

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

Economic Development Report September 2022

1. North Quays

Waterford City and County Council is in active dialogue with potential developers, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) and the Land Development Agency in respect of the North Quays SDZ site and intends to progress a proposal to conclusion in the coming months.

Contracts:

- The returned tender for the North Quays main construction contract; this includes the construction of the Sustainable Transport Bridge, the Transport Hub and Access Roads, has been assessed by the Project Assessment Board. The Final Business case for the North Quays project and the Assessment Boards recommendations have been submitted to Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for cabinet approval as part of the Public Spending Code Gateway 3 approval.
- Rock stabilisation works adjacent to Plunkett Railway Station and the South Plaza enabling works are ongoing.
- David Walsh Civil Engineering has been appointed for the relocation of Ferrybank pump station, works are due to commence in the coming weeks.
- Tender for the Pump station enabling works contract is currently being assessed by Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers.
- On 17th August WCCC forwarded a submission to An Bord Pleanála, as requested by the Board, for the western flood defence planning application.
- Mallwood Ltd has been appointed for footpath widening on Abbey Road, works are due to commence imminently.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

- The Preliminary Business Case for all 22 projects and set out in six clusters is currently being finalised for submission to the DHLGH in accordance with the Public Spending Code.
- Tenders have been received for fit out of 16-18 Barker Place, O'Connell St (Project L) as a Community and Cultural Hub, they have been assessed and the tender assessment report is to be submitted to the DHLGH for approval to appoint contractor.
- The planning documents for the Parade Quay Cluster are currently being finalised for Part 8 planning application. There is ongoing communication and progress with SETU for the development of the Munster Express building. Survey works is complete for the Art House (project J) on Thomas Street in advance of a part 8 planning application.

3. Destination Towns

The following outstanding items associated with the original Failte Ireland grant allocation are now being progressed with an anticipated completion date of March 2023:

- Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between the Mall and Bishop's Palace – design ongoing
- Improvement works to Mall Lane – Active Travel team to carry out these works.
- Installation of new Sculptures to guide 'footfall' to and highlight the Viking Triangle – tender awarded.

- Upgrading of the existing pedestrian ‘Way Finding’ Signage and orientation mapping – tender package advertised, closing date September 17th.
- Improvements to the visibility of and presentation of the Council owned car parks – design ongoing.

4. Tramore

All elements of the project are now substantially complete. Some outstanding items remain as follows:

- Control of the access/egress to Main St for local residents – awaiting price from Contractor
- Removal of overhead electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey’s Hill junction – waiting on ESNB to return to complete works
- Link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to new car park – prior to opening adjustment required to gates to allow them to ‘open into’ Quishes as well as certain road and line markings.
- The refurbishment to No. 9 Main Street for ground floor commercial use is on going and scheduled to be complete by end of October/Early November.

5. Water Activity Centres Tramore

Fáilte 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. Progress to date has been as follows:

- Sites identified for both locations.
- The preliminary design (based on template provided by FI) has begun.
- Advertisement has been placed on eTenders for the procurement of an Architect led design team to carry out detailed design, tendering and management of the project in both locations.
- Tenders were returned on 18th July 2022 and assessment has taken place, DHB Architects are the preferred tenderer and will commence works shortly.
- It is anticipated that both centres will be completed and operational by Q3 2024.

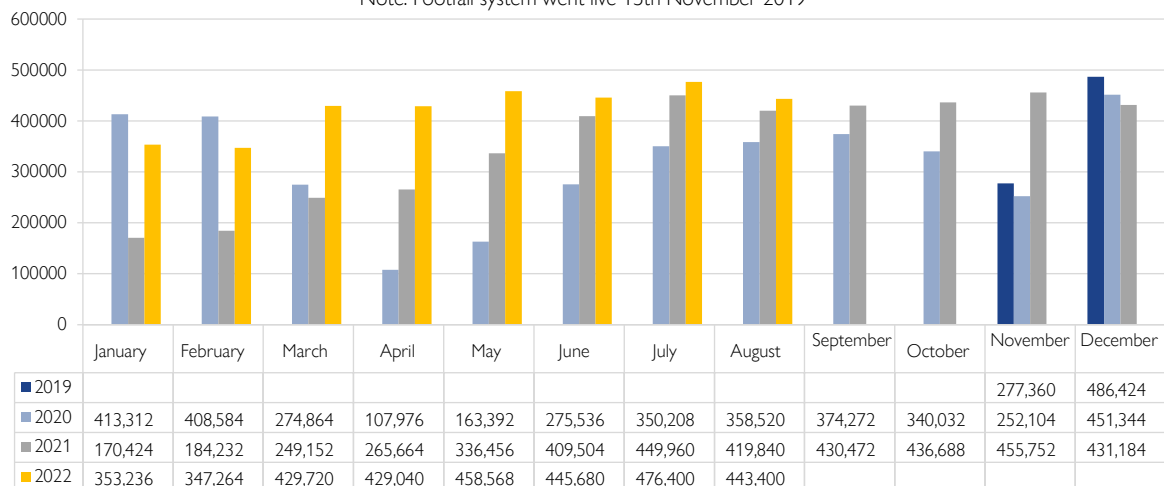
6. City & Town Centre Management

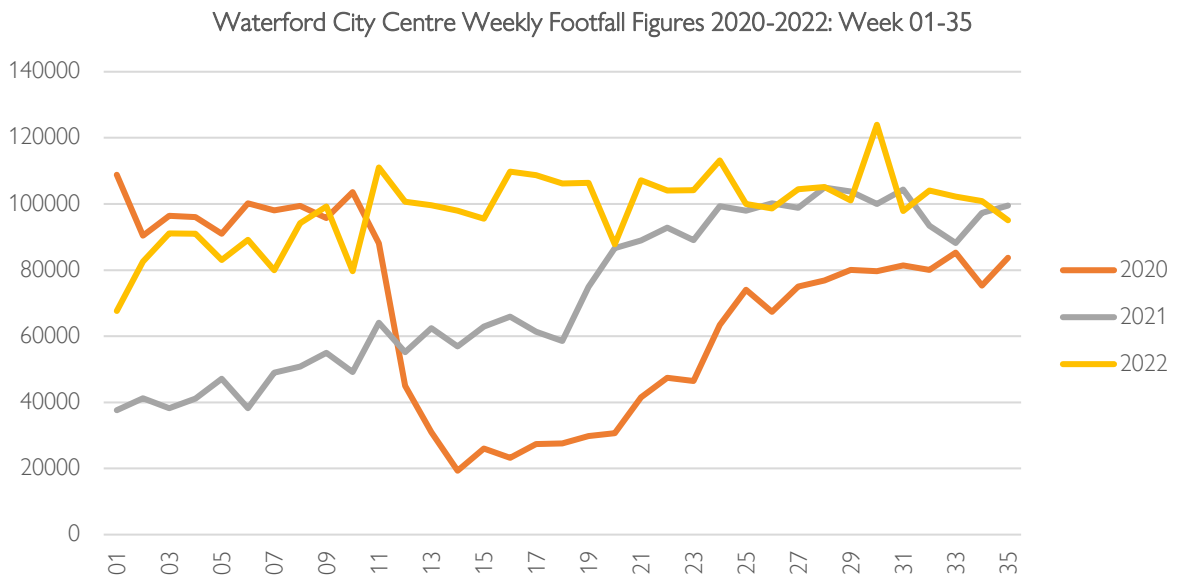
- The next Waterford City Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday 29th September.
- The next Tramore Town Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th October.

City Centre Footfall Analytics

Waterford City Centre Footfall Comparison 2019-2022

Note: Footfall system went live 15th November 2019





7. Trails

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

- Projects funded under the above-mentioned scheme in 2021 including re-design of Walk Waterford promotional materials, currently in progress.
- Funding for successful projects announced by DRCD to the following projects under ORIS 2022 Measure 1 and Project Development Measure. An allocation of funding for the enhancement of open water swimming amenities in Dunmore East is included totalling €25,000.

Waterford Greenway

- A number of projects are currently being planned and/or implemented on Waterford Greenway with both WCCC funding sources and funding support from TII.

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
- The DRCD have announced funding for Community Trail Management Organisations which is being administered at national level by Pobal. Five trail development groups in Waterford are eligible to apply for €1000, €2800 or €3000 depending on the length of the trail that the group manages and maintains. Funding announced will support purchase of equipment, small scale maintenance/repair or promotion of eligible trails. Eligible group(s) in the Metropolitan District includes the Dunmore East Coastal Walk Committee. Closing date for funding application 30th September.