

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

Economic Development Report January 2023

1. North Quays

There has been active engagement with BAM Civil Ltd since Waterford City and County Council entered into contract with them for the construction of the North Quays public infrastructure project. Works are expected to commence on site in early 2023 and be completed in 2025.

Active communication is also taking place with the private developer for the North Quays site, Harcourt Developments. At a special Council meeting of 14th December 2022, pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, 16.7 acres of land at the North Quays, Waterford was disposed to Hopcast Limited (NQs Joint Venture Development Company) for the sum of €5.1 m (paid in installments) to facilitate the North Quays development scheme.

At the same special Council meeting a Section 183 for 1.75 acres of land at the North Quays was also disposed of to Córas Iompair Éireann to facilitate the infrastructural developments associated with the transport hub and as part of an overall land exchange between parties.

Other Contracts

- **Ferrybank Pump Station / Enabling works contract** - David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing works on site for a new pump station in Ferrybank. The enabling works contract has been awarded to David Walsh Civil Engineering, works are due to commence in January 2023 with an eight-month construction period.
- **South Plaza enabling works** –The contractor, Suir Plant has demobilized and the final account is currently being agreed.
- **Rock Stabilisation contract** - Works ongoing by Cumnor Construction Ltd, to be completed by February 2023.
- **Abbey Road footpath widening contract** - Mallwood Construction has commenced works on site and due to complete works by February 23.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

We are awaiting feedback 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.

John Somers Contractor is progressing with works to 16-18 Barker Place, O'Connell St (Project L), for the fit out / repurpose of the ground floor as a Community and Cultural Hub in the heart of the Cultural Quarter. Works should be complete in March 2023.

The CE Report for part 8 planning application for the change of use of the ground floor of 120 Parade Quay to restaurant facility is being presented to the Metro Council in January 23. The part 8 planning process for the Parade Quay housing, commercial and public realm development will commence shortly.

There is ongoing progress and communication with SETU and other funding agencies for the development of the Munster Express building.

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 April/May 2023:

- Failte Ireland have confirmed that the deadline for completing the works is now September 2023
- Installation of new Sculptures to guide 'footfall' to and highlight the Viking Triangle – tender awarded, locations confirmed and works ongoing, bases for sculptures have been procured and sculptures to be in place by March/April 2023
- Upgrading of the existing pedestrian 'Way Finding' Signage and orientation mapping – contract awarded to 'Truform Ltd', material samples and drafts of each sign have been forwarded and are currently being reviewed. It is anticipated that works will be completed by April/May 2023.
- Improvements to the visibility of and presentation of the Council owned car parks – contract awarded to Finnicro Ltd who have commenced works and will have poles in place by mid-February/March.
- Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between the Mall and Bishop's Palace – design options still being reviewed, procurement to take place in February.

4. Town Village Renewal Scheme

Recently announced Town Village Renewal Scheme allocations from the Dept of Rural and Community Development included the below Metro locations:

- Passage East €49,500 grant assistance to undertake structural and environmental reviews of the Harbour area for potential future development of Passage East
- Tramore €49,500 grant assistance to commission a study for the future development of a multi-cultural centre in Tramore

5. Tramore

As reported last month, the following items remain outstanding:

- Control of the access/egress to Main St for local residents – due to excessive cost estimate received from contractor and uncertainty about funding, it is now proposed to install a manually controlled 'hinged bollard' on a trial basis which can be locked and unlocked using a key located at the top of bollard.
- Removal of O/H electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey's Hill junction – still waiting on an update from ESBN as to when this will take place.
- The link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to new car park – all works now complete to allow the link to open apart from some additional line marking on Priest's Road which will be carried out in next couple of weeks.
- Refurbishment to No. 9 Main Street for ground floor commercial use and upstairs accommodation is continuing, March 2023 is now the likely completion date. The selected tenant has withdrawn their offer to take the property, a new 'expression of interest' tender is currently being prepared seeking new tenants.

6. 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 and Ardmore. Progress to date is as follows:

- DHB Architects of Catherine's Hall, Catherine's St Waterford were awarded the contract in September 2022.
- Preliminary design and Part 8 Planning documentation has been forwarded and is being reviewed.
- Preliminary design has also been forwarded to Failte Ireland for review.

- It is anticipated to brief both councils (Metro & Dungarvan Lismore District) in February 2023.
- Both centres are still on track to be completed and operational by Q2 2024.

7. City Centre Management

- The next Waterford City Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for January 19th, 2023.

8. Tourism

The Digital Story Trail will officially be launched in early February. This incentive has been funded by Fáilte Ireland as part of the Destinations Towns project. The trail consists of 15 different locations around the city, each location presents its own very interesting story and is presented by the characters from the story itself.

Each stop contains its own list of suggestions of museums in the city where more information can be learned on the particular topic. On six of the stops there is an AR (augmented reality) element which has up to now received some very positive feedback.