

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH NA COMARAIGH
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF THE COMERAGHS

March, 2021

Economic Development Report

1. Local Enterprise Office

Indicator	At end of Feb 2020	At end of Feb 2021
No. of clients applying for Measure 1 support	3	6
No. of clients securing Measure 1 support	2	6
Value of Measure 1 support approved	€40,200	€137,308
No. of clients receiving Measure 2 support	235	375
Value of Measure 2 support given	€54,395	€81,907

- Very successful Local Enterprise Week hosted last week. Over 300 Waterford business people participated in digital events.
- New Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBACS) launched by the Tánaiste on 11th March.
- The LEO is supporting the development of a Copper Coast Tourism Network via the Geopark. Any business interested in engaging with the network should contact Robbie Galvin in the Copper Coast Geopark.
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2. Rural Development

Town & Village 2018

Copper Coast Signage – Contractor delayed due to C19 restrictions

Town & Village 2019

Lemybrien – Playground installed

Bunmahon - Public Realm Project – car park etc - delayed

Dunhill – Public Realm – contractors appointed - delayed

Town & Village Accelerated Measure 2020

Kilmacthomas - Online Portal, Market Tents, Public Realm
Kilmeaden - Bicycle Service Area - on hold
Bunmahon – Refurbishment adult exercise equipment
Portlaw - Bus stop shelters & public realm
Touraneena - Community Hall works

Town & Village Main Scheme 2020

Stradbally – Biodiversity Park

Town & Village Main Scheme 2021

Public notices seeking Expressions of Interest for 2021 Scheme being drafted and due to be advertised week beginning 15th March 2021. Closing date for submissions 23rd April 2021.

3. Waterford Trails

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020:

WCCC has been allocated €200,000 from the DRCD under ORIS 2020 Measure 2 to undertake improvement works to the access road and Mahon Falls Car Parking. The parking capacity of the main car park will be increased from 39 to 85 spaces subject to planning approval. The project will also provide additional road lay-bys and modification of existing lay-bys to allow for safe passing. The proposed works will enhance road safety for walkers, cyclists and vehicular traffic alike. Improvements at the main trail head will also include a small amenity area with bike parking and new path to enhance access from the parking area to the walk into Mahon Falls. Pending full planning permission it is proposed that works would commence after the busy summer season in late 2021.

In January the Comeragh MD was also allocated funding under ORIS Measure 1 as follows:

- Nire Valleys Walk boardwalk improvements: Funding allocated €20,000. This project will build on works that have been carried out in the Nire Valley in recent years with previous ORIS funding.
- Boolas Loop Walk, Rathgormack: Funding allocated €10,800. Upgrade to bog crossings near Curraheen trailhead.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2019:

Work substantially progressed under all ORIS 2019 projects. Remaining Measure 1 projects to be complete by 31st May 2021 (following extension granted by DRCD due to Covid restriction related delays). Measure 2 projects due for completion 31st August 2021:

- Measure 1: EuroVelo Cycle Route and Waterford Cycling Trails signage upgrade works; Walk Waterford Promotion including new brochure, mapping, videography and photography.
- Measure 2: Waterford Greenway Play Trail.

- Promotional materials including trail brochures, videos, photography and mapping funded under ORIS 2019, currently being finalised by end Q1 2021. It is hoped that Covid restrictions in place at the time will allow the promotion of this new material which will highlight some well known Waterford trails along with those that are somewhat 'off the beaten track'.

4. Comeraghs Wild

Comeraghs Wild Festival has received Council funding in the amount of €28,000 for the 2021 Festival. No decision has been made yet on the delivery of the 2021 Festival, the Committee have decided to meet mid April to discuss.