

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD**

Economic Development Report March 2022

1. North Quays

a. SDZ Developer

- i. WCCC is in active dialogue with potential developers, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) and the Land Development Agency in respect of the North Quays SDZ site and intends to progress a proposal to conclusion in the coming months.

b. Contracts

- ii. A contractor has been appointed for the South Plaza Enabling Works and works are due to commence mid-March.
- iii. The main construction tender for the infrastructural works is currently being tendered, this includes the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works. The tender period has been extended to 7th April.
- iv. Tenders for Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station are being assessed by Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers.
- v. Tenders for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station have been received and are currently being assessed by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consultants.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

The preparation of the preliminary business case, assessing all 22 projects in six clusters is progressing, a working draft document has been issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for review.

Work is advancing on the Parade Quay Cluster; affordable housing option is currently being reviewed and it is envisaged that consultants to provide QS services will be appointed this week.

Property Management is progressing the necessary site acquisitions for each of the clusters.

3. Tramore Public Realm

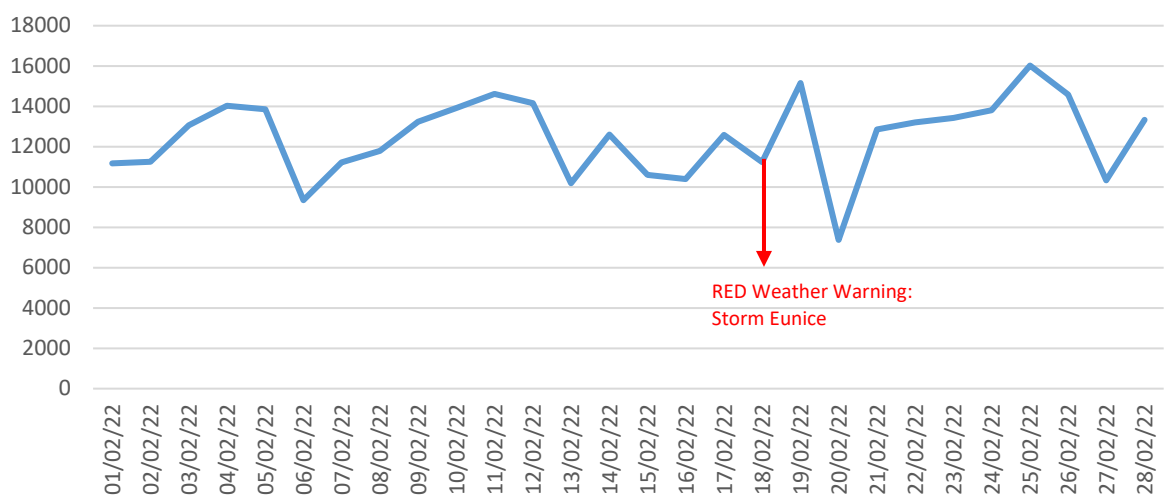
The Public Realm and water infrastructural works to Main Street are now substantially complete. Works on the Gallwey's Hill junction is continuing, and the junction is scheduled to reopen to through traffic for week commencing March 21st. Work on the Market Street to Supervalu car park is also on going. It is anticipated that the entire project will be substantially complete by the end of April 2022.

No. 9 Main Street refurbishment for ground floor commercial use and accommodation: following no response to e-tenders, we are engaging with those who expressed interest and providing additional information. It is expected to have prices by mid April.

4. City & Town Centre Management

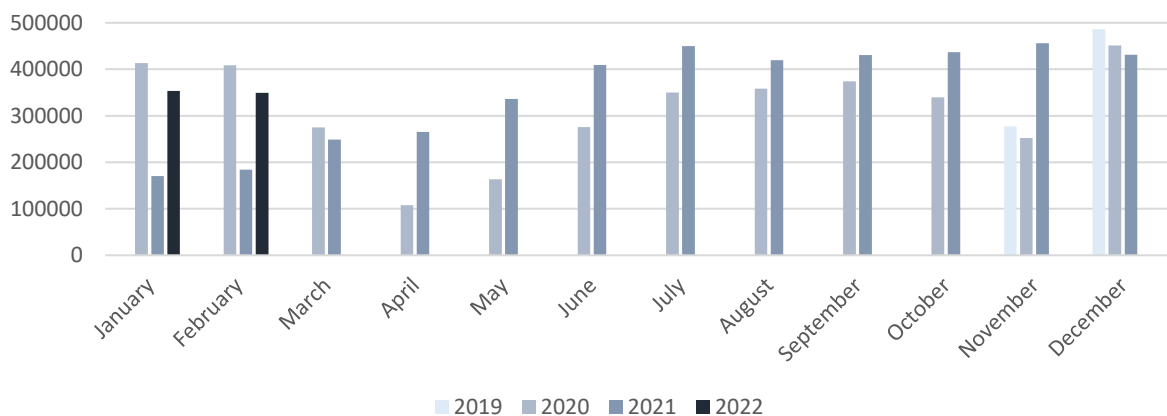
- Overall footfall figures for Waterford City centre for February 2022 were down slightly (-1%) on the previous month. The RED Weather Warning for Storm Eunice appears to have had a negative impact on city centre footfall.
- When compared to the same month in 2020 (prior to Covid health measures being introduced), figures have returned to 85% of previous levels.
- Comparison of figures on a weekly basis show that figures for Week 9 in 2022 (28.02-06.03) that figures have returned to the levels of 2020 – 94,232 compared to 95,736 for the same week in 2020. This may be a result of the removal of all health restrictions on 28th February 2022 and a return to office based employment in the city centre.

Waterford City Centre Footfall: February 2022



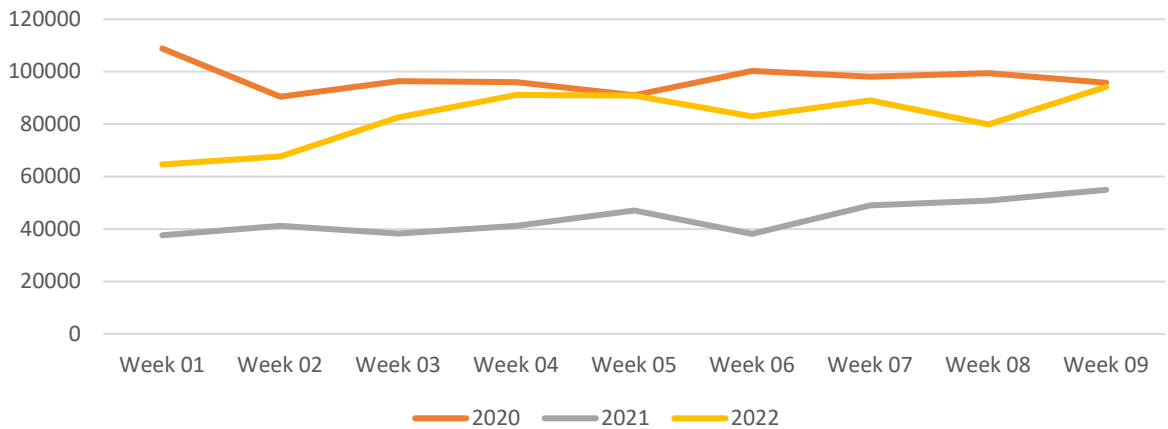
Waterford City Centre Footfall Comparison 2019-2022

Note: Footfall system went live 15th November 2019



Note: In February 2021, Ireland was in Level 5 restrictions.

Waterford City Centre Weekly Footfall Figures 2020-2022



- The next Waterford City Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday 31st March.
- The next Tramore Town Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12th April.

**5. Rural Economic Development
Towns & Villages Funding**

The projects that were successful in securing funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 have been announced by Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D. on Friday 25th February 2022. Waterford were successful in securing funding of €691,814.00 for four locations. Details of projects provided under the relevant Municipal District.

Project / Location	Description	Amount
Dunmore East	This application is for the remediation of the Fisherman’s Hall building for multi-purpose use and repurposing of rooms to facilitate remote working functionality and public realm and open space enhancement including access arrangement to Stony Cove.	€250,000

Town Centre First – a major new policy launched by the Dept Rural and Community Development that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into our town centres. Town Centre First contains 33 unique actions which will give our towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, visit and run a business.



Town Centre First
A Policy Approach
for Irish Towns



Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Rural and Community Development

6. Communications

- Call for groups to register for St Patricks Day Parade
- Love is all around...Waterford – Arts Office Celebrate Valentine’s Day featured on Nationwide. Viewing figures for Nationwide’s Valentine’ s special were 360,000 (not including RTE Player)
- Minister officially opens Mount Neil Estate
- Finn Ryan announced as St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Marshall



RTÉ Nationwide @RTENati... · 14 Feb
Don't miss tonight's show from the City of Love as we hear about a festival to promote love & romance in Waterford on [#RTENationwide](#) Monday 14th February @[RTEOne](#) 7pm & [RTE+1](#) 8pm @[rte](#) @[BlathnaidRua](#) @[WaterfordArts](#) @[WaterfordCouncil](#) @[TourismIreland](#) @[VisitWaterford](#) @[WaterfordHour](#) RT



VikingTriangle and 9 others



↻ 13

❤ 23



