



Comhairle Cathrach Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY
OCTOBER 14 TH, 2021

Deireadh Fómhair 2021 |
Michael Walsh
Príomhfheidhmeannach

October 2021
Michael Walsh
Chief Executive

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate

Plenary Mayor September Engagements

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | Together for Hospice Message recording- Mayor and Metropolitan Mayor in Parlour | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 11 th Blackwater Valley Opera Festival closing performance attended by Mayor at Lismore Castle | Visit by Minister Eamonn Ryan – greeting by Mayor at City Hall Australian Ambassador – Greeting in the Parlour | | Imagine Ats Festival launch – Theatre Royal by Mayor | | First Citizens Forum – attended by Mayor – Online Visit by Minister of State Perter Burke – greeting by Mayor at City Hall Spick & Span Award Presentation by Mayor – Alexander Street Spick and Span Award Kilmacthomas – Cllr O’Leary Spick and Span Award Dungarvan - Cllr S Power | Spick and Span Award Tallow – Cllr Doocey |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | | Consultation Process for Waterford Medieval City Walls – Railway Square by the Mayor | | | | Culture Night - Harvest Day at Top of the City Community Garden – Cllr S Power |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | | | | Reuse Month Launch in Rathcormack – Cllr S Power | Make Way Day - Disability Awareness – City Hall Photocall for Mayor Alzheimer Society of Ireland – Reopening Pine Grove Day Care Centre – attended by the Mayor | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| | | Welcome Norwegian Ambassador in Parlour | Opening St. Declan’s Way – Mount Mellory attended by Cllr S Power | 10th European Greenway Awards – attended by Mayor | | |

Meetings

All council meetings, CPG and SPC’s to continue as remote meetings for the month of October pending revision of the guidelines on 22nd October.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

- a. **SDZ Developer.**
 - i) Work is ongoing on reappraisal of the proposed North Quays development.
- b. **Main contract.**
 - ii) 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.
- c. **Planning applications.**
 - iii) At the Metropolitan Council meeting dated 20st 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.
 - iv) By the end of October a planning application for the western flood defence works is proposed to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.
- d. **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.

Local Enterprise Office

| LEO Figures year to date (2021) and comparison of current month with previous year | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Indicator | Jan-21 | Feb-21 | Mar-21 | Apr-21 | May-21 | Jun-21 | Aug-21 | Sept-21 | Sept-20 |
| Measure 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of clients applying | 0 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 15 | 23 | 23 | 27 | 28 |
| No. of clients securing | 0 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 22 | 22 | 26 | 27 |
| Value of support approved | - | €137,308 | €137,308 | €137,308 | €337,777 | €629,104 | €629,104 | €733,251 | €606,848 |
| Measure 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of clients receiving | 219 | 375 | 659 | 1,052 | 1,317 | 1,363 | 1,592 | 1,918 | 2,265 |
| Value of support given | €20,147 | €81,907 | €137,884 | €298,202 | €397,047 | €448,324 | €522,768 | €590,583 | €875,100 |

| Support | | Apr-21 | May-21 | Jun-21 | Aug-21 | Sept-21 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Trading Online | No. of Approvals | 34 | 46 | 53 | 67 | 78 |

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| Support | | Apr-21 | May-21 | Jun-21 | Aug-21 | Sept-21 |
|---|---------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Voucher | | | | | | |
| | Value of Approvals | €66,364 | €88,941 | €100,101 | €135,113 | €156,108 |
| | € | | | | | |
| LEO Client Stimulus Scheme | No. of Approvals | 37 | 43 | 49 | 53 | 54 |
| | Value of Approvals | €95,552 | €110,176 | €125,263 | €135,053 | €137,753 |
| | € | | | | | |
| <i>Figures included in cumulative table</i> | | | | | | |

Toys4Engineers 2021

Toys4Engineers, an event hosted by Waterford Chamber with the LEO as one of its partners, took place this year from 29th September to the 1st October. It is an event to showcase the talent and innovation that exists within the engineering, tech and pharma industry on a national level but with a strong South East regional and local emphasis. In light of Covid-19 the 2021 event took place virtually. The Local Enterprise Office sponsored the Speed Networking Event which had 70 companies signed up. This will create long-term contacts and, hopefully, contracts for a number of Waterford businesses operating in and servicing this sector.

Rural Economic Development

Town & Villages Updates

Details of allocations in relevant Municipal District Report.

Funding Year: 2019

Waterford City & County Council was allocated funding for 5 projects in Rural Towns & Villages receiving €500,000, details in district reports.

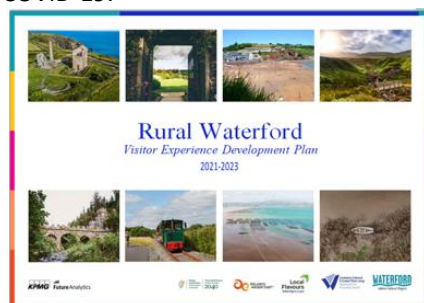
Funding Year: 2020

Waterford City & County Council was allocated €451,918 funding for 16 projects under 3 separate calls in 2020

| Town/Village | Grant Allocated | Project Summary | Project Update |
|--------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| County wide | €40,000 | Creation of a visitor experience development plan and a Visitor App for Rural Waterford | Project Completed |

under the TVRS Accelerated Measure to assist Rural Towns & Villages to adapt and help combat the impacts of

COVID-19.



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.

Trails

European Greenway Awards and International Conference

Waterford Greenway was internationally recognised on Thursday 30th September last, as it came second in the *Excellence* Category at the 10th 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).



Communications

PR Activity August and September 2021

1. Be alert to Water Safety
 2. Reopening of Customer Service desk
 3. National Heritage week Waterford Programme of events
 4. Arts and culture support scheme (ESCSS) open for applications
 5. Waterford announced as one of Ireland's first recipients of Creative Climate Action funding
 6. Have your say in shaping the future of Waterford City and County – Draft Development Plan
 7. Walled Network flag exchange with New Ross
 8. Waterford AED site map
 9. Waterford Libraries host Healthy Ireland Video Series
 10. Waterford Council to Light Up for World Suicide Prevention Day
 11. Waterford Hospice Coffee Morning – Mayor / Metro Mayor support video
 12. Launch of Bike Week 2021
 13. Minister Ryan visit to Waterford and Decarbonisation Zone meeting
 14. Fáilte Ireland Urban Animation Funding
 15. Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining / Waterproofing Funding
 16. Culture Night in Waterford (English and Irish language version released)
 17. Minister Burke visit to social housing developments
 18. LA Spick and Span awards
 19. Medieval Walls Interpretation Plan
 20. NTA Public Bike Scheme
 21. Molly Keane Writing Award
 22. Celebration of Writing - Waterford Treasures
 23. Long term leasing scheme
 24. Library Services keeping community connected
 25. Make Way Day
 26. Repurposed technology keeping communities connected
 27. Waterford - Ireland's Best Place to Live
 28. Norwegian Ambassador visits Waterford
 29. October Reuse Month - Waterford events
 30. Silver for Greenway at European Awards
- District related events district reports

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Advertising Campaigns

RADIO CAMPAIGNS AUGUST – SEPTEMBER WLR FM:

- Submissions for Draft Development Plan
- Summer Stars Library Reading Programme
- Dog license renewal
- Hedge Cutting
- Deferralment of N72 roadworks
- Culture Night
- Bike Week
- Retained Firefighter Recruitment
- Electoral Roll revision
- Social Housing Assessment
- Culture Night
- Bike Week
- Fire Safety Week

Network Chamber Magazine

Full page editorial Outdoor Dining Scheme / Failte Ireland Grant along with full page Winterval Advert.

Digital and Social Media

| Social Media Stats | 01.08.21-31.08.21 | 01.09.21-31.09.21 | % Change |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Total Followers | 37,045* | 38,823* | +5% |
| Posts | 351 | 469 | +33% |
| Total Reach | 549, 488 | 790,482 | +43% |
| Engagement | 16,166 | 60,183 | +270% |

*Accounts: WCCC, Shop Local and Waterford 2040 Inclusive of Facebook / Inst / Twitter / LinkedIn

WWW.WATERFORDCOUNCIL.IE Website Analytics: Sept 1st - 30th 2021

| | Page Views | % of Total | Unique Page Views | % of Total | Avg. Time on Page | Entrances | Bounce Rate |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Waterford Council Homepage | 44,970 | 27% | 16916 | 16% | 03:28 | 14,484 | 41.87% |
| Planning Enquiries | 15,243 | 9% | 11505 | 11% | 03:10 | 6,884 | 70.41% |
| Human Resources - Vacancies | 10,701 | 6% | 9030 | 9% | 02:45 | 7,667 | 85.01% |
| Housing - Choice Based Lettings | 7,656 | 5% | 5621 | 5% | 01:57 | 4,440 | 59.59% |
| Planning Lists | 5,036 | 3% | 3007 | 3% | 02:03 | 1,454 | 70.15% |
| Planning Dept. main page | 4,720 | 3% | 3237 | 3% | 00:35 | 1,252 | 18.77% |
| Planning Enquiries/Viewing | 4,625 | 3% | 2955 | 3% | 00:14 | 2,262 | 3.54% |
| List of Departments | 4,152 | 2% | 2912 | 3% | 00:15 | 394 | 22.34% |
| Online Payments | 3,966 | 2% | 3163 | 3% | 03:05 | 1,155 | 46.41% |
| Housing - Main page | 2,853 | 2% | 1962 | 2% | 00:42 | 717 | 39.89% |
| Others | 62,402 | | 43700 | | 06:25 | 18,752 | |
| | 166,324 | | 104,008 | | 02:14 | 59,461 | |

Tourism

Keep Discovering Waterford

As part of its Keep Discovering campaign, Fáilte Ireland created a video showcasing Waterford which aired on TV during the ad break leading up to the **Nine O'Clock News on RTÉ One** on 15th September, as well as across digital and social media channels. **Watch the video here.**

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**

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

The Economic Development & Enterprise SPC met on 29th September 2021. Alan Quirke and Richard Hickey from the Ireland South East Development Office gave a presentation on the work of the ISEDO and the development of the South East Regional Enterprise Plan 2021-2024. The next meeting of the SPC is scheduled for Wednesday 24th November 2021.

Festival & Events

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**.

The Festival & Events Funding Policy (2021) is now available in Irish on

<https://waterfordcouncil.ie/media/meetings/2021/plenary/july/Beartas%20Cisti%C3%B0ACh%C3%A1in%20Chomha%20Cathrach%20agus%20Contae%20Phort%20L%C3%A1irge%20i%20dtaca.pdf>www.waterfordcouncil.ie.

Winterval

The Winterval programme launch took place on 6th October and this year's festival will run from 19th November to 23rd December.

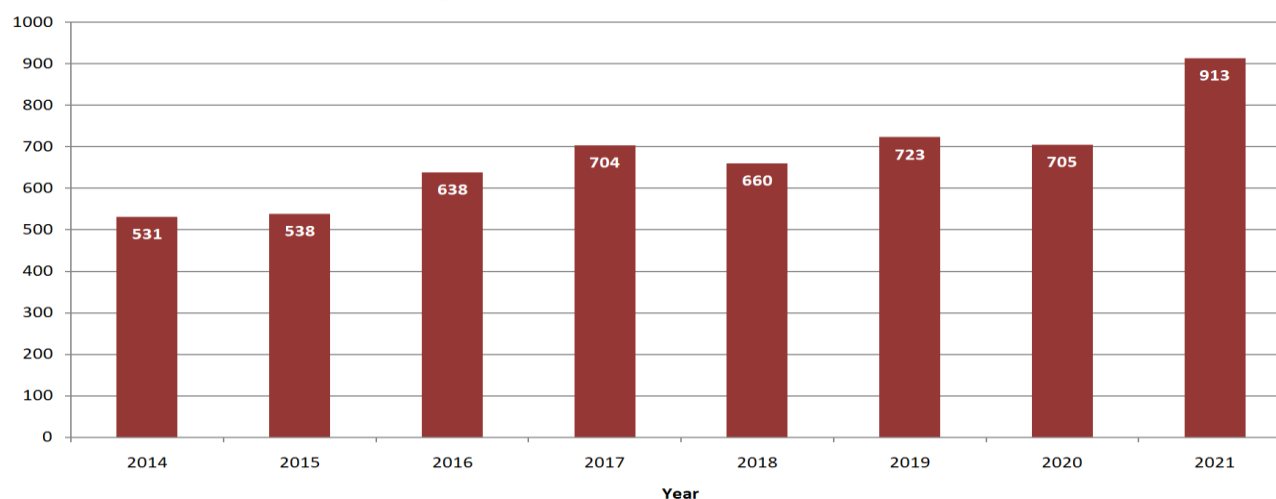
Planáil / Planning

Planning Applications Received

The total number of planning applications received in the first three quarters of 2021 (up to the end of September) is 30% higher than the number of applications received in the same nine month period in 2020. A total of 913 planning applications were received in the year to the end of September 2021 as compared with a total of 705 applications for same period last year.

However, there has been a slight slowdown in the number of applications received in recent weeks. 78 Planning applications were received in the month of September as compared with 86 planning applications received in the same month last year.

Planning Applications
Annual figures from 1st January to 30th September

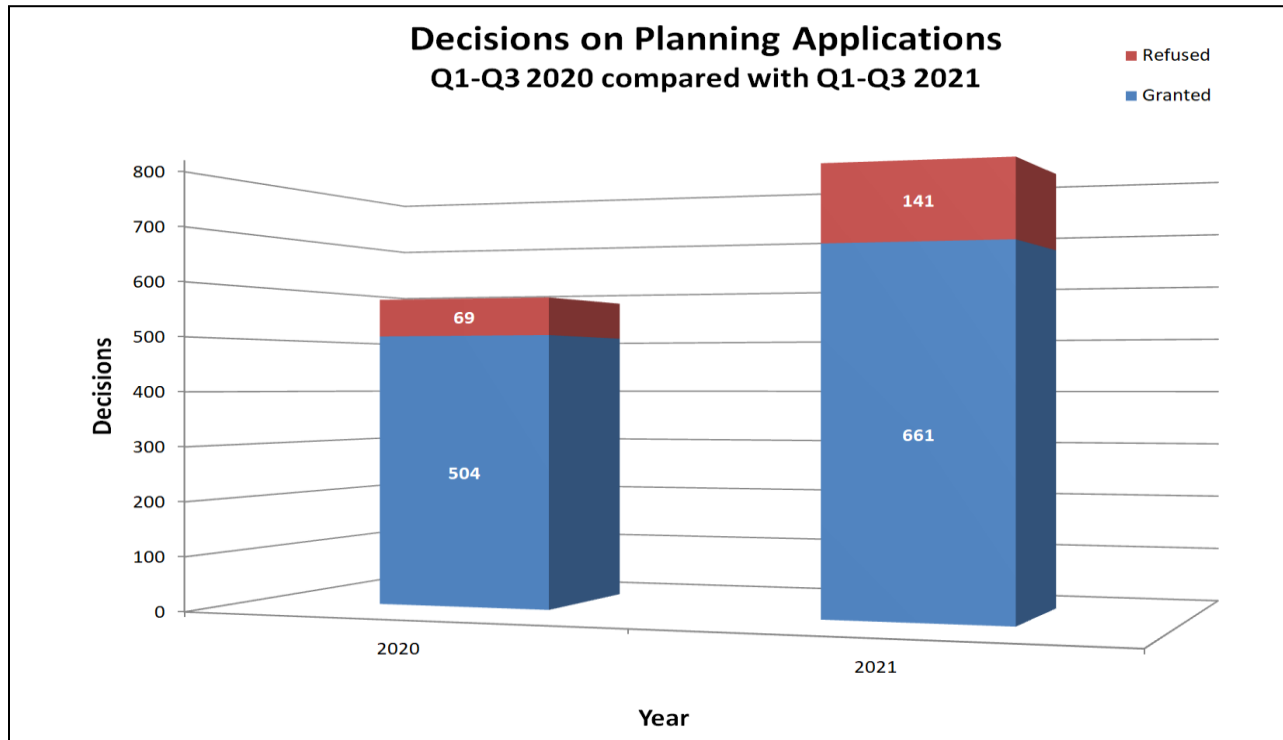


| | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Number of Planning Applications (Q1-Q3) | ↑ | 30% on Q1-Q3 2020 |
| Commercial Planning Fees (Q1-Q3) | ↑ | 36% on Q1-Q3 2020 |
| Number of EIA Developments (Q1-Q3) | ↑ | 50% on Q1-Q3 2020 |
| Time to determine larger housing schemes (Q1-Q3) | ↓ | 9% on Q1-Q3 2020 |
| Number of Planning Appeals (Q1-Q3) | ↑ | 138% on Q1-Q3 2020 |
| Number of Housing Units Commenced (Q1-Q3) | ↑ | 12% on Q1-Q3 2020 |

Planning Decisions

196 applications were decided from the 1st of July to 30th August 2021 compared to 183 for the same period in 2020.

The number of applications which have been decided to date in 2021 has increased significantly, as seen below.



Forward Planning

The public consultation for the Draft City and County Development Plan closed on 30th August and a total of 485 submissions were received covering a broad range of policy issues and land use zoning provisions.

STRATEGIC PLANNING



The Planning Department is reviewing all the written submissions received and will prepare a Chief Executive Report for consideration by the Plenary Council at the end of November. This CE Report will summarise the submissions received and give the response and recommendation of the Chief Executive to the various issues

raised and in particular the submissions received from the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Southern Regional Assembly.

A series of workshops will be arranged over the coming weeks and months to facilitate further debate with the Plenary/Municipal Council on the submissions received and any amendments arising to the Draft Development Plan.

Planning Enforcement

Waterford City & County Council's Planning Department continues to investigate all complaints in relation to potential unauthorised development and takes appropriate action in each instance including the issuing of Warning Letters, Enforcement Notices and pursues prosecutions through the Courts in cases on non-compliance with the terms of statutory Enforcement Notices.

The Planning Department also monitors developments which have commenced to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of their planning permission, including the payment of development contributions and the maintenance of bonds to secure the completion of developments.

Heritage

Heritage Week 2021

Heritage Week ran from Saturday 14th August– Sunday, 22nd August with a programme of 30 events in Waterford detailed on HeritageWeek.ie.

Biodiversity Funding

A webinar on the Waterford Swift Survey was hosted by Birdwatch Ireland on June 21st to encourage community involvement in the survey funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The survey has recorded 47 nest sites to date and final report will be completed in October. Further sightings can be emailed to swifts@birdwatchireland.ie.

New Placenames Website

Waterford City & County Council's Placenames Committee launched a new Waterford Placenames website - www.deiselogainm.ie - as a celebration of the importance of the naming of places, or toponymy, and as a showcase of the rich cultural heritage of the Placenames of the Déise. The website contains information on the work of the Placenames Committee and is a useful resource for developers seeking suitable names for estates, for schools who want to learn about their local placenames and for researchers of placenames in general.

Conservation

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Further to previous updates, 18 projects around the city and county have received funding under the scheme. Works are currently proceeding and due to be completed by the end of September

Bóithre agus Iompar / Roads and Transportation

Road Works Programme Update

The Road Works Programme for 2021 is now substantially complete. Work has commenced on the Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes.

Hedgecutting Season

Trimming of roadside hedges can take place between 1st September and 28th February in any year. In accordance with the Wildlife Act 2000 this period is deemed most suitable to have minimum wildlife disturbance. It is the responsibility of the landowner, not the Council, to keep hedgerows and trees under control.

Waterford City and County Council is calling on all landowners, farmers and householders to ensure that roadside hedges and trees are cut and that overhanging vegetation in urban areas are cut back from footpaths and at junctions by the end of February next. This is to ensure that motorists, cyclists and pedestrians can travel safely on our roads and footpaths. The Council is currently surveying roads across the county and will be contacting landowners that fail to comply and will take all necessary action to ensure works are carried out. Issues with overgrown hedges/trees can be reported to the Roads Department and will be followed up.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications and Allocations

Housing Applications

| Housing applications | Sept 2020 | Total Number of Applications Year 2020 | Sept 2021 | Total Number of Applications Year To Date 2021 |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| Applications received | 82 | 870 | 77 | 670 |
| Applications assessed (incl files carried forward from previous month(s)) | 157 | 1004 | 101 | 818 |
| Applications validated (incl files carried forward from previous month(s)) | 83 | 598 | 41 | 442 |
| Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant | 83 | 534 | 43 | 446 |

Housing Allocations

| District | Tenancies during Sept 2020 | Cumulative No. of Tenancies 2020 | New Tenancies during Sept 2021 | Refusal No. of New Tenancy offer | Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2021 |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Totals | 30 | 296 | 62 | 12 | 359 |

Choice Based Letting (CBL) Scheme

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 876. There have been 238 refusals on properties .

Housing Loans applications

| 2021 Housing Loans | Applications received | Applications awaiting further info | Applications refused | Applications approved | Applications with Housing Agency/deferred for 6 months |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Sept | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| YTD | 63 | 6 | 18 | 19 | 1 |

Tenant Purchase applications

| 2021 Tenant Purchase | Applications received | Applications awaiting further info | Applications refused | Applications approved | Sales Closed |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Sept | 3 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| YTD 2021 | 56 | 2 | 5 | 43 | 12 |
| YTD 2020 | 61 | 2 | 21 | 34 | 13 |

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0 Tenant Purchase sales closed in Sept -

Housing Assistance Payment

| Housing Assistance Payment | Sept 2020 HAP tenancies | Sept 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 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| HAP Tenancies | 40 | 33 | -18 | 4130 | 2090 |

Inspections of Dwellings

| 2021 | Sept-21 |
|---|---------|
| HAP | 8 |
| (HAP) Compliant | 1 |
| (HAP) Non-Compliant | 7 |
| <i>(HAP) of which were Re Inspections</i> | 4 |
| LTL | 22 |
| (LTL) Compliant | 6 |
| (LTL) Non-Compliant | 16 |
| <i>(LTL) of which were Re Inspections</i> | 7 |
| MTR | 1 |
| (MTR) Non-Compliant | 1 |
| Total | 31 |

In September, Waterford City & County Council carried out 232 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 38 properties has had improvement works carried out to meet the standards for rented accommodation.

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

Rural Development Programme:

- As outlined to the last Plenary Meeting, a New Targeted Call for Projects under the LEADER Transitional Fund was issued in the local newspapers and on the websites of WLP Clg, WCCC, PPN, and on Facebook. The outcome of the call is as follows:
 - 31 Expressions of Interest
 - 26 Expressions of Interest were eligible
 - 13 Expressions of Interest were from Private Promoters
 - 13 Expressions of Interest were from Community Promoters
 - Expected applications will top 22 in total
 - Expected requests for assistance will total €2.2m
 - Available budget between LEADER Transitional Funding and E.U.R.I.(European Union Recovery Initiative) will be €1.2m.
- The May Call Projects are going for Final Evaluation. They will be before the October and November LCDC Meetings.
- The total recommended allocation from the May Call will be approximately €400,000 in total over the two months.
- The next Call was planned for the end of end of November. This will be reviewed prior to the call in the light of the oversubscription for the September Call.
- Payments are progressing well on the RDP1420 and Food Projects.
- Going forward, procurement will be an issue. The root cause of the issue is very significant price increases in materials, (timber, steel, electronic equipment), and labour. Inflation is now a major concern.
- The EURI Programme will be very focused on Economic Recovery after COVID-19, as will the new LEADER Programme.

Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme 2021.

The Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme was launched by Minister Humphreys on 6th September. Waterford has been allocated €31,608.64. It is anticipated that the small scale nature of the grants under this scheme will particularly benefit smaller or start-up social enterprises which do not necessarily have the capacity to compete for larger grants, but which nonetheless have a need for upgraded/additional equipment to help them to deliver their services. It is expected that grants will be in the range of €2,500 to €5,000, match funding is not required.

The closing date for application is noon on Wednesday 6th October. The LCDC Assessment Groups shall meet on 12th October to evaluate eligible applications. The LCDC shall submit their recommendations to the Minister following their meeting on 14th October. It is envisaged that successful applicants shall be notified of the Minister's decision by mid November.

Comhairle na nÓg: Progress on 2021 identified activities is being made weekly by the young people. Meetings between the young people and coordinator continue to be held regularly with the hope of a return to face to face meetings once Covid restrictions allow. The first phase of the multi-annual tree planting programme has been completed at the WIT Arena with additional sites being identified currently with a working group including WCCC, WIT and the Lions club having been formed.

Waterford Age Friendly Programme: Work continues through the Thematic sub-groups to progress the objectives of the AF Strategy. Progress is being made to develop an AF Business Recognition Programme for Waterford City and County. Preliminary works beginning for the preparation of a new 5 year strategy in 2022. The next meeting of the AF Alliance will take place on November 24th .

Healthy Waterford: Current priorities include: Oversight of Healthy Ireland projects; active travel/ active communities; Keep Well campaign. Presentation made to LCDC in July.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP): Under the SHCP, socially disadvantaged areas in Waterford City have been designated for interventions to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in these areas. The purpose of the Programme is to reduce health inequalities by addressing the wider social determinants of health in communities experiencing high levels of deprivation.

The Council through the LCDC has been tasked with the oversight and implementation at local level of elements of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. These include the employment of a SHCP Local Development Officer; the setting up of a SHCP Local Implementation Team (LIT) and under the Enhancement Funding Scheme, the submission for funding of projects that would positively impact on the health and wellbeing of those who live within the Programme Area. The application for €250k funding was made on 30th September.

Local Community Safety Partnership: The Partnership held its second meeting on 7th September, electing a Vice Chairperson and agreeing a meeting agenda for the next twelve months. An additional meeting has been called for 11th October to establish a framework for the development of a Community Safety Plan.

Covid 19 Community Response Forum: The CRF – various agencies and organisations working together to address Covid-related issues - continues to meet on a monthly basis.

Pride of Place: The Pride of Place judging has begun

Clár: Further to an application made by WCCC in conjunction with Waterford Area Partnership, successful projects to be funded under Measure 3A of CLÁR 2021 were announced on September 8th:

Social Inclusion:

Migrant Integration:

Work progressing on implementing Strategy in conjunction with various partners.

SICAP: Waterford Area Partnership continue to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC with 79 local community groups and 953 individuals in Waterford expected to benefit in 2021. Mid Programme Review underway. Priorities for 2022 and the remainder of the Programme currently being determined by the LCDC.

TIG: The Waterford Traveller Interagency Group continues to meet regularly by way of Zoom. Needs Analysis being finalised.

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 September. 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 |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total for September | 57 | 46 | 15 | 0 |
| Year to date | 520 | 323 | 128 | 3 |
| Total for September 2020 | 56 | 29 | 14 | 0 |
| Total for 2020 | 707 | 455 | 182 | 16 |

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

| Applications Received | September 2021 | 2021 Year to date | Total for September 2020 | Total for 2020 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Fire Safety Certificates | 3 | 50 | 8 | 84 |

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

| Application/Notification | Sept 2021 | Cumulative Total for 2021 | Total for Sept 2020 | Total for 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Commencement Notices | 31 | 279 | 20 | 285 |
| Completion Certificates | 13 | 155 | 14 | 224 |
| Disability Access Certificates | 4 | 41 | 3 | 45 |

Civil Defence: Civil Defence activities during the month of September 2021 consisted mostly of Covid-19 Response duties. Essential Tasks undertaken were:

- PPE training.
- Vehicle preparation.
- Vehicle Cleaning and Decontamination.
- Patient Transportation for cancer treatments.
- Vaccination Centre Transport Requests and Coordination of Humanitarian Requests for Transport.

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 clinical appointments (e.g. doctors, dental, radiotherapy, etc)., hospital appointments in South Tipperary General Hospital Clonmel, Cork CUH, Waterford UHW and Whitfield, Vaccination Centre Transport's to WIT Arena.

At all times stringent measures were put in place to ensure the safety of Civil Defence volunteers and those members of the community served. Plans are in place for the Autumn as we see a return to Training under Covid 19 restrictions.

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

1st January 2021 – 21st September 2021

| Enforcement under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 (as amended) | |
|---|------|
| Legal Action Initiated | 0 |
| On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution) | 162 |
| On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year) | 57 |
| No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20 | 0 |
| Enforcement under the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended) | |
| No of Complaints | 1929 |
| Legal Actions | 1 |
| 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) | 11 |
| Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices) | 66 |
| Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up) | 120 |
| Section 14 Directions | 24 |
| Section 107 EPA (Noise) | 0 |
| Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors | 0 |
| Regulation 33 - Requirement on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility. (European Union End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2014 – Fixed Penalty Notice. | 0 |
| Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended | 1 |

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste

October is Reuse Month: Reuse Month takes place in October and the public and all organisations are invited to hold and attend community-based workshops a multitude of areas such as managing food waste and upcycling everything from fashion to furniture. The idea is to bring people beyond the idea of “reduce, reuse and recycle” to a more conscious prevention of waste in the first place. Further information <https://www.mywaste.ie/reuse-month/>

Green Picnic Campaign: The Green Picnic campaign will be extended into the autumn and winter months. During the period June to September the Green Picnic campaign asked people to bring their litter home with them and bring reusable items wherever possible. We aim to promote positive and active participation in a campaign that will focus on the theme of reuse and encourage all to take responsibility for their actions and their waste. For the coming months, we will be engaging with Businesses, Secondary Schools, Tidy Towns groups and Sports Clubs to involve them in taking action on reuse also. This will be done via workshops, competitions and resources. Details of all of these events/projects are available on www.waterfordcouncil.ie.

Tackling Single Use Water Bottles: Secondary schools will be invited to take part in a competition to tackle the high number of single use water bottles in their community. To be in with a chance to win a contactless water dispenser and reusable bottles for their school, they must attend an online workshop to learn more about the issue and encourage local businesses to offer water refills.

Sports Clubs can get involved in reducing the number of single use plastic bottles at their club grounds too by taking a pledge to reduce single use plastic. By signing up to Refill's Tap Map, sports clubs can receive a free sign for their tap and be in with a chance to win 100 branded reusable bottles for their members. Clubs can also opt to learn more about a range of ways for their club to reduce their impact on the environment. Community groups, Tidy Towns groups, businesses and general public are invited to attend a workshop with Conscious Cup to learn more about how to encourage the use of reusable cups at cafes, etc.

Fast Fashion: A Fast Fashion resource has been created for use by teachers in Secondary Schools and is available to download from the Council's website, www.waterfordcouncil.ie/departments/environment/awareness.htm. This includes a teachers pack, presentation for use in class and an online workshop for teachers to inform them about fashion and the environment on 13th October. In Ireland, half a tonne of clothing is dumped every minute, producing 12 tonnes of carbon emissions. This resource will allow classes to take action on a range of environmental issues such as waste, climate change and water pollution by discussing issues around fast fashion. A virtual furniture up-cycling workshop will also be held to give tips and advice on how to prepare and up-cycle pieces of old furniture.

Litter:

"Bag it, Bin it": The Bag it, Bin it regional dog fouling campaign continues to evolve. A comprehensive education pack for primary schools will be launched after the midterm break and sent to schools, complete with lesson plans and presentations for teachers, worksheets for pupils and a song.

Local Litter Clean Ups: Waterford City & County Council continue to receive regular requests for clean up materials and collection of litter. Waterford City & County Council offers assistance throughout the year for groups/individuals who volunteer to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. A national "Big Beach Clean Up" event took place recently, supported locally by Waterford City & County Council.

"Picker Pals" : Picker Pals – 36 classes schools in Waterford will take part in this litter education programme this school year. Aimed at 1st – 3rd classes, Picker Pals combines storytelling, environmental learning and real world action in the local community. Picker Packs are created from old sails gathered from sailing clubs. This encourages students and their families to take action against litter and to become more conscious of the sources and types of litter locally.

Gum Litter Taskforce : We are taking part in the Gum Litter Taskforce's campaign once again this year. The campaign looks to build on the success of previous years as the percentage of gum as a proportion of litter has dropped by 64% since the campaign began. The campaign is making a strong return for 2021 after being postponed last year due to COVID-19. This year's campaign will be different in that the national and local authority launch events will be done virtually, and the campaign will have a stronger social media presence in order to reach a wider and younger audience.

Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

Libraries

In September, all 12 library branches extended services and opening hours in line with Government Guidelines. During the month 12,456 people visited libraries throughout the county and borrowed 19,341 items along with 6,807 online resources including eMagazines, eBooks and eAudiobooks. Active membership of the Library Service for September was 10,032 and during the month 30 service wide activities and events took place including;

- Promotional activities to support Waterford Age Friendly Alliance Positive Ageing Week which runs from 27th September to 1st October including library hosted 'Concert by the Fire' online event on September 30th, attended by 33 people
- Launch of Children's Books Ireland 'Free to be Me' Reading Programme on 23rd September
- Healthy Ireland at your Library video series broadcasted throughout September including 'Emotional Eating' and 'Advice for Parents/Guardians' and 'Coping with Grief and Loss'
- First Time Parents & Baby Group weekly online events supported by Waterford Libraries
- 'What my Library Means to Me' children's writing competition ran throughout September
- Participation in the 'See Change, Green Ribbon' campaign in branches throughout September
- Culmination of the Summer Stars Reading adventure; with **1327** children to receive certificates and medals for completion of the programme

Upcoming Events in October:

- ***EDIC Mapping a Social Economy*** online Workshop with WIT on 7th October
- Children's Book Festival events including '***Design your Favourite Characters Bedroom***' Children's Competition throughout October
- '***Well Festival: The Earthquake Event***' on 8th October in Garter Lane organised by WHAT, Waterford Libraries and Garter Lane
- Waterford Libraries are hosting two events for ***Waterford Writer's weekend at Imagine Festival with Author Rónán Hessian and Observer Columnist Seamus O'Reilly***
- Healthy Ireland '***Mindfulness for Children' Workshops and 'Human Library Coffee Morning' With Mental Health Ireland*** in October

Library Development:

- Extension of opening hours and library services including public PC use, printing, newspaper access, seating and study spaces in all branches
- Waterford Libraries have been successful in achieving funding from the following sources in 2021 :

Public Libraries Design Thinking Pilot 2021 (€1,500) - funded project is a Work Matters at the Library programme to address labour market inclusivity individuals and communities at risk of being disadvantaged, socially excluded or marginalised

- Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney featured on Claire Byrne RTE One Radio Show in September to promote libraries and eAudiobooks
- Hugely successful Borrowbox Summer Stars campaign with reported increases of 185.4% in eBook and 251.8% in eAudiobook loans for the 2021 Summer Stars Campaign
- 87 new people signed up for Dormant Account Funded Touch Type Read Spell Software during the month of September alone
- Training received included Racial Injustice, Dementia Awareness, Age Friendly Champion training and Design Thinkers Project Workshop
- Preparations underway to paint Kilmacthomas Library, planning for installation of ventilation systems in branches and planning for CO2 monitors installation in branches

Arts

Work is continuing on the Waterford Writers Weekend at which the Arts Office national Waterford Poetry Prize will be announced later this month. The Imagine Arts Festival has a strong line up , in particular with one of Ireland's foremost visual artists John Shinnors headlining.

The Artist in Schools programme is re-commencing for the autumn, as are writing courses for adults.

The closing date for applications for Arts Practice and Venue grants is the 8th October.

Arts Festival grants are due to be advertised shortly.

Airgeadas / Finance

Revenue Account

| Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Y.T.D. to Aug 31, 2021 | | | | | | | |
| | | EXPENDITURE | | | INCOME | | |
| | | Expenditure € | Adopted Full Year Budget € | % Budget Spent to date | Income € | Adopted Full year Budget € | % Budget Raised |
| A | Housing & Building | 19,312,762 | 29,905,750 | 65% | 20,645,835 | 32,231,369 | 64% |
| B | Road Transport & Safety | 25,949,368 | 46,501,378 | 56% | 17,451,119 | 34,342,105 | 51% |
| C | Water Services | 7,060,145 | 10,831,808 | 65% | 6,761,653 | 10,419,107 | 65% |
| D | Development Management | 10,941,440 | 16,894,259 | 65% | 5,477,159 | 8,467,777 | 65% |
| E | Environmental Services | 11,796,337 | 19,210,509 | 61% | 1,050,355 | 2,847,343 | 37% |
| F | Recreation & Amenity | 9,042,591 | 14,454,154 | 63% | 1,018,196 | 1,806,387 | 56% |
| G | Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 605,553 | 979,517 | 62% | 326,947 | 528,623 | 62% |
| H | Miscellaneous Services | 12,457,135 | 9,620,230 | 129% | 9,348,130 | 4,668,005 | 200% |
| LG | Local Property Tax / GPG | 0 | 0 | 0% | 13,110,012 | 19,665,016 | 67% |
| RA | Rates | 0 | 0 | 0% | 22,281,249 | 33,421,873 | 67% |
| | | 97,165,331 | 148,397,605 | 65% | 97,470,655 | 148,397,605 | 66% |
| Surplus/Deficit | | | | | 305,324 | 0 | |

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 14TH OCTOBER 2021

Collections

| Summary of main collections Aug 2021 YTD | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G' | | [6] | [7] |
| | Gross Bal as at 1-1-2021 | Accrued ytd to Aug 2021 | Write Offs and Vacancies | Waivers & Credits | Total for Collection [1+2-3] | Collected ytd to Aug 2021 | Gross Bal 31-08-2021 | Specific Provision | % Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4] | % Collected ytd re 2021 Accrual [5/(4-1)] |
| | | € | € | | € | € | € | | € | |
| Rates | 11,042,246 | 33,549,986 | - 325,743 | - 6,025,647 | 38,240,842 | 19,539,007 | 18,701,835 | 3,600,000 | 56% | 58% |
| Loans | 1,912,249 | 2,223,678 | - 1,391 | | 4,134,536 | 2,213,808 | 1,920,728 | | 54% | 100% |
| Rents | 4,364,161 | 9,985,822 | - 26,437 | | 14,323,546 | 9,982,885 | 4,340,661 | | 70% | 100% |
| Aged Analysis : | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Less than 1 mth | 2 to 6 mths | 7 to 12 mths | greater than 12 mths | | | Net Balance |
| Rates | | | | - | 13,676,928 | - | 5,024,907 | | | 18,701,835 |
| | | | | 0 to 3 mths | 4 to 6 mths | 7 to 12 mths | Greater than 12 mths | | | |
| Loans | | | | 168,166 | 67,159 | 153,606 | 1,531,797 | | | 1,920,728 |
| | | | | Less than 4 weeks | 4-6 weeks | 7-12 weeks | Greater than 12 wks | | | |
| Rents | | | | 133,697 | 94,921 | 140,777 | 3,971,266 | | | 4,340,661 |
| Overdraft Levels | | | | | | | | | | |
| Days in Overdraft in Aug | 0 | | Cost - | | €0.00 | Average Value when in O/D: N/A | | | € | - |