

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

Economic Development Report March 2023

1. North Quays

BAM Civil Ltd has commenced work on the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project, initially carrying out site clearance works, and compound set up. A ground breaking ceremony was held on 6th March 2023, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister Eamon Ryan TD and Minister Darragh O’Brien TD were in attendance.

Pre-planning meetings with the Planning section of Waterford City and County Council are being held with the private developer, Harcourt Developments, regarding development of the North Quays SDZ site.

Planning permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for the Flood Defence West application, it comprises 1.1 km of flood protection measures to the west of Plunkett Station along the northern bank and within the foreshore of the River Suir. A tender process has commenced for the appointment of flood defence design consultants.

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.
- **Rock Stabilisation contract** - Cumnor Construction Ltd is finalising rock stabilization works and commencing demobilization from the cliff face to the North of Plunkett Station in the coming weeks.
- **Abbey Road footpath widening contract** - Mallwood Construction is also close to completion of footpath widening works at Abbey Road.

- **City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects**
- We are awaiting a formal response from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (URDF section) on the preliminary Business Case for all 22 City Centre URDF projects under Gateway 1 of the Public Spending Code.
- Works to fit out / repurpose 16-18 Barker Place, O’Connell St (Project L) as a Community and Cultural Hub is progressing and works should be complete in April / May 2023.
- The National Monuments Services has requested investigative work to be undertaken on the historic fabric within the Parade Quay housing, commercial and public realm development (Project Q). Once the investigative work is complete and any findings incorporated into the planning documents the part 8 planning process will commence.
- There is ongoing progress and communication with SETU and other funding agencies for the development of the Munster Express building (Project F) as Smart City experimental facility. A DAC (Designated Activity Company) between WCCC and SETU is being established for the overall governance of the project.

- An RFT has been issued on etenders 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. Responses are due to be submitted by 21st March 2023.

2. **Town Village Renewal Scheme**

Tramore

- Feasibility study for the development plan of a multi-cultural centre, including potential locations for the centre, the letter of offer has been received, work will commence on preparation of tender documents for feasibility study and consultation with various stakeholders will be part of the feasibility study.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023.

- ORIS 2023 applications will be prioritised and prepared in the coming weeks in anticipation of a call for funding from DRCD. Will be engaging with stakeholders, community groups and trail development groups in this regard.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022.

The following ORIS 2022 projects due to commence during 2023:

- Enhancement of Open water swim amenities in Dunmore East to include handrail at slipway, ladder to access water, outdoor clothes hooks, knee high tap and signage - Measure 1. Currently working with Dummore East Swim Club in this regard.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2021:

- Developing a revised 'Walk Waterford – From Sea to Mountains' booklet and trail mapping to include recently developed trails. Printed booklet has been delivered and is currently being distributed to stakeholders countywide.
- Installation of 18 footfall counters at key trail locations across Co. Waterford. Contract has been awarded. Project due to be completed before end June 2023.

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 including:
 - Installation of bike maintenance stations along the route.
 - Fencing at a number of locations.
 - Upgrade works to the Greenway near Killoteran in collaboration with WSVR.

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 will be installed on a trial basis within the next month.
- Removal of O/H electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey's Hill junction – ESBN have forwarded details of the additional ducting required which will be installed within next month, removal of outstanding poles and O/H wires will follow.
- The link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to the new car park – further lining/bollards to be carried out and link will re-open once works that Supervalu have completed refurbishment works that are currently ongoing.
- A DMURS Quality/ Road Safety audit has been carried out and a report is awaited.

- Refurbishment to No. 9 Main Street for ground floor commercial use and upstairs accommodation is nearing completion and it is still scheduled to be complete by the end of March. A new 'Expression of Interest' tender for a new tenant has been advertised and submissions are awaited.

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 May/June 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 (5 out of 8 now complete), bases for sculptures have been procured and will be installed shortly. All works should be fully complete by end of April/ early 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 April/May 2023.
- Redefining carparks for visitors. – contract has been awarded to Finncro Ltd who have commenced works, erection of poles now complete and banners to follow next month.
- Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between the Mall and Bishop's Palace – design options in conjunction with roads still being reviewed. Agreement on final design almost complete.

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 & Ardmore. Progress to date is as follows:

- DHB Architects was appointed as lead designer in September 2022.
- Preliminary design and Part 8 Planning documentation have been prepared and reviewed.
- It is anticipated to brief Metropolitan District Council in April 2023.
- Centre on track to be completed and operational by Q2 2024.