

# Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge

## Waterford City & County Council



### Management Report to Council

Márta 2021

Michael Walsh,

Príomhfheidhmeannach

March 2021

Michael Walsh,

Chief Executive

## Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate

### How to protect yourself from COVID – 19



#### **IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL**

Check if you have symptoms of coronavirus. These are a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, fever (high temperature).

If you do have symptoms of coronavirus, phone your GP or local Emergency Department [ED] immediately.

**Do not go to your GP or ED.** Phone them first. Tell them about your symptoms. Give them the details about your situation. Avoid contact with other people by self-isolating. If you do not have a GP, phone **112** or **999**.

#### **IF YOU ARE FEELING WELL**

If you are feeling well, carry on with your normal routine.

Follow the advice on how to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and other infections such as flu.

Avoid spending time with people who are ill with a cough, high temperature, or breathing problems.

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus:

- avoid contact with people by self-isolating
- phone your GP or emergency department
- tell them your symptoms and the details of your situation

#### **Meetings**

All council meetings, CPG and SPC's to continue as remote meetings for the month of March.

## Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

### 1. North Quays Infrastructural works

- a. **Main contract.** The main construction contract for the Waterford North Quays infrastructural works comprises the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works is progressing, with tender documentation close to completion. It is expected the top five qualified submissions based on the recommendations of the Independent Assessment Board will be invited and proceed to stage 2 tender of the Restricted Procedure Process in April 2021.
- b. **Planning applications.** The preparation of a planning application for the western flood defence works is progressing, to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in March/ early April 2021. Part 8 planning applications are currently being prepared by Kilkenny County Council for the Belmont Link road, N29 Port Road and enhanced greenway connectivity works. Detailed design for Abbey Road and Belmont Road Sustainable Transport Improvements is also progressing.
- c. **Advanced contracts/ enabling works.** Tender documents for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station was issued on tenders 3<sup>rd</sup> February to be returned mid March 2021. Tender documents for the South Plaza Enabling Works and Rock Stabilisation contracts will be issued imminently.
- d. **Ongoing contracts.** The Utility Diversion as well as the Demolition and Site Clearance Works Contracts are both substantially complete and at final account stage. Transport Hub Independent Design Safety Certification by a Notified Body (NoBo) and Sustainable Transport Bridge Cat 3 Independent Design Check contracts are progressing.  
It is expected the construction works to the South East Greenway at Abbey road will commence once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

### 2. Local Enterprise Office

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

#### **Local Enterprise Office Waterford announces online programme for Local Enterprise Week 2021**

Waterford Local Enterprise Office has announced a programme of online events during Local Enterprise Week 2021, which takes place from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>.

More than 200 virtual events are planned by the Local Enterprise Offices around the country and these include training workshops, information webinars and master classes with entrepreneurs and

experts, designed to help Ireland's small businesses and those looking to start a new business in 2021. "Initiatives like Local Enterprise Week are more important than ever as they showcase all the supports that are available to small businesses and start-ups now. As well as the ten 'Spotlight' events, we are offering a full programme of events over the five days of Local Enterprise Week" (Richie Walsh, Head of Enterprise at Local Enterprise Office Waterford).

### **Rural Economic Development**

#### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2019 and 2020**

- Work under ORIS 2019 (Measures 1 and 2) and ORIS 2020 (Measure 1) progressing at locations throughout the county. All projects to be complete at dates between end February and end October 2021.

#### **Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway Feasibility Study**

- WCCC in collaboration with Cork County Council has recently issued a brief to engage consultants to undertake a feasibility study into the development of a Greenway in accordance with National Greenway Standards from Dungarvan to Mallow along the corridor of the former railway line from Dungarvan to Mallow. The Feasibility Report will examine existing infrastructure, identify potential alternative route options and recommend a preferred route along with a constraints report on the preferred route. It is envisaged that a consultant will be appointed in late Q1 2021 and feasibility report finalised in Q4 2021/Q1 2022.

#### **Cappoquin Amenity Hub**

- WCCC in collaboration with the local community is currently in the process of preparing a brief to engage consultants for the feasibility, planning and design of a number of walking trail and Blueway amenities in the Cappoquin area. It is envisaged that consultants will be appointed to the role in late Q1 2021. This initiative is one element of the project being funded under Rural Regeneration and Development Funding (RRDF).

### **3. Communications & Marketing Unit**

#### **Waterford 2040 Investment brand**

Work continued throughout January and February to complete the branding material associated with the Waterford 2040 promotion plan. A workshop took place in early February with the members of the Economic and Enterprise SPC and a further workshop with the full Plenary Council also took place. An Executive Committee has been established and all brand material will be complete by Q2 2021.

#### **Shop Waterford Support Local**

Promotion of Waterford City and Town centre activity throughout COVID restrictions has continued via the Shop Waterford Support Local platforms on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Activity is lower since level 5 restrictions have prevented Click and Collect and concentration is now on promotion of online activity and continuation of awareness raising of the retail and hospitality sector offering in Waterford.

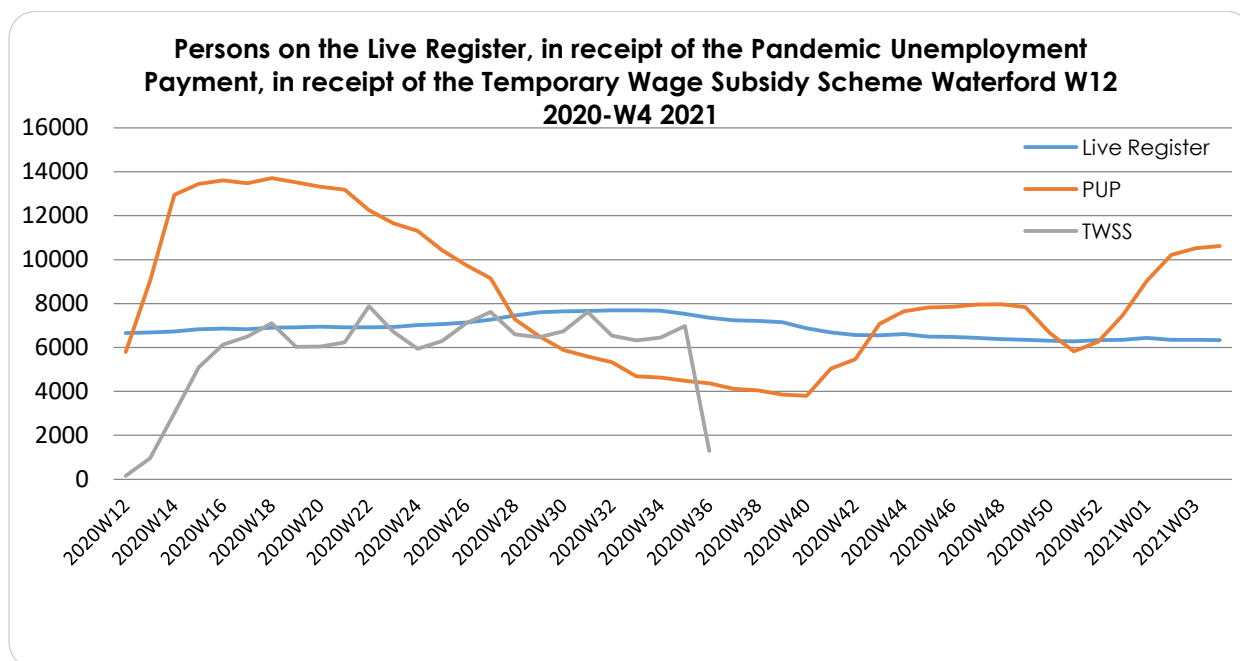
#### **Internal Communication**

Work is on continued improved in our internal communications is ongoing with the establishment of a "virtual" Internal Communications Group. The aim of the group is to identify

ways in which our internal communications can best aid and assist our communication with our customers, stakeholders, wider Waterford community and elected members. Use of Council IT infrastructure, including StoryMap and ArcGIS systems are being utilised.

#### 4. Waterford Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan

The Implementation Group are re-appraising the current plan in light of the recently published Revised Living with Covid Plan.



#### 5. Tourism

Celtic Routes is a cross Irish Sea set of partners comprising of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford City & County Councils and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority have formed a partnership called “Celtic Routes” to deliver a tourism heritage project that will boost visitor numbers and spend.

These Coastal Counties in Wales and Ireland are unknown to a high number of tourists transiting the major arterial roads between entry points and the more well-known, ‘tourism honeypots’ beyond the target area. These locations on either side of the Irish Sea are characterised as transit routes and share several characteristics that present both challenges and opportunities for economic development.

The Celtic Routes Project has been developed to address the transitory nature by combining the natural, cultural and heritage assets in Ireland and Wales to increase visitor numbers (both day visitors and overnight) to the benefit of the economy in both Ireland and Wales. The project aims to harness the collective strengths of the regions, to maximise visitor spend and income retention to the local economies. The forming of this partnership is seen as a key new marketing opportunity. The long-term aim is to convert this potential tourism audience into new and repeat tourists.

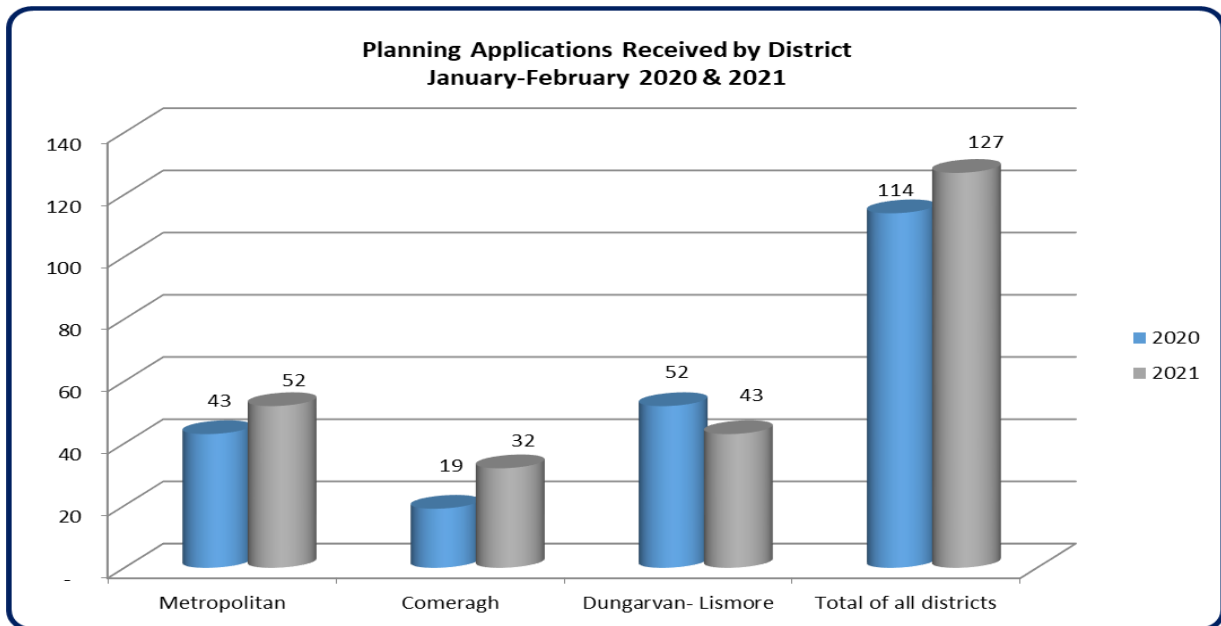
The Project is partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund via the Ireland Wales Cooperation programme. To commence promotion for 2021 an advertising campaign aimed at creating awareness to travel when it is safe to do has been launched.

The Tourism Team is working closely with Visit Waterford and Fáilte Ireland to assist the tourism industry in dealing with their issues and challenges resulting from Covid 19.

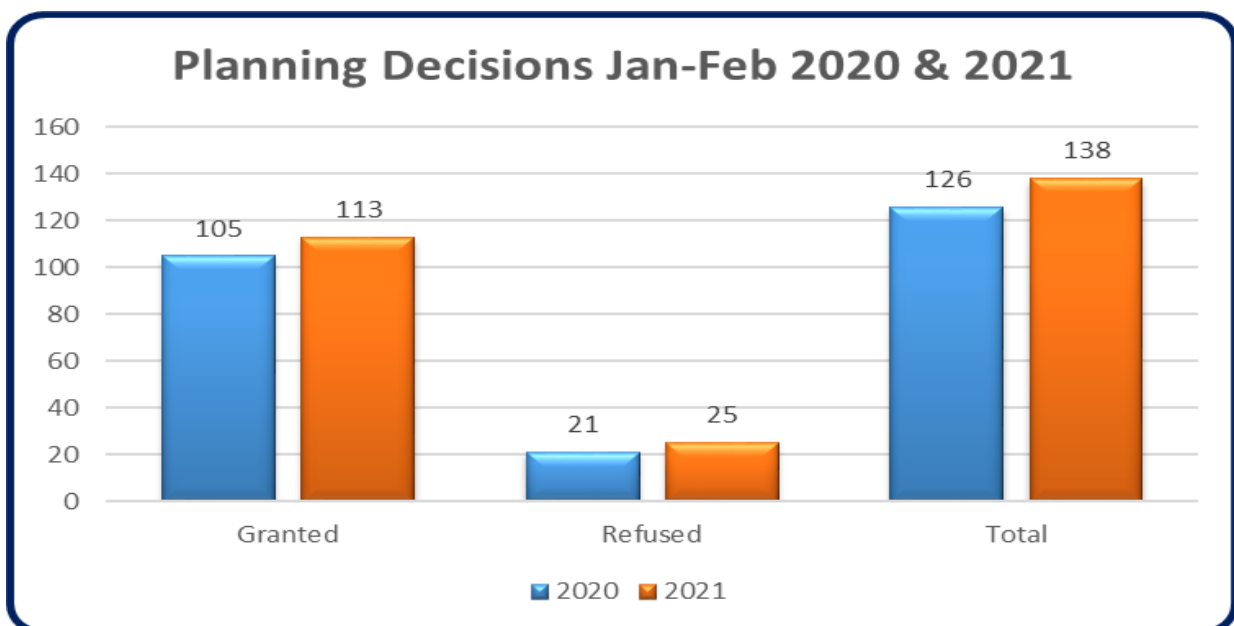
## Pleanáil / Planning

### Planning Applications Received – Countywide

72 Planning applications were received in the month of February countywide (to 22<sup>nd</sup> February). This compares with 63 planning applications received in the same month in 2020. Additional responses are also being received to further information requests. A total of 127 planning applications were received in the year to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. This compares to 114 planning applications which were received to the end of February in 2020



The number of applications which have been decided to date in 2021 has similarly increased. 138 applications were decided in January and February 2021 compared to 126 for the same months in 2020.



### Pre Planning Update- Countywide

Pre-planning meetings are being undertaken where requested by telephone.

**Update on preparation of the draft Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.**

## 5. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 11TH MARCH 2021

The draft development plan is currently being prepared for your consideration, having regard to the content of the Report of the Chief Executive and subsequent Direction by the Council to the Chief Executive, given in January. The timeline for preparing the draft development plan indicates that it will be presented to the Plenary Council in April as per the table below.

This will be followed by a series of discussions and workshops with the Plenary Council throughout the months of April, May and early June to allow full consideration of the draft development plan and associated documents. A 10 week phase of public consultation will then take place from late June to late August during which time written submissions will be invited from members of the public and other interested parties. It should be noted that written submissions regarding the zoning of land for particular purposes should only be made during this 10 week period.

In a manner similar to the initial phase of public consultation last summer, it is intended to have a dedicated online consultation portal available through which the draft development plan and support documentation can be accessed and through which written submissions can be made.

Activity	Duration	Start	Finish
Development Plan Preparation Period.	Max 104 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Fri 15/07/22
Pre Draft Plan Public Consultation. <b>NOW COMPLETED</b>	8 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Mon 14/09/20
Prepare CE Report on submissions and submit to Plenary Council. <b>NOW COMPLETED</b>	8 wks	Mon 14/09/20	Mon 09/11/20
Liaise and discuss with Plenary Council and obtain Resolution on CE Report. <b>NOW COMPLETED</b>	10 wks	Mon 09/11/20	Mon 18/01/21
Prepare a Draft Dev Plan. <b>CURRENT PHASE</b>	12 wks	Mon 18/01/21	Mon 12/04/21
Submit Draft Dev Plan to Plenary Council and obtain Resolution.	8 wks	Mon 12/04/21	Mon 07/06/21
Notice of preparation of Draft Dev Plan.	2 wks	Mon 07/06/21	Mon 21/06/21
Public Consultation on Draft Dev Plan.	10 wks	Mon 21/06/21	Mon 30/08/21
Prepare CE Report on submissions received and submit to Plenary Council for consideration.	12 wks	Mon 30/08/21	Mon 22/11/21
Resolution of Plenary Council on CE Report and Draft Dev Plan.	12 wks	Mon 22/11/21	Mon 14/02/22
Notice of Material Alterations if necessary.	3 wks	Mon 14/02/22	Mon 07/03/22
Final Public Consultation on Material Alterations.	4 wks	Mon 07/03/22	Mon 04/04/22
Prepare C.E. Report on submissions.	8 wks	Mon 04/04/22	Mon 30/05/22
Plenary Council to consider CE Report and make Resolution.	6 wks	Mon 30/05/22	Mon 11/07/22
New Dev Plan comes into force.	6 wks	Mon 11/07/22	Mon 22/08/22



**Planning SPC**

The next meeting of the Planning SPC will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March to progress their deliberations on the Draft City & County Development Plan.

**Conservation**

Waterford City & County Council has received 45 applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and 10 applications under the Historic Structure Fund (HSF). These will now be assessed and the recommendations will be forwarded to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval

Waterford City & County Council has also applied to the Heritage Council for funding under the Historic Towns Initiative for Tramore

Waterford has the largest collection of medieval urban defences in Ireland with six intact towers, and over 700m meters of wall. The walls are an excellent heritage, educational and tourism resource and remain largely underexploited for the tremendous benefit they could offer the city. Rose Ryall, Conservation Officer gave a presentation to the Metropolitan district meeting with regard to the City Walls and Towers. She presented the findings of a report on access to and presentation of the City Walls and possible actions to help promote this heritage asset.





## **Bóithre agus Iompar / Roads and Transportation**

### **Road Works Programme 2021**

The Road Works Programmes have been approved by the District Councils and will commence as soon as the current construction restrictions are lifted.

### **Winter Maintenance Programme**

Gritting and salting of roads continued during February with crews out on 10 nights during the month.

### **2021 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations**

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport recently announced the 2021 grant allocation for all local authorities. The total allocation for Waterford City and County Council is broken down over the following categories:-

<b>Waterford City and County Council - Grant Allocations 2020</b>	
<b>Restoration Improvement</b>	<b>€8,333,000</b>
<b>Restoration Maintenance</b>	<b>€1,183,000</b>
<b>Supplementary Restoration Maintenance</b>	<b>€845,000</b>
<b>Discretionary Grant</b>	<b>€3,011,500</b>
<b>Specific Improvement</b>	<b>€250,000</b>
<b>Bridge Rehabilitation</b>	<b>€415,000</b>
<b>Safety Improvement Works</b>	<b>€329,900</b>
<b>Speed Limits</b>	<b>€33,750</b>
<b>Cycle Signs</b>	<b>€50,000</b>
<b>Former National Roads</b>	<b>€300,000</b>
<b>Active Travel</b>	<b>€146,995</b>
<b>Climate Adaption</b>	<b>€65,946</b>
<b>Training Grant</b>	<b>€63,000</b>
<b>Drainage Works</b>	<b>€652,623</b>
<b>PSCI Survey Support</b>	<b>€23,000</b>
<b>Community Improvement Scheme</b>	<b>€639,500</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>€16,342,214</b>

## Tithíocht / Housing

### Housing Applications

Housing applications	February 2020	Total Number of Applications Year 2020	February 2021	Total Number of Applications Year To Date 2021
Applications received	117	245	79	148
Applications assessed (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	117	245	97	178
Applications validated (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	63	138	58	99
Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant	63	138	59	102

### Housing Allocations

District	Tenancies during February 2020	Cumulative No. of Tenancies 2020	New Tenancies during February 2021	Refusal No. of New Tenancy offer	Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2021
Comeragh Municipal	0	9	2	0	2
Dungarvan/Lismore Municipal	4	46	6	0	7
Metropolitan	33	152	22	8	34
Voluntary Bodies	12	89	4	0	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>50</b>

### Choice Based Letting (CBL) Scheme

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 744. There have been 174 refusals on properties to date.

### Housing Loans applications

2021 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with Housing Agency/deferred for 6 months
February	9	0	1	4	8
YTD	13	3	0	4	8

### Tenant Purchase applications

2021 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
February	7	0	1	6	3
YTD 2021	8	0	1	7	3
YTD 2020	61	2	21	34	13

3 Tenant Purchase sales closed in February -

1 in Dungarvan, 1 in Waterford City West and 1 in Waterford City South.

## 5. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 11TH MARCH 2021

### Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment	February 2020 HAP tenancies	February 2021 HAP tenancies set up	2021 no. of Active HAP Tenancies set up	Cumulative no. of HAP Tenancies Set up to date	Cumulative no. of Active HAP Tenancies to date
<b>HAP Tenancies</b>	59	59	2,158	3,902	18

### Inspections of Dwellings

Inspection Type 2021	Month February
<b>HAP</b>	<b>4</b>
Compliant	0
Non-Compliant	4
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>	0
<b>New Build</b>	<b>9</b>
Compliant	0
Non-Compliant	9
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>	0
<b>LTL</b>	<b>7</b>
Compliant	4
Non-Compliant	3
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>	0
<b>CAS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

In February, Waterford City & County Council carried out 128 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 21 properties have had improvement works carried out to meet the standards for rented accommodation.

### Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aid Grants

Grant Scheme Amount	Number of applications approved February 2021	Value of applications February 2021	Cumulative number of applications approved 2021	Cumulative value of 2021 applications
<b>Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000</b>	3	€34,126.99	6	<b>€56,223.04</b>
<b>Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000</b>	1	€2,952.90	5	<b>€26,826.42</b>
<b>Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000</b>	0	0	3	<b>€12,648.30</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>€37,079.89</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>€95,697.76</b>

**Homeless Services**

<b>Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS) (Opened 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019)</b>	<b>February 2021</b>	<b>February 2020</b>
Number of callers seeking services in WIHS up to 26/02/21 (The Service has had over 7,100 visitors since opening on 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019)	309	384
Number of presentations to WCCC Homeless Services 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan to 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (1,267 presentation in total in 2020)	88	129
Number of Formal Homeless Assessments 23 <sup>rd</sup> January to 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	52	88
<b>Emergency Accommodation (EA)</b>	<b>February 2021</b>	<b>February 2020</b>
Number of Single Persons in EA on 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	45	66
Number of Families in EA on 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	12	9
Number of children in EA on 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	33	25

<b>HAP Place Finder Service</b>	<b>Feb. 2021</b>	<b>Cumulative (06.11.18 to 26.02.21)</b>
<b>Number of approval letters issued 29<sup>th</sup> Jan to 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (565 approval letters issued to 31/12/2020)</b>	49	629
<b>Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies HUB Complete (312 tenancies set up to 31/12/2020)</b>	29	357
<b>Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies currently being processed (as at 26/02/2021)</b>	18	N/A

## 5. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 11TH MARCH 2021

Housing First Programme	Tenancies
<b>Number of Housing First tenancies in place at 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021</b>	27
<b>(Target = 30 by June 2021)</b>	

Homeless preventions, supported exits and sustained tenancies continue to be the priorities for Homeless Services in 2021. This will be achieved by continuing our partnership and collaborative working with the HSE and the various Homeless Service Providers in Waterford and by utilising our various projects in WIHS including our Homeless Prevention & Support Service, Advice & Information Service, Tenancy Support & Sustainment Service and the Housing First Service.

**Capital Projects**

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects				
Project Location	Units	Area	Current Position	Comment
The Glen Waterford	17	Metropolitan	Appraisal/Design Stage	Stage 2 Approved. Revised proposal to be brought to Council workshop
Summerland Square Waterford	12	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q4 2021.
Ardmore Park / Priory Lawn	5	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Larchville	5	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Dungarvan Ballinroad	21	Dungarvan-Lismore	Completed	Completed
Tramore An Garran	50	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q4 2021
Doyle Street	4	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Slievekeale	58	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Mount William, Williamstown Rd	65	Metropolitan	Turnkey	Construction in Progress
Clarendon Court	24	Metropolitan	CPO	Negotiations with owners on-going – potential Repair and Lease Scheme
Knight's Grange	55	Metropolitan	Construction	Completed
Ballynaneashagh	22	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Part 8 approved
Ballygunner	49	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q4 2021
Kilmacthomas	16	Comeragh	Tender Design	Tender in progress
Mount Esker, Ballytruckle	14	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Part 8 approved.
Estuary Heights, Shandon, Dungarvan	20	Dungarvan/Lismore	Completed	Completed
Railway Gardens, Lismore	17	Dungarvan/Lismore	Construction	Construction in Progress
Mount Suir, Carrickphierish	18	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Brideview Close, Tallow	2	Dungarvan/Lismore	Completed	Completed
Barnes Lane, The Glen	2	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Part V	26	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery On-going 2020 – 16 2021 – 10 (est)
Repair and Lease	151	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 41 2021 – 40 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Leasing	130	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 30 2021 – 50 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Buy and Renew –	16	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed

## 5. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 11TH MARCH 2021

<b>Barker Place</b>				
<b>Buy &amp; Renew – Thomas Court</b>	11	Metropolitan	Tender Preparation	Works Tender Q4 2021
<b>Buy &amp; Renew – Manor Court</b>	4	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
<b>Buy &amp; Renew – 42/43 Doyle Street</b>	2	Metropolitan	On Site	Construction in progress
<b>Buy &amp; Renew – Countywide</b>	8	Countywide	Tender Preparation	In progress
<b>Total Units in WCCC Projects 824</b>				
<b>Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects</b>				
<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Tramore, Ballycarnane Tramore Voluntary Housing</b>	18	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Awaiting progress from AHB.
<b>Dunhill Gleann Ealach</b>	8	Comeragh	Design Stage	Planning refused
<b>Powersfield, Hennessy's Road Focus Ireland</b>	3	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Awaiting progress from AHB
<b>The Paddock's Anvers/Acquired Brain Injury Ireland</b>	9	Metropolitan	Construction	Completed
<b>Wadding Manor, Ferrybank Respond!</b>	10	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Completion Q4, 2021.
<b>Kilbarry, 6 Cross Roads Respond!</b>	69	Metropolitan	Appraisal	Completed
<b>Fairfield Park Circle VHA</b>	40	Metropolitan	Construction	Completed
<b>Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects 157</b>				

### Refurbishing of houses becoming vacant for re let:

February 2021	Metro	Comeragh	Dungarvan / Lismore	TOTAL
<b>Handed Over / Works Completed</b>	14	2	5	21
<b>Newly vacant</b>	7	1	2	10



## Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

### Rural Development Programme:

- One project was approved in February for €78,000.
- €306,500 or 7 projects have been evaluated in February and have been approved by the evaluation committee to be recommended to the March L.C.D.C. Meeting.
- Another 4 projects will be evaluated in mid-March for the L.C.D.C. meeting in March. Total €270,000
- The new Transitional Programme will focus on a number of key areas in preparation for the 2023 LEADER Programme
- The key areas of focus will be REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zones), Green Technology, Green Businesses, Information Technology (Broadband applications), Climate Change actions and Biodiversity.
- Draft Transitional LEADER Plan will come before the LCDC for consideration in March 2021
- The amounts of aid will be reduced, as the Project funding for 2021 is €500K.

### COVID-19 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Covid-19 Emergency Fund

The LCDC awarded grants to 47 applicant groups. Letters of offer have been issued and payment will be processed once the signed terms and conditions form is returned.

### Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2021

Closing date was Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. Application forms are still being checked and logged. An allocation report will be sent to the members for the April meeting.

### Comhairle na nÓg:

The young people continue to meet regularly using Zoom to progress their 2021 identified activities. All roles and responsibilities for the new Comhairle have now been allocated and work is continuing to build on previous progress.

### Waterford Age Friendly Programme:

Thematic sub-groups continue to meet to progress the objectives of the AF Strategy. The OPC are actively engaged in the Community Response Forum and are also assisting in the Keep Well Campaign through the Stay Connected Programme providing valuable support to identified projects e.g. Nursing Home Tablets, AF photographic competition.

### Healthy Waterford:

Funding received is supporting initiatives including active community initiatives, disability actions, social farming, and mental health.

### **PPN**

744 groups registered with the PPN at 31/12/20: 597 Community pillar; 121 Social Inclusion pillar; 26 Environment pillar.

### **JPC:**

The next JPC meeting will be held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 5pm. Negotiations are underway with the Department of Justice to progress the proposed Local Community Safety Partnership pilot project for Waterford.

### **Migrant Integration:**

It is intended to launch the Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy 2021 -2024 in March, date to be advised.

### **SICAP**

The Council have been working with a number of stakeholders to ensure SICAP services continue to be provided and to assist in putting in place experienced leadership and a new interim board for Waterford Area Partnership. A new board has been put in place and a senior executive of long standing experience shall assist the board with the process going forward.

### **TIG**

The Waterford Traveller Interagency Group continues to meet regularly by way of Zoom. Needs Analysis being carried out.

### **St Patrick's Day Parade 2021, Waterford City and County**

Waterford City and County Council was successful with an application to Fáilte Ireland for funding to develop and market St Patrick's Day as a tourism product. €25,000.00 of grant aid was awarded and the figure is being supplemented from the adopted Council budget with a further €30,000.00. The net effect here is a saving of €25,000.00 based on spending in previous years. A countywide greening programme where iconic landmarks such as the Metal Man in Tramore, the Viaduct in Kilmacthomas, Reginald's Tower in Waterford City and the Thomas Francis Meagher Bypass Bridge among many others will "go green". The programme aims to have an immediate uplifting impact on the community and help cultivate future tourism opportunities as Waterford looks to re-launch the hospitality industry post-Covid. Local, national and international media and promotional engagements are underway. An online Storymap will showcase each building and landmark when illuminated and offer some historical footnotes creating a unique piece of digital social history. A number of other community engagements, with health restrictions in mind, will provide families with fun activities in lieu of the cancelled parades including some photography and short story competitions. An online virtual parade where greening the house or garden, making a float and recording a short clip will provide for further public engagement on this important national day of celebration.

## Seirbhísi Éigeandála / Emergency Services

### **Fire Service Operational Activity:**

Total call outs to incidents attended by the 10 fire stations of the Fire Authority are shown for the year to date and for the month of February. Emergency response has continued uninterrupted throughout the Covid 19 crisis with significant precautionary measures put in place to ensure the safety of fire crews and the community served.

Area	Fires	Special Service	False Alarm Good Intent	False Alarm Malicious
<b>Metropolitan</b>	27	17	12	1
<b>Comeragh</b>	1	3	1	0
<b>Dungarvan/Lismore</b>	13	14	4	0
<b>Total for February</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total for February 2020</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total for 2020</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>16</b>

### **Fire Safety:**

The following applications for fire safety certificates have been received with comparison shown for the same period last year

Applications Received	February 2021	2021 Year to date	Total for February 2020	Total for 2020
<b>Fire Safety Certificates</b>	3	10	7	84

### **Building Control:**

New functions associated with the Building Control Regulations, introduced on 1st March 2014, are being delivered within Emergency Services. Notices and applications associated with these regulations are shown below.

Application/Notification	February 2021	Cumulative Total for 2021	Total for February 2020	Total for 2020
<b>Commencement Notices</b>	20	33	20	285
<b>Completion Certificates</b>	24	34	13	224
<b>Disability Access Certificates</b>	4	5	3	45

### **Civil Defence:**

Civil Defence activities during the month of February 2021 consisted solely of Covid-19 Response duties.

Essential Tasks undertaken were:

- PPE training.
- Vehicle preparation.
- Vehicle Cleaning and Decontamination.
- Mission Planning and Communications.
- Patient Transportation.
- Collection and delivery of prescriptions for Customer Care Helpline.

Patient Transportation was provided by Civil Defence volunteers to members of the community with no other available means of transport. This was only made possible by the cooperation and dedication of Civil Defence Volunteers.

Transportation tasks included to and from:

- Nursing Homes.
- Clinical appointments (e.g. doctors, dental, radiotherapy, etc).
- Hospital Appointments in South Tipperary General Hospital Clonmel, Cork CUH, Waterford UHW and Whitfield.

At all times stringent measures were put in place to ensure the safety of Civil Defence volunteers and those members of the community served.

Where feasibility “Theoretical Training” has resumed online via Zoom.

## Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

**Environmental Enforcement Statistics - 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

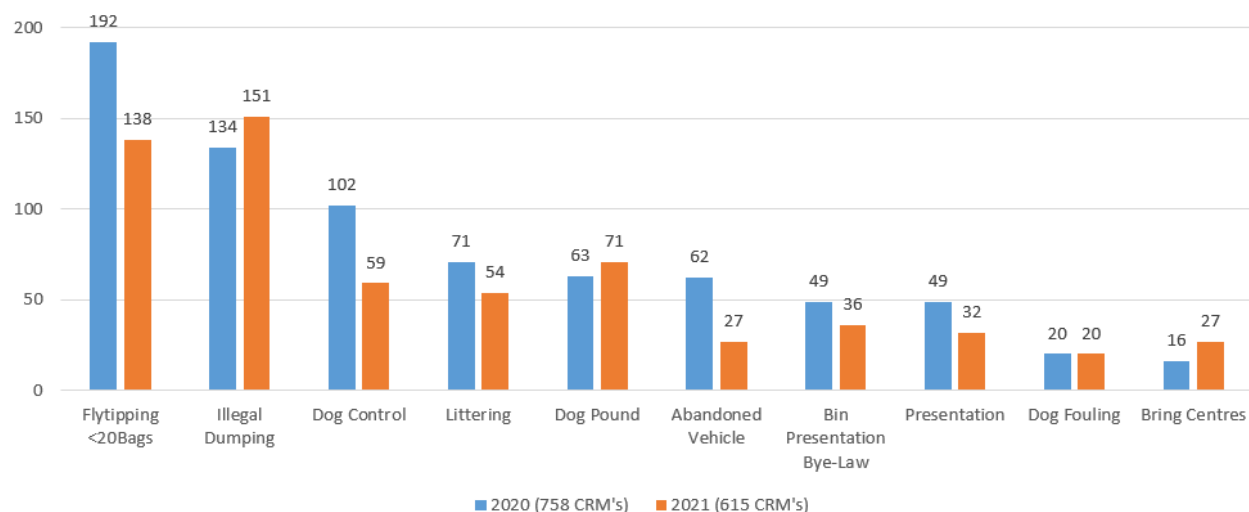
### Enforcement under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 (as amended)

<b>Legal Action Initiated</b>	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	33
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from 2016 paid in 2017)	4
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

### Enforcement under the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended)

<b>No of Complaints</b>	471
Legal Actions	0
Section 18's Statutory Notices Served (asking for info on Waste Issues)	0
Section 55's Statutory Notices Served (asking for Waste to be removed in a 2 week period)	5
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	13
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	13
Section 14 Directions	16
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	0
Regulation 33 – Requirements on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility (European Union End of Life Vehicles) Regulation 2014	0
Regulation 25 of the European Union (packaging) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 282 of 2014) as amended.	0

The following graph shows a comparison of the top ten categories of CRM cases recorded during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> February in the years 2020 & 2021.



### **Environmental Education & Awareness**

**Litter Prevention** - Waterford City & County Council continues to offer assistance throughout the year to the general public, community groups and schools to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g., approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches, and general public areas. These clean ups are ongoing. There has been an increase in the number of individuals & individual households carrying out clean-ups within their 5km limit at present, when groups cannot meet to carry out larger scale clean-ups as usual.

**Anti-Graffiti and Anti-Litter Awareness Grant Scheme 2021** - Waterford City & County Council are currently inviting submissions for the Anti-Graffiti and Anti-Litter Awareness Grant Scheme 2021 from community groups, youth groups, schools, or other community development organisations, based in County Waterford, who are interested in receiving funding for initiatives regarding litter or graffiti. The main themes for projects this year will be to tackle dog fouling and roadside litter. Applications for projects under these themes will be prioritised for funding. Closing date for completed applications is 5pm 18th March 2021. Application and further details can be found on <http://bit.ly/AntiLitterGrant2021>

**Waste Prevention Grant Scheme 2021** - The local Waste Prevention Grant Scheme 2021 has also been advertised with a closing date of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and applications can be made at <http://bit.ly/WastePreventionGrant2021>. Both grants have been advertised on social media, the Council's website, in local newspapers and also through the PPN.

**Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign** - Work continues on the regional anti-dog fouling campaign with a launch date of 18<sup>th</sup> March. In the meantime applications for the Green Dog Walker programme have been re-opened. This programme encourages dog owners to take the Green Dog Walker pledge. The Green Dog Walker scheme is a positive and pro-active way to encourage and support responsible dog ownership in Waterford. It aims to increase awareness of the problem of dog fouling which is among the most common forms of littering. When you sign up to the scheme we will send you a complimentary Green Dog-Walkers high-vis vest/armband and a 'doggie bone' poop-bag dispenser with a roll of bags. By signing up you have 'Taken the Pledge' to always clean up after your dog, to carry extra doggie bags and to gladly give others a bag for their dog if they ask for one. By wearing the high-vis vest you are indicating that you are a responsible dog-owner participating in and supporting the scheme. Over 500 Green Dog Walker pledges have been received to date in 2021.

**Biodiversity Events** - A webinar titled '*Bees, Birds & Trees - Biodiversity and Waterford Council*' was held in which a presentation was delivered by Ms. Ella Ryan highlighting the efforts to support and promote biodiversity in the management of our Parks & Open Spaces. This event was well supported with over 100 people registering for the webinar which provided the public with information with regard to Waterford City & County Council's partnership with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Due to the great interest in this event the possibility of providing a similar event later in the year is being examined.

**Sustainable Gardening Course** - A Sustainable Gardening course will commence in mid-March (dates to be advertised for applications shortly). Tidy Towns, community groups and community gardens will be prioritised and places will be limited. This will be advertised on-line and directly to these groups also.

**Let Dandelions Bee** - The "Let Dandelions Bee" campaign encourages the public to leave dandelions grow during March and April, instead of mowing them. This activity is in line with the aims of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. By leaving Dandelions grow during March & April early pollinators such as bees

are provided with an early source of food. This is of great importance to pollinators and is a simple action that we can all take. A competition is being run during March and April to take a photo of your dandelions in bloom and photos can be emailed to [letdandelionsbee@gmail.com](mailto:letdandelionsbee@gmail.com)

**National Tree Week** - This year's National Tree Week takes place slightly later this year from 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March. Under normal circumstances, National Tree Week brings about the opportunity to promote tree awareness by engaging with communities, associations, workgroups and family groups get together and organise lots of tree planting events, making Ireland greener. This year we are mindful of Government restrictions to limit the spread of Covid-19 and accordingly only virtual events are being held to mark National Tree Week. Limited supplies of saplings have been allocated to Waterford City & County Council and these will be distributed to groups who had been allocated saplings in 2020 but were unable to avail of the saplings due to Covid-19 restrictions, etc.

**Tidy Towns** - The national Tidy Towns competition will go ahead this year, with groups encouraged to include relevant photographs wherever possible with their entries in case judging cannot take place in person due to COVID-19. Groups have also been encouraged to focus on biodiversity, green spaces and sustainable living. With this in mind, a webinar about planting for biodiversity was held for Tidy Towns groups on 10<sup>th</sup> February. This webinar included a talk by Consultant Ecologist, Botanist and National Tidy Towns Adjudicator Ms. Fiona MacGowan. It focused primarily on practical ways to enhance biodiversity locally. The webinar was well attended, with 29 attendees on the night. It provided numerous helpful tips and advice on the topic, as well as having a lively Questions and Answers session to finish. A copy of the presentation was sent to all participants afterwards. It also promoted gardening without the use of chemicals and 120 copies of our Greener Gardening guide were sent to various Tidy Towns groups for distribution to their local community following this webinar.

Two further on-line workshops have been organised for Tidy Towns groups following the success of this webinar; these will cover the topics of Sustainability & Sustainable Development Goals on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and also Tidy Towns Application Form Completion on 13<sup>th</sup> April (this will be especially important as the first round of judging will take place entirely based on applications this year). Invitations have been sent to all Tidy Towns groups for these events.

**Green Schools** - This year, Green Schools assessments are taking place online, in accordance with An Taisce recommendations. Green School Committees will continue to be engaged with via Zoom. However due to the extended closure of schools, engagement has understandably been much lower than usual for this time of the year. An Taisce has extended the assessment deadline until the end of the school year to reflect this nationwide trend. In an effort to continue to engage with schools, workshops are being offered online. Many teachers have expressed a preference for pre-recorded video content for workshops (due to internet connection, difficulty in scheduling anything live with a class at present, etc.) and so this content is being worked on in order to offer this option to schools also. Secondary schools are beginning to engage once again via online talks.



## Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

### Libraries

In February, all branches were closed to the public under Level 5 restrictions; staff commenced a book delivery service for schools and vulnerable patrons which has seen 1,475 items issued for 186 deliveries to households and schools. In February 8,158 online resources were checked out, active membership of the library service was 11,071 and staff delivered 47 online events including;

- Ireland Reads National Reading Day ‘Squeeze in a Read’ Campaign Promotion
- Ireland Reads ‘Derek Flynn Poetry Workshop’ and ‘In Conversation with Liz Nugent’ online events
- Switching Off and Being Creative online events and activities
- Children’s Dyslexia Zoom workshops
- ‘Glass Room Misinformation Edition’ media literacy online exhibition
- Healthy Ireland ‘Healthy Hearty Nutrition’ and ‘Breast Cancer Virtual Evening’ Webinars
- Online Baby and Toddler Group events including ‘Parental Self Care’ by St. Brigid’s FCC
- Local History online talks with Local Historian Maxine Keoghan
- Biodiversity on your Doorstep EDIC sponsored online events and activities
- Work Matters at your library Connect Programme online resources talk
- Waterford Libraries website STEAM Zone Build Waterford Event
- Staff online poetry videos, scrabble club, craft sessions, story times, and Facebook book club
- Waterford Dyslexia Zoom coffee morning
- Spokes Poetry online events
- LGMA Team Live Skills Share with speaker Central Library Executive Librarian Sinead O’Higgins

### Upcoming Events in March:

- Continuation of Switching Off and Being Creative online events and activities
- Seachtain na Gaeilge events and activities
- Launch of Waterford Libraries ‘Blaa Book’ Borrowbox Podcast Series
- ‘Creative Portrait’ Photography Workshops with Julia Dunin Photography
- ‘Tune In and Tune Out’ with Sound and Silence meditation workshop
- Installation of Dungarvan Camera Club window exhibition in Dungarvan Library
- Healthy Ireland Mind and Body Wellness and ‘Healthy Eating Made Easy on a Budget’ Workshops
- Continuation of ‘Glass Room Misinformation Edition’ media literacy online exhibition
- Engineers Week Zoo Workshops for four Schools across the county
- Waterford Libraries St. Patrick’s Day Short Story Competition
- International Women’s Day Events and Activities
- Work Matters Local Enterprise Week
- Waterford EDIC Virtual Trip to Brussels online Event

### **Library Development:**

- Media push in February; Executive Librarian Tracy McEaney featured on WLR and RTE Radio's Claire Byrne show to promote Ireland Reads Campaign and WLR interview conducted with Waterford Libraries Photography Workshop facilitator for 'Seen and Celebrated' photography competition
- Community Resilience funding received for Keep Well 'Switching off and Being Creative' initiative, with an extensive program of online events to reach people at home due to continue in March
- Small Scale Capital Works continue in Central Library and installation of public study space Covid Safe desk dividers completed in Carrickphierish Library
- Outreach to schools conducted by Carrickphierish Library to promote uptake of the book delivery, Carrickphierish also created Data Detox Kits for distribution to WCCC employees
- Staff training included; Adobe Premiere, Media Skills, Digital Ambassador Training, Youth Libraries Group Recommending with Confidence, Social Media for Librarians LAI, Active Speech Sharing Scholarship on Teresa Deevy and podcasting on your Smartphone.

### **Arts Report**

The Arts Offices continues to provide an arts service to artists, arts organisations and the community as a whole especially in the areas of Grants, Bursaries and Festivals supports and advice.

- Mentoring, advice and close contact with arts groups continued throughout February
- The Arts Office also worked on a number of partnership fronts within the Council and especially within the Culture Team. This included developing projects for the building resilience/keep well programme in literature, painting and graphic representation as well for other projects e.g. St Patrick's Day Programme and making time for social contact with artists.
- Council programmes in Arts in Health, Literature and Education continued along with Dance, Theatre, Youth and technology.
- Planning for International Womens Day in March, Poetry Day Ireland in April and Bealtaine – Celebrating Creativity as we Age in May is underway as well as for Culture Night in September. At the moment programmes are being developed as on-line offering but with the option for limited public interaction is also being built-in should things improve.
- Partnership negotiations opened with publishers New Island Books for the printing and marketing of two volumes of new Plays from the South East that are currently being edited by Playwright Gary Mitchell.
- While the Waterford Gallery of Art remained closed – one of the community rooms had a Green Screen built and hung and is waiting electrical and internet streaming works prior to commissioning. Maintenance continued on the Gallery as a whole including Artworks management. Preparations

continued for acquiring a storage facility for Waterford Art Collection – it is now at contract stage. Internal works and outfitting (design) will commence shortly.

- GOMA Waterford, with a grant from the Arts Council, realigned their Arts Garden so as to increase Covid-safe people spacing for their schools and outreach programmes. GOMA's artist's studios remained open but with restricted Covid-safe attendance. GOMA's delayed 2020 WIT Student exhibition came down with the help of volunteers. Incidentally the Waterford Art Collection's 2020 WIT bursary went to Marika Manning.
- Rogue Gallery's shop window on Michael Street was updated to reflect the current times. Meanwhile work continued in drawing-up plans for their section of Thomas Street House.
- Music Generation continued its programme with young people via digital platforms.
- ArtLinks Bursaries are currently open for artists in all disciplines to apply for support for them to develop professional development opportunities. Closing date is mid March.

**Airgeadas / Finance**

<b>Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income &amp; Expenditure Summary by Service Division</b>							
<b>Y.T.D. to January 31, 2021</b>							
		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>INCOME</b>		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	1,501,333	29,905,750	5%	1,690,487	32,231,369	5%
B	Road Transport & Safety	2,171,564	46,501,378	5%	806,817	34,342,105	2%
C	Water Services	749,287	10,831,808	7%	677,878	10,419,107	7%
D	Development Management	1,164,493	16,894,259	7%	478,780	8,467,777	6%
E	Environmental Services	1,221,494	19,210,509	6%	55,717	2,847,343	2%
F	Recreation & Amenity	920,478	14,454,154	6%	78,656	1,806,387	4%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	50,657	979,517	5%	19,745	528,623	4%
H	Miscellaneous Services	598,709	9,620,230	6%	181,901	4,668,005	4%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	1,638,751	19,665,016	8%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	2,785,155	33,421,873	8%
		<b>8,378,014</b>	<b>148,397,605</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>8,413,888</b>	<b>148,397,605</b>	<b>6%</b>
Surplus/Deficit					35,874	0	

5. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 11TH MARCH 2021

Airgeadas									
Finance									
<b>Summary of main collections Jan 2021 YTD</b>									
	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]			[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2021	Accrued ytd to Jan 2021	Write Offs and Vacancies	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Jan 2021	Gross Bal 31-01-2021 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2021 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€	€	€	€		€	
Rates	8,413,290	33,549,986	-	41,963,276	2,217,079	39,746,197	3,300,000	6%	7%
Loans	1,932,504	269,378	-	2,201,882	259,353	1,942,529		12%	96%
Rents	4,321,121	1,125,677	-	5,446,798	1,147,340	4,299,458		21%	102%
<b>Aged Analysis :</b>									
			Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates			33,481,970	-	-	6,264,227			39,746,197
			0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans			157,560	62,208	143,889	1,578,872			1,942,529
			Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents			-	91,457	136,718	4,071,283			4,299,458
<b>Overdraft Levels</b>									
Days in Overdraft in Dec	0		Cost -	€0.00		Average Value when in O/D : N/A		€	-