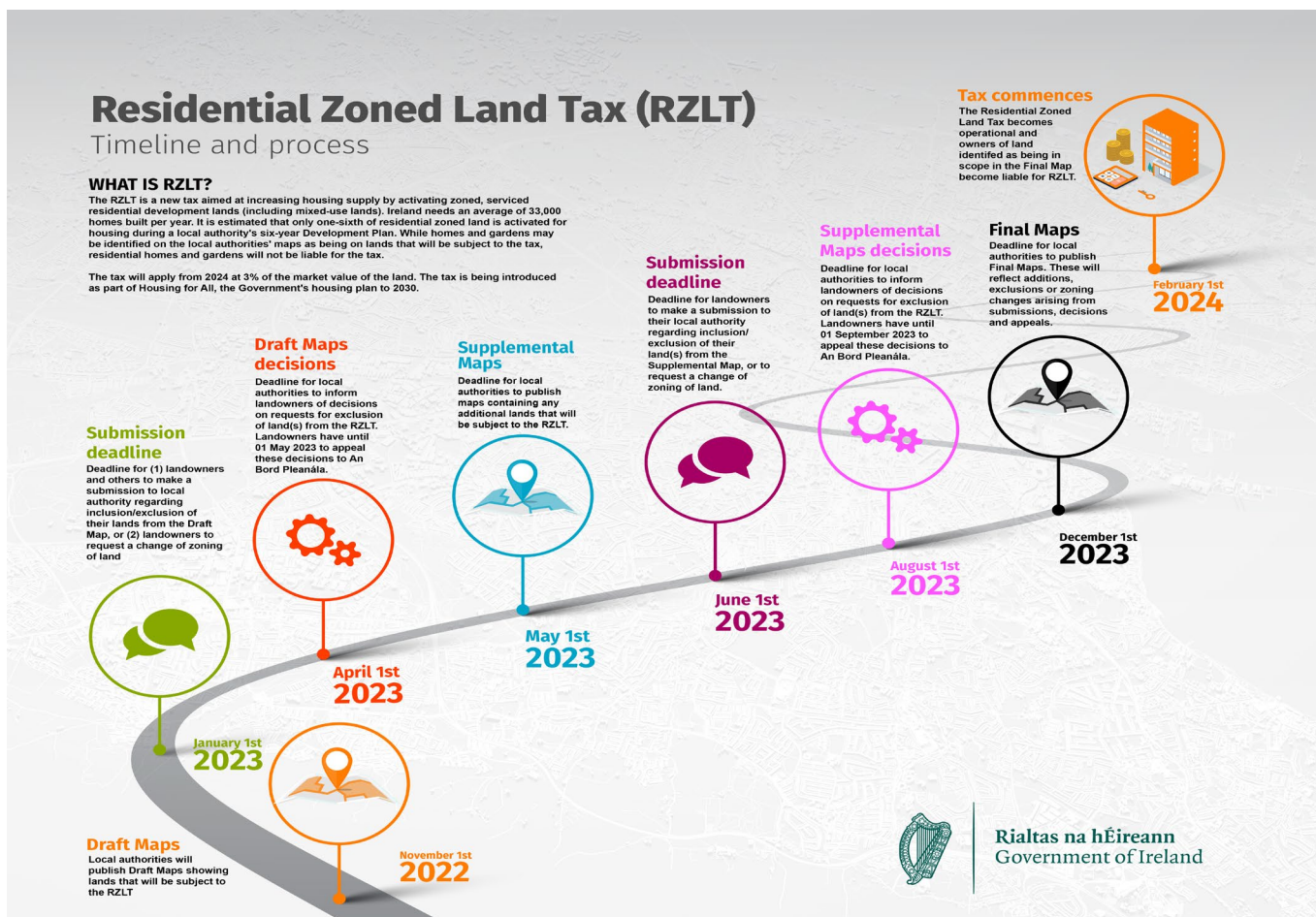
- Landowners can appeal or make a submission challenging the inclusion of their land in the draft supplemental map if they believe it doesn't meet the criteria for inclusion on the map.
- Submissions can also request a change of zoning. Submissions (during draft stage) can also identify additional land which appears to meet the criteria and so falls into scope, and which may be placed on the supplemental map
- There is also a subsequent right to appeal the local authority's decision to retain land in scope to An Bord Pleanála.

## Supplemental Map.

- A supplemental map will be published on 1 May 2023 identifying additional land considered to be in scope as a result of submissions. The supplemental map will also go on public display and open to submissions which may challenge the inclusion of additional land on the map.

## Final Map

- The final map of land in scope for the tax in the local authority area to be published on 1 December 2023. This land will be subject to the tax unless it is exempt as a residential property, as outlined above.



## **Heritage Officer Report December 2022**

### **Community Monuments Fund 2023**

Waterford City and County Council invites applications for the Community Monuments Fund 2023 which provides funding for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments.

Grants up to €100,000 for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments are available for 3 projects in this category.

Grants of up to €30,000 for the development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports and detailed Specification of Works aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access are available for 2 projects in this category.

Grants of up to €30,000 for the enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments are available for 2 projects in this category.

Applications (CMF Form A) and Method Statement should be submitted by e-mail to [bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie) or in hard copy to Heritage Officer, Menapia Building, The Mall, Waterford City no later than **4pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

### **Decade of Commemorations**

Waterford's Decade of Commemorations website [www.Waterford1916to1922.ie](http://www.Waterford1916to1922.ie) will be launched in December. The website will host all material relating to the Decade of Commemorations Programme in Waterford from the past 8 years including history publications, school resources and talks by the local authority and community organisations. A documentary film on the Siege of Waterford developed by historian James Doherty is available to view on YouTube <https://bit.ly/siegeofwaterford> and John Foley's film on Liam Lynch and the end of the Civil War and will be screened in mid February 2023.

## **Conservation Officer Report December 2022**

### **Announcement of grants**

#### **Completion of Medieval Waterford City Walls and Towers an illustrated guide**

Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced 2 funding schemes for Protected Structures and historic buildings - the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2023** and the **Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2023**.

Since 2016, Waterford City and County Council has received funding of over €1.6 million for conservation projects under these schemes. This has supported over 140 projects.

In Waterford in 2022 we received €533,710 in funding which generated a spend of €1,171,825 and provided over 2,500 days of employment. These figures do not include the non-conservation element of projects which generated additional employment and spend. The projects ranged in scope from essential repairs of rainwater goods, walls, windows, thatch roofs, stained glass, to large-scale repairs of buildings.

### **Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2023**

The BHIS scheme seeks to leverage private capital for investment in small-scale, labour-intensive projects and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of Protected Structures and in certain cases, the conservation of structures within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA). Waterford has been allocated €182,400. Funding awards made under the scheme will be between €2,500 and €15,000, with applicants matching in full the grants being awarded.

### **The Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2023**

Funding for the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) is being made available as part of *Project Ireland 2040*. Total funding available nationally under the Historic Structures fund in 2023 will be €4.5 million. The primary focus of the Historic Structures Fund will be on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the broader benefit of communities and the public.

**1. Stream 1** will offer grants from **€15,000 up to €50,000** and is aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures.

**2. Stream 1, Historic Shopfronts sub-stream** – As in 2023, to incentivise the conservation of historic shopfronts, each Local Authority is invited to submit an additional application under Stream 1 for eligible essential repairs and small capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of historic shop facades, windows, signage and other associated details to safeguard them and keep them in use. Local Authorities are invited to make applications for a maximum of one English and one Irish-language shopfront under Stream 1

**3. Stream 2** will offer a small number of grants from **€50,000 up to €200,000** for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where:

- a. A clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated, or
- b. A clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary)

In addition, refurbishment or reuse projects where a clear residential benefit is demonstrated will be welcomed this year under Stream 2 in line with Housing for All commitments. A grant of over €200,000 may be awarded in exceptional circumstances where a case is made by the applicant in relation to the significance of the project and the works proposed.

**4. Vernacular Structures Stream** – In the context of the forthcoming strategy for built vernacular, the pilot stream for vernacular structures introduced in 2021 will be retained, with increased funding of €150,000. The purpose of the stream is to support conservation repairs and small capital works to vernacular structures that are not listed in local authority Records of Protected Structures or otherwise legally protected. Such structures may be located within an Architectural Conservation Area. All local authorities can apply for funding for specific projects of between €5,000 and €10,000 for eligible projects.

These schemes will be administered by Waterford City and County Council. The criteria, list of qualifying works, FAQs and the application forms for the **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023** and **Historic Structures Fund 2023** are now available on [www.waterfordcouncil.ie](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie).

Completed application forms and photos of the structures to be submitted only by email to [planning@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:planning@waterfordcouncil.ie) by 5 pm on 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. Please ensure that the grant scheme name is in the subject line and note that all forms must be completed in full in order to be processed. Successful applicants must have the works completed by 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2023.

For further information or if you have any queries in relation to the schemes please contact: Rosemary Ryall, Executive Conservation Officer, Waterford City and County Council. e-mail: [rryall@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:rryall@waterfordcouncil.ie)

### **Medieval Waterford City walls and Towers an illustrated guide**

This project was funded by the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) and the Heritage Council. The Guide provides not only information regarding the medieval structures that we can see today but also has wonderful illustrations, by archaeologist Dave Pollock, showing what these buildings looked like in Medieval times. The production of a guide was one of the proposed actions of “The City’s best kept secret- Interpretation Plan for Waterford’s Medieval City Walls” which was produced by the Council in 2021. At present the guide is on digital format.