

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

**Economic Development Report to the end of March 2022**

**1. Mount Congreve RRDF**

- **New visitor centre at Mount Congreve House** – Works are progressing well on the new visitor centre, which will house a food, beverage and retail area. All demolition works are now complete and the contractor is pouring the internal floor slabs. The steel frame for the glazed courtyard is due onsite in the coming weeks. See artist's impression below.
- **Interpretation, orientation & wayfinding** – The package to develop the visitor interpretation and garden orientation scheme is progressing well. All detailed design work is now complete. Production and installation of the interpretation and orientation signage and features will take place over the coming months.
- **Integrated Constructed Wetlands** – The new wetlands area is now ready to be planted with native wetland species. When complete, the wetlands will treat the wastewater from the visitor centre and act as a hub for biodiversity within the gardens – see photo below.
- **Play Scheme** – A tender to construct a new play facility in the gardens is ready to go to tender. Construction is expected to take 3 months once a contractor has been appointed.
- **Garden improvement works** – Tenders are currently being issued for works to repair the waterfall, install fencing around the estate, improve the path network and repair existing metalwork. The first of these is expected to commence onsite in the coming weeks. All works are scheduled to be finished by June 2022.
- **Food & Beverage** – A tender process to appoint an operator for the food & beverage offering in the visitor centre is underway. This is expected to be complete in April 2022.
- **Retail** – Waterford Council are currently working with Fáilte Ireland to develop a retail strategy for Mount Congreve.
- **Carpark** – Detailed design is underway to upgrade the existing carpark, construct a new pathway to the visitor centre and upgrade the existing roadway to the carpark, from the main entrance. These works are expected to commence onsite in the coming weeks.



Mount Congreve Integrated Constructed Wetlands



Artist's impression of the new Mount Congreve Visitor Centre

## 2. Rural Economic Development: Towns & Villages

Waterford City & County Council were successful in securing funding of €33, 764.00 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 Project Development Measure for Portlaw. The proposed project will seek to investigate bioremediation technologies for removal/ stabilisation of potential chemicals of concern within the former Tannery Site.