



CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Application Ref:	EL04-2023
Proposed Event:	Winterval Christmas Festival 2023
Location of Event:	A range of locations throughout Waterford City Centre at various times over the 3 days
Dates:	Friday 17 th November 2023 to Saturday 13 th January 2024 inclusive

Event Outline

The event is a celebration of Christmas and families, and consists of a large program of both free and paid events and attractions. The event will be held at locations on Baileys New Street, Peter Street, High Street, Arundel Square, John Roberts Square (inc Broad Street, Georges Street & Barronstrand Street), Jenkins Lane, Gladstone Street, O'Connell Street, John Street (Applemarket), Michale Street, Ballybricken, Waterside Car Park, Wyse Park, Newtown Roads and The Quays.

The event will include the following:-

- a. Family friendly activities with a Christmas theme,
- b. Quality Christmas Market in Arundal Square & Cultural Quarter,
- c. Santa's Experience in Michael Street,
- d. Winterval Illuminations 3D Light Show
- e. Waterford Eye on The Quay
- f. Winterval on Ice on The Quays
- g. Live Music Stage, Circus, Parade across the City Centre

Audience Profile & Capacity

Winterval Christmas Festival is an open festival with both ticketed and free events as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Event Management Plan. The festival is aimed at young families, but the festival will attract people of all ages. The anticipated crowd numbers for each event is outlined in Appendix 1 of the Event Management Plan, with the largest anticipated audience, of 6,000 people consisting mainly of families with young children, being at the Winterval Launch Event on Friday 17th November. The other festival events vary in capacity, with each

event's capacity and times, dates it will run detailed in Appendix 1 of the Event Management Plan.

Relevant Planning History

This event has been run over a number of years, from 2012. There have been no serious public safety or public order incidents associated with this family friendly festival.

Public Consultation

Waterford City & County Council published notice of intention to hold an event in both the Irish Examiner and The Munster Express on the 26th September 2023.

No public submissions were received during the public consultation period.

Referrals

All of the application documentation was referred to An Garda Siochana, The HSE Environmental Health Department and the HSE Emergency Management Officer, the Chief Fire Officer, the Environment Section, the Roads Department, and the Planning Department of Waterford City and County Council.

Submissions in respect of this proposed event were invited by Wednesday 1st November 2023.

Meetings were held with statutory agencies/bodies in relation to this proposed event.

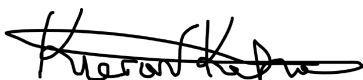
RECOMMENDATION:

Having considered:

- a) all of the submitted documentation
- b) the previous history of this family-friendly event
- c) the views and submissions of all relevant agencies
- d) those matters referred to at section 231(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

and having inspected the locations of the proposed events it is recommended that the event proceed in accordance with the Event Management Plan and the Event Medical Plan.

Signed:



Kieran Kehoe
Director of Services

Date: 7th November 2023