



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan Meeting – September 2022

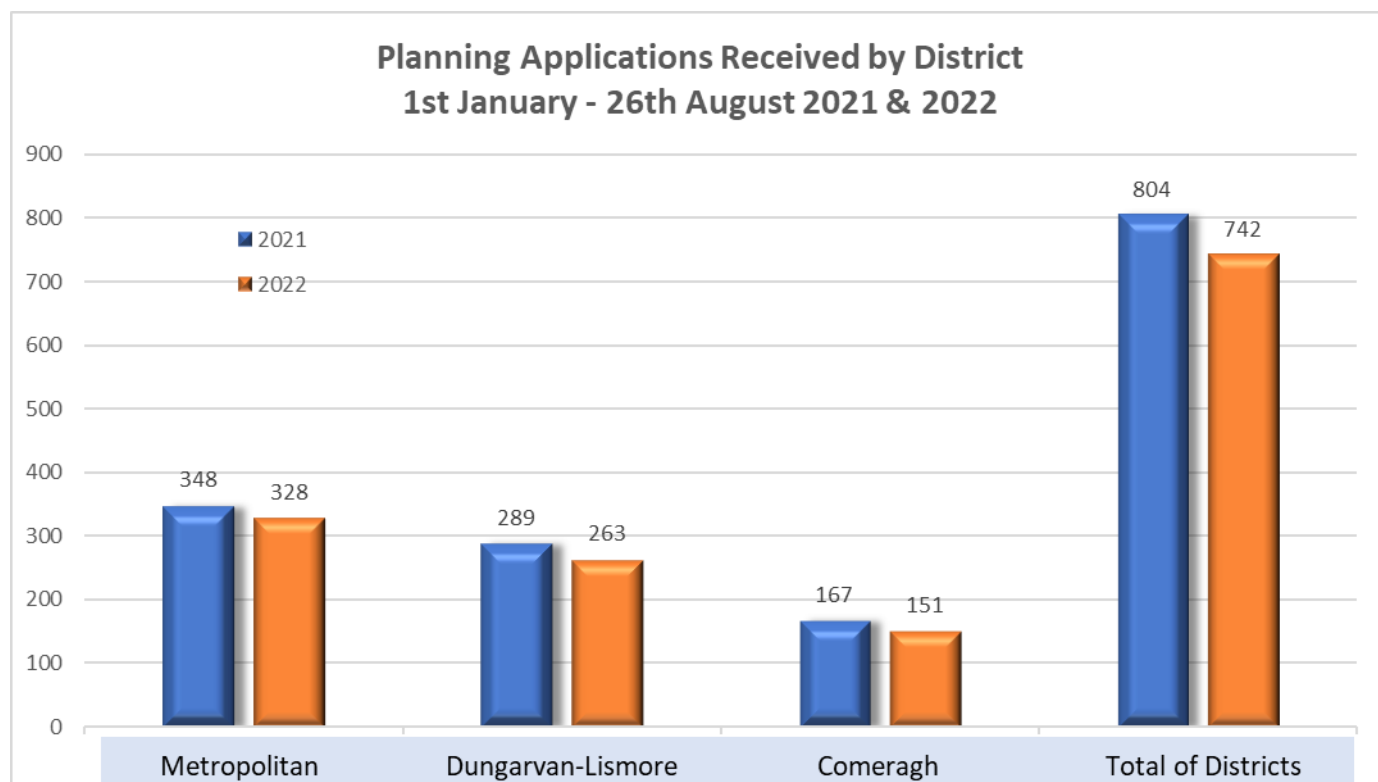
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Planning Applications Received – Countywide

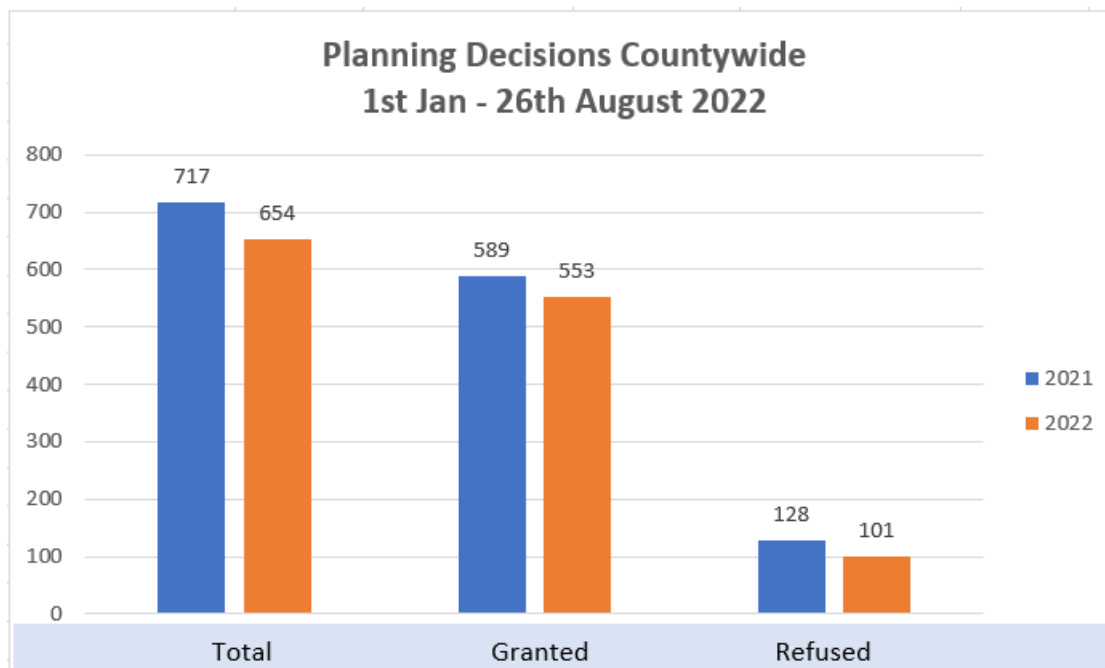
68 Planning applications were received countywide in August 2022 up to and including 26th August 2022. This compares with 67 planning applications received for the same period in August 2021. In July 2022, 96 planning applications were received in the full calendar month, compared to 116 received in July 2021.

A total of 742 planning applications were received in the year to 26th August 2022. This compares to 804 planning applications which were received to the 26th August 2021.



Planning Decisions

654 applications were decided from the 1st of January to 26th August 2022 compared to 717 for the same period in 2021. Of the 654 decisions, 553 decisions were granted and 101 decisions were refused.



Forward Planning September Plenary Report

Review of Development Contribution Scheme

Following the provisions of Section 48 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended, we are currently reviewing the Development Contribution Scheme and intend to bring this to the plenary council over the period to the end of 2022. We will engage with the Plenary Council in the period prior to publication of the draft scheme and will utilise the consult.waterfordcouncil.ie portal for the purposes of broader engagement with members of the public and other relevant consultees once the draft scheme has been prepared. Following the period of public consultation, we will prepare a Chief Executive Report summarising details of written submission received on the draft scheme and setting out any amendments to the draft scheme where relevant. The Plenary Council will then have a period of 6 weeks to consider the content of the CE Report and the draft scheme prior to making the new scheme on or before 12th of February 2023. A broad timeline for the preparation of the scheme is set out hereunder.

Section 48 Development Contributions Scheme	
Prepare draft scheme	September to mid October
Public consultation on draft scheme	Mid October to end November (not less than 6 weeks period)
Prepare and submit CE Report to council	Early December to late December (not less than 4 weeks period)
Council to consider CE Report	Late December to early February (not more than 6 weeks period)
Resolution to make the scheme	On or before 12th of February 2023

Heritage Officer Report

Heritage Week

The return of in person and on-site Heritage Week events this year was a great success with over 51 events across the city and county. Great attendances were recorded at all events and around 1000 people attended Aonach na nDéise, the Viking Heritage Festival at Woodstown on the Waterford Greenway. Minister for Heritage, Malcolm Noonan and Deputy Head of Mission for the Norwegian Embassy Bente Lyngstad were in attendance. The Historic Towns Atlas for Dungarvan was launched in Dungarvan Library to a great reception and a community celebration took place in Lismore to honour the great travel writer Dervla Murphy.

Decade of Commemorations

A commemoration of the Siege of Waterford took place on Saturday July 16th in Waterford City with a talk by Dr. Pat McCarthy in the Garden Room of the Medieval Museum to a full house. Two armoured cars courtesy of Curragh Camp and Kilmacthomas Re-Enactment Group were on display in Cathedral Square. Local historian James Doherty live tweeted events as they took place 100 years ago and led a guided walk around key sites in Waterford during the siege. Research is almost complete for the GIS Story Map on Civil War events in Waterford and a website is being developed which will host all material relating to the Decade of Commemorations Programme in Waterford from the past 8 years.

Community Monuments Funding

Waterford City and County Council were awarded an allocation of over €220,000 under the 2022 Community Monuments Fund to support conservation repairs at Molana Abbey, Stradbally Church, St. Nicholas Church in Ring, St. Carthages Cathedral, Lismore, repair of historic stonework at Kilgobnet Graveyard and Geophysical Survey at Woodstown Viking Site. All projects are progressing as planned and have been inspected by National Monuments Staff over the summer.

Conservation Officer Report

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

Many of the projects granted €182,400 funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2022 are now completed. Projects include repairs to chimneys, roofs, thatch houses, windows and repointing of walls. Applications include Lismore Cathedral energy conservation works and St Annes, Fewes – repair works to the windows.

Historic Structures Scheme (HSF)

The works for the 5 projects, which were granted a total of €339,755 funding under Historic Structures Scheme (HSF) will be completed by the end of September. Works include repair of the roof on Mount Congreve and repair works at the Spiderlight in Passage East

Medieval Towers and Walls Trails

Waterford has received a total of €15,000 from the Irish Walled Towns Network towards the production of a medieval walls and towers trail booklet. The work on this has commenced

Cathedral Square

Conservation works to consolidate this building are progressing including some the repair and reinstatement of brick and timber cagework, repair of late medieval rubblestone walls and repair works to timber work

Report on Blackfriars Abbey

The debris and some of the vegetation has been cleared from main body of the Church. The remainder of the debris on café side to be removed by WCC team week commencing 5th of September. Signage re the WCC /WCT/LTI conservation works re-erected.

Structural work to the north wall of the Abbey will require substantial capital so it is envisaged that WCCC will apply for Heritage funding next year. Prior to this the necessary engineering, surveying, architectural and conservation reports will have to be carried out and the requisite archaeological consents/ licenses for works will be obtained.

It is hoped that the new group of Local Training Initiative (LTI) trainees, in partnership with Waterford Civic Trust, will be able to do some localised repointing works on the walls without structural issues, this year, subject to licenses etc.

Future uses

This site is in an excellent location in a busy shopping and pedestrian area and is underutilised. Blackfriars Abbey will be on both the new Digital Story Trails and the Medieval Walls and Tours trail.

- *Controlled access to the area via both entrances should be considered for visitors/tours to go through the building like that at Greyfriars at present.*
- *The services on site should be inspected to see if they are still in order. This area is sheltered but could, subject to licenses, be considered for events i.e., Halloween, Winterval, Market, performances, artwork displays, liaison with the Cultural Quarter, Arts Officer etc.*