

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

**Comeragh Municipal District**  
**October, 2021**  
**Economic Development Report**

**1. Waterford Local Enterprise Office**

Waterford City & County Council were successful in securing €240,890 to work in partnership with Dunhill Ecopark, Dungarvan Enterprise Centre, Waterford City Enterprise Centre, WorkLabs and Boxworks to enhance and add capacity to their remote and co-working infrastructure.

**2. Rural Economic Development**  
**Town & Village 2018**

Tourism Signage & Identity Projects for Copper Coast area were completed and allocations claimed from DRCD – all of 9 2018 TVRS projects are now completed and DRCD claims made.



**Town & Village 2019 Update**

Waterford City & County Council as allocated funding for five projects in rural towns and villages receiving €500,000. Details of allocations relevant to the Comeragh MD are listed below:

Town/Village	Grant Allocated	Project Summary	Project Update
Bunmahon	€100,000	Enhancements to board walk in Bunmahon with additional public realm improvements.	Project practically complete
Dunhill	€100,000	Anne Valley walkway connection to village and heritage dolmen access works	Project to be completed in October 2021
Lemybrien	€100,000	Community playground	Project completed



### Town & Village 2020 Update

Town/Village	Grant Allocated	Project Summary	Project Update
<b>Stradbally</b>	€88,615	Development of a biodiversity park, including path construction, natural paving, seating, bespoke bike stands and interpretative wildlife signage.	Project Tender documents being developed

### Town & Village Accelerated Measure 2020 Update

Waterford City & County Council was allocated €451,918 funding for 16 projects under 3 separate calls in 2020 under the TVRS Accelerated Measure to assist Rural Towns & Villages to adapt and help combat the impacts of COVID-19. Details of allocations relevant to the Comeragh MD are listed below.

Town/Village	Grant Allocated	Project Summary	Project Update
<b>County wide</b>	€40,000	Creation of a visitor experience development plan and a Visitor App for Rural Waterford	Project Completed
<b>Kilmacthomas</b>	€25,000	Creation of an online shopping platform for local business, Farmers Market and Landscaping	Online Platforms changed to Rural Tourism portals, other elements delivered
<b>Kilmeaden</b>	€21,893	Repurposing public realm area as a bicycle service/charging site and stop area with hand sanitisation station in Village centre	Project nearing completion
<b>Bunmahon</b>	€25,000	Refurbish outdoor exercise area and	Project completed

Town/Village	Grant Allocated	Project Summary	Project Update
		provision of outdoor sanitising stations	
<b>Portlaw</b>	€40,000	Recreation amenity upgrades and provision of bus and queuing shelter for local health centre	Project nearing completion

### Town & Village Accelerated Measure 2021 Update

Waterford City & County Council applied for over €1.44m in funding for 8 projects under the 2021 DRCD Town & Village Renewal Scheme to assist Rural Towns & Villages – a response from the Department of Rural & Community Development is expected in October/November 2021 – Details of the applications submitted relating to the Comeragh MD are outlined below:

- Project Development Measure that takes applicable content from 2 EOIs (**Portlaw** and **Comeragh Uplands**) and combine them to deliver a roadmap for the development of the areas – allocation sought -€50,000.
- **Copper Coast** Coastal Erosion Options report for 4 key beach locations and remediation works to eroded cove area and development of app to highlight impact of climate change on coast and its archaeological heritage- allocation sought -€100,000.
- **Rural Transport** infrastructure project to deliver bus shelters and other infrastructure at 6 locations – Rural Transport Needs assessment Study already submitted to CLAR Innovation Measure - allocation sought -€100,000.

### Town & Village Renewal Scheme Streetscape Measure 2021

Waterford City & County Council will be working with Portlaw Tidy Towns and Bunmahon Tidy Towns to progress the above scheme to paint/upgrade selected properties under this scheme. A tight timeline lies ahead to have the scheme completed before year-end and is subject to weather and contractor availability – see below outline of proposed scheme in Comeragh MD:

Location	Partner Lead for scheme	Number of identified properties with local Tidy Towns Group/Community Structure	Value of works for identified properties
<b>Bunmahon</b>	Bunmahon Tidy Towns	6	€11,000
<b>Portlaw</b>	Portlaw Tidy Towns	25	€40,000

## 3. Waterford Trails

### European Greenway Awards and International Conference

Waterford Greenway was internationally recognised on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September last, as it came second in the *Excellence* Category at the 10<sup>th</sup> European Greenways Award Ceremony, which was held in Valencia, Spain. This prestigious award ceremony, which is organised by the European Greenways Association, recognises best integration of characteristics that define a greenway and the strengths that make them exemplary amenities. Present at the ceremony were Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. Joe Kelly and Richie Walsh, Waterford Local Enterprise Office who travelled to Valencia for an International Conference on Greenways, Mobility, Leisure and Tourism.

The judges comments with regard to Waterford Greenway were as follows, 'For the excellent 46 km long greenway, which runs through a very attractive and varied landscape, crossing

bridges, impressive viaducts and an appealing tunnel, as permanent traces and highlights of its railway past. It has excellent facilities and services that favour the diversity of uses and users, which has resulted in its great popularity. The positive impact of the Greenway has been consolidated and increased over the years. The commitment of the private sector has been one of the keys to Waterford's success'.

In all there were 31 submissions received from Greenways from 11 countries. 1st Prize in the category for 'Excellence' went to: Liège to Aachen (Belgium).



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

Work substantially progressed under all ORIS 2019 projects.

- Measure 1: EuroVelo Cycle Route and Waterford Cycling Trails signage upgrade works; Signage complete. 'Cycle Waterford' brochure currently being designed.
- Measure 2: Anne Valley Walk works. Part VIII approved at June Comeragh MD meeting. Currently at procurement stage.

#### **ORIS 2020**

- Trail improvement works at Nire Valley Walks and Boolas Walk (Rathgormack) funded under ORIS 2020. Works proposals awaiting final approval from NPWS.

#### **ORIS 2021**

Awaiting outcome of ORIS 2021 funding applications submitted:

- Cleireach's Bothairín (Cleary's Boreen), Walkway improvements, Portlaw.
- Waterford Trails promotional resources.
- Installation on pedestrian footfall counters at various trail/outdoor recreation locations in the Comeragh MD.

- Kilmacthomas River Walk Upgrade.
- Development of Crough Wood Trailhead, Amenities and Car Park, Mahon Bridge.
- 'Project development' funding application for feasibility study into Copper Coast Walking Trail.

**4. RRDF: Mount Congreve**

- Integrated Constructed Wetlands: Contractor appointed and on site. 2 of 3 reed bed cells formed.
- Visitor centre at House: Main tender received and being assessed at current time.

**Note:** Mount Congreve House and Gardens closed on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October to facilitate its redevelopment into a world-class tourism destination with an enhanced visitor experience.