

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL



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Chief Executive
September 2022

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Príomhfheidhmeannach
Meán Fómhair 2022

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate Mayors Official Engagements July 2022

FRIDAY 1st:	Photocall - Skateboard Park Dungarvan Official Opening.
SATURDAY 2nd:	Thomas Francis Meagher Tricolour Celebration Gala Dinner- Granville Hotel, Waterford.
SUNDAY 3rd:	Thomas Francis Meagher Tricolour Celebration - Flag Raising-The Mall, Waterford.
MONDAY 4th:	Launch of City Bike TFI- Arundel Square, Waterford.
TUESDAY 5th:	
WEDNESDAY 6th:	
THURSDAY 7th:	

FRIDAY 8th:	
SATURDAY 9th:	
SUNDAY 10th:	National Day of Commemoration Ceremony- Waterford.
MONDAY 11th:	
TUESDAY 12th:	
WEDNESDAY 13th:	
THURSDAY 14th:	Jack Chambers Minister of State at the Department of Defence of Ireland visit to Dungarvan and An Rinn.

FRIDAY 15th:	Launch of 2GoCup-The Granary Cafe, Waterford.
SATURDAY 16th:	Commemorate the Siege of Waterford - AV Theater in Waterford Museum.
SUNDAY 17th:	
MONDAY 18th:	Mayors reception- Grace Malone and Annie Donnelly-Explorer Belt. Mayors Parlour.
TUESDAY 19th:	
WEDNESDAY 20th:	
THURSDAY 21st:	Belgian National Day- Ailesbury Road, Dublin 4.

FRIDAY 22nd:	
SATURDAY 23rd:	
SUNDAY 24th:	Ogra Fianna Fail Summer School- The Mall, Waterford.
MONDAY 25th:	
TUESDAY 26th:	Launch of the Development Plan- Photo- Mayors Parlour.
WEDNESDAY 27th:	
THURSDAY 28th:	Chinese Ambassador He Xiangdong- Mayors Parlour & Waterford Crystal.

FRIDAY 29th:	
SATURDAY 30th:	150th anniversary of the First Peal- Christ Church Cathedral, Waterford.

Attended by Mayor.
Attended by Metro Mayor.

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate Mayors Official Engagements Aug 2022

MONDAY 1st:

TUESDAY 2nd:

WEDNESDAY 3rd:

THURSDAY 4th:

Recent Works Exhibition- Waterford Gallery of Art, Waterford.

FRIDAY 5th:

Meeting with USA Ambassador- Mayors Parlour.

Waterford Sail Training Certificate Presentation- Mayors Parlour.

SATURDAY 6th:

SUNDAY 7th:

MONDAY 8th:

TUESDAY 9th:

Launch of Gum Litter task force roadshow- Dungarvan.

WEDNESDAY 10th:

THURSDAY 11th:

FRIDAY 12th:

Tramore Races- Presentation to Feature race winner- Tramore Race Course.

SATURDAY 13th:

SUNDAY 14th:

Ukrainian fundraiser- St. Patricks Gateway Center.

MONDAY 15th:

TUESDAY 16th:

WEDNESDAY 17th:

Historic Towns Atlas for Dungarvan- Dungarvan Library- Represented by Cllr. Declan Doocey.

THURSDAY 18th:

FRIDAY 19th:

Photo Launch- Community Volunteering Awards- Park Hotel, Dungarvan.

SATURDAY 20th:

Launch of the Mount William Housing Estate- Williamstown, Waterford.

The Official Opening of our Association Teaching Apiary, Dunhill Ecopark, Dunhill, Waterford.

Viking Heritage Festival- Waterford Greenway Carriganore, Waterford.

SUNDAY 21st:

MONDAY 22nd:

TUESDAY 23rd:

WEDNESDAY 24th:

THURSDAY 25th:

FRIDAY 26th:

Official opening of the Bluegrass Festival- Powers Bar, Dunmore East.

SATURDAY 27th:

The Iverk Show- Piltown, Co Kilkenny.

Rockshire Care Centre Garden Party- Ferrybank, Waterford.

Derbhile Dromey- One woman show, Coastguard Cultural Centre, Tramore, Waterford.

SUNDAY 28th:

Wreath Laying Ceremony -The Royal British Legion- Dungarvan-Represented by Cllr. Declan Doocey.

MONDAY 29th:

Public consultation about a Greenway connection between Kilmeadan and Carrick-on-Suir with Mayor of Tipperary County Council.

TUESDAY 30th:

WEDNESDAY 31th:

Attended by Mayor.

Attended by Metro Mayor.

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Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

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

CONTRACTS:

The returned tender for the North Quays main construction contract; this includes the construction of the Sustainable Transport Bridge, the Transport Hub and Access Roads, has been assessed by the Project Assessment Board. The Final Business case for the North Quays project and the Assessment Boards recommendations have been submitted to Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for cabinet approval as part of the Public Spending Code Gateway 3 approval.

Rock stabilisation works adjacent to Plunkett Railway Station and the South Plaza enabling works are ongoing.

David Walsh Civil Engineering has been appointed for the relocation of Ferrybank pump station, works are due to commence in the coming weeks.

Tender for the Pump station enabling works contract is currently being assessed by Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers.

On 17th August WCCC forwarded a submission to An Bord Pleanála, as requested by the Board, for the western flood defence planning application.

Mallwood Ltd has been appointed for footpath widening on Abbey Road, works are due to commence imminently.

Local Enterprise Office

LEO Figures year to date (2022) and comparison of current month with previous year

Indicator	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	June-22	Aug-22	Aug-21
Measure 1								
No. of Clients applying	0	0	0	3	6	6	6	23
No. of Clients securing	0	0	0	3	6	6	6	23
Value of support approved	€	€	€	€73,2200	€178,145	€178,145	€178,145	€629,104
Measure 2								
No. of clients receiving	78	185	772	885	965	1106	1208	1592
Value of support given	€17,523	€43,394	€80,552	€109,632	€122,607	€198,490	€227,867	€522,768

*2021 Figure includes €135k for Trading On-Line Vouchers (now accounted for separately as below) and €135k for Client Stimulus Fund (a one-off Covid support scheme)

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Support

Trading Online Voucher	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	June-22	Aug-22
No. of Approvals	4	8	21	26	41	41	53
Value of Approvals	€7,599	€17,588	€48,779	€60,369	€91,650	€112,328	€117,328

Figures not included in cumulative table.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE LAUNCHES 'YOUR WATERFORD':

Local Enterprise Office launches first Waterford Digital Awards

Waterford Local Enterprise Office, together with Waterford City and County Council are hosting their first Waterford Digital Awards in Dooley's Hotel on 28th October 2022.

The Awards aim to recognise and reward SMEs based in County Waterford who have developed their ecommerce and digital platforms as part of their product offering. The Awards are open to all businesses with less than 10 full time employees based in County Waterford.

Each category will have up to four shortlisted entrants who will be selected after an evaluation of their website/social media platforms by independent expert judges.

The winner of each category will receive €1,000 towards technical advice, photography, videography and marketing. The overall winner will receive €2,500 in cash.

Entries are open from 22nd August to 26th September. Finalists will receive two free tickets to the Waterford Digital Awards which will held in Dooleys Hotel on 28th October.



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Communications

Public relations

13 Press releases issued in June 2022.

Social Media Stats (WCCC and Shop Waterford FB/ Twitter/ LinkedIn combined): 2022

	Reach	+/- Previous month	% Change	Followers	+/- Previous month	% Change
January	799,327			40,863		
February	865,418	66,091	27%	41,064	201	1.9%
March	924,139	58,721	6.8%	41,700	636	1.5%
April	740,040	-125,378	-13.56%	42,280	1,116	2.7%
May	427,208	-312,832	-42.3%	42,610	430	1%
June	814,680	23,341	2.9%	42,966	356	0.8%
July	689,393	-125,287	-15.4%	43,392	426	1.0%
August	699,485	10,092	1.5%	43,985	593	1.4%

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS):

Projects funded under the above-mentioned scheme in 2019, 2020 and 2021: currently in progress.

Funding totalling €145,787 for projects announced by DRCD under ORIS 2022 Measure 1 and Project Development Measure

WATERFORD GREENWAY

A number of projects are currently being planned and/or implemented on Waterford Greenway with both WCCC funding sources and funding support from TII.

GREENWAY FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Continuing to work with Cork County Council and Atkins Ireland with regard to the Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway feasibility study. Initial public consultation phase closed in April 2022. Further landowner, stakeholder and public engagement will take place at emerging preferred route stage in coming months.

Working with Tipperary County Council with regard to feasibility study into a Waterford Greenway to Suir Blueway Connection. A non-statutory public consultation period with regard to the study area opened on 31st August and will close for comments and observations on 7th October 2022.

WATERFORD TRAILS

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

The DRCD have announced funding for Community Trail Management Organisations which is being administered at national level by Pobal. Five trail development groups in Waterford are eligible to apply for €1000, €2800 or €3000 depending on the length of the trail that the group manages and maintains. Funding announced will support purchase of equipment, small scale maintenance/repair or promotion of eligible trails.

Pleanáil / Planning

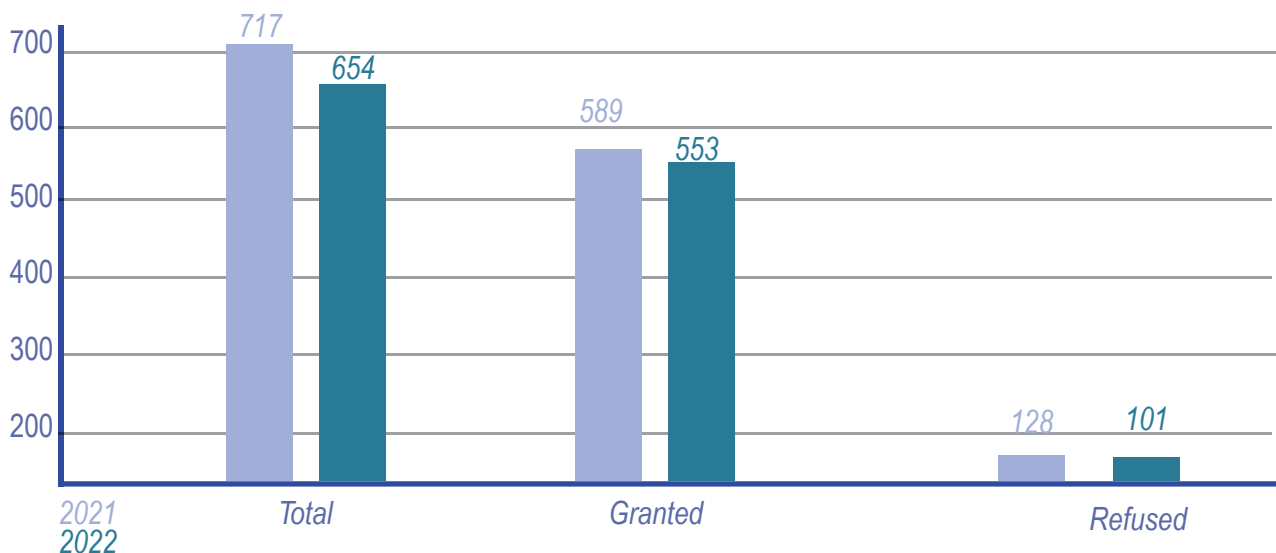
PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

68 Planning applications were received countywide in August 2022 up to and including 26th August 2022. This compares with 67 planning applications received for the same period in August 2021. In July 2022, 96 planning applications were received in the full calendar month, compared to 116 received in July 2021.

A total of 742 planning applications were received in the year to 26th August 2022. This compares to 804 planning applications which were received to the 26th August 2021.

PLANNING DECISIONS

654 applications were decided from the 1st of January to 26th August 2022 compared to 717 for the same period in 2021. Of the 654 decisions, 553 decisions were granted and 101 decisions were refused.



FORWARD PLANNING SEPTEMBER PLENARY REPORT REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Following the provisions of Section 48 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended, we are currently reviewing the Development Contribution Scheme and intend to bring this to the plenary council over the period to the end of 2022. We will engage with the Plenary Council in the period prior to publication of the draft scheme and will utilise the consult.waterfordcouncil.ie portal for the purposes of broader engagement with members of the public and other relevant consultees once the draft scheme has been prepared. Following the period of public consultation, we will prepare a Chief Executive Report summarising details of written submission received on the draft scheme and setting out any amendments to the draft scheme where relevant. The Plenary Council will then have a period of 6 weeks to consider the content of the CE Report and the draft scheme prior to making the new scheme on or before 12th of February 2023. A broad timeline for the preparation of the scheme is set out hereunder.

Section 48 Development Contributions Scheme	
Prepare draft scheme	September to mid-October
Public consultation on draft scheme	Mid October to end November (not less than 6 weeks period)
Prepare and submit CE Report to council	Early December to late December (not less than 4 weeks period)
Council to consider CE Report	Late December to early February (not more than 6 weeks period)
Resolution to make the scheme	On or before 12th of February 2023

Heritage Officer Report

HERITAGE OFFICER REPORT JUNE 2022

Heritage Week

The return of in person and on-site Heritage Week events this year was a great success with over 51 events across the city and county. Great attendances were recorded at all events.

Decade of Commemorations

Research is almost complete for the GIS Story Map on Civil War events in Waterford and a website is being developed which will host all material relating to the Decade of Commemorations Programme in Waterford from the past 8 years.

Community Monuments Funding

Waterford City and County Council were awarded an allocation of over €220,000 under the 2022 Community Monuments Fund to support 6 projects.

CONSERVATION OFFICER REPORT

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

Many of the projects granted €182,400 funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2022 are now completed. Projects include repairs to chimneys, roofs, thatch houses, windows and repointing of walls

Historic Structures Scheme (HSF)

The works for the 5 projects, which were granted a total of €339,755 funding under Historic Structures Scheme (HSF) will be completed by the end of September.



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Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	July & Aug 2021	Year 2021	July & Aug 2022	Year to date 2022
Applications received	126	593	147	673
Applications assessed *	152	717	103	678
Applications Validated*	78	401	60	301
Approved for social housing supports following interview	70	397	52	288

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies July & Aug 2021	Cumulative Tenancies 2021	New Tenancies July & Aug 2022	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2022
Total	71	464	106	22	371

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1076 There have been 317 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
2022 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
July & Aug	10	1	9	4	4
Year to date	57	1	39	11	4

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment					
	May 2021 HAP Tenancies	May 2022 HAP Tenancies set up	2022 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	50	46	-56*	4,441	1,860

* Minus figure as more tenancies left the programme in the month then new tenancies signed up

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Inspections of Dwellings

Inspections of Dwellings

<i>HAP</i>	45
<i>HAP Non-Compliant</i>	41
<i>Total</i>	45

In July & Aug, Waterford City & County Council carried out 259 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 71 properties has 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

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

Grant Scheme amount	No of applications approved July & Aug 2022	Value of applications July & Aug 2022	Cumulative number of applications approved 2022	Cumulative value of 2022 applications
<i>Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000</i>	25	€405,615.00	91	€1,336,417.96
<i>Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000</i>	17	€89,960.00	67	€351,898.99
<i>Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000</i>	26	€143,082.00	91	€485,479.45
<i>Total</i>	68	€638,651.00	249	€2,173,796.40

<i>Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:</i>	<i>Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:</i>	<i>Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:</i>
57	33	68

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

<i>Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)</i>	<i>1st-31st July 2022</i>	<i>Cumulative 2022</i>	<i>Total 2021</i>
<i>Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service</i>	300	2,276	3,516
<i>Assessments by a Homeless Officer</i>	68	572	760
<i>Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)</i>	<i>1st- 28th August 2022</i>	<i>Cumulative 2022</i>	<i>Total 2021</i>
<i>Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service</i>	280	2,556	3,516
<i>Assessments by a Homeless Officer</i>	93	665	760

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	<i>31st July 2022</i>	<i>31st July 2021</i>	<i>28th Aug 2022</i>	<i>28th Aug 2021</i>
<i>Number of Single Persons</i>	57	57	46	49
<i>Number of Families</i>	16	10	15	10
<i>Number of Adults in Families</i>	22	13	19	12
<i>Number of Children</i>	33	29	27	25

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HAP PlaceFinder Service

	1st-31st July 2022	Cumulative July 2022	1st-28th Aug 2022	Cumulative Aug 2022
<i>Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer</i>	23	185	23	185
<i>Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete</i>	14	80	14	80

Housing First Programme

	Tenancies 2022	
	July	Aug
<i>Number of Tenancies in place at 31st July + 28th Aug 2022 with Housing First supports.</i>	33	31

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Current Position</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Total WCCC Projects	288	Countywide	Various Stages	
<i>Part V</i>	26	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery On-going 2021 – 10 (est)
<i>Repair and Lease</i>	151	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 41 2021 – 50 (est) 2022 – 50 (est)
<i>Leasing</i>	130	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 30 From end of 2021 scheme closed to new applicants
<i>Buy & Renew- Countywide</i>	48	Countywide	Tender Preparation	In progress – Refurbishment Contractor Framework Appointed

Total units including WCCC Projects: 643

There are 130 units in progress under the Housing Capital Schemes for Approved Housing Body projects.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITTING 2022:

Waterford City and County Council have been allocated an initial target of 76 houses for Energy Efficiency Retrofitting works for 2022 by the Department of Housing.

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<i>July & Aug 2022</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Handed over/</i>	
<i>Works completed</i>	21
<i>Newly Vacant</i>	23

92 Units approved by the Department for Refurbishment in 2022.

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Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

- The payments out on all LEADER Projects are progressing well.
- One application for non-works project has been evaluated in June.
- The last wrap up call has been brought forward to the 6th of July 2022.
- The budget is small. €159,000 for Transitional LEADER and €3,000 for EURI Projects.
- On existing projects, there are no decommitments and all are proceeding as planned.
- Consultations for the next programme will commence this Autumn.
- Payments out on completed projects will continue into 2023.
- WLP has commenced initial work on Biodiversity and sustainability projects with communities and businesses.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG:

Progress on 2022 activities is being made weekly by the young people and these are reviewed regularly by the steering committee members. Phase one and phase two of the multi-annual tree planting programme has been completed at the WIT Arena and in Cherrymount This activity is in partnership with WCCC, WIT and the Lions club. Meetings are ongoing to identify additional sites with engagements taking place with the trails officer in WCCC.

WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

Work continues through the Thematic sub-groups to progress the objectives of the AF Strategy. Preparation of the new strategy document continues. The consultant is moving ahead with the consultations with engagement with thematic subgroups ongoing. An online survey has been developed for circulation and further public consultations are planned for September.

HEALTHY WATERFORD:

Healthy Waterford Committee met on the 18th of August to conduct an initial mapping exercise of the different projects under the Healthy Ireland fund to continue preparations for the rollout of Round 4 and enhance the relationships between Sláintecare, healthy communities & active cities . A further meeting to develop the strategic committee will take place on the 5th of September where the terms of reference will be drafted and discussed. The recruitment of a Healthy Waterford Coordinator has been completed with Eoin Morrissey being appointed on the 8th of August.

SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):

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) which has commenced and the Enhancement Funding Scheme. An application for €250k funding was successful and 4 projects have been completed under the programme.

Update:

- A mapping exercise took place to set up the Local Implementation Team and to agree on the ways we can work together in the wellbeing area.
- 2 out of the Enhancement Funding Scheme project were completed and work will start soon on the other two.
- Ongoing consultations with community and other organisations regarding the needs or gaps in services.
- The set up of a 'workers group' in the area of wellbeing with the role of identifying community projects that can be done in partnership.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP:

The public consultation phase of the Community Safety Plan was launched on 29th June 2022 and details will be circulated to all members. Hub Planning were the successful tenderers for the development of the CSP and were appointed at the start of June. Waterford LCSP made four applications under the Community Safety Innovation Fund, applicants will be informed in August.

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UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY RESPONSE FORUM:

The Ukrainian CRF is in place to assist with housing, supporting and integrating Ukrainian refugees into our communities. To date over 750 Ukrainian refugees have been accommodated in our Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City with 530 exiting, of which 350 were matched with pledged accommodation by Waterford Council staff.

PRIDE OF PLACE:

Waterford's main entry for the 2022 competition is the Surprise Surprise Group having won the 2021 PPN awards with the Housing Department entry being the An Garran estate in Tramore. Judging is taking place on Monday August 29th.

Social Inclusion:

MIGRANT INTEGRATION:

Various initiatives being followed up on to progress the Strategy adopted by Council in 2020.

SICAP:

Work is ongoing with Waterford Area Partnership continuing to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC with 79 local community groups and 953 individuals in Waterford expected to benefit in 2022.

SICAP Budget allocations for 2022 have now been confirmed and the budget for Waterford City & County (24-1) is €1,280,970.

TIG:

The Waterford Traveller Interagency Group continues to meet regularly by way of Zoom.

NATIONAL PLAY DAY 2022:

The Council has received formal approval from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the allocation of €245,371 for the Regional Sports Centre to upgrade the floodlights to UEFA standards and European Sport Lighting Standards.

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 months of July and August.

<i>Fire Service Operational Activity:</i>				
<i>Area</i>	<i>Fires</i>	<i>Special Services</i>	<i>False alarm/ Good intent</i>	<i>False alarm Malicious</i>
<i>Total for July & Aug</i>	168	93	39	0
<i>Year to date</i>	442	33	144	0
<i>Total for July & Aug 2021</i>	90	81	24	1
<i>Total for 2021</i>	463	277	113	3

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FIRE SAFETY:

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

<i>Fire Safety:</i>				
<i>Applications received</i>	<i>July & Aug 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>	<i>July & Aug 2021</i>	<i>2021 YTD</i>
<i>Fire Safety Certificates</i>	11	60	15	47

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.

<i>Building Control:</i>				
<i>Applications received</i>	<i>July & Aug 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>	<i>July & Aug 2021</i>	<i>2021 YTD</i>
<i>Commencement Notices</i>	64	216	63	352
<i>Completion Certificates</i>	34	143	44	195
<i>Disability Access Certs</i>	9	37	7	57

CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the months of July and August 2022 concentrated on the assistance of the urgent needs of the Ukrainian Displaced Persons (DP's).

- Logistical support & Transport of over 70 Ukraine related calls.
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

In Community support and Events we attended:

- RNLI Helvick Charity Swim Ambulance & First Aid Support.
- Irish Water Safety Lifesaving Munster Championships in Ardmore First Aid Support.
- 25th Anniversary of the RNLI Lifeboat in Helvick & Inter Agency Emergency Service Day.

The Civil Defence volunteers are also working on retraining and recertifying their core skills in their different service area's like Communications, First Aid, Search etc.

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Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2022 – 25TH AUGUST 2022

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	120
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	83
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	1

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	1675
Legal Actions	2
Section 18's Statutory Notices Served (asking for info on Waste Issues)	12
Section 55's Statutory Notices Served (asking for Waste to be removed in a 2 week period)	19
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	34
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	145
Section 14 Directions	20
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	7
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.	2
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	0



Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022

The Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 has been signed into law by the President.

What the Act does - The Act:

- defines the Circular Economy for the first time in Irish domestic law;
- incentivises the use of reusable and recyclable alternatives to a range of wasteful single-use disposable packaging and other items;
- re-designates the existing Environment Fund as a Circular Economy Fund, which will remain ring-fenced to provide support for environmental and circular economy projects;
- Introduces a mandatory segregation and incentivised charging regime for commercial waste, similar to what exists for the household market. This will increase waste separation and support increased re-cycling rates;
- provides for the GDPR-compliant use of a range of technologies, such as CCTV for waste enforcement purposes. This will support efforts to tackle illegal dumping and littering, while protecting the privacy rights of citizens;
- places the Circular Economy Strategy and National Food Loss Prevention Roadmap on a statutory footing, establishing a legal requirement for governments to develop and periodically update these 2 policies;
- streamlines the national processes for End-of-Waste and By-Products decisions, tackling the delays which can be encountered by industry, and supporting the availability of recycled secondary raw materials in the Irish market; and
- consolidates the government's policy of keeping fossil fuels in the ground – by introducing prohibitions on exploration for and extraction of coal, lignite and oil shale

THE NEXT STEPS:

Draft Regulations on the Single Use Disposable Cup Levy will go out for consultation this autumn, with a view to these taking effect before the end of the year. A public consultation on new regulations in respect of the End-of-Waste and By-Products decisions making processes will also go out for consultation later this year.

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) will begin preparing the Statutory Codes of Practice in relation to the use of CCTV and other Recording Devices that Local Authorities will have to abide by as when using these technologies tackle illegal dumping. The Codes of Practice will then be submitted to the Minister for final approval.

Solid Fuel Regulations

New Solid Fuel Regulations have recently been approved by the Government and will come into force on the 31st October 2022.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS?

1. The new technical requirements for fuels have been set and are outlined below

- Coal products and manufactured solid fuels must have a smoke emission rate of less than 10 grams per hour. Manufactured part biomass products must have a smoke emission rate of less than 5 grams per hour. – This is effectively the same as is currently in operation in low smoke zones. Traditional smokey coals cannot meet these requirements and as such a prohibited from sale.

- Coal products and manufactured solid fuels, including manufactured part biomass products, must have a sulphur content less than 2% by weight on a dry ash-free basis, and with effect from 1 September 2025, subject to a market assessment, have sulphur content less than 1% by weight on a dry ash-free basis. – Again, this is similar to the current provision for these fuels but the limits are expected to be reduced over time.

- A new requirement is that fuel products which are 100% biomass products including, wood products and wood logs, supplied in units of two cubic metres or less, must have a moisture content of less than 25% from 2022 and less than 20% from 2023.

- Wood logs supplied in units of two cubic metres or more shall be accompanied by a notice containing the statement specified in the Schedule 1 of the regulations.

2. It will be prohibited to sell turf via the internet or other media, or from a premises or place used for the retail of food, fuel or other goods (including from shops, garages and petrol filling stations, fuel yards and public houses and other public places).

3. FPN's no longer apply – due to legal issues it will no longer possible to issue FPN's

4. Online sales are now included

5. No ban on the burning of fuel is included to allow householders to use up any existing product they may have from before the regulations are introduced.

6. There have also been changes to the producer and retailer responsibilities.

HOW WILL THE REGULATIONS BE ENFORCED?

The regulations are made under the Air Pollution Act and as with the current regulations, the Local Authorities are primarily responsible for the enforcement of the new regulations within their functional areas. A contravention of a provision of these regulations is an offence under the Act and will be prosecuted under the Act.

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Environmental Education & Awareness

WASTE PREVENTION:

Waste prevention workshops will be held in libraries for both Heritage Week (August) and Reuse Month (October). The focus of these workshops is making a reusable food wrap that provides a natural alternative to plastic wrap. These wraps are a great way to start out on your waste reduction journey and offer an easy switch from plastic. Each participant can make their own wrap to take home with them and are encouraged to bring along any other waste prevention or recycling questions they might have. The workshop provides a forum to discuss reuse, composting and recycling as the wraps are being made. These workshops will take place in Lismore, Waterford city centre, Ardkeen, Tramore and Kilmacthomas.

Waterford City & County Council have been working with 2GoCup to encourage the use of reusable cups at cafes. 10 cafes are taking part in a three month pilot initiative with deposit return reusable cups that cost €1 each (5 cafes along the Greenway and 5 in Waterford). It is hoped that these 10 cafes will then encourage other cafes to accept and move towards reusable cups.

SCHOOLS:

The Green Schools Seminar will be online this autumn as most teachers found this to be a convenient way to take part. Ms. Ella Ryan, Environmental Education & Awareness Officer will be available to visit schools or answer any questions that they might have, as will An Taisce's Green Schools team.

Waterford City & County Council are working with a further four schools and the Waterford Teachers Centre to continue the Climate Literacy programme with secondary schools this autumn. This is a 10- week Climate Literacy programme, focused on improving climate literacy and fostering behaviour change in schools. The course is developed to include teacher training, resources, and lesson plans. The teacher training is designed to equip teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and skills required to effectively and confidently deliver not only this course, but also across their curriculum subject as the course can complement any subject framework that has an environmental strand. After the training the teachers will then be able to deliver the course with as many groups of students as they wish. An in-person teacher training day will be held on 22nd August, with further online sessions taking place during September.

LITTER AWARENESS:

The Love This Place national public awareness campaign from Leave No Trace Ireland took place from the beginning of June to the end of August. It urged the public to play their part by acting responsibly when using outdoor spaces through raising awareness of our impacts and what we can all do to make a difference. The campaign began by prompting people to take a pledge to follow the Leave No Trace principles. This year, it focused on the impacts of littering, responsible dog ownership and fires. Waterford City & County Council has been using some of these messages across its social media to highlight local issues, adding local images and text where necessary.

The Mayor of the City & County of Waterford officially launched the Gum Litter Taskforce's gum litter education campaign on 9th August. The Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) is an environmental initiative that was set up to develop and implement an awareness campaign to reduce gum litter. Supported and funded by the chewing gum industry, the GLT initiative has made improvements in relation to gum litter awareness and disposal behaviour over the last 14 years. The latest results of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring report showed the percentage of gum as a proportion of litter at 9.4%, down from 10.6% the previous year (2019). As part of the Gum Litter Taskforce the 'Bin It!' education programme will travel across the country and deliver 60 performances a year to primary schools nationwide. The 'Bin It!' school roadshow encourages students to responsibly dispose of litter, and particularly gum litter, through actor-led workshops.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS:

Waterford City & County Council facilitates community clean ups throughout the year to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

Arts Report

The Arts Service has been successful in gaining further funding under the LLPPS4 programme for professional performance and technical arts up until October 30th. The Arts service is also applying for funding under the Outdoor Performance Spaces to aid the improvement of Performance activities in the County.

Arts Practice Grants and Venue Grants go online this week with a closing date of October 3rd (5pm).



The Old Market House Arts Centre is in the final fortnight of the 'Aspects' exhibition. A new exhibition featuring portraits from the Waterford Art Collection will be installed later this month. In addition new works for 'Market 22' by artists from the region will also open. The final TuneFest free weekly lunchtime summer concert series concluded in the Arts Centre which provided quality traditional music for visitors.

Culture Night Lights, an external art installation by students of Ard Scoil na nDéise, Dungarvan will be take place on Culture Night , Friday 23rd September from 8pm to late. Also on that evening the winner of the national Molly Keane Creative Writing Award 2023 will be announced and read at an online event hosted on the Waterford In Your Pocket platforms.

In association with the Waterford Healing Arts Trust, Art at the Kitchen Table outreach to West Waterford continues. This enables clients to avail of one to one art sessions in their own homes plus they attend a group session weekly in the Old Market House Arts Centre, Dungarvan.

The Arts Office and the ArtLinks partners in Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford is working with First Music Contact, the leading national music organisation for resourcing popular musicians and the independent music sector in Ireland. This new project aims to develop a way of offering equal access to professional development services to musicians all around Ireland as well as developing a framework for supporting artists at a local level. This project will offer a high level professional development series to musicians in these counties as well as creating an opportunity for musicians to give feedback on what local supports they need to develop their careers. At present a questionnaire has been circulated to identify the needs and is available on waterfordarts.com, this will be followed up with participating in a mentoring programme.

Libraries

In July and August, the 12 branches of Waterford City and County Libraries celebrated Reading, Heritage and Culture. Our Libraries popped up in the community for three special occasions reaching out to new members and highlighting our excellent service.

	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>
<i>No. of Visitors this month</i>	26,181	28,820
<i>Active members</i>	17,333	21,080
<i>Issues in branch</i>	28,180	31,716
<i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</i>	10,113	12,575
<i>Events & Activities</i>	209	207

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY & AUGUST:

- On Friday 8th July Waterford Libraries popped up for an Outside Broadcast with WLR fm. Our Librarians were interviewed on air. Story times, craft and competitions were held in order to promote our valuable Summer Stars reading programme. Social media posts relating to this had a reach figure of 83,334 along with 3 primetime radio hours focusing on Waterford Libraries.
- Heritage Week was celebrated inside and outside our Libraries. This involved guided walking tours, Workshops on Biodiversity, Researching your Family History, Powerful Herbs and Beeswax wrap making.
- Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney was a keynote speaker at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in The Convention Centre, Dublin on July 27th. She delivered an engaging guide to marketing Public Libraries in Ireland to an International audience of 270 in person attendees, available simultaneously to 1700 delegates.
- Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney spoke to Claire Byrne on RTÉ Radio 1 on August 23rd recommending books for children and adults on climate change and what we can do to help.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Libraries will celebrate Culture Night on September 23rd and Positive Ageing Week from September 26th to 30th.
- Mary Conway, Senior Executive Librarian will be giving a presentation on My Open Library to a Libraries Development LGMA training course on My Open Library on September 6th.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- Waterford Libraries were awarded over €310,000 total funding for our My Open Library services.
- Waterford Libraries were delighted to receive €33,597 in funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund which will allow us to extend and galvanise our commitment to literacy, numeracy and dyslexia services and to support the continuation of our Oral History project in West Waterford.
- Two Library projects have been shortlisted for this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards on our Dyslexia Support Services in the Diversity and Inclusion category and on our intergenerational music project, 'The people we grow up to be' in the Age-Friendly Initiative category.



Waterford Library staff at the Pop up at the WLRfm Outside Broadcast. Assistant Librarian Lorraine Boyle, Acting Senior Executive Librarian Sinead O'Higgins, Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney, Library Assistant Jessica Griffin & Library Assistant Paula Paul.



Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney speaking to an international audience at the National Convention Centre for WLIC 2022

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Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to July 31, 2022

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	18,670,449	32,461,813	58%	20,001,755	35,042,973	57%
B	Road Transport & Safety	20,549,153	46,030,418	45%	12,751,991	33,445,608	38%
C	Water Services	6,107,457	11,141,683	55%	5,864,488	10,674,030	55%
D	Development Management	12,150,523	17,678,810	69%	7,021,037	8,494,376	83%
E	Environmental Services	11,612,589	20,905,703	56%	1,381,821	2,878,907	48%
F	Recreation & Amenity	8,576,893	14,951,207	57%	994,015	1,750,939	57%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	552,096	1,182,814	47%	236,242	501,962	47%
H	Miscellaneous Services	6,183,775	9,360,886	66%	4,440,745	5,744,486	77%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	11,473,301	19,668,516	58%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	20,715,063	35,511,536	58%
		84,402,934	153,713,333	55%	84,880,458	153,713,333	55%
Surplus/Deficit					477,524	0	

Collections

Summary of main collections July 2022 YTD

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2022	Accrued ytd to July 2022	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to July 2022	Gross Bal 31-07-2022 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2022 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
		€	€		€	€	€		€	
Rates	6,132,653	35,338,680	- 494,817	- 1,070,744	39,905,772	21,619,868	18,285,904	2,123,073	57%	61%
Loans	1,702,320	1,972,167	-		3,674,487	2,019,610	1,654,877		55%	102%
Rents	3,938,392	8,994,439	- 2,403		12,930,428	9,035,373	3,895,055		70%	100%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-		14,486,455	3,799,449			18,285,904
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				170,595	66,793	114,283	1,303,206			1,654,877
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				114,090	77,042	118,818	3,585,105			3,895,055
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in July 2	0		Cost -	0	€0.00	verage Value when in O/D : N/A			€	-