MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL.



Prepared By: Michael Walsh Chief Executive September 2023

Michael Walsh Príomhfheidhmeannach Meán Fómhair 2023

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate. Mayors Official Engagements July 2023.

SATURDAY 1st:	
SUNDAY 2nd:	
MONDAY 3rd:	
TUESDAY 4th:	
WEDNESDAY 5th:	Visit of the Freedom Flotilla to port of Waterford, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 6th:	Heritage Council Board Visit to Waterford, Bishop's Palace Cafe, Co Waterford.
	Music Generation, Theatre Royal, Co. Waterford.
	Dinner with The Heritage Council, Everetts Restaurant, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 7th:	Official Opening of South East Palliative Care Centre, University Hospital, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 8th:	Annual Commemoration, The Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge, Co. Dublin.
SUNDAY 9th:	National Day of Commemoration, John Condon Memorial, Cathedral Square, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 10th:	Pension Promise Event, The Granville Hotel, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 11th:	
WEDNESDAY 12th:	
THURSDAY 13th:	Portalis Network, The Granville Hotel, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 14th:	
SATURDAY 15th:	
SUNDAY 16th:	
MONDAY 17th:	
TUESDAY 18th:	
WEDNESDAY 19th:	Portlaw Playful Streets, Coolfin Woods Porlaw, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 20th:	
FRIDAY 21st:	PurpleFlag Assesment, The Vestibule, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 22nd:	
TUESDAY 23rd:	Community Camp Poleberry, Erin's Own GAA Club, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 24th:	Bluegrass Dunmore East 2023, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAYDAY 25th:	Official Opening New Ross to Glenmore South East Greenway, Rosbercon, Co. Wexford.
FRIDAY 26th:	Solas Cancer Support Centre Visit, Williamstown, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 27th:	Love this place Campaign Photo Launch, People's Park, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 28th:	Visit to Waterford Food Bank, Kilcohan, Co. Waterford.
	Good Luck Video for Senior Camogie Team, The Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 29th:	Waterford City iBikeBop, Bishop's Palace to the Apple Market, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 30th:	
WEDNEED AV 2446	

WEDNESDAY 31th:

Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate. Mayors Official Engagements August 2023.

TUESDAY 1st:	Photograph with descendants of William Van Der Hagen, Bishops Palace, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 2nd:	Peg Tebay Memorial, Hive Garden Butlers Community Centre, Co. Waterford.
	200th Anniversary of the Birthday of Thomas Francis Meagher, Granville Hotel. Waterford.
	Tramore and Cadaujac Welcome, Coastguard Cultural Centre, Tramore, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 3rd:	Pride of The Déise, Cathedral Square, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 4th:	Sail training Ireland Awards Ceremony, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.
SATURDAY 5th:	European Neighbours Evening, An Garrán, Tramore, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 6th:	Waterford Senior Camogie Final, Croke Park, Co. Dublin.
MONDAY 7th:	Waterford Senior Camogie Team Reception/Homecoming, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 8th:	
WEDNESDAY 9th:	
THURSDAY 10th:	PPN Awards Launch, Park Hotel Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 11th:	Photo for launch of Waterford Glas Awards, Waterford Nature Park, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 12th:	Centenary cup game, Ozier Park, Co Waterford.
SUNDAY 13th:	Comeragh & Knockmealdown Challenge Cycle, Sliabh gCua Community Centre, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 14th:	Gum Litter launch, Broad Street, Co. Waterford.
	Launch of Waterford Placenames Committee, Cappoquin Community Centre, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 15th:	
WEDNESDAY 16th:	Playful Streets Markey Drive, Highfield, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 17th:	Launch of John Young's Donated Collection, Dungarvan Library, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.
	Megan Nolan Autor address and Q&A, Carrickpherish Library, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 18th:	Unveiling of Waterford Civic Trust Blue Plaque, SETU West Campus, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 19th:	Rás na mBan, Photo Launch, Tramore, Co. Waterford.
	Playful Street Community Day, Mount William Housing estate, Co. Waterford.
SUNDAY 20th:	Irish National Masters Closed Championships, St. Annes Tennis Club, Co. Waterford.
	Aonach na nDéise - Viking Heritage Festival, Waterford Greenway at Carriganore, Co. Waterford.
	Royal British Legion Wreath Laying Ceremony, Memorial Wall, Castle Dungarvan, Co Waterford.
MONDAY 21st:	Solas Centre Dungarvan, Alternative Health Clinic at 12 Main Street, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 22nd:	
WEDNESDAY 23rd:	Community Camp Poleberry, Erin's Own GAA Club, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 24th:	Bluegrass Dunmore East 2023, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 25th:	American Irish State Legislator Caucus, The Round Room, The Mansion House, Co. Dublin.
	Decade of Commemorations Exhibition, Dunhill community Hall, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 26th:	
SUNDAY 27th:	
MONDAY 28th:	
TUESDAY 29th:	
WEDNESDAY 30th:	
THURSDAY 31th:	A New Musical for Waterford, Theatre Royal, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

BAM is progressing works in the river, at the Transport Hub site and also along Dock Road and Abbey Road. For the Sustainable Transport Bridge the first of four cofferdams is currently being constructed in the River Suir.

Piling for the train stations southern platform is also ongoing and sheet piling for flood defence for the platforms have been installed. Section of new track has also been laid.

Traffic management measures are in place along Dock Road to install sewer and surface water network services. While a design consultant for the Flood Defence contract is due to be appointed shortly. David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing on programme for both the Pump Station Enabling Works and the Ferrybank Pump Station relocation contract.





Local Enterprise Office

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

Indicator	At end of Aug 2022	At end of Aug 2023
Measure 1		
No. of Clients applying	6	17
No. of Clients securing	6	17
Value of support approved	€178,145	€249,449
Measure 2		
No. of clients receiving	1208	1632
Value of support given	€227,867	€336,591

*Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters' Grant (TAME) approvals are included in Measure 1 support figures above for 2023 but were not for 2022. TAME figures were reported separately in 2022 as a cumulative year end figure. No Evaluation & Committee Meeting took place in Aug. Next meeting takes place in Sept.

		Support – Trading Online Voucher
Trading Online Vouch	er	
No. of Approvals	54	
Value of Approvals	€106,158	

Figures not included in cumulative table.

Local Enterprise Office launches the inaugural Glas Awards, promoting sustainability in business in Waterford. The awards, in association with Waterford City and County Council aim to recognise and celebrate micro businesses in County Waterford who have made significant advances in bringing green principles into their business model.

The awards are open to small and medium sizes businesses based in Waterford County. The Green Micro Enterprise of the Year is open to all with employees of 10 or less, while the Green SME of the Year is open to those between 11 and 20 employees.

The entry portal is now open on Waterford's Local Enterprise Office website and remains so until 20th September 2023. The Glas Awards Final which will be held in Grow HQ, Waterford City on 17th October 2023.



Communications

Press Releases

The Communications Department distributed 14 media releases and drafted 12 Mayoral speeches.



Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards:

Waterford City and County Council has been shortlisted in six categories of the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023. The projects range from community to economic development, and urban revival to environment.

This is the strongest representation Waterford City and County Council has ever had at these awards.

- Tramore Town Centre Public Realm Works has been shortlisted in the Urban Revival category.
- Waterford's Ukrainian Refugee Response has been shortlisted in the Diversity and Inclusion category.
- A Celebration of Waterford as Ireland's Best Place to Live is shortlisted in the Communications category.
- Waterford City and County Council's Climate Action team has been shortlisted for its Business Rates Waiver initiative in the Climate Change category.
- Waterford Museums of Time and Silver are shortlisted in the Heritage and Built Environment category.
- Mount Congreve One of the Great Gardens of the World is shortlisted in the Supporting Tourism category.

The 2023 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards are sponsored by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the award ceremony takes place in Dublin on November 23rd.



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

	Reach	% Change	Followers	% Change
July	758,690	72%	47,564	0%
August	671,461	-11%	47,981	1%

WCCC Website Stats: August 1st to August 31st 2023 Page Views: 111,403 Unique Page Views: 86,115

Top 10 pages not including homepage:

- Planning Enquiries
- Choice Based Letting
- Online Payments
- Vacancies
- Departments homepage
- Planning Lists
- Planning homepage
- Parking, Housing homepage
- Affordable housing Scheme

- Downloads: 16,712
- 1: Waste Charges (Environment)
- 2: Planning Lists (Planning)
- 3: Candidate Information Booklet Executive Technician (HR)
- Viewing Device: Smartphone 30548 Desktop 16812 Tablet 981

Destination Towns Update

Since the last meeting, progress has been as follows:

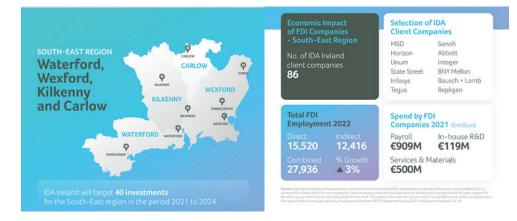
- New Sculptures to guide 'footfall' to and highlight the Viking Triangle 8 are now in place
- Works have commenced on the upgrading of the existing pedestrian 'Way Finding' signage and orientation mapping and are due be complete in September
- Launch date with Fáilte Ireland This has been set for the 20th September.

Regionsal Employment - South East information from IDA

County information is made available to specific audiences as follows:

South East Region	2022	2022 vs 2023	2022 vs 2023 %	2022 vs 2021	2022 vs 2021 %
Number of Client Operations	86	+26	+43%	-	
Total Jobs	15,520	+5,972	+63%	+458	+3%
New Jobs Created (Gross Gains)	+1,243				

Waterford	2022	2022 vs 2023	2022 vs 2023 %	2022 vs 2021	2022 vs 2021 %
Number of Client Operations	46	+15	+ 48%	-	-
Total Jobs	9,461	+3,798	+ 67%	+ 503	+6%
New Jobs Created (Gross Gains)	+881		l		I



Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

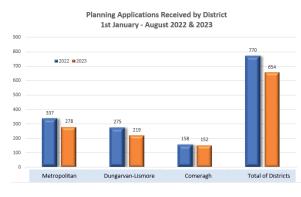
The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled on September 27th 2023.

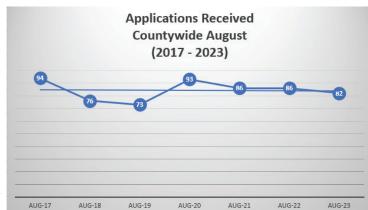
Pleanáil / Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

82 planning applications were received countywide in August 2023. This compares with 86 planning applications received for the same period in August 2022. In July 2023, 78 planning applications were received in the full calendar month, compared to 96 received in July 2022.

A total of 654 planning applications were received in the year to August 2023. This compares to 770 planning applications which were received for the same period in 2022.





Heritage Officer Report

Decade of Commemorations- All districts

A Screening of the Dying Days film on the death of Liam Lynch and the end of the Civil War will take place in Garter Lane Theatre on Thursday 28th September at 7pm opened by Mayor Joe Conway. A talk commemorating the centenary of the election of Caitlín Brugha, the wife of Cathal Brugha in 1923 was deferred from August 27th and will be re-scheduled for September. A conference reflecting on the Decade of Centenaries in Waterford is being planned for October.

Heritage Week- All districts

Heritage Week ran from August 12th-20th with record attendances at several events. Events hosted by Waterford City and County Council included a workshop on historic graveyards in Tooranena and Knockboy Graveyard, talk by Birdwatch Ireland on the Waterford Barn Owl Survey and the Woodstown Viking Site Heritage Festival Aonach na nDéise.

Conservation Works at historic graveyards -All districts

Conservation works are completed at Knockboy medieval graveyard which completes the 7year project that has secured the ruin of this very interesting medieval church. Works have also been completed at Ballinakill Graveyard in Waterford City and repair works to boundary walls at Churchtown and Ballygunnertemple graveyards will be completed by November.

Biodiversity- All districts

Birdwatch Ireland have completed a survey of over 80 potential Barn Owl sites in the county and recorded presence at 25 sites. 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. Further sightings of Barn Owl can be reported to the Heritage Officer at bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie to help inform the county wide survey.

Landscape Forum- All districts

A National Landscape Forum will take place at Mount Congreve on September 28th and 20th discussing the National Landscape Strategy and issues of landscape past and landscape future.

Visit by the Heritage Council Board- All districts

The Heritage Council Board and executive visited Waterford on July 6th-7th and visited the City Museums, Woodstown Viking Site, Ardmore Round Tower and SAC over the course of their two-day visit.

Derelict Sites

To date we have 200 Derelict Site files open. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in July/August and the year 2023 to date.

Derelict Sites	July/August 2023	Year to date 2023•
No. of new files opened	62	200
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued –		
Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	16	42
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued –		
Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	22	33
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	22	60
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily		
Purchase Acquisitions (CPA) (see note below)	6	10
No of Vesting Orders signed	2	2

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACQUISITION OF DERELICT SITES (CPA)

Six CPAs were initiated in July and August and publicly advertised. No. 3 CPA were started in July and the time for submissions will expire at the end of August. No. 3 CPA were started in August and the time for submissions will expire at the end of September. The Council will then move to the vesting process where applications for registration of title will be made to the Property Registration Authority.

In September, we are commencing work on five further CPAs and details of these will be shortly advertised.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has 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. Waterford City and County Council was allocated €9m under this fund in July.

Mount Congreve House

Works to restore main section of glasshouse has commenced.

Conservation Officer Report

Forward Planning September Plenary Report

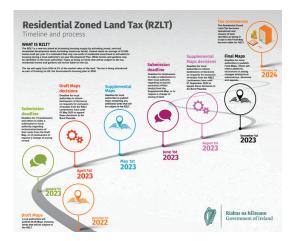
The third Planning SPC meeting of this year is scheduled to take place on the 28th of September. It is intended that the meeting will focus on the following interrelated issues:

- The draft annual development plan monitoring report being prepared for submission to the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), based on Appendix 16 of the development plan; and,
- Identifying the implementation propriety for the multiple policy objectives set out in the development plan.

It is important and timely that these issues are considered by the SPC at this juncture as the workstream identified by the SPC, in addition to statutory obligations, will form the basis of the planning policy/forward planning team workplan, and that of the SPC, for the next 12 months. Furthermore, the resulting workstream will inform next year's development plan monitoring report provided for under Section 15 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which places a duty on each planning authority to secure the objectives of the development plan.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Map of land in-scope

As per the timeline below, the final map of lands identified as being in-scope for the RZLT will be published by the planning authority on 1st of December. The final map will have regard to the determinations of An Bord Pleanála on all appeals which have sought to remove lands from the draft RZLT map. At time of writing this update, the determinations of An Bord Pleanála received have upheld the opinion of the planning authority, indicating that there are no matters arising which warrant the exclusion of lands from the map.



Management Report Plenary 19th September 2023. Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications						
* inc files from carried forward	July & Aug 2022	Year 2022	July & Aug 2023	Year to date 2023		
Applications received	147	959	396	1456		
Applications assesed *	52	434	116	438		
Applications Validated*	N/A	N/A	213	N/A		
Approved for social housing supports						
following interview	N/A	N/A	67	N/A		

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations							
		Cumulative		Refusal	Cumulative		
	New Tenancies	Tenancies	New Tenancies	of new	Tenancies		
	July & Aug 2022	2022	July & Aug 2023	Tenancies	2023		
	106	487	95	17	246		

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1244. There have been 418 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications								
_2023 Housing Loans	Apllications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/ <u>Deffered for 6 months</u>			
<u>July & Aug</u> Year to date	<u>20</u> 58	<u>8</u> 8	7 33	<u>4</u> 11	<u> </u>			

Tenant Purchase applications

2023 Tenant Puchase	Apllications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
July & Aug	12	5	4	3	2
Year to date 2022	43	10	13	12	21
Year to date 2023	41	8	9	19	19

Housing Assistance Payment

	July & Aug 22	July & Aug 23	2023 No.of active	Applications	Sales Closed	
	HAP	HAP Tenancies	HAP Tenancies	approved		
	Tenancies		set up			
HAP Tenancies	46	37	-27	4,732	1732	
			•	•	•	11

Inspections	of Dwellings		Housing	First P	rogramme
HAP	53	_	Tenancie	s 2023	}
HAP Non- Compliant	39		Number of Tenancies in	July	Aug
Total	53		place with Housing First supports.	36	35

In July+Aug, Waterford City & County Council carried out 276 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 33 properties has had improvement works carried out to meet the standards for rented accommodation.

Housing Adaptation	for People with a	Disability, Hous	ing Aid for Older Peo	ople and Mobility Aid Grants
amount	No of applications approved July & Aug 2023	Value of applications July & Aug 2023	Cumulative number of applications approved 2023	Cumulative value of 2023 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	24	€165,751.25	70	€608,422.23
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	1	€2,400.00	9	€35,590.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	31	€147,736.27	90	€404,129.93
Total	56	€315,887.52	169	€1,048,124.16

-		Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:
-	91	22	58

Homeless Services

Homeless Services							
<u>Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIIHS)</u> <u>Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service</u> Assessments by a Homeless Officer		<u>611</u> 170		g Cur	Cumulative 202 2,277 480		<u>Total 2022</u> 3,618 954
Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation							
	30th July 2	2023	30th July 2022	27th Au	g 2023	27th	Aug 2022
Number of Single Persons	42		47	39)		46
Number of Families	14		15	18	}		17
Number of Adults in Families	17		19	21			21
Number of Children	23		32	39)		32
HAP PlaceFinder Service							
26th June - 31st July - Cumulative							

	30th July 2023	27th Aug 2023	2023
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	27	22	204
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	7	10	84

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	5
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Project Type	Units
Housing Capital Schemes	348
Part V	294
Total Units in WCCC Projects	642

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

July & Aug 2023	Total
Handed over/	
Works completed	21
Newley Vacant	22

ENERGY EFFI	ICIENCY
RETROFITTIN	G MAY 2023:

Submission has been made to The Dept for EER properties in 2023.

TENANT "IN-SITU" SCHEME

- 97 Enquiries received
- 15 Waiting to hear back from Vendor for further information
- 3 Sale Completed
- 36 Sale Agreed
- 8 Offers made and awaiting to hear back from Vendors
- 15 Awaiting WCCC inspection/ Independent Valuation
- 20 Not proceeding (reasons below)

3x Tenant left property themselves, 1 Tenant doesn't want to stay in the property and has requested transfer Tenant's allowed stay in property by landlord, landlord didn't want to proceed further, 7x Not suitable for tenant in-situ scheme and informed about Cost Rental Tenant in-situ scheme, Landlord want's to sell to highest bidder on the open market, 3x Can't reach agreement with Landlord, 4x Tenants accepted alternative social housing unit, Vendor wanted property back for themselves to live in.

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

LEADER 2014 -2020 - The Current programme finishes in March 2024. All payments have to be completed by then. Current Payments.

- €600K still to be paid out of €8m
- All bar €150K will be paid out by November 2023.
- Possible monies to be decommitted will not be more than €20K 0.25%

New Programme – LEADER 2023 -2029

- The bid for the new programme is in.
- The LCDC should should be notified in late September re the start date for LEADER in Waterford. Tipp and Carlow have been approved on the 31st of August. Their bids were in 10 15 days earlier than Waterford's bid.
- Once the contract is in place, the targeted call process for projects will commence.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG:

The topic for 2023 has been identified as Relationships and Sexual Education in schools and progress on 2023 activities has continued over the summer by the young members. The Podcast series on the young peoples chosen topic are 50% complete and will be shortly be fully complete. The AGM is schedule for October in the Tower Hotel, Waterford. The Young people continue to participate in their nominated local and national committees.

	Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects					
		Units				
	Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects	87				
Housing Efficiency Retrofit						

Total Units for 2022 and 2023 to date, Details outlined in district reports.

WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

Delivery of the year 1 action plan has begun with four of the seven Implementation Subgroups having met. The remaining groups will have initial meeting in September.

WELL WATERFORD (LCDC SUB-GROUP)

Healthy Waterford Programme

Playful Streets: A project that has gained great momentum over the last few months has been the Playful Streets project. Over 18 events will have taken place by the end of September with a massive attendance from the General public. Several projects have been granted funding. Below is an overview of the same. Between September - December additional partners and project's will be considered for 2024.

Committed Funding	
TREO Portlairge	€10,000
Aiseiri Progression Program	€7,360
Playful Streets	€7,500
SHEP Community Wellbeing	€6,500
Lismore Environs –	
Place Standard approach to Community Wellbeing	€20,000
Healthy Communities GIY	€18,000
Autism Friendly Cities	€3,000
Social Farming	€8,500

Municipal District Meetings

The Well Waterford committee and implementing partners have several meetings and events arranged to bring about a localised approach to community wellbeing. The following meetings took place for elected members and our implementing partners to meet and input into the Well Waterford structure. As these meetings are now concluded a report and survey is being furnished to decide the next steps for the Municipal District approach.

23rd of June – Dungarvan Lismore MD

21st July – Comeragh MD

25th August – Metro MD

The Healthy City and County Coordinator has been selected to be a member of the National Healthy City and County Network Committee. This includes developing Waterford's future application to the WHO European Healthy City Framework.

Place Standard

Training on the place standard tool will take place on the 16th of September. This tool and method are an effective way in engaging with the public on how they feel about the place they're from and improvements they would like to see implemented. For more information contact: eoinmorrissey@waterfordcouncil.ie

Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership (WLCSP):

SCARY BUT SAFE HALLOWEEN PILOT:

The partnership are currently planning and coordinating efforts with implementing partnes for the 'Scary but Safe Halloween' pilot community safety event which will incorporate a successful Creative Ireland application for a creative community led event called 'The Hill at Halloween'.

ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY INTERACTIVE SAFETY SHUTTLE:

During July, the Road Safety Authority Interactive Safety Shuttle, supported by Waterford Garda Roads Policing Unit, was open to the public for a day in Dungarvan, Waterford City and Tramore. It was supported by a social media and local radio road safety campaign and the support of Waterford Council in providing space at public Car Parks is acknowledged and appreciated.

PURPLE FLAG:

The Coordinator presented to the Purple Flag Assessment team during July on how the Purple Flag initiative is an important aspect of City Centre Community Safety in the evening time and the initiatives supporting City Centre Safety, applied for in the Community Safety Innovation Fund Grants. A Clerical officer started in the WLCSP office on 10th July 2023. WLCSP with the Community Gardai supported the Adam O' Connor Community Camp during August.

WLCSP SUB-GROUPS:

The Education, Training & Awareness and Building Community Capacity Working Group and the Crime and Reducing Criminality and Safe Environment & Infrastructure Working Group, both met in July with next meetings scheduled for September and October respectfully. The next WLCSP Plenary Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26th September 2023, when Assistant Garda Commissioner Hilman will present to the Partnership.

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 2,500 Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Waterford to date with over 1,846 Ukrainians having been received directly into Waterford Council run Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City including 84 new arrivals last week. To date 1,354 have been matched with pledged and other accommodation sourced by Waterford Council. Over 90% of expiring licence agreements are being renewed and the team continue to work on supporting pledge owners and occupiers here in Waterford. On August 22nd 36 Ukrainian refugees, made up of family groupings aged 2 to 60+, were placed in Pilgrims Rest in Mount Melleray. Waterford Area Partnership are supporting all of those who have moved with integration into our communities. The 'offer a home' pledge call for vacant properties is still open with over 220 Ukrainians being accommodated in pledged accommodation to date. Any queries on same should be directed to offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie or 058 22059.

PRIDE OF PLACE:

Judging of the entrants for the 2023 awards namely, CAPE-ability Lismore (winners of the overall PPN award) and the Larchville Lisduggan Residents Group (nominated by the Housing Dept.) took place on July 6th. The judges were very impressed with both entries. The National Pride of Place awards event is taking place in Armagh during November.

MIGRANT INTEGRATION:

The last Migrant Integration Strategy Meeting took place on the 14th June 2023 and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 13th September 2023. Each Local Authority in the Country will be establishing "Local Authority Integration Teams" and the members were updated on the responsibilities and resources for same. Discussions also took place around the review of the Migrant Integration Strategy Subgroup and Migrant Integration Forum.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

Progress on the preparation of the new LECP is ongoing with a draft LECP presented to Councillors at a workshop on Tuesday 5th September. The LECP will be sent to the Southern Regional Assembly for comment this week and is on schedule for the Plan to be adopted at the October Plenary Council meeting.

NATIONAL PLAY DAY

Waterford City and County Council in partnership with Waterford Sports Partnership organised very successful water-based, cycling and playful street activities for National Play Day 2023, which ran from 1st to 9th July. In line with the theme of Wonder and Discovery, young people were afforded the opportunity to learn how to surf in Tramore and cycle in Dungarvan. As a result of taking part in National Play Day 2023, positive outcomes included a local DEIS school requesting the Cycle Right Programme and two Garda Youth Diversion Projects requesting assistance in organising surfing programmes. The Playful Street event in Waterford City gave children the opportunity to discover new games outdoors and form friendships in a safe environment. Play packs were distributed throughout the week to West Waterford Community and Family Hub, Barnardos Cappoquin, Portlaw Community Resource Hub, TYRE Project (Garda Youth Diversion Tramore), and to children who took part in the playful street event. Each pack included a drawstring bag, football, tennis ball, chalk, bubbles, frisby, skipping rope, notebooks, colouring pencils and highlighters. The aim of National Play Day was to promote play and recreation opportunities for children and young people. Through this initiative, Waterford City and County Council received funding of €3,000 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to deliver the programme of activities.

Seirbhísi Éigeandala / 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 July and August.

Fire Service Operational Activity:								
Area	Fires	Special Serices	False alarm/ Good intent	False alarm /Malicious				
Total for July & Aug	95	98	50	0				
Year to date	389	351	161	0				
Total for July & Aug 2022	168	93	39	0				
Total for 2022	442	333	144	0				

FIRE SAFETY:

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

Fire Safety:									
July & Aug 2023 2023 YTD July & Aug 2022 2022 YTD									
Fire Safety Certificates	17	65	11	60					

BUILDING CONTROL:

Building Control:							
Applications recived	July & Aug 2023	2023 YTD	July & Aug 2022	2022 YTD			
Commencement Notices	54	202	58	310			
Completion Certificates	38	131	36	204			
Disability Access Certs	6	50	9	57			

CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the Summer months of June, July and August 2023 continued 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 76 Ukraine related calls
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc
- Relocations and Redistributions to new Accommodation.

In Community support and Events we attended:

- Waterford Viking Marathon
- A number of Child Transports to Crumlin Hospital over the summer.
- National Day of Commemoration.
- Patient Transport from Carrick on Suir to Whitfield.
- Transport Group of OAP's from St Bridget's Yellow Road to Jack Meads.
- Spraoi Festival & Parade.
- Mount Congreve Festival.
- RNLI Helvick Charity Swim Ambulance & First Aid Support (rescheduled due to poor weather conditions).
- Inter Agency Emergency Assistance provided to National Ambulance Service and South Eastern Mountain Rescue Service, Comeragh Mountains.
- Tramore End of Summer Fireworks Display.

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. 16

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2023 – 29TH AUGUST 2023

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	99
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	65
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	2144
Legal Actions	2
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)	15
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	15
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	117
Section 14 Directions	6
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	2
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	6
Regulation 25 Notice under the Deco Paints – Vehicle Refinishers	1

CLIMATE ACTION

Rates Energy Discount Scheme

The Rates Energy Discount Scheme is open for applications until 29th September. Businesses with rates of less than €10,000 per annum or hospitality businesses are eligible to apply through our Submit Portal: https://waterford.submit. com/show/151 Businesses who complete the application and have their rates paid in full will have the discount applied to their account.

Climate Action Plan

The pre-draft consultation for the Climate Action Plan closed on 23rd June. 19 submissions were received online and 4 written submissions were received by the Climate Action office. The Climate Action team has completed a set of draft actions for the County and for the City (Waterford's Decarbonising Zone). The Climate Action team will be looking for involvement from elected members throughout this process and will present at District Council meetings in the next few weeks with the proposed actions that have been formulated from the consultation with the public and from consultations within the Council. The draft plan consultation will go live on 23rd October.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Tidy Towns

The Environment Department have been working with Tidy Towns groups to further their work towards the 2023 competition. The national Super Valu Tidy Towns competition is an annual contest organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The competition involves participating areas being rated on all aspects of their local environment and prizes awarded to the best under many different categories, from Litter to Sustainability. The overall winner is "Ireland's Tidiest Town". which is announced at a national ceremony in September each year.

Litter

The annual survey of coasts and inland waterways by business group Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) showed that both Dungarvan Harbour and Tramore were found to be Clean to European norms. However, the study of 33 areas nationwide revealed the majority of beaches falling short of clean status, despite the unsettled summer meaning lower visitor numbers.

Recycling

Waterford householders were encouraged to bring their batteries, electrical, and electronic waste to a series of free collection days around the county during August. The events, hosted by WEEE Ireland in partnership with Waterford City and County Council, began on Tuesday 15th August at the Rainbow Community Centre, Kilmacthomas before moving to the Old Lismore Recycling Centre, Lismore that evening. On Thursday 17th August, the collection took place at the Gaultier GAA Club, Dunmore from 10.00am – 1.00pm, and at the Portlaw GAA Club from 4.00pm – 7.00pm. Finally a collection took place at the Tesco Car Park in Tramore on Saturday 19th August. All household items with a plug or a battery were accepted free of charge, including old washing machines, TVs, toasters and kettles, electronic tools and toys, cables, IT equipment, mobile phones, remote controls, batteries, including farm fence batteries, and even watches.

Green Flag Programme

Green Schools visits are already underway. The Green Schools Seminar will be online on 3rd October as the majority of teachers found this to be a convenient way to take part. The Environmental Awareness Officer will be available to visit schools or answer any questions that they might have, as will An Taisce's Green Schools team.

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. The Environment Department continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers from both Dungarvan and Waterford offices to many of the groups taking part, in addition to collecting the bags of litter for all clean ups. 18

Arts

Arts Practice Grants and Venue Grants go online with a closing date of October 4th. They will be publicised by adverts in the papers and PR. Details will also be sent to all Councillors.

Discussions are underway for 2024 which will see a new mobile Council/Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts Gaeltacht, Sport & Media stage, Lighting and PA (see below) coming on-stream.

Planning is at an advanced stage for Culture Night (Friday September 22nd) a key part of this will be a celebration of performers local, national and international who passed away recently covering people from Hugo O'Donovan to Sinead O'Connor.

The Waterford Gallery of Art is currently hosting 'A Survey of the Landscape' focuses on how the environment has been captured, depicted, and reframed by artists, and will feature works by some of Ireland's most renowned artists including Mary Swanzy HRHA, Seán Keating PPRHA, William Conor RHA PPRUA, Eileen Murray, Paul Henry RHA, Dermod O'Brien PPRHA, Bea Orpen HRHA, Donald Teskey RHA and more. Click this Gallery Link for a quick peek. The video was made in-house by Conor and Luke.

The forthcoming winter exhibition will be based on Quaker life.

The WGOA schools programme will be staring shortly.

The Arts Service and Waterford Gallery of Art and Garter Lane is commissioning a series of Professional Artist training programmes for late 2023 through 2024. These will be run at both Galleries.

Expressions of Interest will shortly be going out for the new Arts Plan.

Finally, a Nationwide programme was dedicated to Waterford City and its various summer programmes. One of the largest segments was on the Summer Programme with the Nationwide host Anne Cassin describing Waterford as absolutely hopping. In the segment she Anne interviewed Anna Jordan about Summer In The City itself.



Libraries

In June, Waterford City & County Libraries were buzzing with activity. Statistics: figures represent 30 days of activity to June 30th.

Julie Jouri.	JUIY	AUg	
No. of Visitors this month	32,806	33,596	
Active members	31,604	31,951	
Issues in Branch	32,669	32,993	
On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines	8,127	8,614	
Events & Activities	340	278	
waterfordlibraries.ie figures View			
Visitors	5,232	5,540	
Average views per day	432	432	

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY & AUGUST::

•Sustainable Living Waterford's exhibition on Kila the dog and her climate hero journey travelled to Dungarvan, Lismore and Central Libraries. This exhibition was accompanied by workshops on taking climate action.

•11 Heritage week events were held in Libraries during August. The traditional skills of hand sewing, and basket weaving were taught again. Photographs from the Poole collection were on show, while walking tours of Tramore and talks on the language of the Deise took place.

•On Thursday August 17th, the John Young Collection was launched in Dungarvan Library by Deputy Mayor of Waterford City and County Council Cllr. Declan Doocey with a talk on Waterford's Maritime History by historian Andrew Doherty, attended by over a 100 people.

•Waterford Libraries hosted a Leaflings Story trail This summer which combined the joy of reading with the outdoors. Children could follow the 'Leaflings Story Trail' along the Waterford Greenway from either Dungarvan to Durrow or Carriganore to Kilmeaden. There are storyboard stops along the way where children can learn about the Magical Leaflings from all over the world. This trail is accompanied by literacy activities.

•2,850 Children took part in the Summer Stars reading programme which ran throughout July & August, this annual incentivised literacy programme helps to combat the summer slip in literacy.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

•Little Library Book bags were distributed to all Children starting Primary School in County Waterford in 2023.

•Waterford Libraries are delighted to be working in partnership with the Irish Writers Centre with funding from Creative Waterford to provide a series of creative writing courses for adults. In August Writing for Social Change with Praya Agarwal, beginners emerging fiction with William Ryan and Poetry for beginners with Molly Twomey.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

•Waterford Libraries will host story times and various events as part of the Harvest festival.

•Kevin Barry & Clare Keegan will talk about books and writing in Carrickpherish and Dungarvan Libraries respectively.

•There will be more Writing courses in September. These courses are organised in association with Creative Waterford and the Irish writer's centre. Tá chursa Filíocht le Róisín Sheehy i An Leabharlann Lárnach agus chursa Gearrscéal le Catherine Foley i Leabharlann Dhún Garbhán.





Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

E xpenditur		
xpenditur	Adopted Full	
	Adopted I un	% Budget
e€	Year Budget	Spent to
	€	date
1,465,945	35,728,461	60%
2,013,919	49,146,777	45%
6,316,437	11,790,929	54%
4,493,762	21,992,796	66%
1,761,638	21,512,181	55%
9,143,063	15,464,575	59%
570,470	1,068,270	53%
5,602,641	9,678,508	58%
0	0	0%
0	0	0%
91,367,874	166,382,494	55%
	1,465,945 2,013,919 6,316,437 4,493,762 1,761,638 9,143,063 570,470 5,602,641 0 0	€ 1,465,945 35,728,461 2,013,919 49,146,777 6,316,437 11,790,929 4,493,762 21,992,796 1,761,638 21,512,181 9,143,063 15,464,575 570,470 1,068,270 5,602,641 9,678,508 0 0 0 0 0 0

Collections

Airgeadas Finance										
Summary of main collections July 2023 YTD										
	A Gross Bal as	В	с	D	E	F	G'		[6] % Collected ytd	[7]
	at 1-1-2023	Accrued ytd to July 2023	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to July 2023	Gross Bal 31-07-2023 [4-5]	Specific Provision	re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytc re 2023 Accrua [5/(4-1)]
		€	€		€	€	€		€	
Rates	3,008,361	36,035,961	- 813,702	-	38,230,620	23,518,936	14,711,684	1,391,804	64%	65%
Loans	1,534,038	1,939,679	329		3,474,046	2,013,814	1,460,232		58%	104%
Rents	3,903,206	9,861,969	2,496		13,767,671	9,448,609	4,319,062		69%	96%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than			greater than			
				1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	12,907,563	-	1,804,121			14,711,684
							Greater than			
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	12 mths			
Loans				164,996	75,824	90,783	1,128,629			1,460,232
				Less than			Greater than			
				4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	12 wks			
Rents				145,651	94,242	160,617	3,918,552			4,319,062
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in July 23'	0		Cost -	0	€0.00	Average Val	ue when in O/D :	N/A		€ -