



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Comeragh Meeting – November 2020

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COMERAGH

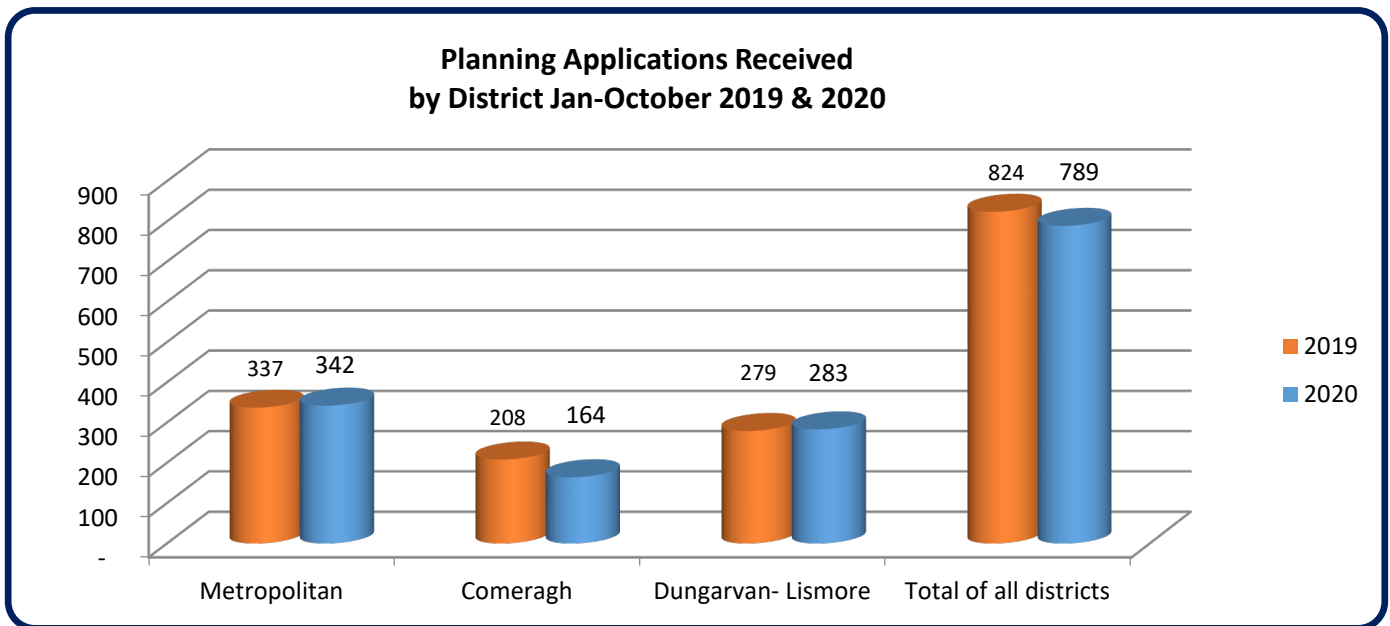
Development Management

Planning Applications Received – Countywide

89 Planning applications were received in the month of October countywide. This compares with 101 planning applications received in the same month in 2019. Additional responses are also being received to further information requests.

October - Planning Applications in this District

16 Planning Applications were received in this district in the month, compared to 34 which were lodged in the same month in 2019.



Pre Planning Update

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

Comeragh	Dungarvan - Lismore	Waterford Metropolitan Area	Grand Total
83	126	182	391

These pre planning applications are currently being addressed.

Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Chief Executive Report)

The initial pre-draft public consultation phase of the new unitary Waterford City and County Development Plan ran from 20th July to 14th September. Despite current Covid-19 restrictions a total of 283 submissions were received covering a range of topical issues relevant to both the broad operations of Waterford City & County Council and the new draft development plan content.

Public engagement was assisted greatly by a dedicated online consultation portal set up for the purpose which provided access to presentations and details regarding the principle issues to be considered in the new development plan and its process. In addition public webinars were held on the 18th, 19th and 20th of August on the respective topics of Environment and Heritage, Local Placemaking, and Economy, Agriculture and Education. Approximately 170 people attended these events. The Office of the Planning Regulator has commended Waterford City & Council on the quality and innovative nature of its public consultation process to date.

A total of 285 written submissions were received during the consultation period and these have been compiled to form the basis of the report by the Chief Executive to the Plenary Council on which further dialogue with the Council will inform the draft development plan in due course. While dates have not yet been identified to engage with the Plenary Council in this regard, it is intended to hold workshops with the Plenary Council throughout Q4 of 2020 to discuss the content of the Report and how best to inform the draft development plan at a strategic level. The Chief Executive Report has now been issued to the Plenary Council and will be discussed further at the November Plenary meeting.

Following consideration of the report, the Plenary Council may issue a direction to the Chief Executive regarding the making of the draft development plan. It should be noted that any such direction must be strategic in nature, be consistent with the draft core strategy and shall take account of the statutory obligations of the Council as set out in the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and relevant policies and objectives of the Government or any Minister. Any direction must be given before 18th January 2021. A broad timetable for the development plan preparation process is again provided below for ease of reference.

Activity	Duration	Start	Finish
Development Plan Preparation Period.	Max 104 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Fri 15/07/22
Pre Draft Plan Public Consultation. Now completed.	8 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Mon 14/09/20
Prepare CE Report on submissions and submit to Plenary Council. Now completed.	8 wks	Mon 14/09/20	Mon 09/11/20
Liaise and discuss CE Report with Plenary Council.	10 wks	Mon 09/11/20	Mon 18/01/21
Prepare a Draft Dev Plan.	12 wks	Mon 18/01/21	Mon 12/04/21
Submit Draft Dev Plan to Plenary Council and obtain Resolution.	8 wks	Mon 12/04/21	Mon 07/06/21
Notice of preparation of Draft Dev Plan.	2 wks	Mon 07/06/21	Mon 21/06/21
Public Consultation on Draft Dev Plan.	10 wks	Mon 21/06/21	Mon 30/08/21
Prepare CE Report on submissions received and submit to Plenary Council for consideration.	12 wks	Mon 30/08/21	Mon 22/11/21
Resolution of Plenary Council on CE Report and Draft Dev Plan.	12 wks	Mon 22/11/21	Mon 14/02/22

Notice of Material Alterations if necessary.	3 wks	Mon 14/02/22	Mon 07/03/22
Final Public Consultation on Material Alterations.	4 wks	Mon 07/03/22	Mon 04/04/22
Prepare C.E. Report on submissions.	8 wks	Mon 04/04/22	Mon 30/05/22
Plenary Council to consider CE Report and make Resolution.	6 wks	Mon 30/05/22	Mon 11/07/22
New Dev Plan comes into force.	6 wks	Mon 11/07/22	Mon 22/08/22

Planning SPC

A meeting of the SPC took place on 29th October which discussed the issues arising from the pre-draft development plan public consultation process, survey data relating to the initial considerations for the Core Strategy which will underpin the draft development plan and how best to engage with both the SPC and the Plenary Council during this phase of the draft development plan preparation process. It is intended to hold the next SPC meeting during the last week in November to further discussions on the emerging strategic issues for the draft development plan.

Built Heritage

A total of 18 projects funded under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) are due for completion in October. Other projects relating to Protected Structures that Waterford City and County Council is working on and which are due for completion include:

- Greyfriars – The Irish Museum of the Science and Story of Time, the interior has been reordered and the stone work to the exterior has been repointed and cleaned.
- The Deanery - New Silver Museum.
- Following on from the works carried out on the Kilmacthomas station and the platform this year, works are nearing completion on the signal box and it will be accessible to the public in the near future.

In recent months there has been a significant increase in people interesting in upgrading older houses and properties, irrespective of inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures. Where queries are made in this regard directly to Elected Members it is recommended that information and guidance available through the link below to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht advice series be circulated. This series of publications deals with issues such as roof repair, maintenance of older buildings, energy conservation and old house/new home.

<https://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/heritage-publications/?month=0&years=0&topics=44&paged=1>

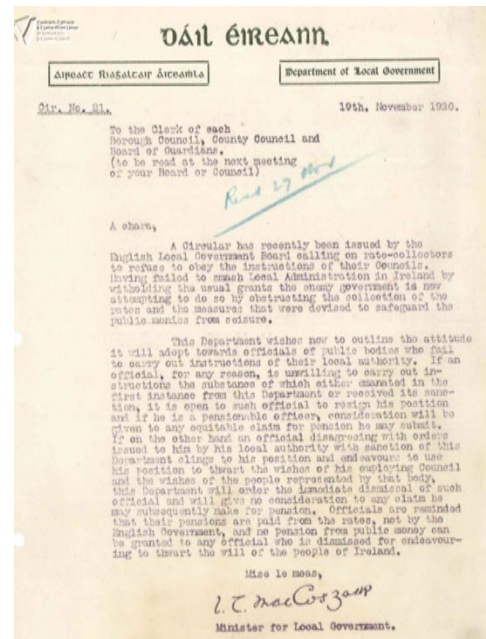
Woodstown Viking Site

A Conservation Management Plan for the Woodstown Viking Site has been completed and will be published in November. An application for heritage interpretation artwork has been submitted to the Community Monuments Fund under the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



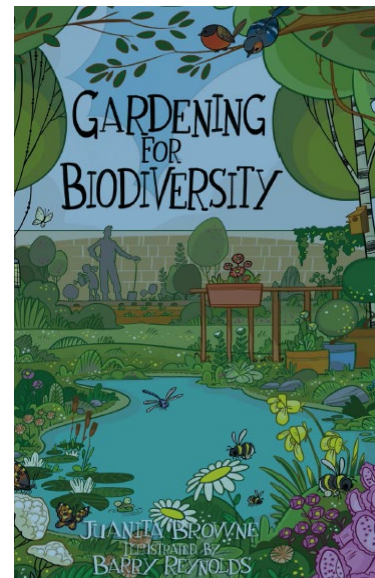
Decade of Commemorations

A series of online talks on *Waterford and the 1920 Local Elections- Fighting for a Voice and a New Ireland* was recorded on September 25th and will be released on WCCC's Youtube Channel in October. The series includes presentations by Dr. Pat McCarthy, Emmett O'Connor, Joanne Rothwell, Christina Knight-O'Connor, Andrias O'Cathasaigh, Heather Laird and Mayor Damien Geoghegan. This event is part of the 2020 Waterford Commemorations Programme.



Biodiversity

Funding has been allocated by the Biodiversity Policy Section of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the July Stimulus Package for a wildlife sign at Ballyvoony Cove, invasive species awareness videos and a Brent Geese monitoring project in Dungarvan Harbour.



Dungarvan Historic Towns Atlas

A digital version of the Historic Towns Atlas for Dungarvan was launched by the Royal Irish Academy during Heritage Week and the hard copy publication will be released in early November available online from www.ria.ie and local bookshops at €30.

<https://scanner.topsec.com/?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wlrfm.com%2Fdeise-today%2F&d=1500&t=9c159eb9924663292ddc40cca3c97aa72268102a>



Séamus Doran, Administrative Officer
Planning Department
2nd November 2020