



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

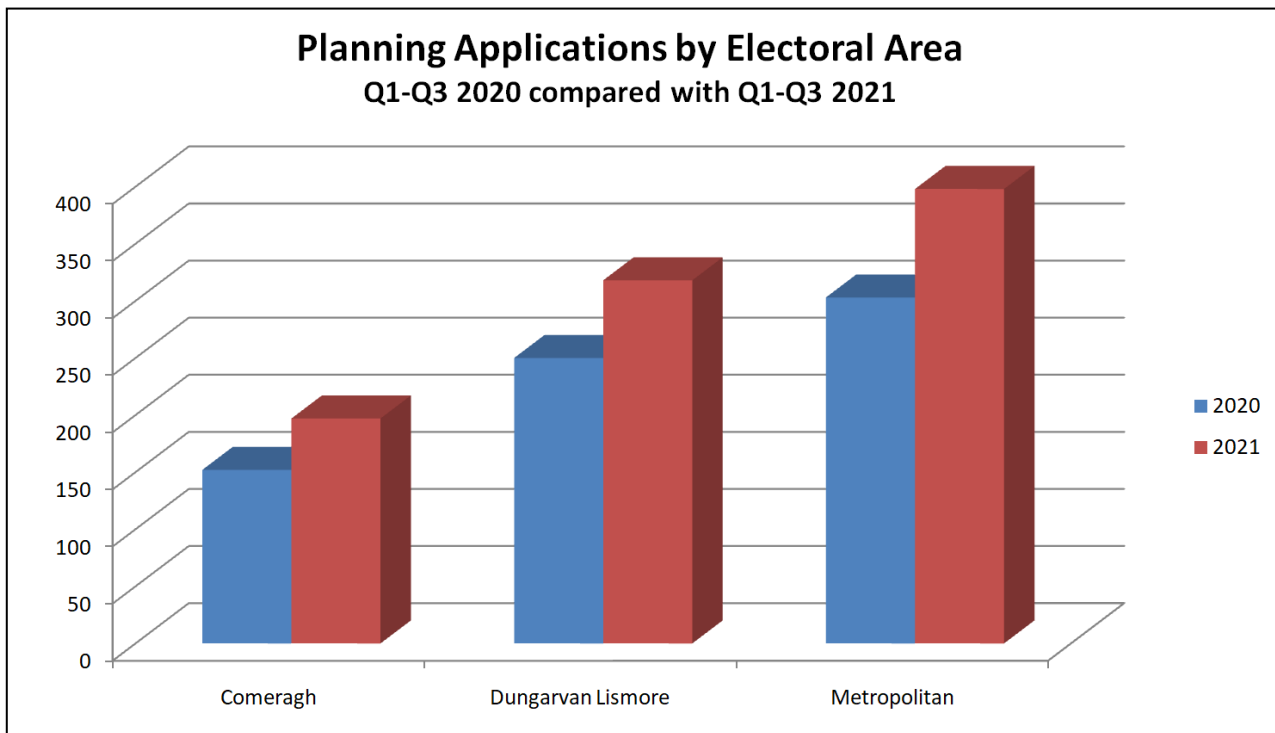
Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan Meeting – October 2021

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

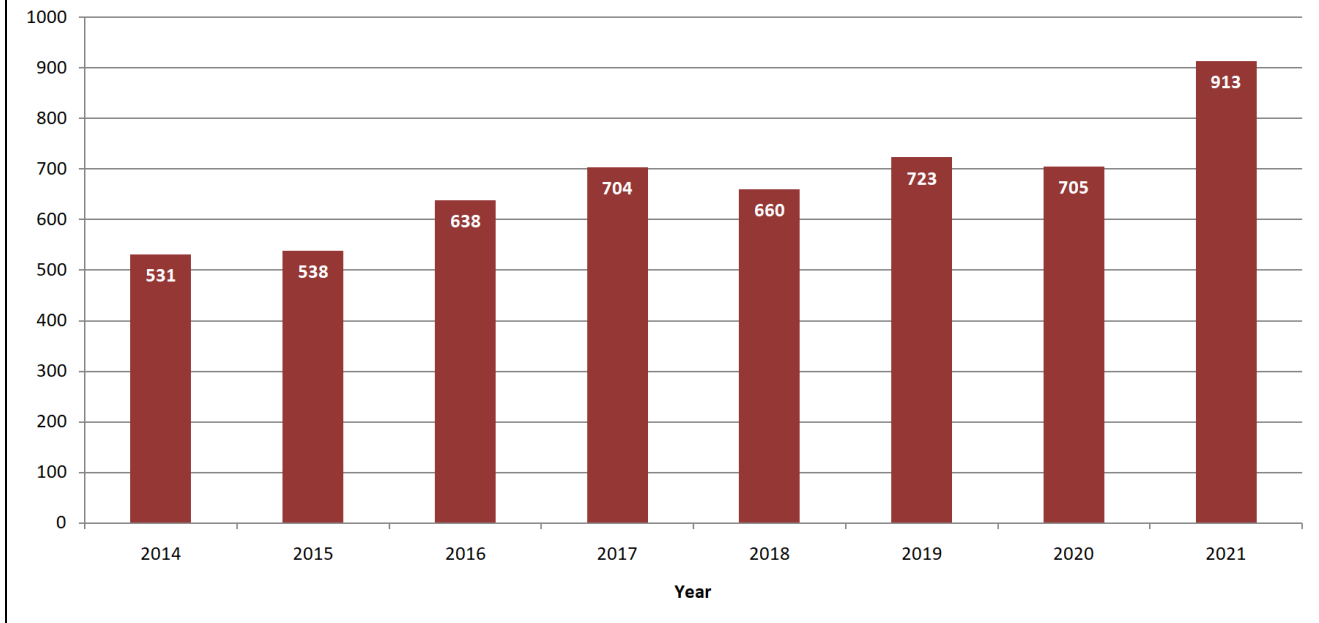
The total number of planning applications received in the first three quarters of 2021 (up to the end of September) is 30% higher than the number of applications received in the same nine month period in 2020. A total of 913 planning applications were received in the year to the end of September 2021 as compared with a total of 705 applications for same period last year.

However, there has been a slight slowdown in the number of applications received in recent weeks. 78 Planning applications were received in the month of September as compared with 86 planning applications received in the same month last year.



Planning Applications

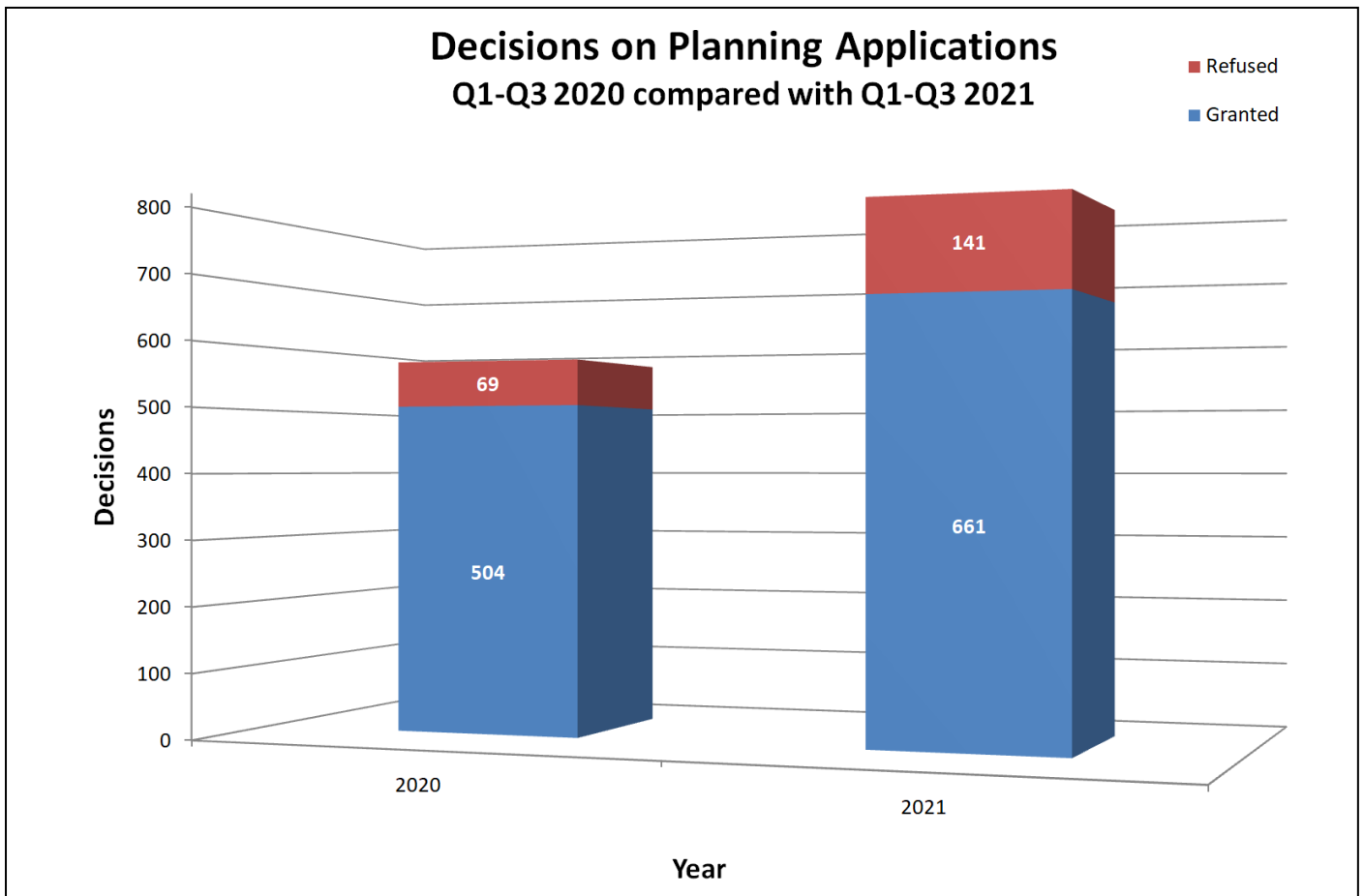
Annual figures from 1st January to 30th September



Number of Planning Applications (Q1-Q3)	↑	30% on Q1-Q3 2020
Commercial Planning Fees (Q1-Q3)	↑	36% on Q1-Q3 2020
Number of EIA Developments (Q1-Q3)	↑	50% on Q1-Q3 2020
Time to determine larger housing schemes (Q1-Q3)	↓	9% on Q1-Q3 2020
Number of Planning Appeals (Q1-Q3)	↑	138% on Q1-Q3 2020
Number of Housing Units Commenced (Q1-Q3)	↑	12% on Q1-Q3 2020

Planning Decisions

196 applications were decided from the 1st of July to 30th August 2021 compared to 183 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

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 will be 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

Waterford City & County Council’s Planning Department continues to investigate all complaints in relation to potential unauthorised development and takes appropriate action in each instance including including the issuing of Warning Letters, Enforcement Notices and pursues prosecutions through the Courts in cases on non-compliance with the terms of statutory Enforcement Notices.

The Planning Department also monitors developments which have commenced to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their planning permission, including the payment of development contributions and the maintenance of bonds to secure the completion of developments.

Heritage

Heritage Week 2021

Heritage Week ran from Saturday 14th August– Sunday, 22nd August with a programme of 30 events in Waterford detailed on HeritageWeek.ie. Nationwide featured the conservation project on Knockboy Church in Ballinamult with interviews with local community group, stonemason, archaeologists and WCCC Heritage Officer.

Biodiversity Funding

A webinar on the Waterford Swift Survey was hosted by Birdwatch Ireland on June 21st to encourage community involvement in the survey funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The survey has recorded 47 nest sites to date and final report will be completed in October. Further sightings can be emailed to swifts@birdwatchireland.ie.

New Placenames Website

Waterford City & County Council's Placenames Committee launched a new Waterford Placenames website - www.deiselogainm.ie - as a celebration of the importance of the naming of places, or toponomy, 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.

Conservation

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Further to previous updates, 18 projects around the city and county have received funding under the scheme. Works are currently proceeding and due to be completed by the end of September

Community Monuments Fund

Waterford City and County Council received an allocation of over €100,000 under the Community Monuments Fund towards conservation repairs of Molana Abbey, repairs at Knockboy church, repair of historic stonework at Kilgobinet Church and a Conservation Management Plan for Ardmore Graveyard. All projects are underway and will be completed in early November.

Liam McGree,
Senior Planner
13th October 2021