



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan Meeting – November 2021

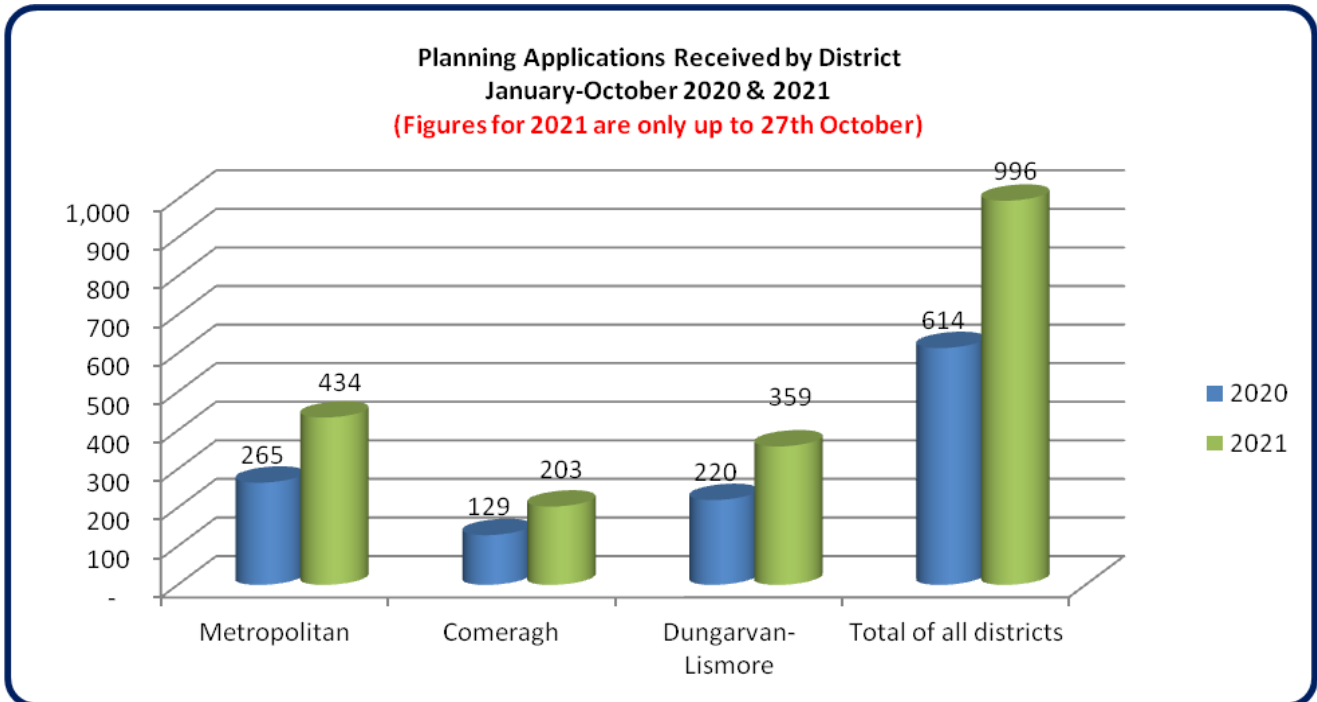
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Planning Applications Received – Countywide

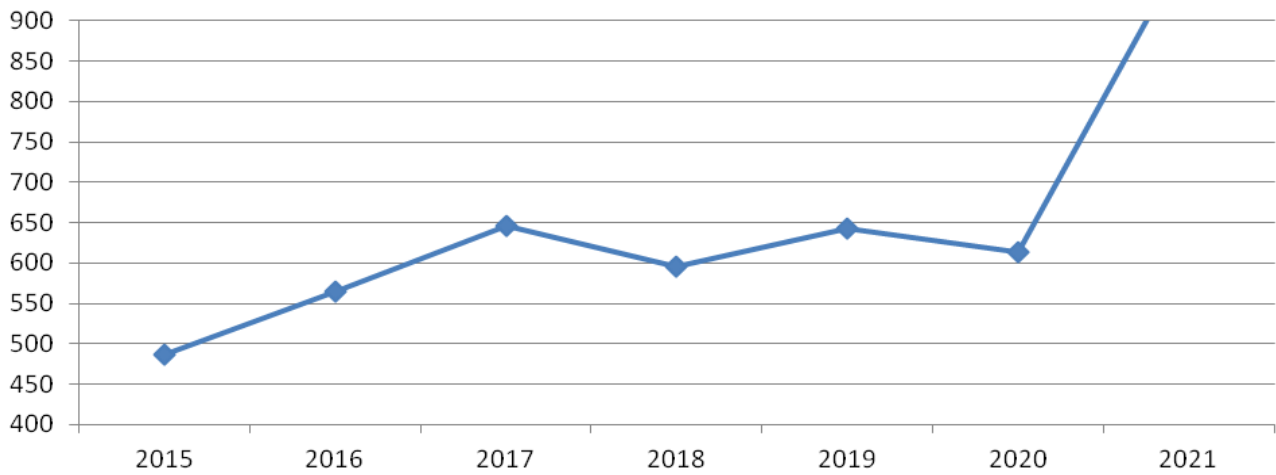
85 Planning applications were received in the month of October countywide (to 27th October). This compares with 94 planning applications received in the full calendar month in 2020. In September, 78 planning applications were received in the calendar month, compared to 86 received in September 2020.

A total of 996 planning applications were received in the year to 27th October 2021. This compares to 786 planning applications which were received to the 27th of October 2020.



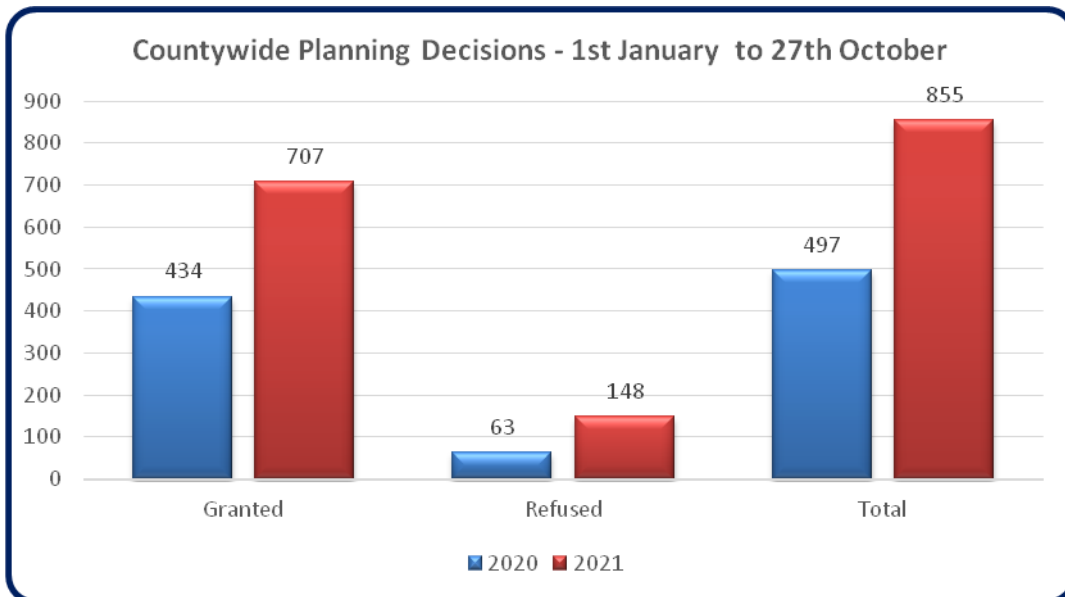
**Comparison of Planning Applications Received Countywide
January to October: 2015 to 2021**

(Figures for 2021 are only up to 27th October)



Planning Decisions

131 applications were decided from the 1st of September to 27th October 2021 compared to 152 for the same period in 2020. The number of applications which have been decided to date in 2021 has increased significantly, as seen below.



Forward Planning November Metropolitan Report

Update on preparation of the draft Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The public consultation for the Draft City and County Development Plan closed on 30th August and a total of 485 submissions were received covering a broad range of policy issues and land use zoning provisions.



The Planning Department is reviewing all the written submissions received and will prepare a Chief Executive Report for consideration by the Plenary Council at the end of November. This CE Report will summarise the submissions received and give the response and recommendation of the Chief Executive to the various issues raised and in particular the submissions received from the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Southern Regional Assembly.

A series of workshops are arranged over the coming weeks and months to facilitate further debate with the Plenary/Municipal Council on the submissions received and any amendments arising to the Draft Development Plan.

Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement service of Waterford City & County Council continues to operate throughout the current lockdown as planning enforcement is deemed as an essential service. The following figures show the work undertaken countywide in 2021 up to 5th October:

- Enforcement cases under active investigation – 113
- Warning letters issued – 115
- Enforcement Notices issued – 14
- Cases closed – 99.

Heritage

Waterford Commemorations Programme

Approximately €30,000 was allocated to Waterford's commemoration of the centenary of 1921. Projects included the development of a commemoration website [Waterford2016to 2023.ie](http://Waterford2016to2023.ie), a GIS Story Map on the War of Independence in Waterford, publications on the East Waterford Brigade and the Big House 1921-1923 and a community grant scheme which was awarded to 8 projects.

Community Monuments Fund

Waterford City and County Council received an allocation of over €100,000 under the Community Monuments Fund towards conservation repairs of Knockboy Medieval Church and analysis of Ground Radar Data at the Woodstown Viking Site. All projects are nearing completion by mid November.

Swift Survey 2021

Funding was received from the Biodiversity Action Plan Fund and allocated to a Swift Survey of East Waterford carried out by Birdwatch Ireland. The survey has recorded 47 nest sites to date and final report is available from the Heritage Officer.

Wetland Survey

Funding was received from the Biodiversity Action Plan Fund and allocated to a wetland survey carried out by Wetland Surveys Ireland. There are over 200 wetland sites in Waterford which are very important for wildlife, carbon sinks and flood attenuation but unfortunately are under continual threat of drainage and reclamation. The 2021 survey has mapped 35 sites across the county which will be protected in the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.

New Placenames Website

Waterford City & County Council's Placenames Committee launched a new Waterford Placenames website as a celebration of the importance of the naming of places, or toponymy, and as a showcase of the rich cultural heritage of the Placenames of the Déise. The website contains information on the work of the Placenames Committee and is a useful resource for developers seeking suitable names for estates, for schools who want to learn about their local placenames and for researchers of placenames in general www.deiselogainm.ie

Conservation

The Medieval City Walls

The Paul Hogarth Company has just completed the Interpretation Plan for the Medieval City Walls. Waterford City and County Council received €10,000 in funding from the Heritage Council - Irish Walled Towns Network for this project. The Conservation Officer is available to do a presentation on the report at the next Metro meeting in December.

Tramore Railway Station

Under the Historic Towns Initiative 2021, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Heritage Council awarded Waterford City and County Council €77,500 for conservation works at The Railway Station in Tramore. As part of the works the historic sliding sash windows and frames have been removed and taken to the workshop at National Joinery in Wexford. There the paint was stripped back and repairs were carried out. Works such as these ensure the embodied energy retention by reuse of our historic stock. At present the windows are being painted and glazed. Updates on the works are available on WCCC social media.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund

In 2021 Waterford City and County Council was allocated €301,800 for 21 projects around the city and county and the applicants are now completing the works.

3/ 4 Cathedral Square

Consolidation works to these buildings, which have timbers dating from 1468, have commenced and some more early features have been revealed.

**Melanie Cunningham,
Administrative Officer,
Planning Department**

4th November 2021