

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNGARVAN/LISMORE**

Economic Development Report December 2023

1. Trails

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023.

€100,000 in Outdoor Recreation Funding Announced for Waterford

On Tuesday, November 21st, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys announced funding of almost €2.3 million nationally to support the development of 50 outdoor adventure projects across Ireland.

The investment under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will be key to enhancing outdoor amenities such as our walkways, cycleways, rivers, lakes and beaches.

As part of this announcement two Waterford projects received a very welcome funding boost; Blackwater River Valley Outdoor Recreation Plan and Comeragh Mountains Outdoor Recreation Management Plan.

The Project Development Measures will fund the preparatory work required to bring large scale outdoor recreation projects to a shovel-ready stage.

Each project will receive €50,000 in funding under this round of ORIS funding with a minimum of a further 10% in funding being contributed by Waterford City and County Council. It is envisaged that the projects will be implemented in 2024.

Blackwater River Valley Outdoor Recreation entails the design of improved river access points to facilitate water-based activities at Ballyduff Upper and Lismore to include developing designs to planning stage, environmental assessments and submission of the resultant planning application. This work will build on a feasibility which was undertaken in 2022 to look at the potential of the Blackwater River Valley for Blueway, water trail and related land based outdoor recreation opportunities. It will also greatly add to ongoing projects in both Cappoquin and Villierstown seeking to enhance access to the River Blackwater for recreation.

The Rural Economic Development team in Waterford City and County Council looks forward to working with the local communities on these exciting projects in 2024.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022.

The following ORIS 2022 projects in progress currently:

- Mocollop Walks, Ballyduff (Measure 1) – Installation of new Trail signage in collaboration with Coillte and local community: Measure 1. Currently in progress.
- Cappoquin Railway Loop Walk (Measure 3): Planning permission granted by An Bord Pleanála on 4th September with 11 conditions. Design team for detailed design, tender management and project supervision to be engaged shortly.

- Villierstown Access to River Blackwater (Project Development Measure) – Feasibility study and design of enhanced amenities and access to the water for recreation at Villierstown Quay and environs: Project Development Measure. Tender to appoint design team currently being prepared.
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Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020:

Progress: Measure 3 project:

- Ballinacourty Greenway Spur:
 - Project currently in progress.

Waterford Trails

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors and local trail development groups around Waterford with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford’s existing recreational trail network. www.visitwaterfordtrails.com

2. Tourism

Water Activity Centre:

Failte Ireland awarded grant assistance of €1.7m for the design, construction and fit out of **two** Water Activity Centres. One to be located in Ardmore.

Progress is as follows in Ardmore:

- Part 8 process has commenced and includes the relief road, car parking and centre itself. Monday January 22nd 2024 is last date for receipt of submissions/observations.

3. Dungarvan Town Centre

The next meeting of the Dungarvan TCMG is scheduled for February 2024.