



### Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan District Council– June 2023

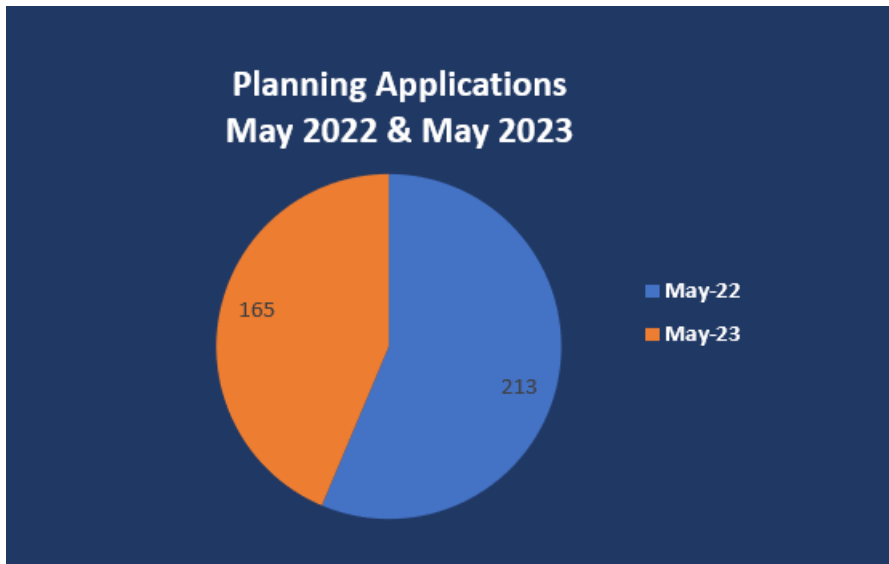
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

#### Planning Applications Received – Metropolitan District

35 Planning applications were received in Metropolitan District in May 2023. This compares with 48 planning applications received for the same period in 2022.

A total of 165 planning applications have been received from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> May in the Metropolitan District in 2023. This compares to 213 planning applications which were received in 2022.





## Forward Planning May Plenary Report

### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Draft Map of land in-scope

A draft map indicating land considered in-scope for the purposes of the RZLT was prepared by Waterford City and County Council, was placed on display over the period November-December 2022 and written submissions were invited. There are three issues of note resulting from this process:

1. A total of 67 written submissions were received. The planning authority provided a written determination to each submission, the result of which was to retain lands in-scope which were the subject of 57 submissions while the land referred to in the remaining 10 submissions was considered out of scope for the purposes of the tax. Persons aggrieved by such determinations had the opportunity to make an appeal to An Bord Pleanála and a total of 36 such appeals have now been received by An Bord Pleanála.
2. It should be noted that Waterford City and County Council has **not** prepared a supplemental map identifying additional lands for the purposes of the tax and a statement to this effect along with social media and newspaper notices have now issued and are available on the [consult.waterfordcouncil.ie](http://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie) portal.
3. The final map of lands identified as in-scope for the RZLT will be published by the planning authority on 1<sup>st</sup> of December. The final map will have regard to the determinations of the planning authority on written submissions received and those of An Bord Pleanála on all appeals.

### Local Area Plans for Dungarvan/Ballinroad and Tramore

At the commencement of the process to prepare the two above LAPs, it had been intended to have draft plans available for consultation with the council and communities at this time. During the initial public consultation stage in February of this year a total of 29 and 45 written submissions were received respectively which will now be used to prepare the draft LAPs. It should be noted however that written submissions received from the National Transport Authority and the Office of the Planning Regulator reaffirmed the need to inform both LAPs with Local Transport Plans and Surface Water Management Plans and the procurement and preparation of these documents/studies will take some months. We will continue to inform the Council of progress in this regard.

### Heritage Officer Report May 2023

#### Decade of Commemorations

Five projects have been awarded funding under the Community Commemoration Grant Scheme for projects commemorating the 1921-1923 period including;

- Clashmore & Kinsalebeg Community Council- Lectures and Dramatic Performances exploring experiences of local communities and contribution of local Cumann na mBan during the revolutionary period.
- Dunhill Community Hall- Curation of an exhibition detailing the social history of the Copper Coast over the period 1912-1923.
- *The Calm after the Storm*- Radio Documentary by Historian James Doherty with a focus on the impact of the conflict on the wider populace and female civilian casualties.
- *The Aftermath*- short film by John Foley exploring the impact on the families of those who were involved in the War of Independence or the Civil War.
- Waterford County Museum- Exhibition on the burning of Big Houses in Waterford during the revolutionary period.



**Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme**

Seven projects were successful in their application to the Heritage Council’s Community Heritage Grant Scheme as detailed in table below;

Waterford	CH17957	Waterford Union of Parishes	Christ Church Cathedral Waterford, Restoration of 18th Century Oil Painting of the Medieval Cathedral, 2023	€5,984
Waterford	CH17912	Knockboy Graveyard Committee	Knockboy Church, Co. Waterford - continuing conservation works 2023	€9,087
Waterford	CH18343	Kilgobnet Parish Committee	Kilgobnet Graveyard, Co. Waterford, 2023 Conservation Surveys	€5,975
Waterford	CH18160	Mount Melleray Abbey	Well House Conservation Management Report	€7,000
Waterford	CH18324	Waterford County Museum	Waterford County Museum improving collection access	€4,330
Waterford	CH18034	Mothel Holy Well & Graveyard Committee	Mothel Graveyard Recording Project	€4,350
Waterford	CH17986	Clashmore and Kinsalebeg Community Council	Garranaspick Ice House Stage 2 2023	€7,231

**Biodiversity**

Waterford City and County Council with funding from the Heritage Council are supporting a goat grazing project at Ardmore Head to help restore the protected habitats within the Special Area of Conservation. Due to lack of management and grazing on Ardmore Head SAC over the past two decades the protected Dry Heath habitat of Bell Heather and Western Gorse has been invaded by Bracken and Common Gorse. Goat grazing and trampling of the area will reduce the cover of these invasive species and allow regeneration of the coastal heath along the headland. There is also the remnants of an Éire sign on the site from the Emergency which will be exposed with the help of the goats. The goats were acquired from William Walsh, a West Cork shepherd-horticulturist from Enniskeane, whose Billy's Rent-A-Goat business forms part of his wide-ranging promotion of ethical land management and social education.

Birdwatch Ireland have been commissioned by Waterford City and County Council to carry out a survey of Barn Owls in the county. Anecdotal evidence indicates Barn Owls are increasing in Waterford possibly influenced by availability of prey such as the Greater White-toothed Shrew. A detailed survey of suitable habitat for Barn Owl along with monitoring of nesting sites and awareness raising measures will benefit the conservation of the red listed species in Co. Waterford. Sightings of Barn Owl can be reported to the Heritage Officer at [bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie) to help inform the county wide survey.

**Visit by the Norwegian Ambassador**

Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District Council Cllr. Jason Murphy welcomed Ambassador Mari Skåre of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to City Hall on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate and promote our shared Viking heritage. The Ambassador visited Reginald’s Tower, Woodstown Viking site and Waterford County Museum and met Deputy Matt Shanahan, Deputy David Cullinane and members of Woodstown Viking Site Steering Committee.

**Heritage Week**

Heritage Week this year runs from August 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme invites people to explore the traditions and practices, knowledge and skills passed down through generations. National Heritage Week celebrates Ireland's cultural, built and natural heritage and events can be registered on the [heritageweek.ie](http://heritageweek.ie) portal. A printed Heritage Week events guide will also be published by Waterford City and County Council.

**Heritage Funding 2023**

Over 10 applications have been submitted for projects across Waterford to the **Heritage Council’s Community Heritage Fund**. The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects including buildings.

Eight applications have been submitted to the **Community Monuments Fund** allocated by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €336,000 for conservation and survey of a range of archaeological sites across the city and county.



Six applications have been submitted to the **Local Biodiversity Action Fund** allocated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €100,000 for projects on Brent Geese, Barn Owls, control of invasive species, wetland management and control of invasive species. The outcome of funding applications will be known by early May.

### Conservation Officer Report

Works have commenced on some of the 28 projects granted funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund. Waterford City and County Council also received €100,000 in funding under the Community Monument Fund for conservation works to Blackfriars Abbey in the City.

#### Archaeology

Archaeological testing at Parade Quay has also revealed sections of the City wall under the ground level of the existing buildings on the Quay.

Cathedral Square. In June the public will be able to see the conservation works within the new museum including timbers dating from 15<sup>th</sup> century, medieval stone lined drain and 17<sup>th</sup> century fireplace and oven. A stone floor was also discovered which included broken pieces of marble and cut stone from the Cathedral, which were probably removed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when the new Cathedral was being constructed.



Historic wallpaper experts from US and Europe came to visit Mount Congreve to look at the Chinese wallpaper. This wallpaper was manufactured in the Canton region in 1780s. It is a rare example of such workmanship and another surviving example of this type of wallpaper is at Schloss Schönbrunn in Vienna. The paper at Mount Congreve is considered is a cultural artefact of international importance.