

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR  
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Economic Development Report March 2023**

**1. Mount Congreve**

- Mount Congreve had its official opening on March 1st. The opening follows renovations and restorations to the House & Gardens.

**2. Trails and Outdoor Recreation**

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2019:**

- Installation of final elements of Durrow Playground to take place in coming weeks, to include:
  - Amenity Seating and picnic benches
  - Access from Greenway
  - Signage
  - Planting
  - Bike Parking
  - Safety inspection pre-opening

**ORIS 2020:**

- Measure 2: Mahon Falls improved trailhead, parking and passing bays. Works currently underway with completion anticipated in Q2 2023.

**ORIS 2021:**

- Measure 1: Developing a revised 'Walk Waterford' – From Sea To Mountains' booklet and trail mapping to include developed trails. New resources will be available in Q1 2023..
- Measure 2: Kilmacthomas River Walk improvement works. Surfacing works complete with further works including fencing and pedestrian bridge to be completed shortly.
- Measure 3: Installation of 18 footfall counters at key trail locations across Co. Waterford. Tender evaluation complete. Ready to award contract. Project due to be completed before end June 2023.
- Measure 4: Mahon Bridge/Crough Wood trailhead and improved car parking area. Tender drawings and documents being finalized.
- Project Development Measure: Copper Coast Walking Trail Feasibility study. Initiation meeting and site walk over has taken place in Feb/Mar. Coastline between Bunmahon and Stradbally. Project team has written out to all impacted landowners regarding the initial site visit. Preliminary design to be prepared over the coming weeks in advance of further landowner, property owner and stakeholder engagement.

**ORIS 2022:**

- Measure 1: Munster Vales – Installation of information kiosks and digital marketing campaign for the Munster Vales region in collaboration with Munster Vales. Munster Vales promotes the 5 upland areas in the region including the Comeraghs. Measure 1.

- Measure 2: Anne Valley Walk – Phase III. Due to initiate procurement in the coming weeks to raise 900 metres of the trail which are prone to flooding.

**ORIS 2023:**

- Will shortly be preparing applications under ORIS 2023 for submission later in the year. Engagement with stakeholders, community groups and trail development groups will take place in this regard.

**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 at Durrow, Kilmacthomas and Kilmeaden.
  - Repair of Kilmacthomas Viaduct – substantially complete.
  - Upgrade works to the Greenway near Killoteran in collaboration with WSVR – due to award contract shortly.

**Waterford Greenway to Suir Blueway Connection:**

- Feasibility study ongoing with a range of route options being considered in advance of further public, stakeholder and landowner engagement in 2023.

**Waterford Trails**

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors, local trail development groups and other key stakeholders with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford’s existing recreational trail network. [www.visitwaterfordtrails.com](http://www.visitwaterfordtrails.com)

**3. Rural Economic Development**

**Portlaw – Town Centre First**

The Town Centre First process for Portlaw has commenced. A number of meetings have been held with community groups and community reps. A new community action plan has been launched by Portlaw Community Enhancement Committee CLG. This will act as the basis for on-going work, including the creation of a pipeline of development projects

**Shared Island Funding**

WCCC has been successful in its application to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. Partnering with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, the Council has received some €230k to undertake regeneration planning in the communities of Dunmore East and Portlaw in Waterford along with Portglenone and Glenarm in Antrim.