



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

## Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan Meeting – March 2020

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

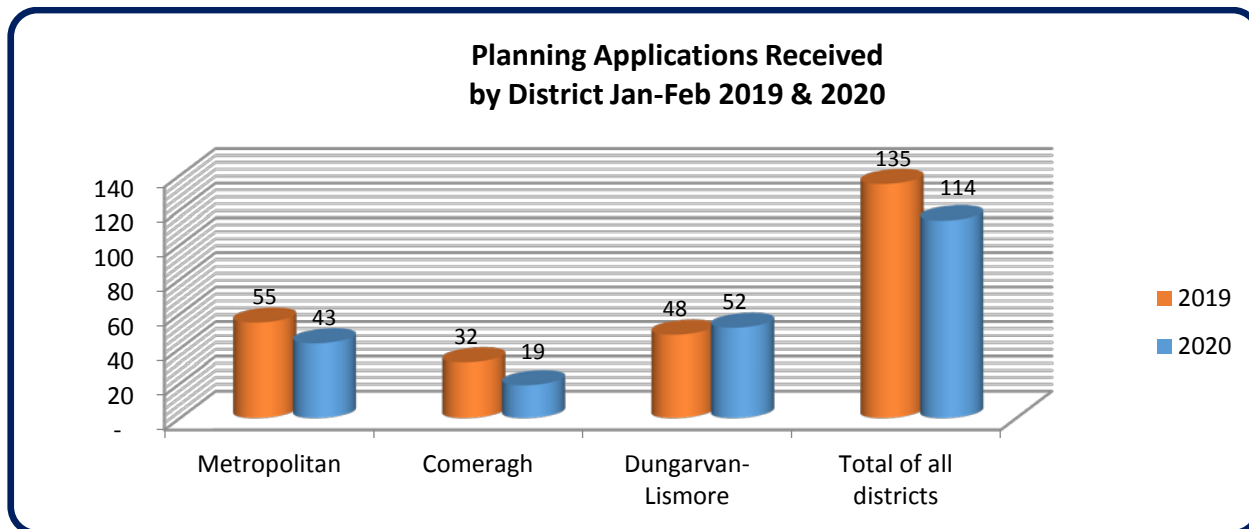
### Development Management

#### Planning Applications Received – Countywide

63 Planning applications were received in the month of February countywide. This compares with 88 planning applications received in the same month in 2019.

#### February - Planning Applications in this District

23 Planning Applications were received in this district in the month, (36% of County total of 63), compared to 38 which were lodged in the same period in 2019.



#### Pre Planning Update

The analysis of pre planning applications received per district from the beginning of the year to end of February was as follows:

Comeragh	Dungarvan - Lismore	Waterford Metropolitan Area	Grand Total
19	28	41	88

These pre planning applications are currently being addressed.

## **Forward Planning**

### **National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF): Consultation Draft.**

It is proposed to hold a workshop with the Plenary Council immediately prior to the March Plenary Council meeting. The workshop will inform the Council of the principles underpinning the NMPF and the key changes proposed in terms of how marine development is planned and managed and the new functions assigned to local authorities. The Consultation Draft of the NMPF is currently the subject of a public consultation process which runs until the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

## **Development Plan**

It is intended that the process to prepare the new unitary Waterford City and County Development Plan will commence the week beginning 23rd March. The initial phase of the plan preparation process will consist of an 8 week period during which written public submissions or observations can be made through an online consultation portal [consult.waterford.ie](http://consult.waterford.ie), via email or in writing to the Senior Planner, Planning Department, Waterford City and County Council. All written submissions should relate solely to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area; however, requests or proposals for the zoning of particular land for any purpose cannot be considered at this Pre-Draft Stage and any such submissions will be returned.

It should be noted that submissions received by the Planning Authority will be published on the consultation portal on <http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie> within 10 working days of receipt, along with the name of the person making the submission in accordance with the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2018. Contact details however will not be published and people will be requested not to include personal, confidential or other sensitive information in submissions.

A number of public Information drop-in events are being organised across the city and county which will assist in informing the making of pre-draft submissions by the public. Full details of the location and times for these events will be provided through <http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie> and through local press.

At the Planning SPC meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> February a number of issues relevant to the imminent development plan preparation were discussed, principally the servicing of towns and villages, renewable energy, core and settlement strategies and associated general land use zoning. It is intended that these topics, among others, will be discussed in more detail through workshops with the Plenary Council during Q2 & 3 of 2020 with a view to informing the content and policies of the unitary development plan.

## **Conservation Grants**

The closing date for applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2020 and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2020 was 5pm on the 27th January. The following is a summary of applications received:

BHIS – 34 applications for grant aid received by the closing date, the list of successful projects are awaiting approval by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and all applicants will be informed of decision on applications by early March

HSF: 3 applications for grant aid were received under the Historic Structures fund and were forwarded to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for consideration.

## Conservation Works

Works are progressing to restore the signal box in Kilmacthomas, and the railway station, while the new stone work along the platforms is now complete. The tender for the repair of the Glasshouses in Mount Congreve has gone out to tender. It is hoped that works will be completed by the spring of 2021

## Heritage

### Woodstown Viking Site

A Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Woodstown Viking Site has been completed and will be issued for public consultation in March. The Plan incorporates a strategy for future research on the site, a public engagement and heritage animation strategy and practical management plan. Funding was provided by The Heritage Council for development of the Plan.



### Decade of Commemorations

Around 130 people attended a conference to commemorate the contribution of Richard Mulcahy in Irish Military History on February 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Large Room of City Hall. Richard Mulcahy was born in 70 Manor Street. Speakers included John Bruton, David McCullagh, Pat McCarthy, Pat Taaffe, Kate Manning and Jim Ryan. The conference was organised by Archivist Joanne Rothwell and Heritage Officer, Bernadette Guest.



## **Dunhill Heritage Audit**

Funding was allocated by the Creative Ireland Programme to carry out a Heritage Audit of Dunhill with the aim of informing a heritage tourism plan for the area to enhance pride of place, sense of place and attract visitors to stay in the area. The audit involved a community consultation meeting in November and final report was completed in December.



## **World Wetlands Day**

World Wetlands Day was celebrated in the Anne Valley and Dungarvan on February 2<sup>nd</sup> last when around 50 people attended guided walks with Paddy Dwan and the West Waterford Eco-Group. The walk in Dungarvan focused on wintering birdlife in Dungarvan Harbour and over 15 species were observed. The Anne Valley walk looked at the constructed wetlands and how they benefit pollution control, wildlife and amenity.



**Séamus Doran, Administrative Officer  
Planning Department**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**