

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH & CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL.



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Chief Executive
November 2023

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Príomhfheidhmeannach
Samhain 2023

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate. Mayors Official Engagements October 2023.

SUNDAY 1st:	
MONDAY 2nd:	
TUESDAY 3rd:	Show around with Waterford News and Star, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford. Imagine Arts Festival Launch, Vestibule of the Theatre Royal, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 4th:	Launch of Breastfeeding Project, The Large Room, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 5th:	
FRIDAY 6th:	
SATURDAY 7th:	Voices Of Tomorrow, St. Patrick's Gateway Centre, Co. Waterford.

SUNDAY 8th:	
MONDAY 9th:	
TUESDAY 10th:	Litter Challenge for Secondary Schools, Tom Murphy Car Sales, Cork Road, Co. Waterford. Winterval Programme Launch, Garter Lane Arts Centre, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 11th:	Shamhna in the City Photo Launch, Spraoi Studios, Carrickpherish, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 12th:	
FRIDAY 13th:	Parent and Child Plus, Paddy Browns Road Library, Co. Waterford. Photo Shoot with Visit Waterford, Mount Congreve entrance to the Waterford Greenway, Co. Waterford.

SATURDAY 14th:	
SUNDAY 15th:	Solas Cancer Support Run and Walk for life, Georges Street, Co Waterford. Tramore Rugby Club 10th Anniversary Celebrations, Ard Scoil playing pitch, Tramore, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 16th:	Mayoral Reception for Märkischer Kreis Twinning, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall. Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 17th:	Märkischer Kreis Twinning, All day trip. Inaugural Waterford Glas Awards, Grow HQ, Co, Waterford. WWETB achievements awards, Dooleys Hotel, Co. Waterford.
WEDNESDAY 18th:	Service of Holy Eucharist, Christ Church Cathedral, Co. Waterford. Diocesan Synod (Church of Ireland), Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 19th:	Waterford CYPSC - Social Inclusion and Disability Subgroup, SETU Arena, Co. Waterford. Cycle trip on the Greenway with the Active Travel, Coach House Coffee, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 20th:	National Apprenticeship Awards, SETU Arena, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 21st:	Decade of Centenaries Event, The Large Room, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford. Cllr. Joe Kelly. Defence Force Bands Centenary Concert, SETU Arena, Co. Waterford. Dunmore Badminton Club 70th Anniversary, The Granville Hotel, Co. Waterford.

SUNDAY 22nd:	
MONDAY 23rd:	Rainbow Revolution touchscreen Launch, Bishop's Palace, Co. Waterford.
TUESDAY 24th:	
WEDNESDAY 25th:	Cappoquin Community Development, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford. Our Waterford 2040 – Creating a Low Carbon Future, Central Library, Co. Waterford.
THURSDAY 26th:	Official opening of Re-a-suir, Mary St., Co. Waterford. Launch of Tramore Writers Group Booklet, The Majestic Hotel, Co. Waterford. Presentation Secondary School Awards Night, Co. Waterford.
FRIDAY 27th:	Opening of Waterford Cultural Quarter Community and Cultural Hub, O'Connell Street, Co. Waterford.
SATURDAY 28th:	Eric Sweeney- A celebration, Christ Church Cathedral, Co. Waterford.

SUNDAY 29th:	Nire Valley Drop MTB event, Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford. Waterford Writers Weekend Book Launch, Waterford Gallery of Art, Co. Waterford.
MONDAY 30th:	
TUESDAY 31th:	

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

North Quays

Works are progressing well on the North Quays main contract. For the Sustainable Transport Bridge, the second of four cofferdams have been constructed. The process for dewatering the cofferdams is underway, draining water from within the cofferdams that will create a workspace below water level and permit construction of the concrete pier foundations.

Traffic management measures are in place along Dock Road and operating well. A new road surface and paving have been installed along Sion Row and this process will continue for the current phase of works, i.e., installing sewer and surface water network services followed by resurfacing and paving. Towards the end of November 2023 work will advance westwards, closer to the Art Ri entrance with amended Traffic Management measures implemented.

David Walsh Civil Engineering contractor is progressing on programme (c. 80% complete) 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 Oct 2022	At end of Oct 2023
Measure 1		
No. of Clients applying	10	30
No. of Clients securing	10	30
Value of support approved	€253,317	€323,056
Measure 2		
No. of clients receiving	1698	2350
Value of support given	€307,586	€465,666

*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 & Approval Committee Meeting took place in October. Next meeting takes place in December 2023.

Support – Trading Online Voucher

Trading Online Voucher

No. of Approvals	61
Value of Approvals	€117,071

Figures not included in cumulative table.

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LEO Waterford announces first Glas Award winners.

The awards, in association with Waterford City and County Council recognise and celebrate micro businesses in County Waterford who have made significant advances in bringing green principles into their business model. The Green Micro Enterprise of the Year, open to all with employees of 10 or less was won by Molloy's Butchers Ardkeen. Other finalists in this category included Natures Alchemy, O'Connell Whiskey and Urban Aran. The Green SME of the Year, open to those between 11 and 20 employees was won by Coffee House Lane, with the other finalists including Activate, Grantstown Nurseries and Norris Bros. Deputy Metropolitan Mayor Cllr. Cristiona Kiely spoke at the event and presented the trophies, saying, "These awards are the kind of progressive initiatives that should be praised and replicated the length and breadth of the country."



Communications

Press Releases

The Communications Department distributed 18 media releases and posted 68 news items on the Council's news page. Eight Mayoral speeches were drafted (this function is now being shared with Corporate)



Irish Times Special Content piece:

•Working in Waterford – published on October 16th, 2023

<https://www.irishtimes.com/sponsored/2023/10/16/how-working-in-waterford-led-to-a-top-global-job-for-one-highflyer/>

•Investing in Waterford – publication date November 6th, 2023

Interview with Harry Kargman, CEO of global AI and mobile-first advertising agency Kargo. With 10 offices worldwide, four in the US, two in Australia, one in New Zealand, one in Singapore and one in Europe, Kargman explains what it is about Waterford that appealed to such a dynamic corporation.

TG4:

-Winterval campaign– on air date November 1st, 2023

Local Radio campaigns:

-Check The Register (Irish and English)

-Samhain in Waterford

-Decade of Centenaries Reflections

-Scary but safe Halloween – Local Community Safety Partnership

-Safety Partnership Grant scheme

-Cost Rental application – Get application ready

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

	Reach	% Change	Followers	% Change
August	671,461	-11%	47,981	1%
September	529,987	-21%	48,690	1%
October	591,852	13%	45,480	-7%

WCCC Website Stats: October 2023

Page Views: 89,949 Unique Page Views: 70,195 Downloads: 12,817

Top 10 pages not including homepage: Viewing Device:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Planning Enquiries | Smartphone 23,307 |
| • Choice Based Letting | Desktop 15,484 |
| • Vacancies | Tablet 784 |
| • Online Payments | |
| • Viewing a Planning Application | |
| • Departments homepage | |
| • Planning Lists | |
| • Planning homepage | |
| • Parking | |
| • Housing homepage | |
| • Parking | |

TOURISM

Märkischer Kreis Twinning delegation visits Waterford

A delegation from Märkischer Kreis in Germany recently travelled to Waterford for the return leg of a town twinning journey that cements the relationship between the two regions.

In April this year, a Waterford delegation led by then Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. John O'Leary, travelled to the district in central North Rhine-Westphalia for the official twinning ceremony.

During their visit to Waterford, the fourteen-person delegation was headed by Mr Marco Voge, Märkischer Kreis Chief Executive, accompanied by District Director Barbara Dienstel-Kümper, and Head of Culture and Tourism Detlef Krüger. In a jam-packed, two-day itinerary, the visitors met with key stakeholders from the business, tourism and culture, education and hospitality sectors.

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled on December 13th 2023.

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

ARCHIVES

Decade of Centenaries: Thursday 28th September

Very successful Waterford City Premiere of Liam Lynch documentary film, part funded by Waterford City and County Council as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme held at Garter Lane Theatre. A shortened version "The Final Day" has been accepted to the Waterford International Film Festival 2023 (20-26 November).

Saturday 21st October

Conference "Reflections on a Commemoration" was held in the Large Room City Hall. The event included talks from Dr. Bill Kissane; Professor Kieran Allen, Dr. Sinéad McCool, Cian Flaherty, Dr. Pat McCarthy, Terence O'Reilly and Deirdre Collender. A short 6 minute preview of the documentary "The Aftermath" by John Foley Images was provided. This documentary was funded under the Decade of Centenaries programme in Waterford and looks to the aftermath of the War of Independence and Civil War in Waterford. The completed documentary will be premiered in Spring of 2024.

Public Talks: 4th October

Talk for Waterford County Museum Dungarvan "Getting Down and Dirty with the Archives" on the provision of sewerage scheme systems in Waterford and the impact they have had on the health and well being of the population. Digital Preservation: The Archivist has joined the Board of the Digital Repository of Ireland www.dri.ie Waterford City and County Archives has made the Waterford City maps available on DRI as a trusted digital repository and additional maps and digitized resources will be added in future. Through this process these records are also made available across Europe on the Europeana portal Archives and other cultural institutions across Europe are adding material to the Europeana portal to create a rich open resource for researchers and this work can highlight material in relation to Waterford held in other institutions that people may not be aware of. Waterford City and County Archives will work to add additional Waterford resources to DRI and from this to Europeana to improve access to Waterford's collections.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Thursday 19th October – talk "Drafting Digital Recordkeeping Guidelines – A Collaboration" given by the Archivist at a Joint Training Seminar ARA and IRMS Ireland at the Irish Architectural Archive.

Work is ongoing with the LGMA on the revision of the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records in Ireland.

Pleanáil / Planning

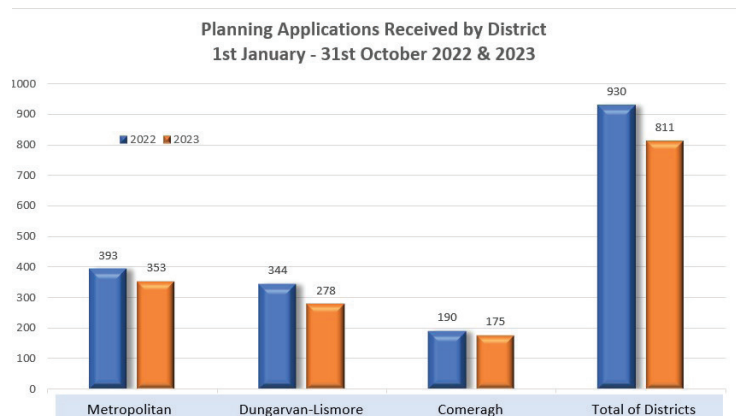
PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTY-WIDE

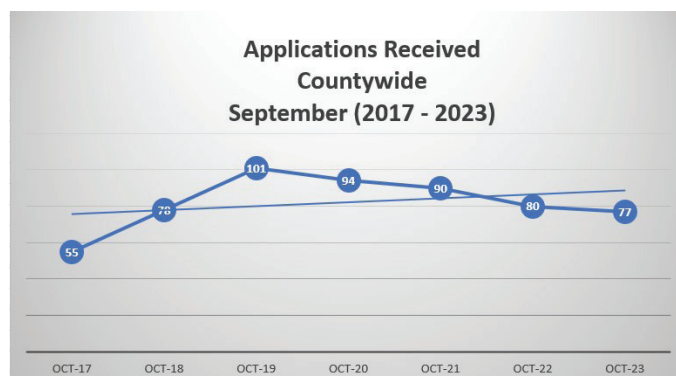
77 planning applications were received countywide in October 2023.

This compares with 80 planning applications received for the same period in October 2022.

A total of 811 planning applications were received in the year to 31st October 2023.

This compares to 930 planning applications which were received for the same period in 2022.





Derelict Sites

To date we have 255 Derelict Site files open.

Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to understand the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state.

We are advising owners of residential properties of the various grants available for refurbishing vacant and derelict properties to residential use. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in October and the year 2023 to date.

Derelict Sites	October	Year to date 2023*
No. of new files opened	11	255
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	6	68
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	8	46
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	8	72
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase Acquisitions (CPA) (see note below)	4	20
No of Vesting Orders signed	1	3

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACQUISITION OF DERELICT SITES (CPA)

4 CPAs were initiated in October and publicly advertised. The time for submissions will expire at the end of November. The Council will then move to the vesting process where applications for registration of title will be made to the Property Registration Authority.

In November, work will commence on 5 further CPAs and details of these will be shortly advertised.

Forward Planning Report

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

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 An Bord Pleanála has notified the council of 32 determinations which have generally upheld the decision of the council to include lands as being in-scope for the RZLT. Lands determined by An Bord Pleanála to be out of scope for the RZLT will be removed from the final map for 2023. A new phase of consultation relating to the draft revised annual map for 2024 will begin on 1st February 2024. This consultation process will facilitate landowners to make written submissions to the local authority and make subsequent appeals to An Bord Pleanála with regard to the content of the draft revised annual map. This revised annual map will consist of the final map from 2023 along with highlighted proposed exclusions and/or inclusions.

Heritage Officer Report

Decade of Commemorations

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media held a national forum for local authority commemoration co-ordinators in Dublin on October 17th and noted the interest in continuation of some level of support for further history events and community projects guided by a local authority committee. The Department will revert on proposals in the new year.

Community Monuments Fund- All Districts

Four projects awarded funding under the Community Monuments Fund allocated by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to a value of €270,000 for conservation and survey of a range of archaeological sites across the city and county have been completed.

Conservation Officer Report

Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structure Scheme

20 projects were completed under this funding this year. The €500,000 worth of works provided over 900 days of employment.

Some projects did not go ahead due to factors such as the shortage of skilled tradespeople and in those cases the funding was reallocated to other projects. The works provided 912 days of employment and a spend of €499,000. This is only just for the conservation element of a project but in some case other works were carried out also. The funding for 2024 is due to be announced shortly.



Historic Structures Scheme

2 of the projects are now completed:

HSF provided funding for 912 days of employment and generated a conservation spend of €220,000.

Mount Congreve

Renovation of the main section of the glasshouses is continuing, with this phase of the works due to be finished by the end of the year.

Fire guidance booklet for thatched properties

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have just published a booklet with regard to Fire guidance for thatched properties. The Department will provide hard copies. The link to the document will be posted on the Department website by the end of October. All contact details will be posted on Waterford Councils social media then also.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	October 2022	Year 2022	October 2023	Year to date 2023
Applications received	57	959	136	1774
Applications assessed *	29	434	35	500
Applications Validated*	N/A	N/A	72	N/A
Approved for social housing supports following interview	N/A	N/A	45	N/A

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies Oct 2022	Cumulative Tenancies 2022	New Tenancies Oct 2023	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2023
	32	487	33	10	323

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1274. There have been 435 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
2023 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
October	6	8	1	4	9
Year to date	78	8	37	19	9

Tenant Purchase applications

Tenant Purchase applications					
2023 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
October	3	3	0	3	0
Year to date 2023	50	9	21	20	16

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment					
	October 2022 HAP Tenancies	October 23 HAP Tenancies	23 No.of active HAP Tenancies set up	Applications approved	Sales Closed
HAP Tenancies	21	16	-3	4,767	1711

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Inspections of Dwellings

HAP	8
HAP Non- Compliant	7
Total	325

Housing First Programme

Tenancies 2023	
Number of Tenancies in place with Housing First supports.	October 33

In September, Waterford City & County Council carried out 377 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 16 properties has 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	No of applications approved October 2023	Value of applications October 2023	Cumulative number of applications approved 2023	Cumulative value of 2023 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	20	€161,353.75	112	€922,275.10
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	3	€14,840.00	16	€65,280.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	24	€146,629.82	134	€530,120.34
Total	47	€323,005.57	262	€1,517,675.44

Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:

29

Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:

9

Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:

47

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIIHS)	2nd Oct - 22nd Oct 2023	Cumulative 2023	Total 2022
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	195	2,852	3,618
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	41	794	954

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	22nd October 2023	22nd October 2022
Number of Single Persons	44	44
Number of Families	18	18
Number of Adults in Families	21	23
Number of Children	43	35

HAP PlaceFinder Service

	2nd October - 22nd October 23	Cumulative 2023
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	26	266
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	12	100

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Units</i>
Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	367
<i>Part V</i>	284
Total Units in WCCC Projects	651

Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects

	<i>Units</i>
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects	91

Housing Efficiency Retrofit

Funding has been recouped for the claims made to date to The Dept for EER properties in 2023.

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<i>September</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Handed over/</i>	
<i>Works completed</i>	7
<i>Newley Vacant</i>	12

TENANT "IN-SITU" SCHEME

- 105 Enquiries received
- 21 Waiting to hear back from Vendor for further information
- 13 Sale Completed
- 33 Sale Agreed
- 11 Offers made and awaiting to hear back from Vendors
- 2 Awaiting WCCC inspection/ Independent Valuation
- 25 Not proceeding (reasons below)
 - 3x Tenant left property themselves
 - 2x 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.
 - 2x Vendor wanted property back for themselves to live in.
 - 2x Property is located in Kilkenny and being looked at by Kilkenny Co Co.

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

The Current programme finishes in March 2024. All payments have to be completed by then. Current Payments:

- €486,305.18 still to be paid out of €8m. €200,000 relates to one community hall, which is now back on track to be completed before the deadline.
- 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 has been accepted and is successful.
- The LCDC is now awaiting the Contract from DRCD for LEADER 2023 -2029.
- If the contract is signed in November, the targeted call process for projects will commence in December 2023.

WELL WATERFORD (LCDC SUB-GROUP)

Healthy Waterford Programme

Several projects have been granted funding. Below is an overview of the same. Between September - December additional partners are currently been considered for 2024.

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. Municipal District 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. The second round of meetings will take place in December and January with a view to supporting specific community wellbeing projects in the identified areas.

Place Standard

Training on the place standard tool took 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.

- 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. He will attend a conference in Utrecht in November to further progress the application.
- Interegg Funding for Waterford is being applied for through a European consortium bid. The application is being processed currently.
- We are finalising our funding commitments with the Healthy Ireland fund for 2024. Some projects will carry over from 2023.
- Reporting to the department will begin in January 2024.
- A number of areas are being highlighted with a view to provide support throughout 2024. This will lead to a targeted approach to Community Wellbeing and capacity building training for community and voluntary groups.
- An event which has been heavily supported by Healthy Waterford is taking place on the 6th of November alongside Waterford GAA. This Health and Wellbeing Conference is open to all.
- Throughout November and December Healthy Waterford will be launching a survey to the public which aim is to gather more localised data throughout the Municipal Districts.
- Next meeting of the Well Waterford Strategic Group will take place in December.

For more information contact: eoinmorrisey@waterfordcouncil.ie

LCSP MEETINGS:

The next meeting for the Education, Training & Awareness and Building Community Capacity Working Group is on the 30th November 2023 and the Reducing Criminality and Safe Environment & Infrastructure Working Group is scheduled for 16th November 2023. The next WLCSP Plenary Meeting is scheduled for 4th December at 7pm in the Civic Offices, Dungarvan.

SCARY BUT SAFE HALLOWEEN PILOT:

Our 'Scary but Safe Halloween' project is up and running and Chair Sean Aylward did an excellent interview on WLR, to start the initiative. As per the working groups requirements, the key messages to be focused on is 'fireworks are dangerous and illegal', 'ASB is disrespectful to communities', and 'bonfires are bad for the environment'. The request for a safe family event on Halloween, is in the format of the 'Hill@Halloween'. It is a pilot event with the bandstand creatively replicating a bonfire on Halloween night. These events are being supported by the WLCSP, Waterford Council and Creative Ireland.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INNOVATION FUND GRANTS 2023

The LCSP have been successful in two Grant Applications to the Community Safety Innovation Fund, for community safety interventional projects. They are;

1. Consent Matters with a funding of €150,000
2. A Community Safety Warden Initiative for Waterford City also received funding of €150,000.

Both these initiatives originated within the LCSP Thematic Working Groups, with the issues having originated from within the communities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS:

The issues raised in relation to the house and allotment site at Colligan View Dungarvan have been finalised with the WWETB, a new licence map has been drawn up, approved and is being finalised. The LCSP Co-ordinator met with the local residents and will re-engage again in November. The fence layout for the adjustments required by WWETB is currently being agreed and fence erection is now expected to take place in November 2023. The appointment of Consultants for the North West Suburbs Community Action Plan is expected imminently after a period of negotiation and it is expected that a public consultation will be held in the Community Room Carricphierish Library between 6pm and 8pm on Monday 20th November 2023. The next meeting in relation to the Portlaw Engages Youth Project, with the Chair, Youth Justice and WSTCYS is confirmed to take place in Portlaw Garda Station on the 1st November 2023.

LCSP SMALL GRANT FUND

The Department of Justice Waterford Community Safety Partnership Small Grants Fund to deliver innovative projects and initiatives that respond to the needs identified in the WLCSP Community Safety Plan 2023-2028 closed on Monday 23rd October 2023. Twenty Six applications were received for the grants of between €1,000 to €5,000 to a total of €50,000, and these are currently being administered and reviewed. It is expected that successful applicants will be informed by 17/11/23

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. Approx 2,717 Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Waterford to date with over 1,979 Ukrainians having been received directly into Waterford Council run Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City. To date 1,404 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. Waterford Area Partnership are supporting all Ukrainians with integration into our communities. The 'offer a home' pledge call for vacant properties is still open with over 240 Ukrainians being accommodated in pledged accommodation to date.

MIGRANT INTEGRATION:

The last Migrant Integration Strategy Meeting took place on the 13th September 2023 and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 1st November 2023. A review of the Migrant Integration Forum is currently taking place with an addendum to the Migrant Integration Strategy is currently being prepared to include the Ukrainian community in the strategy. Waterford City & County Council is currently establishing a “Local Authority Integration Team” to lead in the co-ordination of supports for International Protection applicants and recipients, programme refugees, and beneficiaries of temporary protection in Waterford. Recruitment for a number of positions for this team has now been completed with the new team expected to be in place by the end of November.

SICAP

Work in ongoing with Waterford Area Partnership continuing to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC. SICAP Budget allocations for 2023 and the budget for Waterford City & County (Lot 24-1) is €1,319,399 excluding the Ukrainian budget allocation which has been set as €232,758 by the Department. Planning for the new SICAP 2024+ programme has now commenced with tender submissions currently being reviewed.

TRAVELLER INTERAGENCY GROUP (TIG)

The Community Department continue to support the Waterford TIG which continues to meet regularly.

FESTIVAL GRANTS 2024

The application process for Waterford City and County Council’s Festivals & Events Grants Scheme 2024 is now open for applications. The scheme aims to help support events across Waterford which help contribute towards making Waterford a more vibrant and sustainable place. Applications must be submitted online at www.waterfordfestivals.ie where applicants can also find resources to assist in delivering their event. The closing date for receipt of applications is 27/11/23

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2023

An outdoor adult exercise area adjacent Splashworld in Tramore and another at Fairlane Park in Dungarvan are now open to the public. Funded under the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2023, the exercise areas have various inclusive exercise equipment. Waterford received €1,351,000 across a total of 13 Waterford projects under the scheme. The athletics track at the Regional Sports Centre Waterford has been relined and a new walkway has been developed around Tallow GAA Club’s pitch, with works on the other projects ongoing.

Seirbhísi Éigeandála / 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 September.

Fire Service Operational Activity:				
<i>Area</i>	<i>Fires</i>	<i>Special Services</i>	<i>False alarm/ Good intent</i>	<i>False alarm /Malicious</i>
<i>Total for October</i>	53	65	18	0
<i>Year to date</i>	481	467	201	0
<i>Total for October</i>	52	37	20	0
<i>Total for 2022</i>	582	410	184	0

FIRE SAFETY:

Fire Safety:				
	<i>October 2023</i>	<i>2023 YTD</i>	<i>October 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>
<i>Fire Safety Certificates</i>	5	81	3	68

Building Control:				
<i>Applications recived</i>	<i>October 2023</i>	<i>2023 YTD</i>	<i>October 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>
<i>Commencement Notices</i>	14	243	27	310
<i>Completion Certificates</i>	16	164	20	204
<i>Disability Access Certs</i>	8	62	3	57

CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of October 2023 continues with assistance in the response to the needs of the Displaced Persons (DP's) fleeing from the effects of the Ukraine Crisis.

- Logistical support & Transport of over 35 Ukraine related calls
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

In Community support and Events we attended:

- Shona "Shine" festival in the SETU Arena, First Aid Support
- Solas Run for Life, Ambulance & First Aid Support. In both Dungarvan & Waterford City.
- Presentation Gardens Community Day, First Aid Support

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.

- Civil Defence held & ran a number of Training Courses in Powerboating Skills for:
Kildare Civil Defence Laois Civil Defence Waterford Fire Service

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2023 – 27TH OCTOBER 2023

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	3
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	114
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	77
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0
ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	2630
Legal Actions	3
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)	22
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	22
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	216
Section 14 Directions	8
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.	2
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
Prosecution of Regulation 25 of the European Union (packaging) 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended.	1

CLIMATE ACTION

Draft Climate Action Plan Consultation

The Consultation period for the Council's Climate Action Plan opens on 1st November and closes on 15th December. The Draft Climate Action Plan will be available on the Council's Consult Portal and in printed form in local libraries and in Council Customer Service areas. A PPN event will be hosted and a workshop for elected members. Events will also be held in Community Halls/Sports grounds across the County to discuss the Climate Action Plan and attendees will receive information on what supports are available for them in reducing their carbon emissions. Event details will be included in the parish notes of their local newspaper

Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme

757 businesses in Waterford applied for the Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme and completed an Energy Assessment or an Energy Audit. All eligible businesses who have their rates fully paid and have completed the application will have an 8% rates discount applied to their accounts before the end of the year. All of these businesses have received information on how they can take the next step be that doing an audit or applying for funding or training their staff. All businesses who were eligible were contacted in April and in August reminding them that the Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme was available this year. Just under a third of eligible businesses completed the application.

Community Climate Action Fund

The Community Climate Action Fund will open in November. The Climate Team have been working with over 40 community groups across the County to develop their project ideas. A reminder will be sent to the PPN to encourage more communities to apply. Communities will have until mid January to submit their application. An assessment of projects will be made by an independent committee of Council staff and the chosen projects will be sent to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications for final approval.

Imagine Festival Events

The Climate Team in partnership with the library service won funding from Creative Waterford to host a series of events to engage the public in creative ways in discussions on what a sustainable future for Waterford could look like. An artistic exhibition was held in Lady Lane Library and a comedy event and a play creation with the Literacy Skills WWETB class. Some of these events were a part of the Imagine Festival and an event to celebrate the work of all the artists who contributed was held on 25th October with the Mayor.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Schools Programmes

The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools had 11 entrants this year. All participating schools received clean up materials to take part, including litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and bags as well as a social media toolkit to encourage them to post photos of their work on school social media channels. The winners of the 2022 competition were interviewed on WLR FM following the launch of this year's competition. Schools are now busy carrying out regular clean ups between now and the end of November, with some schools carrying out 3 clean ups a week with different classes. Judging will take in November. Tom Murphy Car Sales have sponsored the prize fund of €1,500 for the winning school. The prizegiving and presentation of certificates of participation will take place in the Mayor's Parlour in early December.

Green Schools Programme

Green Schools visits are underway, with some schools requesting advice and help with their work while others are availing of an early assessment visit to their school. The teacher seminars took place last month to ensure that teachers knew what to expect in the coming year for their current Green Schools theme.

Picker Pals Litter Programme

35 Waterford primary schools are participating in the Picker Pals litter programme once again this school year. This programme is most suitable for 1st and 2nd class children but has classes participating from 3rd, 4th and 5th class also. It teaches about litter and involves activity based learning to promote a keen sense of responsibility for the environment.

Composting for Schools Programme

The 8 Secondary Schools taking part in the Composting for Schools programme have received their initial visit. The main purpose of this visit was to carry out a waste audit to help schools to prevent, reduce and reuse their waste, with a strong focus on recycling food waste. Schools have also taken part in 5 online sessions to learn more about waste prevention, recycling and composting within a school.

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, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

Management Report Plenary 9th November 2023.

Libraries

In October, the services provided by Waterford City & County Libraries were in great demand. Statistics are representative of activity between September 26th and October 26th.

<i>No. of Visitors this month</i>	<i>34,214</i>
<i>Active members</i>	<i>32,829</i>
<i>Issues in Branch</i>	<i>33,464</i>
<i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</i>	<i>9,661</i>
<i>Events & Activities</i>	<i>517</i>

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- Our Sensory Toys and Equipment Library is now available for loan across Waterford County. This collection of 100 individual items was made possible with Dormant accounts funding.
- A free bedtime storybook and library card wallet were distributed to all Waterford Library branches. These books are available for all children of 4 years and under, to pick up and keep. Bedtime story books are provided in English and Irish.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER:

- Writers in Waterford Libraries brought author and journalist Russ Parsons to Ardkeen Library for a riveting Q&A with Senior Executive Librarian Mary Conway. Russ's column appears regularly in The Irish Times, he spoke about Irish food, his journalism career, his time in Los Angeles and his love of Waterford.
- Healthy Ireland at your Library brought Breda Bermingham a Menopause Educator and bestselling Author and Founder of the Midlife Women Rock Project to give an 'Introduction to the Menopause' talk and yoga taster session on the 13th of October in Carrickphierish and on the 26th of October in Dungarvan Library.
- Mayor of Waterford City & County Council Joe Conway read his own story to attendees at Brill Family Resource Centre's ParentChild+ National Home Visiting Day event in Browns Road Library on October 13th.
- On October 11th Raymond Chandler biographer, Judith Freeman spoke in Central Library. Chandler lived with his mother Florence Thornton and uncle Ernest Thornton on Johns Hill, Waterford in the 1890s.
- 21 events were held for Children's Book Fest 2023 with 1550 children attending. Arran Towers from Cork Circus performing for Scoil Mhuire 1st class in Tallow library while Childrens Author Olivia Hope visited 1st & 2nd class from Kilmacthomas primary school and senior infants from Realt the na Mara in Dunmore East.
- On October 25th the closing event of the Our Waterford 2040, Creating a Low Carbon Future programme was hosted by Mayor Joe Conway. This exhibition of work by community groups and individual artists told the story of what a positive Carbon Neutral future might look like and ran throughout October in the Index Gallery, Central Library.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Science Week events will run from November 12th to 19th.

Management Report Plenary 9th November 2023.

CULTURAL QUARTER

Opening of WCQ Place – Community and Cultural Hub on October

On Friday morning 27th October 2023 the Mayor of Waterford City and County, Councillor Joe Conway, officially opened Waterford Cultural Quarter Place: Community and Cultural Hub. WCQ Place, 17 – 18 O’Connell Street, Waterford is a newly renovated ground floor unit which houses the services of Waterford Integration Services (WIS) and provides space for a range of language classes and community outreach services of Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB).

Developed by Waterford City and County Council with funding from the national Project 2040 Urban Regeneration Development Fund, WCQ Place is a multi-purpose space and plans to provide flexible access to community groups, agencies and cultural and creative performance during evenings and weekends from early 2024 through an online booking system. This project is one of several in the pipeline for the Cultural Quarter in the O’Connell Street area, which will include redevelopment of the “Munster Express” building on Hanover Street.

“It is very fitting that the first regeneration project under Project 2040 in the Cultural Quarter is space that celebrates community and culture, the two key elements of redeveloping the O’Connell Street area. This is a wonderfully diverse neighbourhood made up of people from different cultures, bringing value and creativity to Waterford. I look forward to seeing how the story of WCQ Place develops and knits itself into the fabric of the area” said Katherine Collins, Waterford Cultural Quarter Project Manager..



Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to September 30, 2023

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A Housing & Building	26,786,597	35,728,461	75%	28,896,833	38,036,305	76%
B Road Transport & Safety	30,185,072	49,146,777	61%	18,690,469	33,752,918	55%
C Water Services	7,946,639	11,790,929	67%	7,505,583	11,163,993	67%
D Development Management	19,552,254	21,992,796	89%	11,681,578	11,448,028	102%
E Environmental Services	15,170,201	21,512,181	71%	1,230,191	2,875,458	43%
F Recreation & Amenity	11,694,853	15,464,575	76%	1,331,145	1,614,234	82%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	706,467	1,068,270	66%	222,863	399,696	56%
H Miscellaneous Services	7,172,441	9,678,508	74%	8,038,104	10,749,476	75%
LG Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	14,750,721	19,667,628	75%
RA Rates	0	0	0%	27,506,068	36,674,758	75%
	119,214,524	166,382,494	72%	119,853,554	166,382,494	72%

Surplus/Deficit

639,031

0

Collections

Airgeadas
Finance

Summary of main collections Sept 2023 YTD										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2023	Accrued ytd to Sept 2023	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Sept 2023	Gross Bal 30-09-2023 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2023 Accrual [5/(4-1)]
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Rates	3,008,361	36,035,258	- 996,424	-	38,047,195	28,353,472	9,693,723	1,391,804	77%	79%
Loans	1,534,038	2,497,167	- 329	-	4,031,534	2,624,794	1,406,740	-	65%	105%
Rents	3,903,206	12,679,508	- 3,256	-	16,579,458	12,228,140	4,351,318	-	74%	96%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	-	8,150,233	1,543,490			9,693,723
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				167,019	71,576	90,564	1,077,581			1,406,740
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				103,054	103,176	163,251	3,981,837			4,351,318
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Sept 23'	0		Cost -	0	€0.00		Average Value when in O/D : N/A		€	-