

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge

Waterford City & County Council



Management report Plenary 24th June 2020

Management Report to Council

Meitheamh 2020

Michael Walsh,

Príomhfheidhmeannach

June 2020

Michael Walsh,

Chief Executive

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch

Economic Development

Local Enterprise Office

Indicator	At end of May 2019	At end of May 2020
No. of Clients Met	150	260
No. of clients applying for Measure 1 support	17	8
No. of clients securing Measure 1 support	14	8
Value of Measure 1 support approved	€351,486	€154,420
No. of clients receiving Measure 2 support	648	1326
Value of Measure 2 support given	€145,559	€312,266

Next Evaluation & Committee meeting scheduled 26th June 2020

Other Main Supports (from 16th March to 9th June)

Support	Applications Submitted	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals €	No. of Vouchers Fully Paid	Value of Payments €
Business Continuity Voucher	682	568	1,298,968	26	60,689.83

Note:

84 'refused' due to eligibility/withdrawn under the voucher.

30 work in progress

Support	Applications Submitted	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals €
Trading Online Voucher	143	63	€144,820

70 TOV applications pending approval.

40 on waiting list for next Info Seminar.

Support	Applications Submitted to MFI	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals €
MicroFinance Ireland Applications	13	11	€346,000
Support	No. of Participants		
Covid-specific Mentoring	269		
Training	536		

Retail City / Town Centre Group

Economic development continue engaging with various stakeholders and is having ongoing remote conferencing to deal with issues as a result of Covid 19. Issues facing businesses have been discussed and compilation of all available supports is being circulated through the LEO office, Chambers of commerce, Waterford Business Group as well as online and in the media.

As part of the ongoing collaboration a new web resource has been launched so as to bring all the current and emerging supports for Waterford businesses onto a single digital platform during this Covid-19 crisis.

The whole idea behind the Waterford Business Supports Hub is that Waterford businesses, seeking guidance, will need to access just one primary local resource. This resource, in turn, will have summaries of the main national supports as well as appropriate links and signposting when required. This platform has been devised so as to ensure that Waterford businesses have the very best of access to clear, concise information and guidance. <http://waterfordcouncil.ie/businesssupporthub>

The Council communications and marketing team are assisting the group on a branding campaign for Waterford starting with Facebook and have developed the below banner, similar banners will be used on other social media platforms. They are also currently doing a series of short videos from local businesses in preparation for the unwinding of the lockdown.



Economic Recovery Plan

A recovery strategy *Waterford 2020 – When Recovery becomes Opportunity* which has a range of innovative and creative measures include pedestrianising some of the city centre, incentivising food and beverage retailers to invest in outdoor street furniture, parking measures to increase footfall into the city and town centres, working with arts and cultural organisations to animate the public realm and promote a Shop Waterford Support Local campaign has been launched..

North Quays

SDZ Development

On 20th May 2020 Falcon Real Estate Development Ireland Ltd submitted the further information as requested in relation to the Waterford North Quays Strategic Development Zone planning application. A decision on the application is due by 20th July 2020.

Tourism

Visit Waterford and the tourism team are finalising the content of a domestic marketing campaign. This campaign will be launched in the coming weeks and will be fully live by 29th June.

The campaign has a national, regional and local focus encouraging people to visit and stay in Waterford in the coming months and will also support the Shop Waterford Support Local campaign by encouraging local people to visit and perhaps stay in Waterford.

The Tourism Team are also individually contacting operators within the tourism industry in Waterford to assess their plans following the introduction of Phase 2 of the COVID recovery plan and the issuing of guidelines by Fáilte Ireland .

The Councils application under Platforms for growth 2019- 2022 A Programme for Tourism investment programme to develop a world-class visitor experience in the Viking Triangle on the sorting office site has progressed to Stage 3 of the application process and a proposal is currently being worked on for submission to Fáilte Ireland. The closing date has been extended to August 31st.

Pleanáil

Planning

The Planning Department has remained operational throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic with technical staff working remotely and administrative staff processing enquiries, planning decisions, pre-planning consultations, planning compliance submissions and other matters that were not impacted by the suspended public consultation periods.

The s.251A Order (which temporarily suspended all statutory time periods, including periods of public consultation) was not extended beyond the 23rd May and all of our statutory planning timelines recommenced on 24th May. What this means in effect is that the planning authority can recommence the issuing of decisions on planning applications in all instances where the five week public consultation period has ended.

There were 191 planning applications in our system at that which have been delayed as a result of the temporary suspension of the statutory timelines and these are all now due to be decided over the following eight weeks.

The busiest period will be the week commencing the 13th July in which 107 separate planning applications are due to be decided. This is almost five times the number of applications that were due to be decided in the same week last year.

The Planning Department will manage this situation by ensuring that as many applications as possible will be decided well in advance of their due date to average out the number of applications being processed on a weekly basis throughout the months of June and July.

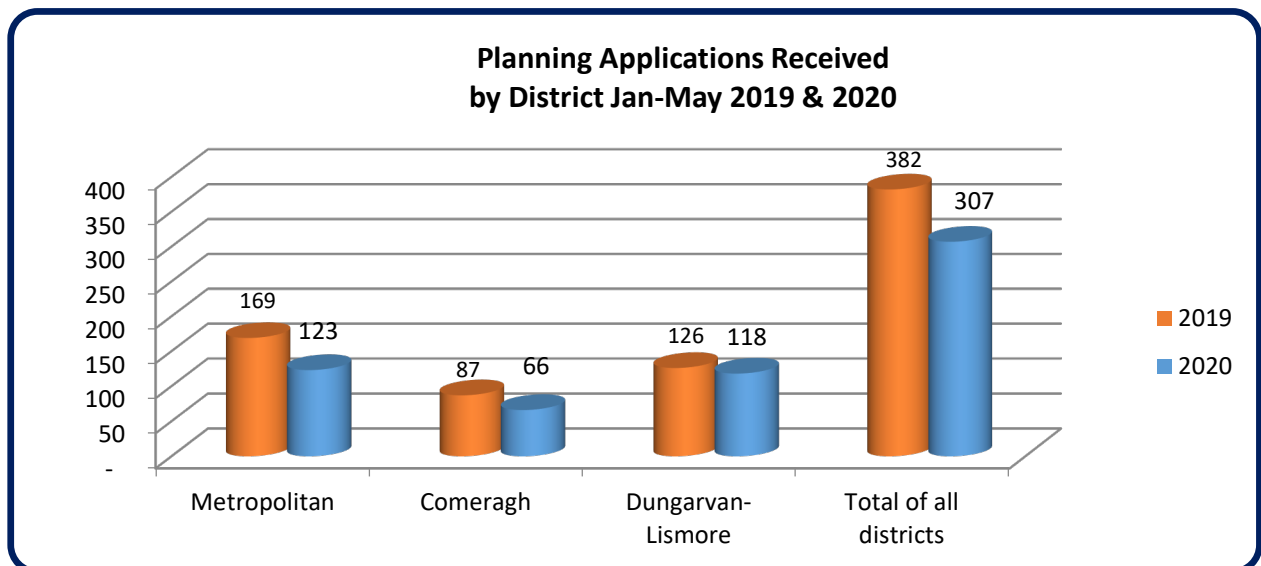
As the temporary suspension has been lifted, the Planning Department has put in place measures to facilitate public engagement in the planning process. All files are scanned to our online systems with a few days of being submitted and the public have access to all of this documentation. However, in circumstances where a member of the public can not access those on-line systems the staff of the

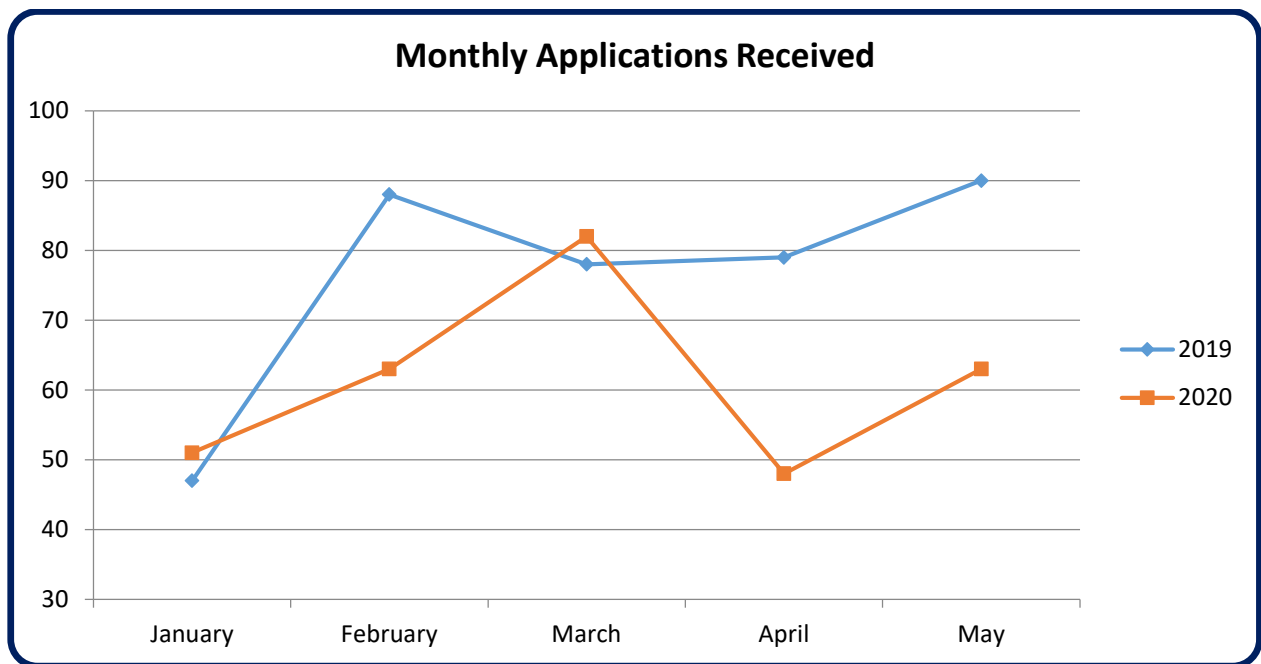
planning Department will photocopy documents and send them by post to interest third parties or will arrange an appointment to view the file in person.

The Planning Department has continued to accept new planning applications, further information submissions and third party observations through the current crisis. One very significant submission received was a response to a further information request in relation to the proposed development of the North Quays Strategic Development Zone which was received in our offices earlier this week. Other significant applications received since the 23rd May include a number of upgrade to existing sports clubs, new telecommunications infrastructure, alterations to approved housing schemes as well as a wide range of commercial and industrial developments throughout the City and County.

Planning Applications Received – Countywide

63 Planning applications were received in the month of May countywide. This compares with 90 planning applications received in the same month in 2019. Additional responses are also being received to further information requests.





Pre Planning Update- Countywide

Pre-planning meetings are being undertaken where requested by telephone.

Development Management

All technical staff have been provided with laptops and are currently working from home with minimal visits to the office (usually outside normal office hours). All planning applications are scanned to iDocs so that Planners can review applications remotely without having to be provided with a hard copy. Reports are forwarded by email and contact between planning staff and their line managers is now generally taking place by telephone rather than face to face.

Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022 - 2028

The process and broad timeline to prepare the new unitary Waterford City and County Development Plan is set out hereunder and will commence the week beginning 20th July. The initial phase of this process will consist of an 8 week period during which written public submissions or observations can be made through an online consultation portal <http://www.consult.waterfordcouncil.ie> 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. The written submissions received during the public consultation period will 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.

It should be noted that submissions received by the Planning Authority will be published on the consultation portal 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.

In the current period of restrictions on public movement and interaction brought about by Covid 19, it is not feasible to safely engage with the public in the traditional sense. To overcome these restrictions the following actions are being planned:

- The online consultation portal and council website will be augmented with content to provide detailed information about the development plan process, principle elements of the development plan, the strategic issue paper and its Irish translation and a schedule of frequently asked questions which will assist in fully informing the public about principle element of the development plan and its process.
- To further engage with the public it is intended to hold virtual town hall type meeting through online platforms which will be fully advertised through the local print media, the council website and the <http://www.consult.waterfordcouncil.ie> consultation portal. These will be held regularly during the consultation period and will consist of presentations followed by question and answer sessions.
- Where it is not possible for individual members of the public to access the development plan process online, the planning authority will host one to one meeting with members of the public. All such meetings will be by appointment only and full details of how to arrange these meetings will be published in due course. It is intended that such meeting will adhere to strict Covid 19 procedures in terms of health and safety and will be held in the offices of the planning authority in both Waterford City and Dungarvan.

Activity	Duration	Start	Finish
Development Plan Preparation Period.	Max 104 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Fri 15/07/22
Pre Draft Plan Public Consultation.	8 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Mon 14/09/20
Prepare CE Report on submissions and submit to Plenary Council.	8 wks	Mon 14/09/20	Mon 09/11/20
Liase and discuss with Plenary Council and obtain Resolution on CE Report.	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

It is intended that a meeting of the Planning SPC will take place once a new chairperson has been elected and prior to the commencement of the development plan public consultation process. It is

intended that the next SPC meeting will focus on revised details relating to the amended development plan process.

Conservation Grants

Waterford City & County Council has not yet received confirmation from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding the 34 applications for grant aid under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the 3 applications received under the Historic Structures Fund. As soon as confirmation has been received the Council will notify applicants accordingly.

Heritage

Woodstown Viking Site

A Conservation Management Plan for the Woodstown Viking Site has been completed and will be published in August. The Draft Plan was presented at the February meeting of the Waterford Metropolitan District Council. Funding was provided by The Heritage Council for development of the Plan.



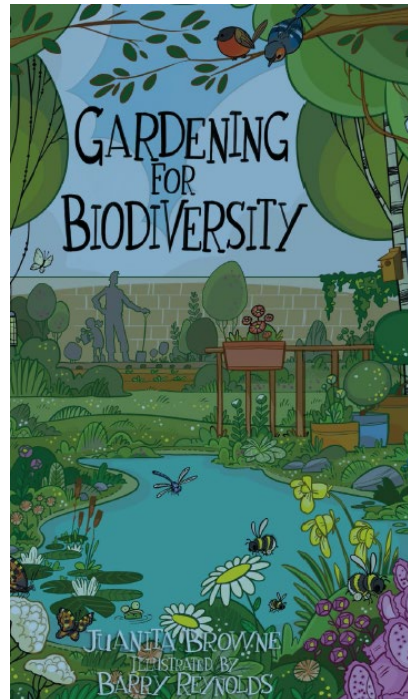
Decade of Commemorations

A funding allocation of €10,000 has been received from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to deliver Waterford's Commemoration Programme for 2020. Funding will be allocated to a conference on the 1920s Local Elections, publications on the East and West Waterford Brigades and a Community Commemoration Projects Grant Scheme which will be advertised in mid June.



Biodiversity

A Nationwide Programme on the subject of biodiversity and actions for pollinators was broadcast on May 27th and featured an interview on what Waterford City and County Council are doing for biodiversity in sites such as Kilbarry Nature Park. A booklet on Gardening for Biodiversity is available from the Heritage Officer free of charge and has proved extremely popular with the public and community groups. A funding application has been submitted to the Biodiversity Policy Section of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for €16,000 to support biodiversity projects around the county and the outcome will be known in July.



Heritage Week

Heritage Week runs from August 15th-23rd and this year's theme is learning from heritage. The focus is on projects which will be presented virtually and not public events. Details on www.heritageweek.ie



Bóithre agus Iompar

Roads and Transportation

All roads operations have resumed since May 18th and work across all areas has returned to normal in the context of services available and being delivered in line with the Covid 19 working requirements.

Road Works Programme 2020

Our annual Road Works Programme is working on a revised schedule and we are confident that we can deliver the entire programme during the current year. At present much of the planned works for the Comeragh area are largely complete and for the remainder of June to mid/end July, our strengthening and surfacing dressing works will be primarily focused in the Dungarvan /Lismore areas. It is intended to move on with these works in the Metropolitan rural areas from mid/end July and through August and returning to complete a number of outstanding jobs in the Comeragh and Dungarvan areas in late August / early September. We have appointed contractors to undertake

urban macadam works for both Dungarvan and Waterford City and these works should commence in July.

Parking and Traffic Management

Waterford City and County Council has worked in partnership with all car parking providers across Waterford City to provide a free hour of parking each day beginning 11th June until 31st July 2020. All parking spaces, either on street or in any car park, will offer a **Pay 1st Hour, Get 2nd Hour Free** special offer. The initiative is supported by all providers including Clock Tower car park, City Square car park, Euro Car Parks, iPairc, Port of Waterford and Waterford City and County Council. The purpose of the initiative is to encourage people to Shop Waterford and Support Local. A concession to allow free parking in Scanlon's Yard Carpark in Dungarvan has also been agreed and will operate from 12th June to 31st July, 2020 and the normal concession of 30 minutes free on street parking in Dungarvan will continue.

CLÁR 2020

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) 2020 was launched on 25th May and provides funding for small-scale infrastructural projects in rural areas. CLÁR aims to support sustainable development in identified areas by attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local funding and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

The scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is delivered by local authorities in consultation with groups in local communities. Local authorities can only access funding for Measures 1 & 2 and submit up to 10 schemes in total to DRCD for approval.

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (expanded)

CLÁR 2020 will consider support for interventions that make the school/community facility environs healthier and safer for the children attending the schools, and for children and adults using the community facilities. This measure has been broadened to allow additional investments to adapt areas around schools and community facilities to help meet new public health requirements arising from COVID-19. **Eligible Applicants:** Schools, Community Groups, Local Development Companies, Local Authorities.

Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas (new)

In the context of the impact of COVID-19 on communities, CLÁR 2020 will consider support for the enhancement of existing and/or the development of new accessible Community Recreation Areas where people can socialise outdoors in safe community spaces. **Eligible Applicants:** Community Groups, Local Development Companies, Local Authorities.

Further details on eligible areas and application forms for Measures 1 & 2 are available from the Roads Department.

Tithíocht / Seirbhísi Éigeandála

Housing / Emergency Services

Housing Applications

Housing applications	March, April, May 2019	Total Number of Applications Year 2019	March, April, May 2020	Total Number of Applications Year To Date 2020
Applications received	250	439	260	505
Applications assessed (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	279	564	244	489
Applications validated (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	139	296	205	343
Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant	201	325	155	285

Housing Allocations

District	Tenancies during March, April, May 2019	Cumulative No. of Tenancies 2019	New Tenancies during March, April, May 2020	Refusal No. of New Tenancy offer	Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2020
Comeragh Municipal	11	12	1	0	1
Dungarvan/Lismore Municipal	18	40	3	5	8
Metropolitan	84	150	15	9	53
Voluntary Bodies	3	4	0	3	19
Totals	116	206	19	17	81

Choice Based Letting (CBL) Scheme

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 613. There have been 139 refusals on properties to date.

Housing Loans applications

2020 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with Housing Agency/deferred for 6 months
March, April, May	11	4	5	0	7
YTD	18	4	12	5	7

Tenant Purchase applications

2020 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
March, April, May	6	2	2	2	2
YTD 2020	20	2	9	9	4
YTD 2019	59	17	12	30	21

2 Tenant Purchase sales closed in March/April/May
1 in Waterford City East, 1 in Waterford City West

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment	March, April, May 2019 HAP tenancies	March, April, May 2020 HAP tenancies set up	2020 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	166	160	74	3,445	2,037

Inspection of private rented dwellings

March, April, May	No
RTB Register	0
Compliant	0
Non-Compliant	0
HAP	5
Compliant	0
Non-Compliant	5
Re Inspection	0
RAS	6
Compliant	3
Non-Compliant	3
Re Inspection	3
Long Term Lease	51
Compliant	12
Non-Compliant	39
Re-inspection	22
Other	46
Mortgage to Rent	0
Total	108

In March, April and May, Waterford City & County Council carried out 291 (County) planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 291 properties have 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	Number of applications approved March, April, May 2020	Value of applications March, April, May 2020	Cumulative number of applications approved 2020	Cumulative value of 2020 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	6	81,936	23	267,120
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	10	56,075	27	155,358
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	12	60,906	25	122,503
Total	28	198,917	75	544,981

Homeless Services

Housing First Programme	Tenancies	
Number of Housing First tenancies in place at 31 st May 2020 (Target = 30 by June 2021)	20	
Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS) (Opened 25 th February 2019)	March, April, May 2020	March, April, May 2019
Number of callers seeking services in WIHS up to 31/05/20 (3,379 callers in total in 2019)	853	933
Number of presentations to WCCC Homeless Services up to 31/05/20 (1,219 presentation in total in 2019)	306	296
Number of Formal Homeless Assessments up to 31/05/20	151	225
Emergency Accommodation (EA)	March, April, May 2020	March, April, May 2019
Number of Single Persons in EA	96	131
Number of Families in EA	9	19
Number of children in EA	30	33

Exits from Emergency Accommodation (EA) (Not Recorded in 2019)	March, April, May Singles	March, April, May Families
Number of exits from EA	36	2
Number of exits from EA to a new tenancy	11	2

HAP Place Finder Service	March, April, May 2020	Cumulative (06.11.18 to 31.05.20)
Number of approval letters issued 26 th Feb to 31 st May 2020 (257 approval letters issued to 31/12/2019)	73	382
Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies HUB Complete (117 tenancies set up to 31/12/2019)	35	175
Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies currently being processed (as at 31/05/20)	83	N/A

Homeless preventions, supported exits and sustained tenancies continue to be the priorities for Homeless Services in 2020. This will be achieved by continuing our partnership and collaborative working with the HSE and the various Homeless Service Providers in Waterford and by utilising our various projects in WIHS including our Homeless Prevention & Support Service, Advice & Information Service, Tenancy Support & Sustainment Service and the Housing First Service.

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects				
Project Location	Units	Area	Current Position	Comment
The Glen Waterford	17	Metropolitan	Appraisal/Design Stage	Stage 2 Approved. Brought to Council workshop
Summerland Square Waterford	12	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q3 2020.
Ardmore Park / Priory Lawn	5	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Larchville	5	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Dungarvan Ballinroad	21	Dungarvan-Lismore	Construction	Construction in Progress
Tramore An Garran	50	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Tender Q3 2020
Doyle Street	4	Metropolitan	Tender	Tender award process
Slievekeale	58	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in Progress
Mount William, Williamstown Rd	65	Metropolitan	Turnkey	Stage 1 approved
Clarendon Court	24	Metropolitan	CPO	Negotiations with owners on-going – potential Repair and Lease Scheme
Lacken	55	Metropolitan	Construction	34 Units completed. 21 units in progress
Ballynaneashagh	20	Metropolitan	Planning	Part 8 – Q3 2020
Ballygunner	65	Metropolitan	Tender Design	Part 8 approved. Tender Design
Kilmacthomas	16	Comeragh	Tender Design	Part 8 approved. Tender Design
Mount Esker, Ballytruckle	13	Metropolitan	Planning	Part 8 approval
Estuary Heights, Shandon, Dungarvan	20	Dungarvan/Lismore	Completed	Completed
Railway Gardens, Lismore	17	Dungarvan/Lismore	Construction	Construction in Progress
Mount Suir, Carrickphierish	18	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Brideview Close,	2	Dungarvan/	Completed	Completed

Tallow		Lismore		
Barnes Lane, The Glen	2	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Part V	26	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery On-going 2019 – 16 2020 – 10 (est)
Repair and Lease	151	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2019 – 41 2020 – 60 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Leasing	130	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2019 – 30 2020 – 50 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Buy and Renew – Barker Place	16	Metropolitan	On site	11 units completed 5 units in progress
Buy & Renew – Thomas Court	11	Metropolitan	Tender Preparation	Works Tender Q3 2020
Buy & Renew – Manor Court	4	Metropolitan	Completed	Completed
Buy & Renew – Countywide	8	Countywide	Tender Preparation	In progress
Total Units in WCCC Projects 835				
Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects				
Project Location	Units	Area	Current Position	Comment
Tramore, Ballycarnane <i>Tramore Voluntary Housing</i>	18	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Cost revisions being considered. Awaiting progress from AHB.
Dunhill <i>Gleann Ealach</i>	8	Comeragh	Design Stage	Planning refused
Powersfield, Hennessy's Road <i>Focus Ireland</i>	3	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Awaiting progress from AHB
The Paddock's <i>Anvers/Acquired Brain Injury Ireland</i>	9	Metropolitan	Construction	Construction in progress

Wadding Manor, Ferrybank <i>Respond!</i>	10	Metropolitan	Design Stage	Construction in progress.
Kilbarry, 6 Cross Roads <i>Respond!</i>	69	Metropolitan	Appraisal	Construction in progress. Completion Q3, 2020.
Fairfield Park Circle VHA	40	Metropolitan	Construction	Completed
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects 157				

Refurbishing of houses becoming vacant for re let:

March, April, May 2020	Metro	Comeragh	Dungarvan / Lismore	TOTAL
Handed Over / Works Completed	13	3	0	16
Newly vacant	11	2	4	17

Compulsory Purchase Orders

In compliance with the Council's Vacant Homes Action Plan, Waterford City & County Council have an ongoing programme to deal with property vacancy that currently involves sixteen (16) Compulsory Purchase Orders that target twenty (20) individual properties. So far, all sixteen (16) of these Compulsory Purchase Orders have been confirmed by An Bord Pleanála. These properties have all been identified as vacant, in private ownership and are located countywide. It is proposed to extend the initiative to reduce vacancy to all areas of the county.

Community Services

Rural Development Programme:

- Applications for Leader grant funding: Applicants have until the 10th of July to submit applications. Extension of time granted to facilitate applicants during the lockdown to comply with the necessary procurement and statutory requirements.
- 14 applications expected with total project costs of €1.4m.
- Payments to projects already commenced is proceeding. €3.2m paid out to date.
- 3 Festivals deferred to 2021 – Camphire, Blackwater Opera Festival and West Waterford Food Festival

- Covid19 has not caused delay in any other approved project. €1m due to be paid out over the coming months.

Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2020

Majority of groups have received their grant payment, just a small number outstanding as bank details awaited.

COVID-19

- *Emergency Fund*
Waterford Council received €73,177 from the Department of Rural & Community Development. Community groups who are involved with Waterford Covid 19 Community Call are eligible to apply for this fund. So far from the 95 groups, 28 grant applications were received.
- Covid 19 Community Response Forum continues to meet on a weekly basis
- In association with Healthy Waterford, Covid 19 Care Boxes (essential items) packed and delivered to vulnerable residents in city and county 3rd / 4th June

Sports facilities:

- Williamstown Golf Club opened (with restrictions) on 18th May. Track and Pitch & Putt facility at RSC re-opened on 8th June.

Comhairle na nÓg:

The young people continue to meet regularly using Zoom. They have their project finalised in the area of Climate Change. A large part of their work will be dedicated towards developing an App for use by young people with the aim of pushing reminders for good Environmental practises and limiting environmental impacts of their daily lives.

Pride of Place:

Planning continues for the 2020 IPB All Ireland Pride of Place Awards. Judging will now not take place physically but rather projects being reviewed from information contained in an online form being developed by Cooperation Ireland. This form should be ready by mid June and engagement with applicants will begin at that stage.

Waterford Age Friendly Programme:

Engagement with the National and Regional Age Friendly Programme continues through the National Forum and the recently formed Regional structure.

Most thematic sub-groups are now restarting following Covid 19 with initiatives/projects identified progressing again.

Healthy Waterford:

Projects under Healthy Ireland Round 3 delayed on account of Covid 19. Funding received is supporting initiatives including active community initiatives, disability actions, social farming and mental health.

Waterford Health Profile – draft to be finalised shortly.

Healthy Waterford WLR communications campaign commenced in May and will run for 9 weeks.

Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy

A draft three-year strategy has been developed and was adopted by the LCDC at its meeting on 12th December with a recommendation that the Plenary Council adopt same. The matter was due to be considered at the March Plenary meeting but is now deferred to July.

PPN

714 groups registered with the PPN: 572 Community pillar; 117 Social Inclusion pillar; 25 Environment pillar. PPN Newsletter is giving regular updates on Covid 19 issues, including funding.

JPC:

The JPC meeting due to be held on 8th June was cancelled. Members received the Gardaí presentation and had until 12th June to submit their written questions. Next meeting on 14th September.

Social Inclusion:

(I) SICAP

SICAP programme progressing. WAP have integrated dealing with Covid 19 issues into workplan.

(II) TIG

The Waterford Traveller Interagency Group is meeting regularly by way of Zoom. It is intended to progress the Yellow Flag Programme in three Waterford schools

SeirbhísiÉigeandala

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 March, April and May. Emergency response has continued uninterrupted throughout the Covid 19 crisis with significant precautionary measures put in place to ensure the safety of fire crews and the community served.

Area	Fires	Special Service	False Alarm Good Intent	False Alarm Malicious
Metropolitan	149	39	29	5
Comeragh	17	3	3	0
Dungarvan/Lismore	54	19	5	0
Total for March, April & May	220	61	37	5
Year to date	340	170	67	8
<i>Total for March, April & May 2019</i>	176	107	37	4
<i>Total for 2019</i>	734	428	181	11

Fire Safety:

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

Applications Received	March, April & May 2020	2020 Year to date	<i>Total for March, April & May 2019</i>	<i>Total for 2019</i>
Fire Safety Certificates	19	38	25	113

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.

Application/Notification	March, April & May 2020	Cumulative Total for 2020	<i>Total for March, April & May 2019</i>	<i>Total for 2019</i>
Commencement Notices	32	112	85	339
Completion Certificates	52	92	59	236
Disability Access Certificates	9	21	14	83

Civil Defence:

Civil Defence activities during the months of March, April & May 2020 consisted solely of Covid-19 Response duties.

Essential Tasks undertaken were:

- PPE training.
- Vehicle preparation.
- Vehicle Cleaning and Decontamination.
- Mission Planning and Communications.
- Collection of PPE from Civil Defence HQ in Roscrea.
- Packing & delivery of "Care Packs" and medications.
- Patient Transportation.

Patient Transportation was provided by Civil Defence volunteers to members of the community with no other available means of transport. Transportation tasks included to and from:

- Test Centres.
- Nursing Homes.
- Clinical Assessment Hubs.
- Clinical appointments (e.g. doctors, dental, radiotherapy, etc).
- Hospital Appointments in both Waterford UHW and Cork CUH.

At all times stringent measures were put in place to ensure the safety of Civil Defence volunteers and those members of the community served.

In total Civil Defence provided 634 volunteer hours to the Covid 19 response.

Ealaíona & Cultúr

Arts & Culture

Contact and Collect Service

Contact and Collect is a new library service provided by Waterford Libraries. This service is in line with national guidelines and is the first step in gradually reopening library services as part of the Roadmap to Recovery, Phase 2 (June 8th 2020). Library members can phone or email Waterford Libraries and request that books and library materials be selected for them. Library staff will then select up to five books for collection by appointment from either Central or Dungarvan Libraries.

Waterford Libraries Online

Upcoming programmes are planned for the online delivery of Crinniú na nÓg and the Summer Stars Reading Programme.

Following the national closure of Public Libraries on 12th March, Waterford Libraries online resources were actively promoted to keep Library users engaged, informed and entertained through the Library's social media platforms and website. Since the national closure of Public Libraries on 12th March:

- 19,419 e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines were borrowed by Waterford Library members. Users of the e-book app, Borrow Box increased by 25% with 1,083 new Waterford Library users.
- There were over 5,000 views of Waterford Library social media video content which included local musicians, historians, tutors, Library staff, how-to videos and a #LibraryLove campaign from local library advocates.
- An online Book Club was established, currently with 140 members.
- Waterford Libraries participated in the Bealtaine Festival (of creativity as we age) with 30 videos covering a range of topics including yoga, art, music, history and gardening; 4 online writing classes via Zoom; and an online lecture on Waterford playwright, Teresa Deevy delivered by Dr. Una Kealy of WIT with over 20 participants.
- The Spring into Storytime programme took place with an online reading challenge with 30 entries and regular online story times.
- Virtual EDIC Europe Day took place online on 9th May with various headline speakers including Ireland South MEPs, Head of Communication European Commission Rep. in Ireland, Director Southern Regional Assembly and Head of Office European Parliament Office in Ireland.
- 394 new Facebook followers with a 3,500 daily average reach; 141 new Twitter followers with a total reach of 401,000; and 92 new Instagram followers with a total reach of 6,000.
- Waterford Libraries social media platforms and website was continuously kept up-to-date with the latest information from Waterford Council, HSE Health campaigns, Age Action and government advice.
- Dedicated Library email and phone number set up for all Library queries.

Covid-19 Community Call Centre

Following the announcement of lockdown on 27th March, Waterford Library staff took responsibility for the management and operation of the Community Call Helpline.

32 Library staff were directly involved in Community Call Work. Call Centre staff managed 1,079 contacts, varying from information, urgent food or medical supply collection, transport to medical appointments to life saving calls where time was urgent and callers were in severe distress.

A special word of mention must go to the 82 support groups using over 500 volunteers across Waterford City & County who have provided fantastic support to those who have requested help over the last few months.

Call-To-Chat

Library staff and the Older People's Council provided a call-to-chat service for those in isolation. 105 calls have been made since 18th April.

Book Delivery Pilot

A very successful pilot book delivery programme was set up in the Tramore area and ran from 27th April to 22nd May. 400 items were delivered to 68 Library members who were cocooning.

Summer Stars Programme

The Summer Stars Reading programme has commenced with the aim of encouraging children to take up/ continue reading throughout the summer months. There is a separate Summer Stars collection of children's e-books and e-audiobooks available as well as lots of online story times, chapter readings and quizzes through the Waterford Library social media platforms and Website. In addition, a national short story competition will be run for children across the country with different age categories.

Arts

The Arts Office is making preparations for re-opening 31,32 O'Connell Street in the City. The Waterford Gallery Of Art (WGOA) will probably re-open to the public later in the summer. A new Virtual education package has been designed and created for the Gallery. It and the general Virtual Tour will go online shortly.

Internal renovations to the Old Market House Arts Centre in Dungarvan are due to recommence shortly. Aspects II an exhibition based on the Waterford Art Collection is currently being curated by Dr. Eimear O Connor for when the gallery re-opens following national guidelines.

Music Generation Waterford has continued its strong full county programme on a virtual basis. It was very quick off the mark when the pandemic hit and is seen as one of the bright lights in the Arts Educational sector.

The Arts Office, national Molly Keane Creative Writing Award 2020 is currently being adjudicated.

The Arts Office contributed to the national Bealtaine Festival, Celebrating Creativity as we Age online.

All arts practice and ArtLinks grants continue to be paid – some have required changes in programmes. The grants for the Playwright & Producers and for Screenwriter & Producer will be expanded this year as part of the Arts Service programme. Art form specific mentoring online has been made available to a number of artists. Many Arts Festivals have re-imagined their offerings to include an online dimension or with a change to their timeline. Details as they happen are available on waterfordarts.com

Culture Night in September is currently being worked on and will be mainly virtually based.

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil

Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement

Enforcement under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 (as amended)

1st January 2020 – 31st May 2020.

Legal Action Initiated	9
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	96
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines previous years)	47
No of Notices Issued Under Sections 9,16,17,20	0

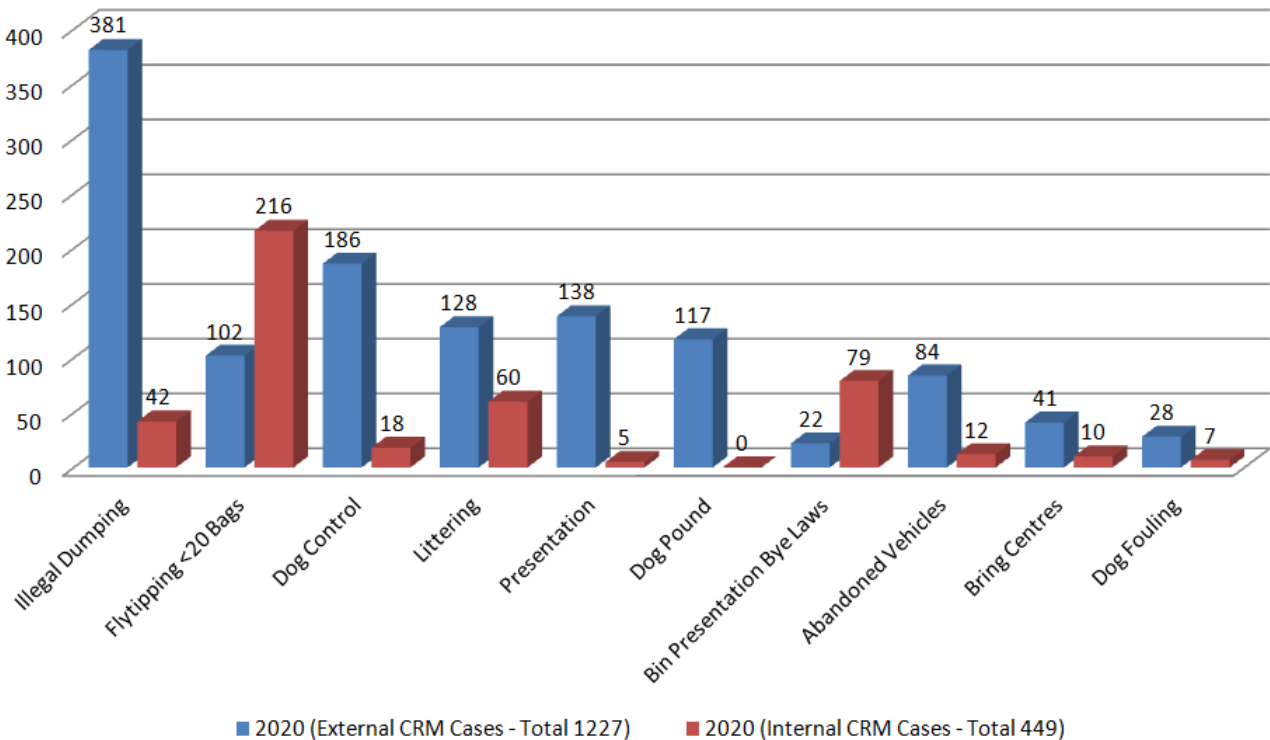
Enforcement under the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended)

1st January 2020 – 31st May 2020

No of Complaints	1442
Legal Actions	4
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)	10
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	49
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	4
Section 14 Directions	2

Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	0
Regulation 33 - Requirement on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility. (European Union End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2014 – Fixed Penalty Notice.	1
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	0
Questionnaires issued under the Household Bin Presentation Byelaws (2018)	477

The following graph indicates the top ten categories of CRM cases assigned to the Environment Department in the period January to May 2020. CRM cases notified to Waterford City & County Council by the public are recorded as "external CRM cases" and are shown in blue on the graph. Cases which originated from environmental enforcement staff are recorded as "internal CRM cases" and are shown in red on the graph. Environmental enforcement officers continue to investigate complaints received and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, dog fouling, fly-tipping, and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected. The Waterford City & County Councils Dog Wardens continue to investigate all dog control issue throughout the City & County.



Environmental Education & Awareness

Green Schools Programme

As part of Waterford City and County Council's support of the An Taisce's Green Flag programme for schools, assessment visits for the next flag were ongoing until schools closed due to COVID-19. Advice continued via phone calls and emails (An Taisce are still accepting applications due to difficulties that schools are experiencing.) To date, a total of 25 primary and secondary schools in Co. Waterford have been awarded a Green Flag, including one secondary school that achieved their first flag.

National Spring Clean

National Spring Clean is taking place at the moment instead of its usual time of the month of April. Community groups, youth groups, schools, Tidy Towns groups, etc. are not holding their clean up of their local area. Waterford City & County Council continue to offer assistance to the general public to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas, in line with advice from the National Spring Clean office regarding COVID-19.

Clean Coast Programme

Coastal communities are being engaged with and supported in conjunction with An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme. Waterford City & County Council support groups by providing the clean-up materials and collecting the bags of litter for disposal.

Climate Change

Climate change training workshops for community groups funded through the Local Environment Action Fund Local Agenda 21 are now taking place as online training courses with smaller groups of people over the autumn months and will be offered to any community group interested in learning how to take action about climate change at a local level.

Anti-Litter Campaign

A regional litter campaign is commencing on 20th June to highlight the effects of litter on our roadsides and to ask road users to bring their litter home with them. This will take place on social media and on local radio. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the amount of litter on our roadsides.

Bealtaine Festival of Outdoor Education.

A workshop which was due to take place at Waterford Nature Park as part of WIT CALMAST's Bealtaine Festival of Outdoor Education has been replaced with an online workshop on waste prevention, based around making a reusable beeswax wrap at home. The online workshop was made available through CALMAST's website during the festival.

Website Environmental Information continues to be added to the Environment section of the Waterford City & County Council website which can be found at www.waterfordcouncil.ie

Airgeadas

Finance

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to Apr 30, 2020

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	9,516,673	29,535,621	32%	9,871,011	31,511,289	31%
B	Road Transport & Safety	8,652,538	42,241,585	20%	4,327,879	30,460,877	14%
C	Water Services	3,314,960	10,966,994	30%	3,188,942	10,544,024	30%
D	Development Management	4,401,611	16,954,281	26%	1,711,252	7,950,992	22%
E	Environmental Services	5,788,811	19,224,337	30%	684,887	2,799,943	24%
F	Recreation & Amenity	4,116,468	14,480,800	28%	552,098	1,819,371	30%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	360,410	1,058,043	34%	153,262	489,290	31%
H	Miscellaneous Services	3,977,501	9,521,645	42%	2,104,242	6,085,213	35%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	6,304,188	18,912,564	33%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	11,136,580	33,409,740	33%
		40,128,972	143,983,305	28%	40,034,341	143,983,305	28%
Surplus/Deficit					(94,631)	0	

