



Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan District Council– July 2023

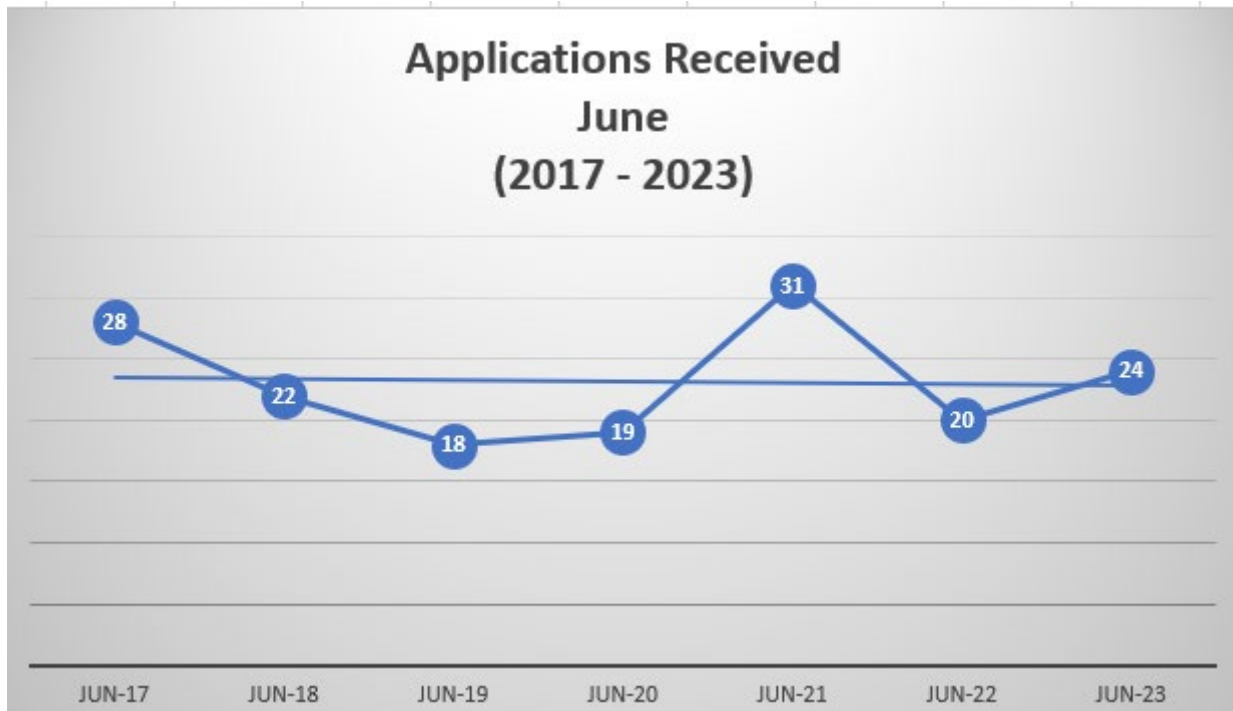
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Planning Applications Received – Metropolitan District

37 Planning applications were received in Metropolitan District in June 2023. This compares with 51 planning applications received for the same period in 2022.

A total of 202 planning applications have been received from 1st January to 30th June in the Metropolitan District in 2023. This compares to 264 planning applications which were received in 2022.



Forward Planning June - Plenary Report

Local Area Plans for Dungarvan/Ballinroad and Tramore

To provide an update on the preparation of the above plans, it had been intended to have draft plans available for consultation with the council and communities at this time. Following the receipt of submissions from the National Transport Authority and the Office of the Planning Regulator identifying the need to inform the local area plans with Local Transport Plans and Surface Water Management Plans, we have now liaised directly with the NTA to progress local transport plans and are awaiting confirmation in this regard. We have also appointed consultants to undertake the surface water management analysis required to fully inform the local area plans. Future progress will be reported to the plenary council in due course.



Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI), Wide-open Space and Amenity Strategy for Waterford Metropolitan Area.

Waterford City and County Council, as lead authority in the preparation of a Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI), Wide-Open Space and Amenity Strategy for the Waterford Metropolitan Area, and in a manner consistent with Waterford MASP Policy Objective 21 of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) and Section 3.3, policy objective W City 20 of the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, is in the process of appointing consultants for this purpose. The strategy will focus on the following key issues along with the identification of a regional scale park, suitable to meet the needs of the growing regional city and its hinterland:

1. Directly inform the protection and enhancement of our BGI assets including our important and vulnerable habitats, natural heritage, and green and blue spaces;
2. Promote the use of nature-based solutions in developments as an alternative to traditional engineering systems;
3. Create strong multifunction linkages between BGI assets;
4. Strengthen the amenity assets for neighbourhoods and assist in delivery of our 10-minute neighbourhoods; and,
5. Add increased value that improves the quality of life for all communities, employees, and visitors.

The preparation of the strategy will take a number of months to complete, and it is intended to engage with the council and other key stakeholders during Q3 and 4 of this year in order to fully inform the strategy. It is important to note that the strategy will relate to lands within the administrative areas of both Waterford and Kilkenny and as such will be an important step towards implementation of the MASP as envisaged in the RSES. Future progress will be reported to the plenary council in due course.

July – Derelict Sites

To date we have 138 Derelict Site files open. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in June and the year 2023 to date.

Derelict Sites	June 2023	Year to date 2023
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	7	29
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	3	11
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	16
Number of Sites/ Properties on the Derelicts Sites Register	3	38
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase Acquisitions (CPA) (see note below)	4	4

Four CPAs were initiated in June and publicly advertised. The time for submissions will expire in July and the Council will then move to the vesting process where applications for registration of title will be made to the Property Registration Authority.

These proposed acquisitions by CPAs are at the following locations:

- 7 Dock Road, Waterford City
- 11 Bailey's New Street, Waterford City, X91 C6EC
- 2 Blackfriars, Waterford City, X91 TP90
- 8 Lombard Street, Waterford City, X91 K124



In July, we are commencing work on four further CPAs and details of these will be shortly advertised. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has recently launched a CPO activation programme for local authorities and have set targets for CPO/CPAs for each local authority. Waterford has been set a target of 75 vacant and derelict properties to enter the CPO Activation Programme and 40 Compulsory Purchase Orders/ Compulsory Acquisitions to commence. These targets will be shared between the Planning and Housing Departments. In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (which applies to Waterford City, Dungarvan and Tramore) will provide funding for CPAs on a rolling basis with the objective being that these properties would then be released to the open market. We will be notified of our allocation in July.

Heritage Officer Report June 2023

Heritage Week

Heritage Week this year runs from August 12th-20th. This year's theme invites people to explore the traditions and practices, knowledge and skills passed down through generations. National Heritage Week celebrates Ireland's cultural, built and natural heritage and events can be registered on the heritageweek.ie portal. A printed Heritage Week events guide will also be published by Waterford City and County Council. Event organisers are requested to register their events on heritageweek.ie by July 10th in order to be included in the printed guide.

Heritage Signage

Heritage information signs have been installed at Gallows Hill and at the Colligan estuary near Shandon highlighting the heritage interest of the area. The Kiltera Oghan fingerpost sign has replaced in Dromore and fingerposts signs will be installed marking Kilcregane Graveyard SW of Ballymacarbry and Pat Cullinan's house in Bleantas site which featured in the Dying Days film and was the site of the IRA Executive meeting in the civil war 23-25th March 1923. A heritage sign detailing the Irish college at Seafield Bunmahon will also be installed.

Conservation Works at historic graveyards

Conservation works are in the final stage at Knockboy medieval graveyard which completes the 7year project that has secured the ruin of this very interesting medieval church. Repair works will also be carried out to boundary walls at Churchtown and Ballygunnertemple graveyards. A workshop on care and conservation of historic graveyards will take place on August 12th in Tooraneena Community Centre with Archaeologist Caimin O'Brien.

Decade of Commemorations

Waterford County Museum's Exhibition on the burning of Big Houses in Waterford during the revolutionary period will be launched on June 29th. Plans are underway for a talk on August 24th commemorating the centenary of the election of the wife of Cathal Brugha Caitlin Brugha in 1923 and a conference reflecting on the Decade of Centenaries in Waterford which will take place on October 7th.

Biodiversity

Birdwatch Ireland have been commissioned by Waterford City and County Council to carry out a survey of Barn Owls in the county. Anecdotal evidence indicates Barn Owls are increasing in Waterford possibly influenced by availability of prey such as the Greater White-toothed Shrew. A detailed survey of suitable habitat for Barn Owl along with monitoring of nesting sites and awareness raising measures will benefit the conservation of the red listed species in Co. Waterford. Sightings of Barn Owl can be reported to the Heritage Officer at bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie to help inform the county wide survey.

Visit by the Heritage Council Board

The Heritage Council Board and executive will visit Waterford on July 6th-7th and visit the Medieval Museum, Woodstown Viking Site, and Ardmore over the course of their two-day visit.



Conservation Officer Report June 2023

Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structure Scheme

Some of the projects granted funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund.

Photo of St Annes Church, Fewes window which is receiving BHIS funding;



Before works to main frame



After Frame repaired and painted

Archaeology

Blackfriars Abbey

Laser Survey has been carried out of Blackfriars to inform the proposed works.

City Wall

125 and 129 Parade Quay

Archaeological testing at Parade Quay by Daniel Noonan Archaeological Consultancy has also revealed sections of the City wall under the ground level of the existing buildings on the Quay. In both instances the wall is 1.2m wide, and the masonry is built in a similar fashion to other instances where it has been found around the City. The subsurface line of it can now be traced in the property boundaries of Parade Quay, back as far as Reginald's Tower.



Cathedral Square.

The Irish Wake Museum is now open, the conservation works within the new museum include repair of ceiling timbers dating from 15th century, a medieval stone lined drain and 17th century fireplace and oven.

Wyse Park

The damaged Quaker has been taken for repairs and will be reinstated. The protection and display of the gravestones and St John Priory in Wyse Park is being considered at present by WCCC in consultation with interested parties.