



**Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge**
Waterford
City & County Council

DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT EACNAMAÍOCH
ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE REPORT

DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2021
OCTOBER 2021

1. North Quays

SDZ Developer.

- i) Work is ongoing on reappraisal of the proposed North Quays development.

Main contract.

- i) The main construction tender for the Waterford North Quays infrastructural contract comprising the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works is being finalised and undergoing an external review. Tender expected to be issued to contractors mid October.

Planning applications.

- i) At the Metropolitan Council meeting dated 20th September 2021 a Part 8 planning application for greenway access provision at Abbey Bridge was resolved to proceed as per the modifications and recommendations in the CE Report. Works are expected to proceed on this ramp in the coming weeks.
- ii) By the end of October a planning application for the western flood defence works is proposed to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Tender stage - advanced contracts/ enabling works.

- i) The Tender Assessments for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station and South Plaza enabling works are progressing with a view to commencing both contracts shortly.
- ii) The tender documentation for the Rock Stabilisation works to the north of Plunkett Station has been issued to WCCC for review.

2. URDF: City Centre

- Letter of Offer received
- Preparation of commercial plan for gateway approval to be commenced (part of National Spending Code normal requirements)

3. Tramore Public Realm

Niall Barry & Co continuing with works on site, and a summary of progress is as follows:

- i) Paving sub-contractor is continuing, works are now concentrated on areas in front of the Seagull Bakery and Vee Cafe, it is anticipated that this area to junction with Queen St/Broad St will be substantially complete by end of October.
- ii) To complete the paving works and road works through the junction of Strand St/Queen St as far as Strand Terrace, a temporary road closure of up to 4 weeks will be required.

Notices will be forwarded to local businesses and residents once exact dates are provided by the contractor.

- iii) Works are continuing on the link from Market St to Supervalu/Quishes Car Park and the Garda Station, it is anticipated that these will be substantially complete by end of November
- iv) As highlighted previously, temporary traffic management and road closures will remain in place for remainder of project.
- v) Current anticipated date for substantial completion of the entire project pending favourable weather conditions is the end of November 2021.

4. Bilberry to City Centre Greenway Link

- Chief Executive Orders and ‘Letter of Acceptance’ to the successful tenderer John Craddock Ltd (JCL) have been issued.
- Pre-Commencement meeting has taken place with JCL and works scheduled to commence on site week commencing October 4th 2021
- Expected contract duration is 18 months.

5. Tramore to Waterford Greenway Link – Feasibility Study

- Consultant has been formally appointed.
- Approval to proceed has been given by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and works have commenced.
- Anticipated duration for completion of the study is 9/12 months.

6. Rural Development

Town & Villages Updates

Details of allocations in relevant Municipal District Report.

Funding Year: 2018

Tourism Signage & Identity Projects for Copper Coast area completed and allocations claimed from DRCD.



Funding Year: 2018

Town/Village	Grant Allocated	Project Summary	Project Status
Fenor	€100,000	Playground/MUGA enhancements and road bowling surface works	Completed



L4053, Ballyscanlon, Fenor

Funding Year: 2020

Town/Village	Grant Allocated	Project Summary	Project Status
Dunmore East	€25,000	Creation of an online platform and shopping platform for the town of Dunmore East as well as amenity seating and heritage signage	Online Platforms changed to Rural Tourism Network portals, signage being delivered in October 2021
Passage East	€19,183	Semi permanent covered recreation and amenity seating	Completed
Tramore	€40,000	Repurposing the Railway Square as an outdoor market space for commercial and social events	Completed



Passage East and Tramore Railway Square covered market

Funding Year: 2021

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.

- Refurbishment of Fishermans Hall in **Dunmore East** and repurposing of rooms for remote working infrastructure and videoconferencing facilities and town centre open space/public realm works - allocation sought -€250,000

- **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.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme Streetscape Measure 2021

Waterford City & County Council will be working with Passage East & Crook Community 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.

Location	Partner Lead for scheme	Number of identified properties with local Tidy Towns Group/Community Structure	Value of works for identified properties
Passage East	Passage East Community Development Association	8	€17,000

7. Tourism

Fáilte Ireland Funding for Outdoor Dining in Waterford

Waterford City and County Council has been awarded a total of €354,919 funding for the City under the Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme. Funding is for the provision of an outdoor dining trail stretching from Bailey's New Street in the Viking Triangle to the Cultural Quarter in O'Connell Street and will support the provision of large parasols with heating, lighting and side screens in various locations along the trail. Locations of parasols are being finalised in consultation with hospitality businesses.

Fáilte Ireland Urban Animations Capital Investment Scheme

Waterford City and County Council has been awarded €539,275 under Fáilte Ireland's Urban Animations Capital Investment Scheme to support sustainable tourism development through public realm and urban animation projects. The successful project application titled **City of Light** is set to transform and re-imagine Waterford's urban centre for visitors and communities. The application identified a collection of 21 different locations across the city centre where a new night-time trail will be developed to establish Waterford as an iconic City of Light. Awaiting the Letter of Offer from Fáilte Ireland to commence project.

Upcoming Festivals

- The Winterval programme launch will take place on 6th October and this year's festival will run from 19th November to 23rd December.
- **Imagine Arts Festival** runs from 15th - 24th of October.
- Waterford Writers Weekend will take place from 21st - 24th of October.

Festival Funding 2022

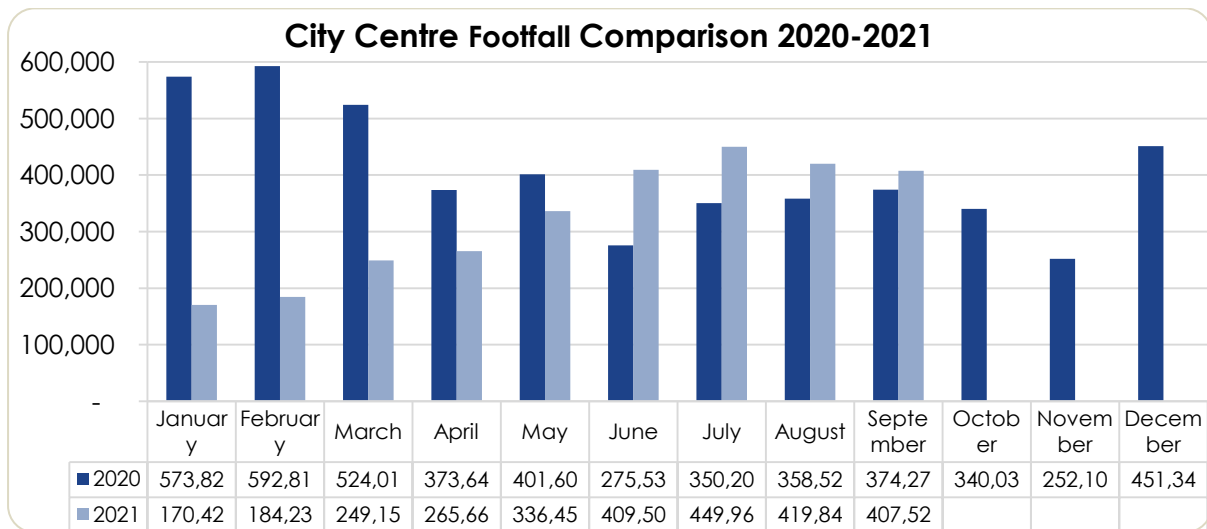
The call for applications for Festival & Event funding for 2022 went live on Tuesday 5th October. The closing date for applications is Sunday 7th November 2021. All applications are to be made online at www.waterfordfestivals.ie.

No Place Like Home

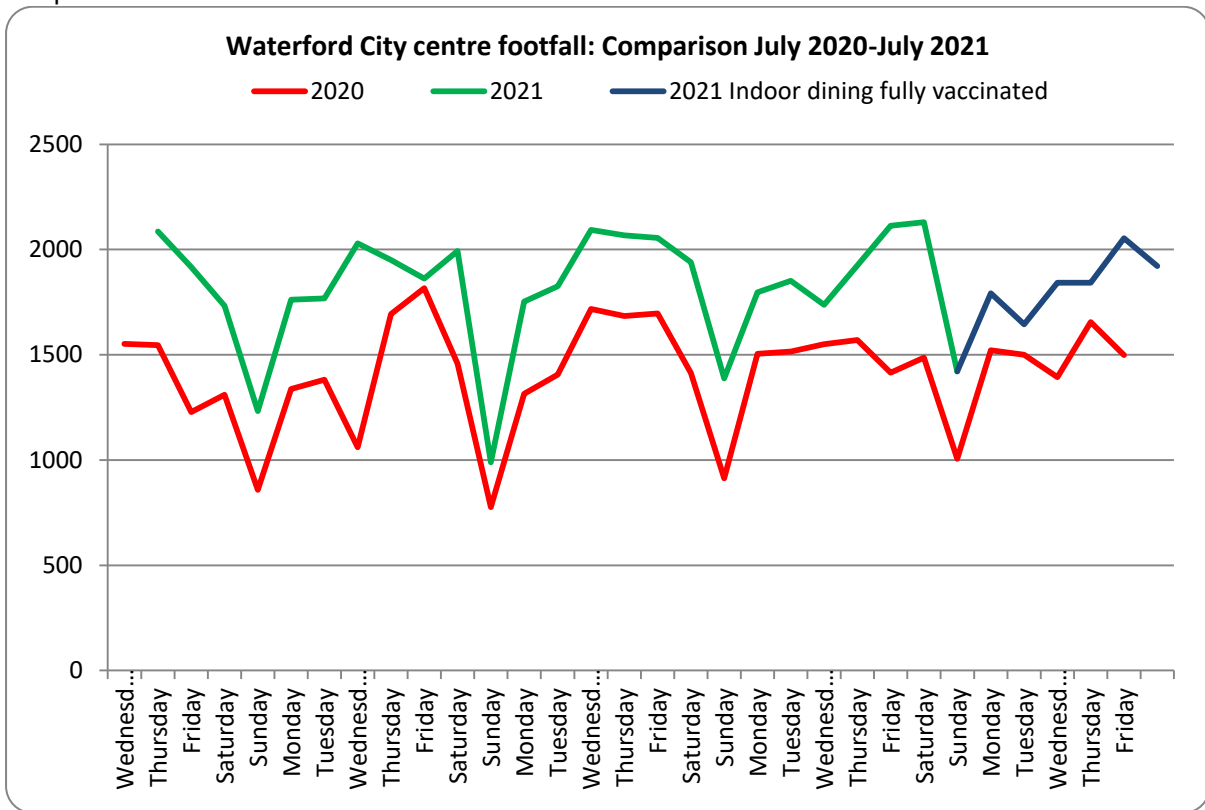
The RTÉ One show, *No Place Like Home*, presented by Kathryn Thomas broadcast from Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens on 5th September. The show highlighted this unique attraction, Tramore and Waterford to a national audience. The episode is still available to be watched on the [RTÉ Player](#)

8. Economic Development

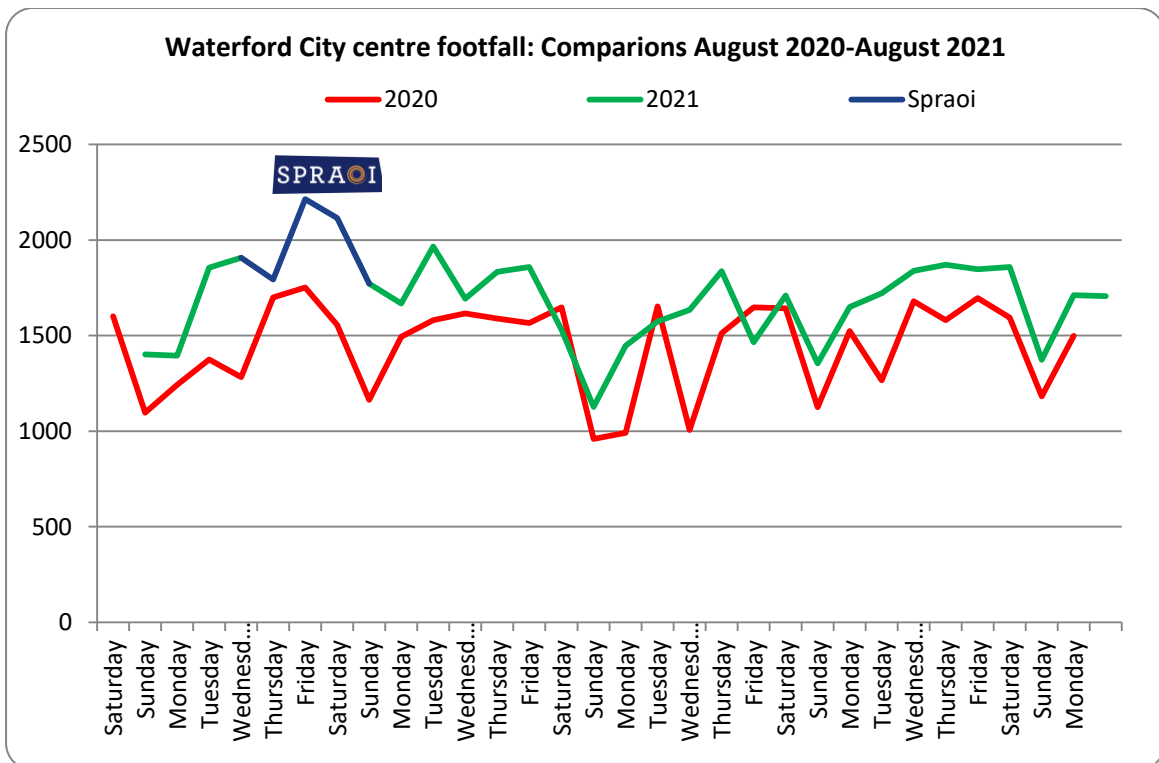
Footfall in Waterford City centre – 2020 & 2021



Note: The charts below compare days of the week as opposed to dates to allow for direct comparison.

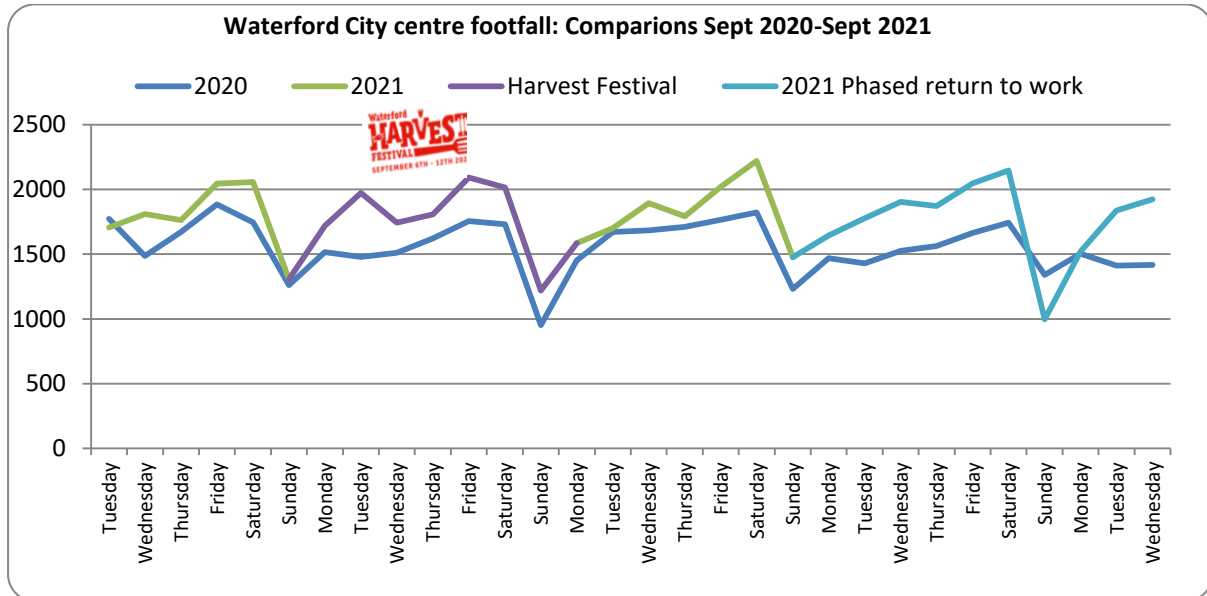


- July 2020 Phase 3 of re-opening in place.



- August 2020:
 - Pubs not serving food remain closed, bars, hotels bars, nightclubs and casinos remain closed
 - Restaurants and pubs serving good have to close by 11pm (04.08)/ 11.30 (18.08)

- 18.08.20 – outdoor gatherings limited to 15; indoor gatherings limited to 6; people advised to work from home and avoid public transport unless necessary.
- Sports events held behind closed doors.
- Face coverings mandatory.



- 18th September 2020 – Ireland moves to Level 3.
- Following the phased return to work on 20th September 2021, there was a small increase in footfall on the previous week from Monday to Friday. Weekend footfall for this week compared to the previous week was down.
- For the same period in 2020, the country had entered Level 3 lockdown so not surprisingly the 2021 figures are higher than 2020.

City Centre Footfall 2019

- Footfall figures for 2019 were requested at a previous Metro meeting. As advised there are significant gaps in the 2019 figures due to technical and service issues. The methodology used to collect the data is different from the current wifi based system and therefore is not comparable. Some locations were also changed to utilise the existing wifi Access Points.

	Henrietta St	Colbeck St	Michael St	Georges St
January	93,629	2,685	N/A	93,629
February	88,023	3,632	N/A	88,023
March	97,847	3,770	N/A	97,847
April	100,078	4,146	N/A	100,078
May	126,828	8,105	N/A	126,828
June	124,618	11,375	N/A	124,618
July	145,424	10,885	252,748	145,424
August	186,659	9,982	261,002	186,659
September	130,379	7,271	249,287	N/A
October	108,658	4,537	233,215	N/A
November	143,582	5,296	238,859	N/A
December	289,830	4,947	303,695	N/A