

# MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE

WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL.



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council



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Chief Executive  
March 2023

Michael Walsh  
Príomhfheidhmeannach  
Márta 2023

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# Management Report Plenary 09th March 2023.

## Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate. Mayors Official Engagements February 2023.

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>WEDNESDAY 1st:</b> | Photo call for Wheelchair Accessibility Swings Walton Park, Dungarvan, Waterford.<br>Special screening of "Aisha" Garter Lane Arts Centre, Waterford. |
| <b>THURSDAY 2nd:</b>  |   |
| <b>FRIDAY 3rd:</b>    | BAM Contract Agreement - Signing & Sealing.   |
| <b>SATURDAY 4th:</b>  |   |
| <b>SUNDAY 5th:</b>    |   |
| <b>MONDAY 6th:</b>    |   |
| <b>TUESDAY 7th:</b>   | UCC Governing Body. UCC, Cork.  |

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|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>WEDNESDAY 8th:</b> | Bord Fáilte- Photo in the Granville, Waterford.   |
| <b>THURSDAY 9th:</b>  | Launch of the Digital Story Trail- Reginalds Tower & The Garden Room, Medieval Museum, Waterford.<br>Screening of a film about the Civil War, SGC Cinema in Dungarvan, Waterford. |
| <b>FRIDAY 10th:</b>   |   |
| <b>SATURDAY 11th:</b> |   |
| <b>SUNDAY 12th:</b>   |   |
| <b>MONDAY 13th:</b>   | Photo with the Grand Marshal for the Saint Patricks Day Parade, City Hall, The Mall.  |
| <b>TUESDAY 14th:</b>  |   |

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|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>WEDNESDAY 15th:</b> | Lismore Castle Visit. Lismore Castle, Waterford.  |
| <b>THURSDAY 16th:</b>  | Dutch Ambassador, Mayors Parlour, Waterford.  |
| <b>FRIDAY 17th:</b>    | The Construction Industry Federation South East Construction Dinner, Tower Hotel, Waterford.  |
| <b>SATURDAY 18th:</b>  |   |
| <b>SUNDAY 19th:</b>    | Photo to promote Community Ballyduff Drama Group. Community Hall, Ballyduff, Waterford.   |
| <b>MONDAY 20th:</b>    |   |
| <b>TUESDAY 21st:</b>   | Retirement of Patrick Dunne - Chief Superintendent, Tower Hotel, Waterford.<br>Civic Reception for the Dominican & Franciscan Orders, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford. |

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|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>WEDNESDAY 22nd:</b>    |   |
| <b>THURSDAY DAY 23rd:</b> | The Waterford Culture and Creativity 2023-2027, Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin.  |
| <b>FRIDAY 24th:</b>       | Waterford Business Awards, Faithlegg, Waterford.  |
| <b>SATURDAY 25th:</b>     | Ballyduff Drama Group "Grease" Ballyduff Community Hall, Waterford.   |
| <b>SUNDAY 26th:</b>       | Prayer and Choral Recital with Ukrainian Ambassador, Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity Within<br>Barronstrand Street, Waterford.<br>Waterford News & Star Green Room Awards, Theater Royal, Waterford. |
| <b>MONDAY 27th:</b>       | Estonian Ambassador, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, Waterford.  |
| <b>TUESDAY 28th:</b>      | This is Art Launch, Waterford Gallery of Art, O'Connell Street, Waterford.  |

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Attended by Mayor:

Attended by Deputy Mayor:

Attended by Mayor of the Metropolitan District:

Attended by Metro Deputy:

Attended by a Representative:

## Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

### North Quays

BAM Civil Ltd has commenced work on the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project, initially carrying out site clearance works, and compound set up. A ground breaking ceremony was held on 6th March 2023, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister Eamon Ryan TD and Minister Darragh O'Brien TD were in attendance.

Pre-planning meetings with the Planning section of Waterford City and County Council are being held with the private developer, Harcourt Developments, regarding development of the North Quays SDZ site.

Planning permission has been granted by An Bord Pleanála for the Flood Defence West application, it comprises 1.1 km of flood protection measures to the west of Plunkett Station along the northern bank and within the foreshore of the River Suir. A tender process has commenced for the appointment of flood defence design consultants.

### CONTRACTS:

Ferrybank Pump station contract and enabling works - David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing works on Ferrybank Pump Station and the Pump Station enabling works contract.

Rock Stabilisation contract - Cumnor Construction Ltd is finalising rock stabilization works and commencing demobilization from the cliff face to the North of Plunkett Station in the coming weeks.

Abbey Road footpath widening contract - Mallwood Construction is also close to completion of footpath widening works.

### Local Enterprise Office

#### LEO Figures year to date (2023) and comparison of current month with previous year

| Indicator                 | At end of Feb 2022 | At end of Feb 2023 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Measure 1</b>          |                    |                    |
| No. of Clients applying   | 0                  | 5                  |
| No. of Clients securing   | 0                  | 4                  |
| Value of support approved | €0                 | €116,220           |
| <b>Measure 2</b>          |                    |                    |
| No. of clients receiving  | 185                | 289                |
| Value of support given    | €43,394            | €31,672            |

No Evaluation Committee meeting took place in January 2023. Next meeting is February 2023.

#### Support – Trading Online Voucher

##### Trading Online Voucher

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| No. of Approvals   | 11      |
| Value of Approvals | €22,382 |

Figures not included in cumulative table.

# Management Report Plenary 09th March 2023.

## WATERFORD LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE “MAKING IT HAPPEN” DURING LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

Local Enterprise Office Waterford has announced a large number of innovative business events for those planning, starting or growing their business in 2023 during Local Enterprise Week, taking place throughout Waterford City and County from March 6th to 10th.

The week-long programme compiled by Local Enterprise Office Waterford will focus on the issues that impact businesses, whether it's a pre-start, start-up or an established business looking to grow.

Local Enterprise Week Waterford kicks off its jam-packed programme on the morning of Monday, March 6th with a free interactive session to learn more about how Digital and Lean solutions can help your business work smarter. During the Digital Decade, businesses face two important challenges, the green transition, and the digital transition. These might seem like two distinct issues, but really, they are twin challenges. Neither can succeed without the other, and both are equally important for Waterford's future.

This is followed by a workshop at 360 Cookhouse, designed to support food service providers and show them how small changes can make big savings. The week is packed with inventive and informative events. The two biggest being, Thursday's 'Waterford, Open for Business' seminar and Friday's 'Social Media Mash Up'.

Waterford, Open for Business looks at Waterford's future in terms of work, enterprise and innovation. Facilitated by Nichola Beresford, with Gerry Duffy (Gerry Duffy Academy) as key note speaker and some of Waterford's best know entrepreneurs, thinkers and policy makers taking part, it's an event not to be missed. This seminar will look at Waterford's plans for the next 5 - 10 years and examine what we can do in the here and now in order to support that vision and develop a Waterford that promotes investment in ourselves and in others.

While Friday's Social Media Mash Up is hosted by Teresanne O' Reilly (The Forest.ie) and includes Ken McHugh (Lefthand Productions) as guest speaker, and Lynn Ferrari (International Living), Paul Dower (Waterford In Your Pocket), Lynne Ward and Martina Perry (Pepper Hustle) as panellists. Now more than ever it is important that businesses include social media as part of their business strategy. This event will be an exciting session for business owner/managers who want to ensure they are optimising their current social media platforms and are prepared for future trends.



## Communications

### Social Media Stats (WCCC and Shop Waterford FB/ Twitter/ LinkedIn combined): 2023

|     | Reach   | % Change | Posts | % Change | Followers | % Change |
|-----|---------|----------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Jan | 394,785 |          | 279   |          | 45,758    |          |
| Feb | 506,524 | 28.3%    | 245   | -12.2%   | 46,235    | 1.2%     |

### WCCC Website stats: February 1st to February 27th, 2023

|                              | Page Views | Unique page views | Avg. Time on Page |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                              | 97,408     | 75,697            | 00:01:31          |
| 1. Online Planning Enquiries | 10,136     | 8,234             | 00:03:23          |
| 2. Choice Based Lettings     | 6,359      | 4,790             | 00:01:48          |
| 3. Index                     | 6,158      | 4,898             | 00:00:43          |
| 4. Online Payments           | 3,960      | 3,484             | 00:03:01          |
| 5. Job Vacancies             | 4,974      | 4,176             | 00:02:17          |
| 6. Departments Index         | 3,296      | 2,615             | 00:00:17          |
| 7. Planning Enquiries        | 3,935      | 2,650             | 00:00:14          |
| 8. Planning Index            | 2,742      | 2,134             | 00:00:34          |
| 9. Planning Lists Index      | 2,945      | 2,134             | 00:00:34          |
| 10. Parking                  | 2,023      | 1,595             | 00:00:46          |

\*Page views represent the total amount of 'hits' to any given webpage - one person can make multiple page views

\*\*Unique Page views count unique views of a page only once, regardless of how many pages they have visited during one visit.



## **TRAILS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION:**

### ***Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)***

•Currently implementing 18 projects around the county, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) between 2019 and 2022. The scheme funds the ongoing maintenance of existing trails and outdoor recreation amenities, development of new and enhanced amenities as well as promotional activities. A new Project Development Measure was also initiated under the 2021 scheme.

•Will be preparing ORIS 2023 funding applications over the coming months for submission to DRCD following community and stakeholder engagement.

### ***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 including:

oInstallation of bike maintenance stations along the route at Durrow, Kilmacthomas and Kilmeaden.

oRepair of Kilmacthomas Viaduct – substantially complete.

oUpgrade works to the Greenway near Killoteran in collaboration with WSVR – due to award contract shortly.

### ***Greenway Feasibility Studies***

•Continuing to work with Cork County Council, TII and Atkins Ireland with regard to the Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway feasibility study. Further landowner, stakeholder and public engagement will take place at emerging preferred route stage.

### ***Waterford Trails***

Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors, local trail development groups and other key stakeholders with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail Wnetwork. [www.visitwaterfordtrails.com](http://www.visitwaterfordtrails.com)

### ***Tourism***

Mount Congreve Gardens had their grand opening on March 1st. The launch follows the most recent renovations and restorations to the House & Gardens. As well as the beautiful gardens The Stables Café offers delicious breakfast, lunch & light bite options throughout the day & The Secret Garden Shop offers a unique range of gift ideas inspired by the beauty of the gardens. It is easy to see why Mount Congreve has been described as 'A Great Garden of the World'.

### ***Economic Development & Enterprise SPC***

The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled on May 31st 2023.

## Pleanáil / Planning

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

71 Planning applications were received countywide in from 1st-27nd February 2023. This compares with 80 planning applications received for the same period in 2022.

A total of 131 planning applications were received in the year to 27th February 2023. This compares to 144 planning applications which were received in the same period in 2022.



## Heritage Officer Report

### Decade of Commemorations

John Foley's film on Liam Lynch and the end of the Civil War was premiered on 9th February in Dungarvan Cinema to great praise with further public screenings to be announced <https://johnfoleyimages.com/the-dying-days-film/>. A publication on Cumann na mBan in Waterford by Christina O'Connor and Eddie Cantwell will be launched on March 8th in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan attended by the Mayor and launched by Dr. Sinead MCoole. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media has allocated a commemorations fund of €50,000 for 2023. This year's events programme will include seminar on the Centenary of Waterford Farm Labourer's Strike 1923, talk on the General Election of 27 August 1923, support of commemorative films and publications, schools education pack and a community commemoration grant scheme.

### Community Heritage Fund 2023

Over 10 applications have been submitted for projects across Waterford to the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Fund. The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects including buildings.

A Community Commemoration Grant Scheme will open for application until Monday 17th April with grants up to €5,000 available for community projects commemorating the 1921-1923 period. For Application Forms contact the City and County Archivist, Joanne Rothwell [archivist@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:archivist@waterfordcouncil.ie) 0761102144.

Eight applications have been submitted to the Community Monuments Fund allocated by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €336,000 for conservation and survey of a range of archaeological sites across the city and county.

Six applications have been submitted to the Local Biodiversity Action Fund allocated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €100,000 for projects on Brent Geese, Barn Owls, control of invasive species, wetland management and control of invasive species.

The outcome of funding applications will be known by early May.



## Tithíocht / Housing

### Housing Applications

| <b>Housing Applications</b>                              |          |           |          |                   |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| <i>* inc files from carried forward</i>                  | Feb 2022 | Year 2021 | Feb 2023 | Year to date 2023 |
| Applications received                                    | 31       | 959       | 173      | 350               |
| Applications assessed *                                  | 44       | 434       | 47       | 91                |
| Applications Validated*                                  | N/A      | N/A       | 92       | 211               |
| Approved for social housing supports following interview | N/A      | N/A       | 34       | 48                |

### Housing Allocations

| <b>Housing Allocations</b> |                        |                           |                        |                          |                           |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|                            | New Tenancies Feb 2022 | Cumulative Tenancies 2022 | New Tenancies Feb 2023 | Refusal of new Tenancies | Cumulative Tenancies 2023 |
| Total                      | 34                     | 621                       | 16                     | 7                        | 40                        |

### CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1169. There have been 360 refusals on properties.

### Housing Loans applications

| <b>Housing Loans applications</b> |                       |                            |                      |                       |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 2023 Housing Loans                | Applications received | Applications awaiting info | Applications refused | Applications approved | Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months |
| February                          | 3                     | 2                          | 3                    | 1                     | 0  |
| Year to date                      | 9                     | 2                          | 5                    | 1                     | 0  |

### Tenant Purchase applications

| <b>Tenant Purchase applications</b> |                       |                            |                      |                       |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 2023 Tenant Purchase                | Applications received | Applications awaiting info | Applications refused | Applications approved | Sales Closed |
| February                            | 3                     | 9                          | 0                    | 2                     | 1            |
| Year to date 2022                   | 67                    | 9                          | 21                   | 29                    | 24           |
| Year to date 2023                   | 11                    | 9                          | 2                    | 2                     | 3            |

### Housing Assistance Payment

| <b>Housing Assistance Payment</b> |                      |                        |  |                       |              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|
|                                   | Feb202 HAP Tenancies | Feb 2023 HAP Tenancies | 2023 No.of active HAP Tenancies set up | Applications approved | Sales Closed |
| HAP Tenancies                     | 29                   | 28                     | -15                                    | 4,596                 | 1796         |

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## Inspections of Dwellings

### Inspections of Dwellings

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| <i>HAP</i>                | 39 |
| <i>HAP Non- Compliant</i> | 38 |
| <i>Total</i>              | 39 |

In February, Waterford City & County Council carried out 232 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 26 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

| Grant Scheme amount  | No of applications approved Feb 2023 | Value of applications Feb 2023 | Cumulative number of applications approved 2023 | Cumulative value of 2023 applications |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000</i> | 11                                   | €68,852.50                     | 19  | €129,649.50                           |
| <i>Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000</i>                           | 1                                    | €6,000.00                      | 4   | €12,870.00                            |
| <i>Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000</i>                   | 10                                   | €26,596.85                     | 20  | €76,093.60                            |
| <i>Total</i>   | 22                                   | €101,44.35                     | 43  | €218,603.10                           |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <i>Housing Grant Applications Received &amp; Validated:</i> | <i>Housing Grant Applications Incomplete &amp; Returned:</i> | <i>Housing Grant Applications Incomplete &amp; Returned:</i> |
| 41  | 25   | 22   |

## Homeless Services

### Homeless Services

| <i>Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)</i> | <i>23rd Jan – 19th Feb 2023</i> | <i>Cumulative 2023</i> | <i>Total 2022</i> |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service</i>   | 271                             | 454                    | 3,618             |
| <i>Assessments by a Homeless Officer</i>             | 57                              | 115                    | 954               |

### Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

|                                     | <i>19th Feb 2023</i> | <i>19th Feb 2022</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Number of Single Persons</i>     | 44                   | 47                   |
| <i>Number of Families</i>           | 12                   | 15                   |
| <i>Number of Adults in Families</i> | 13                   | 19                   |
| <i>Number of Children</i>           | 20                   | 32                   |

### HAP PlaceFinder Service

|  | <i>23rd Jan – 19th Feb 2023</i> | <i>Cumulative 2023</i> |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer</i> | 23                              | 35                     |
| <i>Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete</i>  | 5                               | 22                     |

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## Housing First Programme

|  | Tenancies 2023 |
|--|----------------|
| Number of Tenancies in place at 19th Feb 2023 with Housing First supports. | 33             |

## Capital Projects

### Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

| Project Type               | Units      | Area       | Current Position   | Comment   |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Total WCCC Projects</b> | <b>344</b> | Countywide | Various Stages     |   |
| Part V                     | 30         | Countywide | Various Stages     | Delivery On-going 2021 – 10 (est)   |
| Repair and Lease           | 125        | Countywide | Various Stages     | Delivery on-going 2020 – 41<br>2021 – 50 (est)<br>2022 – 50 (est)               |
| Leasing                    | 0          | Countywide | Various Stages     | Delivery on-going 2020 – 30<br>From end of 2021 scheme closed to new applicants |
| Buy & Renew- Countywide    | 48         | Countywide | Tender Preparation | In progress – Refurbishment Contractor Framework Appointed                      |

**Total units including WCCC Projects: 547**

There are 115 units in progress under the Housing Capital Schemes for Approved Housing Body projects.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITTING FEBRUARY 2023:

Consideration is under way for submission relating to properties for 2023.

## REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

| Feb 2023                        | Total |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Handed over/<br>Works completed | 7     |
| Newly Vacant                    | 11    |

92 Units approved by the Department for Refurbishment in 2022.

## Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

- The programme is fully allocated.
- Payments are progressing well on remaining projects.
- Waterford LCDC, in partnership with Waterford LEADER Partnership, were successful in their expression of interest application to develop a Local Development Strategy.
- Guidelines for the LDS have been issued by the department and funding of €50,000.00 has been allocated. Guidelines on Inclusive Engagement have been issued by the Department and they will form part of the process. The LDS must be submitted by 14th July 2023 for September launch of the new programme.

### WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

Preparation of the new strategy document continues. The fourth/final draft of the new strategy was presented to the Steering Group for review. Once this review is complete, it is planned to hold an Alliance meeting by mid March 2023 to formally adopt the document.

### HEALTHY WATERFORD:

The Healthy Ireland local strategy, application, and activities workplan has been sent to Pobal for review. We are expecting feedback by the end of February. In the meantime, we are working with the identified partners to finalise the projects that are currently selected to work within.

Due to the slightly increased budget this year we are aiming at front loading several of the projects and beginning a research and evaluation piece with SETU. Due to the 3-year project several of the programmes and actions will foldout over the three-year period.

We would hope depending on department funding we will be able to sustain the same projects into 2024 and potentially expand them if they are deemed successful. An example of some of the projects include:

- SHEP Capacity Building for Service Providers – Wellbeing Through Groupwork – For Practitioners supporting Community Health & Well-being
- Social Farming – Continue the support to the national program
- Community Wellbeing Education – family learning program – Provide localised Health and Wellbeing programmes in targeted areas in Waterford
- Place Standard / Health Impact Assessments - The Place Standard tool lets communities, public agencies, voluntary groups and others find those aspects of a place that need to be targeted to improve people's health, wellbeing and quality of life.
- Waterford Wellbeing Portal – Online Service Directory
- Healthy Workplace Project – internal / external
- Research Piece with SETU on Program Evaluation.

Further work includes completing the returns and report from the funding spent between June 2022 – December 2022.

## **SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):**

Work is continuing with community groups and service providers in identifying the needs of the communities and the supports that can be provided. Out of the 7 projects funded by DoH Seed Fund 3 started their work and the other 4 projects will start soon.

Work is ongoing in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership regarding and Action Plan and a Landscaping Master Plan for the Carrickpherish area. We hope to have community consultations soon and from that to develop the Landscaping Master Plan and implement some parts of it.

Ongoing work in partnership with Healthy Ireland and Active Cities in identifying projects that can be supported collaboratively, we are working now in supporting the Active Retirement Group.

Work started in organising a consultation meeting with the migrant community regarding the Local Economic and Community Plan.

## **WATERFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WCSP):**

The Community Safety Draft Plan has now been updated after the review comments of the Partners on the WCSP. The Workshop reviewing the public input through consultation, and devising actions into the future, took place in Tramore on Tuesday 21st February 2023. Hub Planning are now reviewing the actions raised for compilation in the Safety Plan. All lead agencies will be consulted, before drafting into the Plan and the concluding chapter is being edited for completion.

The Safety Plan will again be circulated to the Partnership for review and final editing. It is hoped that it will be adopted unanimously at the next Meeting on Monday 13th March, 2023, which is a public meeting. The Minister for Justice, Simon Harris TD has confirmed a launch date for the morning of Monday 27th March 2023 at 1030hrs.

In relation to Community Safety Innovation Fund Projects, the house at 33 Colligan View Dungarvan has been painted and cleaned and a proposed lease to WWETB for training schedules to be up and running in September, is currently being drafted. In relation to the Northwest Suburbs Community Action Plan, the tender is currently being researched and prepared. It will deliver a demographic analysis, neighbourhood profile, SWOT analysis and the creation of a Community Action Plan. The Department of Justice, Youth Justice Team meeting scheduled for February has had to be rescheduled for March, due to operational exigencies of the Department, in relation to advancing the Portlaw Engages Youth Project.

During February, a Steering & Oversight Meeting was held where a sponsorship of the Garda Youth Awards in City Hall was endorsed for 2023. In addition, the Partnership had reach out meetings with Tusla and Oasis House with a view to enhancing relationships with the Partnership and the Chair & Coordinator, representing the Partnership, attended the launch of Kafe Konnect in Wexford, researching a social enterprise that gives employment to those who have found it difficult to enter the labour market as a result of prior convictions or are in recovery from addiction.

The next Meeting of the WCSP is a public Meeting, in The Large Room, City Hall at 6pm on Monday 13th March 2023.

## **PRIDE OF PLACE:**

The National Coordinators meeting is taking place on March 9th to formally begin the 2023 process. Preparation for the 2023 competition has begun with entrants currently being identified.

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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. All key agencies are working in collaboration to provide services and supports to all Ukrainians arriving into Waterford. Approximately 2,300 Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Waterford to date with over 1,420 Ukrainians having been received directly into Waterford Council run Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City. To date 1,003 Ukrainians have been matched with pledged and other accommodation sourced by Waterford Council. Waterford Area Partnership are supporting those who have moved with integration into our communities.

A new 'offer a home' pledge call for vacant properties went live on 24th November. Any queries on same should be directed to offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie or 058 22059.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION:**

### **LECP**

Progress on the preparation of the new LECP is ongoing. The Socio-Economic Statement has been prepared in line with Department issued guidelines. The first phase data collection stage was completed with a survey having been issued to in excess of 70 relevant groups/agencies during November/December. The public consultation phase was completed by Feb 23rd with 5 sessions completed in Dungarvan, Waterford, Cappoquin, Rathgormack and Dunhill.

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND 2022**

The LCDC on the 9th February approved allocations to 180 of the 212 applications received. All applicants have been notified and once successful applicants return their signed terms and condition form, payment shall be processed

### **THE SUPPORTING WATERFORD COMMUNITY FUND 2023**

The Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2023 closed at 4pm on Friday 24th February. Applications submitted are currently being checked for eligibility.

### **COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023**

Minister Humphreys and Minister O' Brien on 24th January launched the Community Recognition Fund 2023. It is designed specifically to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine. Waterford has been allocated €1,421,869.

## 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 the fire crews and the community it serves.

#### Fire Service Operational Activity:

| Area                    | Fires | Special Services | False alarm/ Good intent | False alarm /Malicious |
|-------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Total for February      | 44    | 23               | 21                       | 0                      |
| Year to date            | 99    | 76               | 43                       | 0                      |
| Total for February 2022 | 28    | 42               | 19                       | 0                      |
| Total for 2022          | 69    | 73               | 44                       | 0                      |

### FIRE SAFETY:

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

#### Fire Safety:

|                          | Feb 2023 | 2023 YTD | Feb 2022 | 2022 YTD |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Fire Safety Certificates | 24       | 29       | 3        | 18       |

### BUILDING CONTROL:

#### Building Control:

| Applications recived    | Feb 2023 | 2023 YTD | Feb 2022 | 2022 YTD |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Commencement Notices    | 13       | 34       | 17       | 310      |
| Completion Certificates | 20       | 32       | 25       | 204      |
| Disability Access Certs | 23       | 28       | 4        | 57       |

### CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of February 2023 continues with assistance in the response to the urgent needs of the Displaced Persons (DP's) fleeing from the effects of the Ukraine Crisis.

- Logistical support & Transport of over 25 Ukraine related calls
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

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.

## Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

### Environmental Enforcement Statistics

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2023 – 22ND FEBRUARY 2023

| <b>ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)</b> |    |
|--|----|
| Legal Action Initiated   | 0  |
| On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)     | 21 |
| On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)    | 15 |
| No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20                                      | 0  |

| <b>ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)</b>  |     |
|---|-----|
| No of Complaints  | 505 |
| 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)  | 1   |
| Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)  | 10  |
| Section 14 Directions   | 1   |
| Section 107 EPA (Noise)   | 0   |
| Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors   | 1   |
| 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   |

#### CLIMATE ACTION

##### **Community Climate Action Fund Launch in March – Over €500,000 to go to Waterford communities**

Friday, 10th March next is the official launch date of the new Community Climate Action Fund. A webinar will be held on that day and on Wednesday, 8th March an information session will be hosted for communities in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan, and the same session will be held on Thursday, 9th March in Waterford City (details to be confirmed). Communities will have until Friday, 19th May to submit their Expression of Interest. Communities are advised to work with the Community Climate Action Officer in developing their project idea. The Community Climate Action Officer can be contacted via email on [climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie). The projects will be under the themes of Home/Energy, Transport, Shopping and Recycling, Food and Waste and Environmental Awareness. This fund is open to Community Groups and Sports Teams and projects must be able to demonstrate the impact that they will have.

##### **Climate Action Plan Drafting**

Monday, 6th March is the day by which the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications must officially launch the statutory process of Climate Action Plan drafting. Each county will draft a Climate Action Plan and that plan will set out the actions each county will take in reducing our emissions and in preparing for extreme weather. Consultation documents will be shared with elected members as we develop them, and as per the requirements of the legislation.

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Two further EV's are to be delivered in early March and will be operated by WCCC Environmental inspectors.
- The stadium lights have been replaced at the WRSC and installation was completed in February. Upgrade works are funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

### *Green Flag Programme*

Green-Schools promotes long-term, whole-school action for the environment Green-Schools with primary and secondary schools. There are 61 schools in Co. Waterford due to renew their Green Flag this year. A renewal visit must take place before a school submits a renewal application form for their renewal Green Flags (Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and the Global Citizenship themes). Renewal visits are carried out by the Environment Awareness Officer. The purpose of the visit is to demonstrate that the school has an active Green-Schools programme in operation and has been maintaining previous themes in addition to working on the current theme. Schools applying must first complete an assessment visit from the Environment Awareness Officer before submitting their renewal application. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, 24th March next for the 2022/2023 academic year. This has meant lots of school visits have been taking place recently to meet with Green School Committees and talk to classes.

### *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. These have begun again in earnest. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter takes place after the clean-up takes place. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April. Registrations are now being taken at [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org) As part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter for all clean ups. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.



## Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

### Libraries

In February, Waterford City & County Libraries provided access to information, to culture and provided space for the diverse communities of Waterford to tell their stories. Statistics: figures represent 30 days of activity from to January 26th to February 26th

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <i>No. of Visitors this month</i>                           | 31,346 |
| <i>Active members</i>                                       | 26,937 |
| <i>Issues in Branch</i>                                     | 28,562 |
| <i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks &amp; emagazines</i> | 8,159  |
| <i>Events &amp; Activities</i>                              | 390    |

#### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY:

The Well Festival of Health and Wellbeing took place across the county from February 13th to 18th. Waterford Libraries work with the Waterford Healing Arts Trust to provide access to creative wellness activities. There were 9 events in total with 146 attendees. Featured events include a Cuppa & Ceoil Tea Party with renowned musical artist Liam Merriman, Aga's baby massage taster class, Circus Crafts & Juggling Worksop' with Enda Moran and the Wellies Happy-Kids Face-painting & Storytime Adventure.

The Deise men's shed were showcased this month in the Index Gallery Central Library. Under the title Standing Shoulder to Shoulder this exhibition featured the work of men who come together to learn new skills and to share their own.

February 25th saw Waterford participate in Ireland Reads, the national campaign that encourages everyone to squeeze in a read and to get using their Libraries. Author visits, story times and craft sessions took place across the County.

Librarians Tracy McEaney and Jennifer Loughran appeared on RTE with Claire Byrne to talk about books on Tuesday February 21st.

As part of Ireland reads the Irish Examiner visited Ardkeen Library to talk about the love of Libraries and the benefits we can all find in a good book. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/people/arid-41074124.html> this article quotes Library user David who says, "his daughter's favourite place to be – apart from home – is the library."

In the month of February alone Waterford City and County Libraries visited, or were visited by, approximately 1,361 students from 20 schools and preschools. These visits promote literacy and foster the love of reading.

#### LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

Healthy Ireland at your Library hosted a Safe food webinar which was livestreamed on February 7th and distributed hundreds of copies of, 101 square meals, a free HSE recipe book.

Friday 17th February saw the launch of the new Latvian Collection in Central Library by Latvian Ambassador to Ireland his excellency Juris Štālmeistars and 30 members of the local community. This collection of Latvian language children's and adult books was donated by the Latvian National Library and is available to borrow in Central Library. Latvian book donation organised by Antra Eisaka, teacher at the Latvian school in Waterford.

# Management Report Plenary 09th March 2023.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Seachtain na Gaeilge will take place across our branches in March.
- Librarian Tracy Mceneaney will MC the Tramore Patricks Day parade as Béarla agus as Gaeilge.
- Waterford's 4th Global Women's conference will take place in the Theatre Royal on March 8th. This year's theme will focus on gender equity.



## Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

### Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to January 31, 2023

|  | EXPENDITURE       |                            |                        | INCOME            |                            |                 |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|  | Expenditure €     | Adopted Full Year Budget € | % Budget Spent to date | Income €          | Adopted Full year Budget € | % Budget Raised |
| A Housing & Building                       | 2,993,646         | 35,728,461                 | 8%                     | 3,194,947         | 38,036,305                 | 8%              |
| B Road Transport & Safety                  | 2,074,791         | 49,146,777                 | 4%                     | 792,975           | 33,752,918                 | 2%              |
| C Water Services                           | 783,885           | 11,790,929                 | 7%                     | 726,341           | 11,163,993                 | 7%              |
| D Development Management                   | 1,578,127         | 21,992,796                 | 7%                     | 687,288           | 11,448,028                 | 6%              |
| E Environmental Services                   | 1,723,647         | 21,512,181                 | 8%                     | 196,267           | 2,875,458                  | 7%              |
| F Recreation & Amenity                     | 1,260,661         | 15,464,575                 | 8%                     | 108,289           | 1,614,234                  | 7%              |
| G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 70,246            | 1,068,270                  | 7%                     | 24,929            | 399,696                    | 6%              |
| H Miscellaneous Services                   | 630,640           | 9,678,508                  | 7%                     | 718,882           | 10,749,476                 | 7%              |
| LG Local Property Tax / GPG                | 0                 | 0                          | 0%                     | 1,638,969         | 19,667,628                 | 8%              |
| RA Rates                                   | 0                 | 0                          | 0%                     | 3,056,230         | 36,674,758                 | 8%              |
|  | <b>11,115,643</b> | <b>166,382,494</b>         | <b>7%</b>              | <b>11,145,119</b> | <b>166,382,494</b>         | <b>7%</b>       |
| Surplus/Deficit                            |                   |                            |                        | 29,475            | 0                          |                 |

## Collections

| Summary of main collections Jan 2023 YTD |                          |                         |                          |                   |                              |                           |                                 |                    |   |   |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
|  | A                        | B                       | C                        | D                 | E                            | F                         | G'                              |                    | [6]   | [7]                                       |
|  | Gross Bal as at 1-1-2023 | Accrued ytd to Jan 2023 | Write Offs and Vacancies | Waivers & Credits | Total for Collection [1+2-3] | Collected ytd to Jan 2023 | Gross Bal 31-01-2023 [4-5]      | Specific Provision | % Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4] | % Collected ytd re 2023 Accrual [5/(4-1)] |
|  |                          | €                       | €                        |                   | €                            | €                         | €                               |                    | €   |   |
| Rates                                    | 3,008,361                | 36,137,031              | -                        | -                 | 39,145,392                   | 306,072                   | 38,839,320                      | 1,300,000          | 1%  | 1%  |
| Loans                                    | 1,534,038                | 275,675                 | -                        | -                 | 1,809,713                    | 278,968                   | 1,530,745                       |                    | 15%   | 101%                                      |
| Rents                                    | 3,903,206                | 1,516,398               | -                        | -                 | 5,419,604                    | 1,399,294                 | 4,020,310                       |                    | 26%   | 92%                                       |
| Aged Analysis :                          |                          |                         |                          |                   |                              |                           |                                 |                    |   |   |
|  |                          |                         |                          | Less than 1 mth   | 2 to 6 mths                  | 7 to 12 mths              | greater than 12 mths            |                    |   | Net Balance                               |
| Rates                                    |                          |                         |                          | 36,096,373        |                              |                           | 2,742,947                       |                    |   | 38,839,320                                |
|  |                          |                         |                          | 0 to 3 mths       | 4 to 6 mths                  | 7 to 12 mths              | Greater than 12 mths            |                    |   |   |
| Loans                                    |                          |                         |                          | 168,833           | 59,282                       | 104,252                   | 1,198,378                       |                    |   | 1,530,745                                 |
|  |                          |                         |                          | Less than 4 weeks | 4-6 weeks                    | 7-12 weeks                | Greater than 12 wks             |                    |   |   |
| Rents                                    |                          |                         |                          | 135,838           | 89,704                       | 149,531                   | 3,645,237                       |                    |   | 4,020,310                                 |
| Overdraft Levels                         |                          |                         |                          |                   |                              |                           |                                 |                    |   |   |
| Days in Overdraft in Jan 23'             | 0                        |                         | Cost -                   | 0                 | €0.00                        |                           | Average Value when in O/D : N/A |                    | €   | -   |