

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

Economic Development Report April 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 is being appointed for the Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station, works are due to commence towards the end of April 2022.
- ii. A contractor has been appointed for the South Plaza Enabling Works and works are due to commence mid April.
- 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 9th May 2022.
- iv. Tenders for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station have been assessed by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consultants and recommendations for appointment are currently being made.
- v. Tender documents will be issued shortly for two enabling works contracts - footpath widening on Abbey Road and Pump station enabling works.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

- The preparation of the preliminary business case, assessing all 22 projects in six clusters is close completion. We are awaiting feedback from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the draft version prior to issue.
- QS services has been appointed for the Parade Quay Cluster. Discussions are ongoing with the LGMA regarding the affordable housing option for this scheme.
- Tender documents are complete for the fit out of 16-18 Barker Place as a Community and Cultural hub and will be submitted to the Department for approval to proceed.

3. Tramore

- The Public Realm and water infrastructural works to Main Street are now substantially complete.
- Works on the Gallwey's Hill junction are now substantially complete, and the junction re-opened to through traffic on 1st April.
- Work on the Market Street to Supervalu car park is also still ongoing and is scheduled to be substantially complete by late April 2022.
- Refurbishment works on No. 9 Main Street is scheduled to commence in May/June 2022 and continue until the end of 2022.

4. Rural Economic Development

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2022

Currently advertising for Expressions of Interest for the 2022 TVRS. Please email townvillagerenewal@waterfordcouncil.ie for more information.

Closing date to have completed forms submitted is Friday 06th May 2022.

Waterford Trails

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors and local trail development groups around Waterford with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network.

www.visitwaterfordtrails.com

5. Tourism

Visit Waterford launched its 2022 summer tourism campaign, 'Waterford - Your adventure starts here' which will showcase what Waterford city and county has to offer as a tourism destination in Ireland's Ancient East.



Taste Waterford

A new Taste Waterford brand and website launched on Monday 28th March, aiming to build on the work done under the previous Food the Waterford Way brand which was launched in 2017. A quality food offering is a motivating factor for visitors when choosing a destination, so Taste Waterford is an important marketing element in elevating the overall profile of Waterford as a tourism destination.

www.tastewaterford.ie

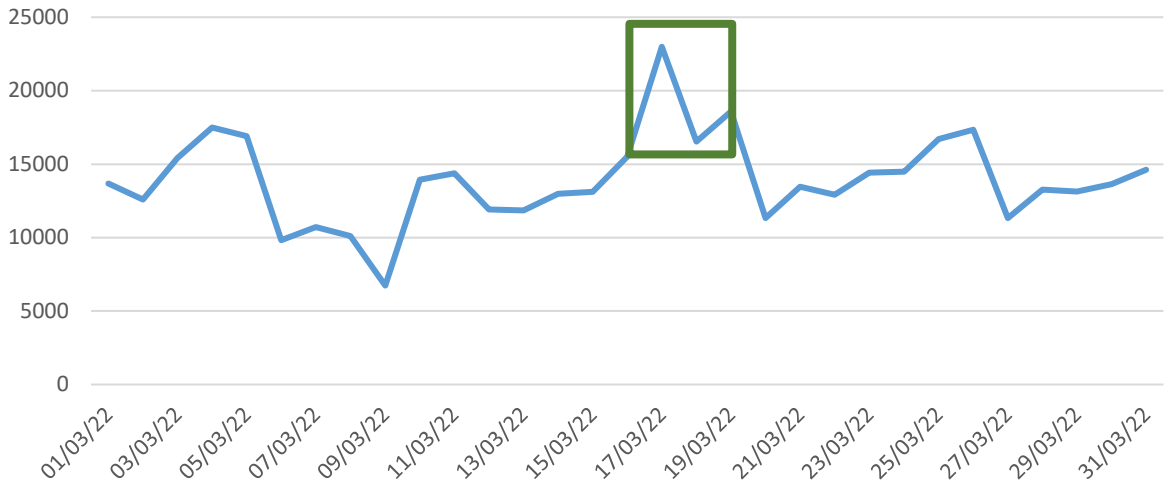
6. City & Town Centre Management

- The next Waterford City Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday 30th June.
- The next Tramore Town Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12th April.

City Centre Footfall Analytics

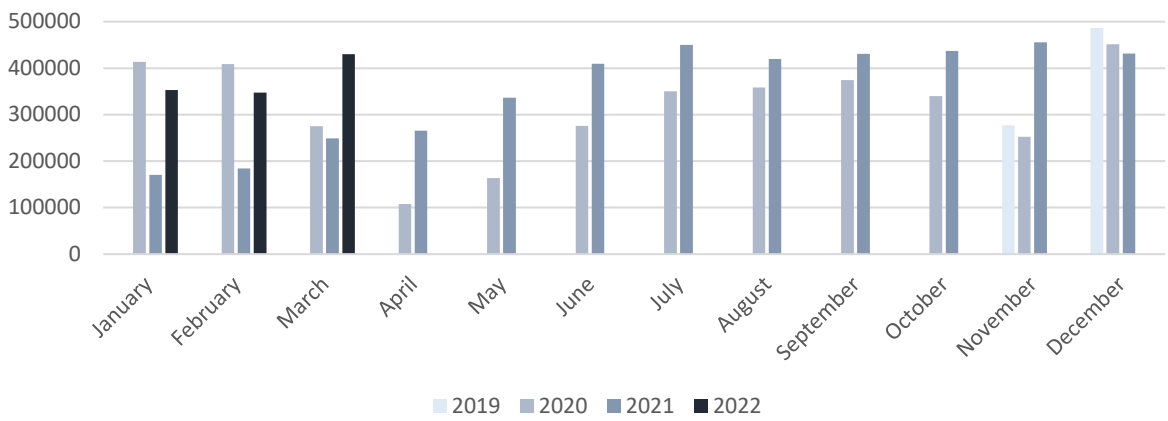
- Overall footfall figures for Waterford City centre for March 2022 were up significantly (+24%) on the previous month.
- Figures over the St Patrick's Day Festival weekend showed a significant increase for the 17th, 18th and 19th with figures higher than the previous weekend.

Waterford City Centre Footfall: March 2022



Waterford City Centre Footfall Comparison 2019-2022

Note: Footfall system went live 15th November 2019



Note: In March 2021, Ireland was in Level 5 restrictions with childcare and education gradually resuming.

Waterford City Centre Weekly Footfall Figures 2020-2022

