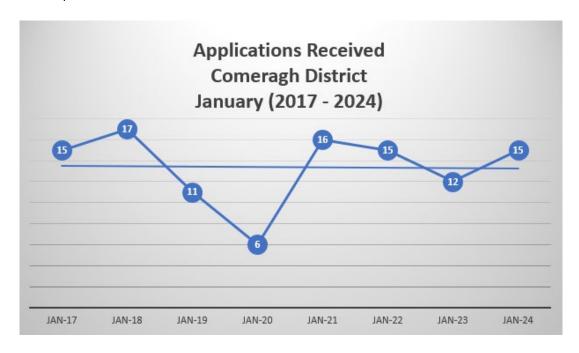


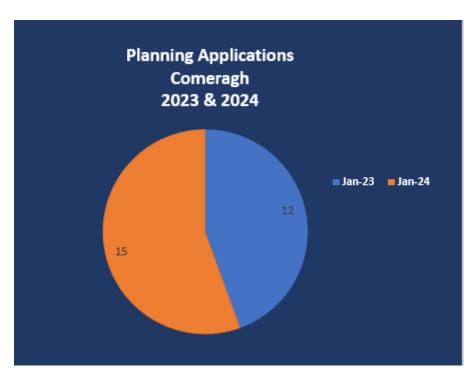
Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Comeragh District Meeting - February 2024

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COMERAGH

Planning Applications Received - Comeragh District

15 Planning applications were received in the Comeragh District in January 2024. This compares with 12 planning applications received for the same period in 2023.

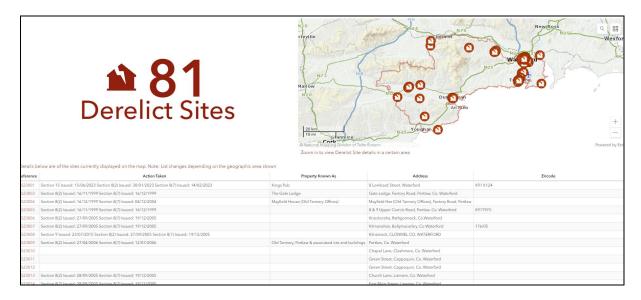




DECEMBER/ JANUARY REVIEW - DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 263 properties that are considered either derelict or potentially derelict. The activity in recent months has substantially increased with 81* derelict properties identified and on the Derelict Sites Register.

Comeragh Municipal District = 13* Open Files.



The level of activity in the property market for vacant and derelict properties has increased and of the properties we have identified as derelict, several of them have been brought to the market and some are at 'to let'/ 'sale agreed' stage. We continue to engage 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.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACQUISITION OF DERELICT SITES (CPA)

We commenced the CPA programme in 2023 and the Table below sets out work carried out by the team to date.

Year	No. of CPA's	Current Status
	Commenced	
2023	24	No. 4 Vested into the ownership of the Council and lodged in PRA. Of the three properties
		two are on the market for sale.
		No. 3 Properties CPA stopped, and Council are in the process of purchasing by agreement.
		No. 13 Objections to CPA received and have been referred to An Bord Pleanála for consent
		to CPA.
		No. 4 Early Stage of CPA process.

DERELICT SITE LEVY

Determination of valuations on the derelict sites which are on the Derelict Sites Register has commenced and notices have issued to 58 property owners. Eight properties have appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and a decision is awaited. The levy is an annual levy while the property remains on the Derelict Sites Register and amounts to 7% of the value of the property, on an annual basis. This will be further progressed in 2024.



Conservation Officers Report

The closing date for the applications for funding schemes for Protected Structures and historic buildings **Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024** and the **Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2024** was 19th of January. There were 39 applications under the BHIS for works such as roof, window and wall repairs from various locations all over the County and 17 from the City/Metro area. under the HSF there were 11 applications. The applications are being assessed at present. The recommendations will be sent to the Department 9th of February.

Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) Trails

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have provided funding for the development of 2 ACA trails one in Waterford City and the other in Cappoquin. Local workshops including ones for students, were held so people could highlight what elements of the built heritage they would like to be included. This project will be finished in Spring of 2024

Heritage Officer Report

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024

The Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme will open in February 2024. This is for community/voluntary and not-for-profit organisations nationwide to apply for funding for heritage projects and details will be available on https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/funding-schemes