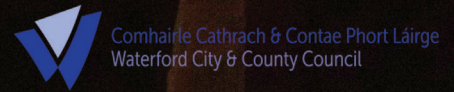


MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

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



Prepared By:
Michael Walsh
Chief Executive
December 2023

Michael Walsh
Príomhfheidhmeannach
Nollaig 2023

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate. Mayors Official Engagements November 2023.

WEDNESDAY 1st:

THURSDAY 2nd:

FRIDAY 3rd:

SATURDAY 4th:

SUNDAY 5th:

MONDAY 6th:

TUESDAY 7th:

Carer of the Year Awards, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

WWETB Language and Literacy Service Awards, Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.

Active Retirement group, Tramore, Co. Waterford.

Cathaoirleach reception for BUDO Kickboxing Club, Hosted by Cllr. Pat Nugent.

WEDNESDAY 8th:

Climate Action School Conference, Large Room, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Lions Club Hamper Appeal, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

CIF South East Construct, The Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.

Waterford Football Club Book Launch, Park Hotel, Dungarvan.

THURSDAY 9th:

Launch of the Waterford Gift Cards, Arundel Square, Co. Waterford.

FRIDAY 10th:

Mayors Welcome for group visiting from Norway, Committee Room, Co. Waterford.

Mayoral Reception for Waterford Football Club, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Pride of Place Awards, Armagh City Hotel, Co. Armagh.

SATURDAY 11th:

Waterford Branch of the Royal British Legion, Ballybricken Church, attended by Cllr. Jason Murphy.

Formal opening of Cappoquin Post Office, Blackwater House, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford.

Waterford Boat Club 145th anniversary Celebration, Dooley Hotel, Co. Waterford.

SUNDAY 12th:

Waterford Branch of the Royal British Legion, Christ Church Cathedral, Co. Waterford.

MONDAY 13th:

New Zealand Ambassador, Mayors Parlour, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Cathaoirleach reception for Joe Mannion, Hosted by Cllr. Pat Nugent.

TUESDAY 14th:

WEDNESDAY 15th:

Comhairle Na nÓg Youth Conference, The Tower Hotel, Tramore, Co. Waterford.

Bag It campaign - Photocall, Riverwalk, Co. Waterford.

THURSDAY 16th:

FRIDAY 17th:

Winterval Turning on the Christmas Lights, Co. Waterford.

Waterford Business Awards, The Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.

SATURDAY 18th:

Lions Club Ambassador Lunch, The Tower Hotel, Co. Waterford.

Gaza Fundraiser, St. Patricks Gateway, Co. Waterford.

SUNDAY 19th:

MONDAY 20th:

TUESDAY 21st:

All Faiths for Eco Talk, St. Joseph's and St. Benildus Parish Centre, Co. Waterford.

WEDNESDAY 22nd:

THURSDAY 23rd:

Chamber Ireland Excellence Awards, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Co. Dublin.

Lauch of the Festive Star, The Book Centre, Co. Waterford.

Public Participation Network Awards, The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

FRIDAY 24th:

17th Waterford International Film Festival, House of Waterford Crystal, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

SATURDAY 25th:

SUNDAY 26th:

Waterford Branch Irish Naval Services, Holy Family Church, Co. Waterford.

Irish Doctors Choir - Handel's Samson, Christchurch Cathedral, Co. Waterford.

Dungarvan Christmas Lights, Grattan Square Plaza, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

MONDAY 27th:

TUESDAY 28th:

WEDNESDAY 29th:

Launch of Waterford CYPSC Weaning Videos, Carrickpherish Library, Co. Waterford.

Mental Health Awareness Seminar, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

THURSDAY 30th:

James Gandon Medal, No8 Merrion Sq, Co. Dublin.

Launch of the City of Lights, House of Waterford Crystal, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

National Age Friendly awards, Whites Hotel, Co. Wexford.

Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, Waterford Distillery, Co. Waterford.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development North Quays



The North Quays main contract works are progressing well. For the Sustainable Transport Bridge the concrete infill stage for the first cofferdam (gridline E) is complete and the process for dewatering the second cofferdams (gridline D) is progressing.

Images of the South Quays Plaza site illustrate sheet piling at the Quay wall that will form the southern landing point for the Sustainable Transport bridge and cofferdams within the river that will support the bridge.

The image shows the foundations for the new train station and platforms, and the reinforced concrete walls for the station building are underway and visible. Sheet piling is illustrated in the image above for the retaining walls to the rear of the Bus Eireann site (S25) in anticipation of the new road layout at the Abbey Road / Fountain Street junction.

The completed car parking area within Our Lady of Good Council National School can be seen in the distance. The bridge abutments for the western access bridge (S19) are also well advanced and visible from Dock Road. This is an image of the pump station works currently under construction by David Walsh Civil Engineering, works are over 80% complete.

Traffic management measures are in place along Dock Road to install sewer and surface water network services. Works and associated traffic management is advancing westwards in December, necessitating minor amendments to the traffic management. These works will relocate to the Abbey Road / Fountain Street junction in the new year.

Local Enterprise Office

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

Indicator	At end of Nov 2022	At end of Nov 2023
Measure 1		
No. of Clients applying	14	30
No. of Clients securing	14	30
Value of support approved	€345,817	€323,056
Measure 2		
No. of clients receiving	2027	2587
Value of support given	€359,441	€520,564

*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.

Support – Trading Online Voucher

Trading Online Voucher

No. of Approvals	64
Value of Approvals	€127,176

Figures not included in cumulative table.

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Your Waterford, a website showcasing Waterford's best products and services.

Now at the end of its 2nd year, 'Your Waterford', has grown from strength to strength. Created by the Local Enterprise Office, it's an initiative for assisting businesses in Waterford. It showcases some of the best quality products and services designed or produced in Waterford and provides a platform which many businesses did not previously have access to. From artists to designers, food producers to craft makers and everything in between that makes Waterford the first and last stop for Christmas shopping.



Communications

Press Releases

The Communications Department distributed 20 media releases and posted 40 news items on the Council's news page. Eight Mayoral speeches were drafted.



Irish Times Special Content piece: •Published November 13th

Investing in Waterford, featuring Harry Kargman of Kargo – “Why a global company chose Waterford as it's R&D hub?”

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards: Waterford City and County Council won two awards at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Submissions were made by the Communications department.

Waterford Museums of Time and Silver took top honours in the 'Heritage and Built Environment' category which celebrates best in class by a Local Authority to promote public interest in, and knowledge, appreciation and protection of local heritage sites.

Mount Congreve House and Gardens lauded as 'One of the Great Gardens of the World', clinched the title, amid stiff competition, in the 'Supporting Tourism' category. This award highlights the efforts of Waterford City and County Council in enriching local tourism and encouraging community appreciation of regional attraction.

Media:

TG4: -

Winterval campaign – airing from November 1st to December 10th

Local Radio campaigns:

Launch of Winterval Outside Broadcast
Affordable Housing Ardmore – Expressions of Interest

In-house design reports:

LECP REPORT
European City of Christmas submission
TechPulse Tech sector survey



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

	Reach	% Change	Followers	% Change
September	529,987	-21%	48,690	1%
October	591,852	13%	45,480	-7%
November	589,641	-0.4%	49,925	10%

Top 10 pages not including homepage:

- Planning Enquiries
- Choice Based Letting
- Vacancies
- Viewing a Planning Application
- Planning homepage
- Online payments
- Housing homepage
- Affordable Housing page
- Parking
- Complaint form

WCCC Website Stats: November 2023

Page Views: 107,701 Unique Page Views: 83,219

Downloads: 18,095

Viewing Device: Smartphone 37,264
 Desktop 18,895
 Tablet 1923

RURAL TOURISM

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

€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.

Currently implementing 15 projects around the county, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) between 2020 and 2022

Greenway Feasibility Studies

- Continuing to work with Cork County Council and Tipperary County Council on two Greenway Feasibility studies:
 - Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway Study
 - Kilmeaden to Carrick-on-Suir Greenway Study
- Further landowner, stakeholder and public engagement will take place late 2023/early 2024.

Waterford Trails

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

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TOURISM

The most recent Waterford Rural Tourism Networking Event held in The Park Hotel Dungarvan on Wednesday 22nd of November was a great success. With over 50 businesses from all five cluster areas; Copper Coast, Blackwater Valley, Comeragh Uplands, Gaeltacht, and Waterford Estuary in attendance. The event was a fantastic opportunity for businesses to talk, connect, and plan how they might work together to create better visitor experiences across Waterford. Fáilte Ireland, Waterford City and County Council and Waterford LEADER Partnership provided updates and highlighted the supports available for the Waterford Rural Tourism Network to develop, as well as potential funding opportunities. The Rural Tourism Network will continue to grow and develop in 2024.

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled for February 2024.

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

ARCHIVES

Diverse Waterford Project -Open Call to Elected Members

The Archives in collaboration with the Library Service has created an Oral History Project- Diverse Waterford funded by Creative Waterford. We would like to record elected members about their experiences as elected representatives and ensure that we have an oral history record of elected members to accompany our written records. If any elected members would like to participate then please contact the Archivist at archivist@waterfordcouncil.ie

The project also aims to facilitate Community Groups to carry out Oral History recordings which can then be stored in the Archive and shared through the Diverse Waterford website. In addition to advice and guidance available on the website for groups the project also has sound recording equipment available to loan to interested community groups. If members know of any community groups that would be interested in participating in the project please contact archivist@waterfordcouncil.ie

In November staff in the Library Service and the Archives Service received training on editing snippets of the recordings made to date so that these can be shared on SoundCloud. You can access the snippets that have been created to date on our website www.diversewaterford.ie

Training has previously been provided in Waterford City and in Dungarvan for Community Groups and this training will again be made available in 2024.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

22nd November – talk on Sharepoint and Office 365 given to students on the UCD course MA in Archives and Records Management

Work ongoing with staff on updating file structures for transfer of records from Sharepoint to Office 365

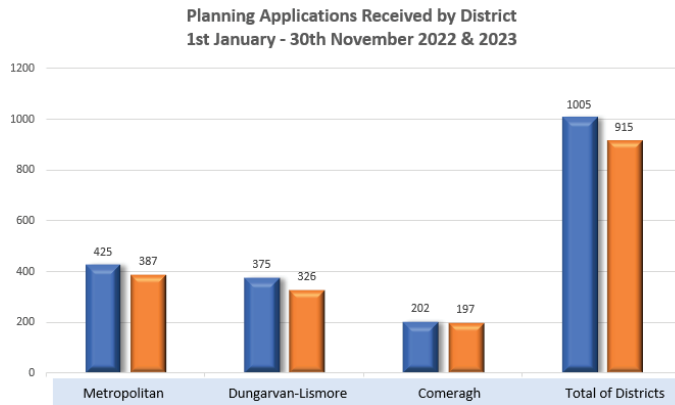
Work is ongoing with the LGMA on the revision of the National Retention Policy for Local Authority Records in Ireland.

Pleanáil / Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

93 planning applications were received countywide in November 2023. This compares with 75 planning applications received for the same period in November 2022.

A total of 915 planning applications were received in the year to 30th November 2023. This compares to 1005 planning applications which were received for the same period in 2022.



Derelict Sites

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 260 properties that are considered either derelict or potentially derelict. The activity in recent months has substantially increased with 77 derelict properties identified and on the Derelict Sites Register. 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 stage.

The level of activity in the property market for vacant and derelict properties has increased and of the properties we have identified as derelict, a number of them have been brought to the market and some are at 'to let' / 'sale agreed' stage. We continue the engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990. Due to the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, there is a noticeable increase in the number of derelict and vacant properties on the market at the current time.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in November and the year 2023 to date.

Derelict Sites	November	Year to date 2023*
No. of new files opened	5	260
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	10	78
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	2	48
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	16
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase Acquisitions (CPA) (see note below)	3	23
No of Vesting Orders signed	1	3

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COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACQUISITION OF DERELICT SITES (CPA)

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

In December, we are commencing work on 2 further CPAs and details of these will be shortly advertised.

Heritage Officer Report

Community Monuments Fund- All Districts

Four projects were 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 and works have now been completed. The Community Monuments Fund 2024 is open for applications until February 14th 2023. Grants up to €100,000 are available for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments. Grants of up to €30,000 are available for Conservation Management Plans aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access. All proposals should be able to illustrate some tangible public value benefit. This may include access, physical and virtual, or provision of information to the public.

Woodstown Viking Site-Waterford Metro

Archaeologists from the Discovery Programme completed a geo-physical survey of the Woodstown Viking Site in early October. A delegation from Stavanger Museum in Norway visited Waterford on November 10th taking in City Hall, the Viking Triangle, Waterford Museums and the Woodstown Viking site.

Biodiversity Funding

Funding under the NPWS Local Biodiversity Action Plan Fund was used to satellite tag a number of Brent Geese earlier in 2023 and the project has been filmed by a TV company for RTE Junior which will be aired in autumn 2024. The series will feature the Dungarvan Brent Geese and pupils from St. Mary's National School and trace the tagged geese on their journey to Iceland Arctic Canada.

Biodiversity Officer

Waterford City and County Council are partaking in the Heritage Council supported Biodiversity Officer Programme and a Biodiversity Officer will be in post in the local authority in early 2024.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	November 2022	Year 2022	November 2023	Year to date 2023
Applications received	92	959	168	1942
Applications assessed *	32	434	34	534
Applications Validated*	N/A	N/A	87	N/A
Approved for social housing supports following interview	N/A	N/A	45	N/A

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies Nov 2022	Cumulative Tenancies 2022	New Tenancies Nov 2023	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2023
	21	487	30	4	323

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1292. There have been 439 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
November	9	7	4	5	10
Year to date	82	7	41	24	10

Tenant Purchase applications

Tenant Purchase applications					
2023 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
November	3	1	0	0	03
Year to date 2023	53	6	25	25	22

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment					
	November 2022 HAP Tenancies	October 23 HAP Tenancies	23 No.of active HAP Tenancies set up	Applications approved	Sales Closed
HAP Tenancies	38	20	-48	4,787	1663

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Inspections of Dwellings

HAP	12
HAP Non- Compliant	11
Total	452

Housing First Programme

Tenancies 2023	
Number of Tenancies in place with Housing First supports.	November 34

In November, Waterford City & County Council carried out 404 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 17 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 Nov 2023	Value of applications Nov 2023	Cumulative number of applications approved 2023	Cumulative value of 2023 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	20	€162,117.77	132	€1,084,392.87
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	3	€7,440.00	19	€72,720.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	26	€131,818.88	160	€661,939.22
Total	49	€301,376.65	311	€1,819,052.09

Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:

34

Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:

5

Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:

49

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIIHS)	23rd Oct - 26th Nov 2023	Cumulative 2023	Total 2022
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	304	3,156	3,618
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	63	857	954

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	26th Nov 2023	26th Nov 2022
Number of Single Persons	38	44
Number of Families	17	16
Number of Adults in Families	20	21
Number of Children	42	32

HAP PlaceFinder Service

	23rd Oct - 26th Nov 2023	Cumulative 2023
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	23	289
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	8	108

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Units</i>
Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	375
<i>Part V</i>	284
Total Units in WCCC Projects	659

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>	9
<i>Newley Vacant</i>	8

TENANT "IN-SITU" SCHEME

- 112 Enquiries received
- 22 Waiting to hear back from Vendor for further information
- 18 Sale Completed
- 36 Sale Agreed
- 6 Offers made and awaiting to hear back from Vendors
- 5 Awaiting WCCC inspection/ Independent Valuation
- 25 Not proceeding

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

The current LEADER programme is at an end. The LAG has allocated €7,917,335 to 171 projects since 2017. Three decommitments totalling just over €15,000 will occur. Two projects will run into 2024. The budget for the new LEADER Programme 2023 to 2029 is €6.1m with €4.5m allocated to projects. Supplementary funds may be allocated over the course of the programme which be most welcome given the emerging challenges in rural areas. The Local Development strategy has been approved by the department and contract signing is imminent.

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG:

The topic for 2024 has been identified by the young people and this will now be the basis for work in the coming year. The Podcast series on the young peoples chosen topic is fully complete and published. The AGM took place in November in the Tower Hotel, Waterford with a huge attendance. The young people continue to participate in their nominated local and national committees.

WATERFORD AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:

Delivery of the year 1 action plan has begun with six of the seven Implementation Subgroups (the majority having met multiple times). The remaining group will have initial meeting in early December. The new Age Friendly Alliance is due to have its initial meeting during during early December.

WELL WATERFORD (LCDC SUB-GROUP)

The Well Waterford committee and implementing partners have several meetings and events arranged to bring about a localised approach to community wellbeing and development. Municipal District meetings took place for elected members and our implementing partners to meet and input into the Well Waterford structure. One of the key actions from these meetings was to organise a combined approach in meeting people in the community. So for we have contributed to meeting to develop a “connecting communities” roadshow for quarter one of next year. We will be hosting information sessions for the Municipal districts in January and February. With the following dates identified for a 10am start. This will be an opportunity for elected member to contribute to actions for 2024 as part of the Healthy Waterford planning process. Further information will be sent in due course.

Projects Committed to for 2024:

- Playful Streets
- Social Farming
- Place Based Approach to Community Wellbeing – Clashmore Kinsalebeg
- Connecting Community Roadshows Contribution
- Healthy Growing in the Community
- Autism Friendly Cities

To be Confirmed:

- Continued support for the Aiséirí Connecting Communities project
- Continued support for TREO Port Láirge and RENEW Enterprises
- Additional Place Based Approach to Community Wellbeing area
- SHEP Community Wellbeing Course
- GIY Project Phase 2

Place Standard:

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. This will be rolled out in conjunction in a number of areas next year.

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General Update :

- 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 attended 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. A meeting took place on the 22nd of November in Amsterdam in which the next stages of the application were processed. The next meeting will take place in January. After which we will be identifying a stakeholder group to represent Waterford.

- 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.

- Several 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.

- Next meeting of the Well Waterford Strategic Group will take place on the 5th of December.

For more information contact: eoinmorrisey@waterfordcouncil.ie

COMMUNITY SAFETY INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS:

Preparatory work has commenced for the in two successful 2023 Grant Applications to the Community Safety Innovation Fund, Consent Matters and A Community Safety Warden Initiative for Waterford City. These will be advanced rapidly in January 2024.

LCSP SMALL GRANT FUND

Twenty five applicant were informed that they were successful in 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.

Amounts approved by the WLCSP Steering Committee range between €1,000 to €5,000 and a listing will be circulated shortly

WLCSP MEETINGS:

The Education, Training & Awareness and Building Community Capacity Working Group held it's most recent meeting on the 30th November 2023 in person and the Reducing Criminality and Safe Environment & Infrastructure Working Group held theirs by zoom on 16th November 2023.

The next WLCSP Plenary Meeting is scheduled for 4th December at 630pm in the Civic Offices, Dungarvan.

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 2,734 Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Waterford to date with over 1,983 Ukrainians having been received directly into Waterford Council run Rest Centres in Dungarvan and Waterford City. To date 1,469 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 245 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:

The National Pride of Place awards event took place in Armagh on November 10th where CAPE-ability Lismore (winners of the overall PPN award) and the Larchville/Lisduggan Residents Group (nominated by the Housing Dept.) represented Waterford. Congratulations to the Larchville/Lisduggan Residents Group who won their category. The overall winner of the PPN Community & Voluntary Awards for 2023 were RENEW Enterprises, who will represent Waterford at the 2024 national Pride of Place awards.

MIGRANT INTEGRATION:

The last Migrant Integration Strategy Meeting took place on the 1st November 2023 and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 24th January 2024. A review of the Migrant Integration Forum is currently taking place with an addendum to the Migrant Integration Strategy currently being prepared to include the Ukrainian community in the strategy. The Council's Integration Support Team will be in place by early December. This team will take the lead in co-ordinating supports and services for International Protection applicants, those with refugee, subsidiary protection or permission to remain status, programme refugees and beneficiaries of temporary protection.

SICAP

The procurement process for new SICAP 2024+ programme is drawing to a close with the successful tenderer due to sign contracts during December.

TRAVELLER INTERAGENCY GROUP (TIG)

The Community Department continue to support the Waterford TIG which continues to meet regularly. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 6th December 2023.

LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)

A total of 9 applications were received 8 of which met the criteria and were submitted to the DRCD in early June. Allocations for Measure 1 are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

FESTIVAL GRANTS 2024

The application process for Waterford City and County Council's Festivals & Events Grants Scheme 2024 closed on 27th November. 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. Applications will go before the December Plenary Council for approval.

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 November..

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 November</i>	68	45	29	0
<i>Year to date</i>	549	512	230	0
<i>Total for November</i>	52	62	37	0
<i>Total for 2022</i>	634	472	221	0

FIRE SAFETY:

Fire Safety:				
	<i>November 2023</i>	<i>2023 YTD</i>	<i>November 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>
<i>Fire Safety Certificates</i>	6	87	5	73

Building Control:				
<i>Applications recived</i>	<i>November 2023</i>	<i>2023 YTD</i>	<i>November 2022</i>	<i>2022 YTD</i>
<i>Commencement Notices</i>	18	263	17	310
<i>Completion Certificates</i>	21	187	14	204
<i>Disability Access Certs</i>	3	65	12	57

CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of November 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 20 Ukraine related calls

Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

In Community support and Events, we attended:

Visits to a number of Scout groups.

Winterval Event 6 days both Medical and Logistics 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.

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2023 – 21ST NOVEMBER 2023

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	3
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	121
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	81
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	2871
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)	23
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	22
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	224
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

Climate Action Plan

The consultation on the Climate Action Plan opened on 1st November and will remain open until 15th December. The public can access the document on the consult portal. To date there have been 4 submissions. To encourage engagement with the plan we are hosting events across the country in libraries and in communities. Community groups are hosting us. See below for locations. These events are about the Climate Action Plan and about giving the public advice on energy saving.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PUBLIC WORKSHOPS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Thursday 16 Lismore Library -11am Dungarvan Library -5pm	Monday 20 Coolnasmear Parish Hall 7pm	Friday 24 Portlawn Library 10.30 am
Monday 27 Dunhill Community Hall 8pm	Tuesday 28 Butler Community Centre 7pm	Wed. 29 Carrickpherish Library 2pm
Monday 4 Brill Family Resource Centre 7pm	Tuesday 5 Dungarvan Cinema 7pm	Wed. 6 Central Library 5pm
Friday 9 Red Hall, Lismore 11am	Thurs. 14 Tramore Library 5pm CANCELLED	

Community Climate Action Fund

The fund is open for applications and the deadline is 19th January 2024. Communities can apply on the Submit Portal or via printed application form sent into the Council. All communities should speak to the Community Climate Action Officer in advance of submitting an application. Susan Lee can be contacted at climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie

Energy Projects

- Under the Public Lighting Retro fitting process survey works in Waterford is nearing completion, the design process has started for the Dungarvan Lismore area and lighting upgrades will begin in mid-2024 and be finished in late 2024. Approximately 16,000 lights will be retro fitted under this process throughout Waterford.
- Three short range EV's have been delivered to WCCC. This brings to 8 the number of EV's operational for WCCC. These vans are located at the WRSC, Carrickpherish Depot and Dungarvan Depot.
- Works have been completed on upgrades to 16 – 18 Barker Place, where the building was converted into an arts /theatre/ community venue. The building will be heated via air-water heat pumps and will have LED lighting technologies installed.
- Electrical works have been completed at the Wake Museum at 3, 4 & 5 Cathedral Square.
- Contractor has been appointed to undertake heating system upgrades and insulation upgrades at Tramore Library. Works were completed in mid-November. The existing oil boiler was replaced with an air – water heat pump.
- The existing gas boiler at the Bolton Street Yard, has been removed and replaced with an air – water heat pump. The heat pump provides all the building heating and hot water requirements.
- Insulation upgrades have been completed at Portlaw Library and a new heat pump is to be installed that will replace the existing oil heating. The heat pump provides all the building heating and hot water requirements

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Environmental Education & Awareness

The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools has been completed and judged. 15 secondary schools across Waterford city and county entered the competition and received litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and bags to allow them to carry out litter picks of their designated area. Over a six week period, schools have been carrying out regular clean ups, with many schools embracing the competition fully, carrying out multiple clean ups each week with different classes. We have been in regular contact with each school and photos of these clean-ups were posted on social media. A prizegiving and presentation of certificates of participation will take place in the Mayors Parlour in early December, with all schools being presented with certificates of participation and the winning schools being awarded with a prize of €1,500 sponsored by Tom Murphy Car Sales.

Climate Change Secondary Schools Conference

The Environmental Awareness Officer took part in the organisation and running of a Climate Action Conference for secondary schools with the Climate Action Team during October. A presentation was also given on the day on the topic of Sustainability and Resources.

Green Schools Visits

Green Schools visits are underway, with some schools requesting advice on their current theme in the programme or help with their work while others are availing of an early assessment visit to their school. Waterpark College raised their first Green Flag at a ceremony in November.

Picker Pals 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. Students take part in online and in class learning about litter as well as carrying out a local clean up with parents etc. each weekend

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. The next step is for them to complete a brief action plan to tackle waste within their school. There will then be staff and student training in each school in the New Year.

Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign

A recent campaign reminded dog owners of the need to clean up their dog's waste by bagging it and binning it. A press release and social media posts were used to prompt dog owners to pick up their dog waste and place it into a bin, instead of leaving it on the ground, or leaving the bag on a tree, fence, etc. It also reiterated the health impacts and other consequences that dog fouling can have.

Blue Flag/Green Coast

The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence and has been established to acknowledge, promote and protect the environment of our beaches. All sites must be managed in partnership with the local community to be considered for the Green Coast Award. The award encourages community involvement through the setting up of Clean Coasts Groups. Clean Coasts group formulate their own aims, objectives and activities to clean up and protect their adopted stretch of coastline. The Environmental Awareness Officer is currently working on the applications for the 7 Green Coast locations and 3 Blue Flags for beaches, largely in relation to the community element of the application i.e. work and activities carried out with local groups, schools and wider community. In order to qualify for the Blue Flag Award, a series of rigorous environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and maintained.

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.

Libraries

In November, the services provided by Waterford City & County Libraries were in great demand. Statistics are representative of 30 days of activity.

<i>No. of Visitors this month</i>	36,316
<i>Active members</i>	33,284
<i>Issues in Branch</i>	26,326
<i>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</i>	9,576
<i>Events & Activities</i>	583

WATERFORD LIBRARY'S WEBSITE ACTIVITY THIS MONTH.

Views: 12,532 - Visitors: 4, 926- Average Views per day: 418

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- Executive Librarian Tracy McEneaney spoke on RTE on November 21st about audiobooks. Tracy is an expert recommender and promoter of Library services nationally.
- Carrickpherish Library hosted the Community safety partnership for a 'drop in' public consultation Monday 20th November in relation to drafting a Community Action Plan for the Carrickpherish/Gracedieu area to improve community connectivity & vibrancy.
- Waterford City & County Councils' Climate Action team are holding public workshops in, Lismore, Dungarvan, Portlaw, Carrickpherish and Central Libraries.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER:

- Celebrated the posthumous birthday of author Dervla Murphy on November 28th. Students from Blackwater Community School launched the Creative Waterford project, 'After Dervla' an exhibition of the work they created with artist Kathi Burke.
- Writers in Waterford Libraries brought author Ethel Crowley in conversation with Senior Executive Librarian Mary Conway, Overall, the day was a wonderful and creative celebration of an inspiring woman.
- Our branches hosted 17 yoga classes in November ranging from, Music and Yoga with Down Syndrome Ireland. Library branches provide a space in the community for people to engage with wellbeing and health events.
- Waterford Libraries celebrated Science Week with 'Shocking Science' and talks by Clean Coasts on the think before you flush campaign.
- On the 16th of November, Poet Lani O'Hanlon launched her latest work, 'Landscape of the Body'.
- Mindfulness through Creativity workshops for Children aged 5-7 were held .
- Healthy Ireland at your Library organised a talk by registered dietitian Aoife McDonald on Gut Health.
- The Gatherings Exhibition, which features work by the Waterford Healing Arts Open Studio Group, was launched

Management Report Plenary 14th December 2023.

•Europe Direct Waterford held the regional final of the 2023 Soapbox competition in the long room City Hall on November 22nd, with over 100 attendees the standard of competition was excellent. This year's theme was, "There's no such thing as a vote that doesn't matter." The two regional finalists Lucy O'Connell (Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny) and Caoilan Walsh (De La Salle Waterford) competed at the national final on the 27th.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

•The final Writers at Waterford Libraries event this year will be held in Dungarvan Library with Chef, restaurateur, cookery school owner, teacher, and TV presenter Paul Flynn will be speaking at Dungarvan Library on Saturday, 9th December, at 4:00pm. Paul will talk about his life, his Irish Times columns, and his new book Butter Boy.

- Family time at your Library will run throughout December.
- A Clothes Swap will take place in Central Library on December 6th.

CULTURAL QUARTER

The Creative Waterford team submitted recouplement to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in November amounting to €175,714. This funding, plus funding for the Children's Festival of Creativity, Cruinniú na nÓg of €28,432 allowed for a wide variety and range of projects relating to Creative Communities to be carried out throughout the city and county.

Creative Waterford (thisiswaterford.ie)

Creative Waterford's Culture and Creativity Team will attend a kick-off meeting for a Shared Island project funded by Creative Ireland over the coming two years in collaboration with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. It is planned to work together on a range of creative projects based in our local communities, e.g. oral history gathering, mural arts and author exchanges in the library services.



Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to October 31, 2023

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A Housing & Building	31,140,392	35,728,461	87%	33,558,903	38,036,305	88%
B Road Transport & Safety	36,012,532	49,146,777	73%	23,369,541	33,752,918	69%
C Water Services	8,999,692	11,790,929	76%	8,568,622	11,163,993	77%
D Development Management	21,891,101	21,992,796	100%	12,951,455	11,448,028	113%
E Environmental Services	16,881,915	21,512,181	78%	1,457,268	2,875,458	51%
F Recreation & Amenity	13,074,790	15,464,575	85%	1,617,836	1,614,234	100%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	838,715	1,068,270	79%	291,985	399,696	73%
H Miscellaneous Services	7,795,886	9,678,508	81%	9,271,611	10,749,476	86%
LG Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	16,389,690	19,667,628	83%
RA Rates	0	0	0%	30,029,968	36,674,758	82%
	136,635,022	166,382,494	82%	137,506,878	166,382,494	83%
Surplus/Deficit				871,857	0	

Collections

Summary of main collections Oct 2023 YTD										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2023	Accrued ytd to Oct 2023	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Oct 2023	Gross Bal 31-10-2023 [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	- 1,254,471	-	37,789,148	30,713,887	7,075,261	1,391,804	84%	85%
Loans	1,534,038	2,778,411	- 329		4,312,778	2,917,171	1,395,607		68%	105%
Rents	3,903,206	14,391,905	- 3,256		18,291,855	13,617,827	4,674,028		74%	95%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	-	5,627,100	1,448,161			7,075,261
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				167,312	73,992	80,196	1,074,107			1,395,607
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				137,756	114,228	196,328	4,225,716			4,674,028
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Oct 23'	0		Cost -	0	€0.00		Average Value when in O/D : N/A		€	-