

MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL

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



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

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Chief Executive
February 2024

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Príomhfheidhmeannach
Feabhra 2024

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Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate.

Mayors Official Engagements January 2024.

Tues-Thurs 2nd-4th: City Of Christmas Awards- Madrid

Friday 5th: Christmas and New year program for Malayalee association, Indian community, Ballygunner GAA, Co. Waterford.

Wednesday 10th: Nuacht Interview, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Thursday 11th: SIRO Broadband Photocall, Lifeguard Station, Tramore, Co. Waterford.

Friday 12th: Mayoral Reception for Michael Stokes & Shaz Furlong, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford

Saturday 13th: WLR/ Granville Hotel GAA Gala Dinner, The Granville Hotel, Co. Waterford.

Wednesday 17th: St Partick's Day Launch, Baileys New Street, Co. Waterford.

Friday 19th: Mayoral Reception for Lisduggan Residents Association, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Sunday 21st: Unveiling Blue Plaque marking centenary of foundation of Erins own, Mayors Walk, Co. Waterford.

Tuesday 23rd: Connecting Communities initiative Photo Call, City Hall, The Mall, Co. Waterford.

Thursday 25th: Tegus Office Opening Butlerstown, Co. Waterford.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development North Quays



The overall North Quays project is progressing well. The substructure works for the Sustainable Transport Bridge continue to progress in the River Suir and the steel deck superstructure is being fabricated off-site in Belgium.

Sheet piling for the South Plaza quay wall (S37) is 90% complete.

Works to complete the train station concourse supporting walls and columns is ongoing and visible in the image.

All piling for the Transport Hub building and platforms is now substantially complete. The remaining foundations are nearing completion, and the superstructure is also progressing (rising walls, slabs, supporting walls, etc.). Irish Rail is continuing to install a new rail track to the south of the existing rail track,

The road and access infrastructure is progressing well, works are ongoing to various bridge structures as illustrated below. Traffic management measures continue to be in place along Dock Road to install sewer and surface water network services. Works have extended to Abbey Road / Fountain Street junction and required the commencement of Phase 4 traffic management measures in early January.

The two pumps station contract are c.90% complete, but the programme has been extended into Q2 2024. ROD Consulting Engineers was appointed project engineers for the Flood Defence West Scheme and is progressing the scheme's scope and programme which will be constructed to the west of Plunkett Station.

Local Enterprise Office

LEO Figures year to date (202) and comparison of current month with previous year

Indicator	At end of Jan 2023	At end of Jan 2024
Measure 1		
No. of Clients applying	0	0
No. of Clients securing	0	0
Value of support approved	€0	€0
Measure 2		
No. of clients receiving	176	180
Value of support given	€14,210	€17,807

Additional Supports	
Trading Online	
No. of Approvals	67
Value of Approvals	€134,476

Figures not included in cumulative table.

No Evaluation Committee meeting took place in January 2024. Next meeting is February 2024.

Waterford's craft and design industry was represented at this year's Showcase Creative Expo, which took place from January 21st to 23rd 2024 in The RDS in Dublin. Running for over forty years, Showcase has an impressive track record in attracting Ireland's most talented makers and designers, along with buyers from over twenty countries. It offers the chance to explore the best of Ireland's creativity from over 450 exhibitors including leading Irish designers and manufacturers and the very best emerging home-grown creative talent. Four craft and design companies showcased the very best of Waterford creativity, design and innovation, with the assistance of Local Enterprise Office Waterford. Representing Waterford was, Fiona Fahy, Feed Me Mother, Lynn Shead, Natures Alchemy, Kayleigh Sutton, Phat Poly, and Kim Whyte, Pawpear.



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Communications

Press Releases

The Communications Department distributed 15 media releases.



In-house design campaigns (social / digital):

Local Radio Campaigns:

- Waterford Library Services
- Hedge- Cutting
- Connecting Communities roadshows
- Launch of Community Support Funds

Submissions completed:

- All – Ireland Community and Council Awards
- Waterford’s Ukrainian Response shortlisted in Most Inclusive Category

Social Media Stats (WCCC and Shop Waterford FB/ Twitter/ LinkedIn combined): 2024

	Reach	% Change	Followers	% Change
November	589,641	-0.4%	49,925	10%
December	238,759	-60%	50,397	1%
January	533,202	123%	48,496*	-4%

*Shope Waterford Twitter / X account retired

WCCC Website Stats: January 2024

Page Views: 116,871 Unique Page Views: 90,492

Downloads: 25,278

Viewing Device: Smartphone 30,823 Desktop 19,360 Tablet 1006

Top 10 pages not including homepage:

- Planning Enquiries
- Choice Based Letting
- Vacancies
- Viewing a Planning Application
- Departments homepage
- Planning Lists
- Housing homepage
- Community Grants
- Online Payments

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RURAL TOURISM

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

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

County Outdoor Recreation Officer and Plan

Waterford is one of just six counties which has been approved for a pilot programme to introduce an Outdoor Recreation Officer post and the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan for Waterford, in line with the objectives of Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Ireland 2023 to 2027. Funding has been committed to this pilot over a 3-year period. The appointment of the new Outdoor Recreation Officer will be made by Waterford Sports Partnership. The other counties included in this pilot programme are Clare, Longford, Sligo, Mayo and Meath.

Greenway Feasibility Studies

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

TOURISM

Waterford Features in New York Times 52 Best Places to Visit List

Visit Waterford secured a feature in the New York Times article published on 9th January 2024. Waterford placed at number 30 in the New York Times 52 best places to visit, amongst Paris, France, Yamaguchi, Japan and Tasmania, Australia. Waterford featuring in this article highlights the world-class tourism offering in Waterford City and County and as a result has received further coverage on local and national media eg:

RTE1 RADIO Shay Byrne
Irish Times
Independent
Irish Examiner
Gift Grubb

To further capitalize on the exposure from the article Fáilte Ireland have shared the article with:
Their international publicity team who target journalists / influencers
Their digital marketing team
Tourism Ireland who will use it in market as appropriate as part of their promotional campaigns

Text reads: "Yes, Waterford is synonymous with crystal, but the city, founded in 914, also sparkles with history and natural treasures. In the Viking Triangle, Waterford's cobblestone core, a new digital story trail brings the past to life at stops like the medieval landmark Reginald's Tower. The city also offers less-ancient attractions, including the new Irish Wake Museum, dedicated to the funeral ritual, and the Irish Museum of Time, which showcases grandfather clocks, watches and more.

Waterford's natural riches rival its historical ones, notably the Copper Coast, hemmed by towering cliffs and scalloped coves. The coast forms part of the Waterford Greenway, a nearly 30-mile path along a disused rail line. In 2023, a new section linked the Greenway to the center of Waterford. Top off your Greenway adventure with afternoon tea amid one of Ireland's largest collections of plants at Mount Congreve Gardens, which reopened in 2023 after a multimillion-dollar refurbishment."

Waterford Features prominently in the 2024 Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards

Mount Congreve Gardens - Best Newcomer
Waterford Greenway - No 3 in Top 10 Visitor Attractions
Tramore – No. 8 in Top 10 Beaches

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360 Cookhouse, Dungarvan – No. 2 in 10 Best Pet-friendly Cafés or Restaurants

Waterford St. Patricks Day Festival Launched

Following the success of last year's St. Patrick's Day Festival in Waterford, Waterford City and County Council, in association with Fáilte Ireland and EveryEvent, will be hosting a four-day programme of events from Friday March 15th to Monday March 18th. An international digital promotional campaign for the festival started in December and the national promotional campaign will begin before the end of January.



Visit Waterford Update

NYT Times feature: Visit Waterford were delighted to have secured a feature in the NYT last week. Waterford placed at number 30 in the top 52 places to visit in 2024, a reflection of the fantastic tourism offering in Waterford City and County.

Holiday World Show: Visit Waterford will have a stand at Holiday World Show in Dublin this month from January 26th-28th. This stand will give Visit Waterford the opportunity to showcase all Waterford has to offer to over 40,000 attendees.

Membership Increased to 48: Visit Waterford grew its membership by 50% gaining 16 new members from across Waterford with a focus (68%) on West Waterford.

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is scheduled for February 20th 2024.

Pleanáil / Planning

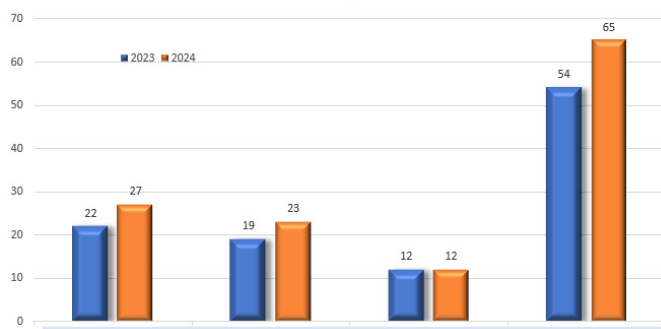
PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

65 planning applications were received countywide in between 1st Jan 2024 – 30th January 2024.

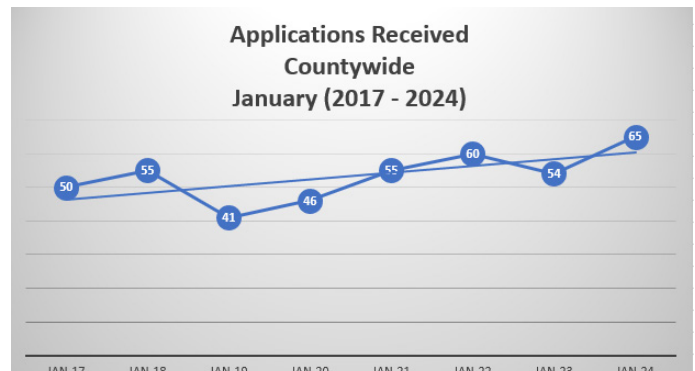
This compares with 54 planning applications received for the same period in 2023.

52 Planning applications were granted during this period with 4 applications refused.

Planning Applications received by District
1st-30th January 2023 & 2024



Applications Received
Countywide
January (2017 - 2024)



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. 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.

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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.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in December '23/ January '24. Information is broken down by MD area. All data displayed is in draft form as we are currently switching IT systems from WatMaps to CRM. A full and complete breakdown will be provided for the March '24 Report.

Derelict Sites					
	<i>Dec/ Jan</i>	<i>Total</i>		<i>Dec/ Jan</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of new files opened	3*	263*	No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	-*	16*
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	1*	79*	No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase Acquisitions (CPA)(See Note)	1*	24*
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	4*	51*	No of Vesting Orders signed	-	3*

*As of 30th January 2024 – Please note figures are in draft form and an up-to-date breakdown will be provided in the March '24 Report this is due to the Derelict Sites Team switching IT systems from WatMaps to CRM.

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.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of CPA's</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
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.

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide funding for CPA's on a rolling basis with the objective being that these properties would then be sold on the open market. A particular emphasis will be on properties that have potential for residential use. It is important to note that only properties that have been pre-approved by the Department Housing, Heritage and Local Government can access this funding.

One CPA was initiated in December/ January and publicly advertised. The time for submissions expired at the end of January. The Council will move to the vesting process where applications for registration of title will be made to the Property Registration Authority.

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

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.

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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 56 applications under the BHIS for works such as roof, window and wall repairs from various locations all over the County. 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. 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 Monuments Fund 2024

Waterford City and County Council invites applications for the Community Monuments Fund 2024 which provides funding for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments (sites pre 1700). Grants up to €100,000 for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments are available for 3 projects in this category.

Grants of up to €30,000 for the development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports and detailed Specification of Works aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access are available for 2 projects in this category.

Grants of up to €30,000 for the enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments are available for 2 projects in this category. Details are available on <https://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/media/grants/index.htm>

Applications (CMF Form A) and Method Statement should be submitted by e-mail to bguest@waterfordcouncil.ie or in hard copy to Heritage Officer, Menapia Building, The Mall, Waterford City no later than 4pm on Wednesday 7th February 2024.

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>

World Wetlands Day February 2nd

World Wetlands Day takes place every year on February 2nd, marking the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands signed in Ramsar, Iran on February 2 in 1971. Waterford has two Ramsar sites which attract 1000s of wintering birdlife every year. Come along to the bird hide at Tramore Nature Park on Thursday February 2nd at 12 noon where well known nature enthusiast Denis Cullen of the Irish Wildlife Trust will explain the value of the Backstrand for birds and the threats from climate change and invasive species. Find out more on other WWD nationwide events on <https://irishwetlands.ie/events/>.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	January 2023	Year 2023	January 2024	Year to date 2024
Applications received	117	2127	192	192
Applications assessed *	44	561	52	52
Applications Validated*	119	N/A	117	117
Approved for social housing supports following interview	14	N/A	68	68

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies Jan 2023	Cumulative Tenancies 2023	New Tenancies Jan 2024	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2024
	26	388	23	5	23

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1,317 There have been 354 refusals on properties.

Housing Loans applications

Housing Loans applications					
	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with housing agency/Deferred for 6 months
2024 Housing Loans					
January	5	2	0	0	3
Year to date	5	2	0	0	3

Tenant Purchase applications

	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
2024 Tenant Purchase					
January	4	4	0	0	1
Year to date 2024	4	4	0	0	1
Year to date 2023	58	6	2	0	2

TPS 2016 Amendment effective 29th January.

Housing Assistance Payment

	January 2023 HAP Tenancies	January 2024 HAP Tenancies	"24 No. of active HAP Tenancies set up	Applications approved	Sales Closed
HAP Tenancies	21	23	-13	4,833	1650

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Inspections of Dwellings

HAP	14
HAP Non- Compliant	14
Total	380

Housing First Programme

Tenancies 2023	
Number of Tenancies in place at 28th Jan 2024 with Housing First supports.	December
	34

In January , Waterford City & County Council carried out XXXX planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections XXX 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 Jan 2024	Value of applications Jan 2024	Cumulative number of applications approved 2024	Cumulative value of 2024 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	7	€53,354.50	7	€53,354.50
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	1	€3,595.00	1	€3,595.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	16	€75,273.72	16	€75,273.72
Total	24	€132,223.22	24	€132,223.22

Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:
39	9	24

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	25th Dec – 28th Jan	Cumulative 2024	Total 2023
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	274	262	3,404
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	72	69	961

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	28th January 2024	28th January 2024
Number of Single Persons	69	57
Number of Families	21	15
Number of Adults in Families	28	17
Number of Children	41	24

HAP PlaceFinder Service

	25th Dec – 28th Jan	Cumulative 2024
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	23	33
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	4	24

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Units</u>
Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	375
<u>Part V</u>	43
Total Units in WCCC Projects	676

Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects

	<u>Units</u>
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects	104

Housing Efficiency Retrofit

Funding has been recouped for 1 claim made earlier in 2023. The Claim submitted for all properties completed in 2023 have successfully been recouped.

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<u>January</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Handed over/ Works completed</u>	6
<u>Newley Vacant</u>	16

TENANT "IN-SITU" SCHEME

- 120 Enquiries received
- 26 Waiting to hear back from Vendor for further information
- 29 Sale Completed
- 31 Sale Agreed
- 6 Offers made and awaiting to hear back from Vendors
- 5 Awaiting WCCC inspection/ Independent Valuation
- 23 Not proceeding (reasons below)
 - o3x Tenant left property themselves
 - o2x Tenant doesn't want to stay in the property and has requested transfer
 - oTenant's allowed stay in property by landlord, landlord didn't want to proceed further.
 - o7x Not suitable for tenant in-situ scheme and informed about Cost Rental Tenant in-situ scheme
 - oLandlord want's to sell to highest bidder on the open market
 - o3x Can't reach agreement with Landlord.
 - o4x Tenants accepted alternative social housing unit.
 - o2x Vendor wanted property back for themselves to live in.
 - o3x Property is located in Kilkenny and being looked at by Kilkenny Co Co.

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications are now being accepted for the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024. The scheme aims to support community groups and clubs with minor capital works and improvements to their facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use. Such capital works may include carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, improved access for persons with a disability, or improving the energy efficiency of community facilities. There is ringfenced capital funding for women's groups included in the scheme, to help community projects and groups that support the ethos of women's sheds and other such groups or projects aimed at providing social networks for women. The LEP is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, to improve and enhance community facilities for all. It will help communities, community groups and committees to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their areas, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together. It is administered by Waterford LCDC and Waterford City and County Council.

Applications are also being accepted for the Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2024 which provides grant aid assistance to Residents Associations, Community Groups, Sports Clubs and other groups/committees engaged in community activity, providing community services or carrying out improvement works at local or county level. Apply for both grants online on www.waterfordcouncil.ie.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

A targeted call is being prepared in line with the operational guidelines. The call timeline has been finalised and a budget has been allocated under each strategic action. The bilingual targeted call advertisement will be published on 6 February 2024. Information workshops will be held from 12-15 February 2024. A bilingual e-booklet is being prepared.

Interest in the new LEADER programme is growing with numerous enquiries being made. Work continues on the last remaining RDP 2014-2020 projects. The decommitments are being finalised and indicator data is being added to finalised projects.

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.

WELL WATERFORD (LCDC SUB-GROUP)

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
- Aiseiri Communities project
- TREO and RENEW Enterprises
- Additional Place Based Approach to Community Wellbeing area

General Update

Healthy Waterford significantly grew its presence within the community section of Waterford City and County Council last year by delivering on its targets from the Department of Health. We have been pivotal in organising the connecting community roadshows in partnership with the PPN and a variety of other stakeholders which will be launched in 2024. We used the opportunity whilst on the National Network to liaise with Government Departments and the WHO Healthy Cities Network members to explore potential for shared learning and adopting best practice for Waterford Council. As a result, we have secured Waterford Council's membership within a consortium of countries for a research proposal

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under INTERREG to share knowledge, experience and best-practices when formulating policy. The partnership if successful will leverage €250,000 in funding and establish a platform to support the development of a local sports policy supported by international best practice. This could result in an exemplar sports policy for Waterford which would be a valuable resource for other councils/LGMA. We are also in the process of making Waterford an accredited city under the WHO Healthy Cities and Counties program. One of our flagship initiatives for 2023 was the roll out of Playful Streets in over 18 venues. For more information contact: eoinmorrisey@waterfordcouncil.ie

SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):

- Work continues on progressing the various projects under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.
- The Local Implementation Team have an open competition for the Seed Fund in 2024, a call for projects will be made at the beginning of March.
- Ongoing work continues with community groups, HI Coordinator on the Playful Streets and the Connecting Communities Roadshow.

For more information contact: omatiut@waterfordcouncil.ie

WATERFORD LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WLCSP):

Community Safety Innovation Fund Projects:

We have commenced the two successful 2023 Grant Applications to the Community Safety Innovation Fund. In collaboration with the SETU, we currently finalising the Job Descriptions to recruit a Tackling Sexual Violence & Harassment (TSVH) Project Officer for the 'Consent Matters' Project for Waterford City and County. In addition, the job description for recruiting for the Community Safety Warden Initiative for Waterford City positions, is currently being researched and drafted

WLCSP Meetings:

The next WLCSP Plenary Meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th February 2024 at 5pm in the City, and a Steering and Oversight Group Meeting is scheduled for 5pm on Monday 29th January 2024. A relevant partner stakeholder meeting, hosted by Waterford Gardai & Chair WLCSP in relation to collaborative City Centre Safety issues is scheduled for 2nd February 2024.

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.

To date over 102,968 (@ 15th January) temporary protections have been granted to Ukrainians arriving to Ireland, with in excess of 2,904 of those registered here in Waterford.

Waterford City & County Council have provided temporary accommodation to over 2,098 Ukrainian refugees in the Council run rest centres and have matched over 1,954 of those with pledged and Council sourced accommodation.

The 'offer a home' pledge call for vacant properties has been relaunched with over 355 Ukrainians being accommodated in pledged accommodation to date. Any queries on same should be directed to offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie or 058 22059

WWETB continue to work on Language class provision for adults in Waterford City and county areas.

School places have been provided for all arrivals who wish to take up education and REALT continues to work on sourcing school transport for rural accommodation areas. GP places are limited but HSE team continue to source access for those in pledge accommodation.

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SICAP

Work is ongoing with Waterford Area Partnership who continue to implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the LCDC. SICAP Budget allocations for 2024 Waterford City & County (Lot 24-1) is €1,408,392.00 The 2024 budget for 'New Arrivals' is €246,807.00.

The contracts for the SICAP 2024+ were signed on 14th December by Waterford Area Partnership, Waterford LCDC and Waterford City & County Council.

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 7th February 2024.



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 January.

Fire Service Operational Activity:

Area	Fires	Special Services	False alarm/ Good intent	False alarm /Malicious
Total for January 2024	45	75	22	0
Year to date 2024	45	75	22	0
Total for January 2023	55	53	22	0

FIRE SAFETY:

Fire Safety:

	January 2024	YTD 2024	January 2023
Fire Safety Certificates	2	2	5

Building Control:

Applications recived	January 2024	2024 YTD	January 2023
Commencement Notices	13	13	16
Completion Certificates	10	10	12
Disability Access Certs	3	3	5

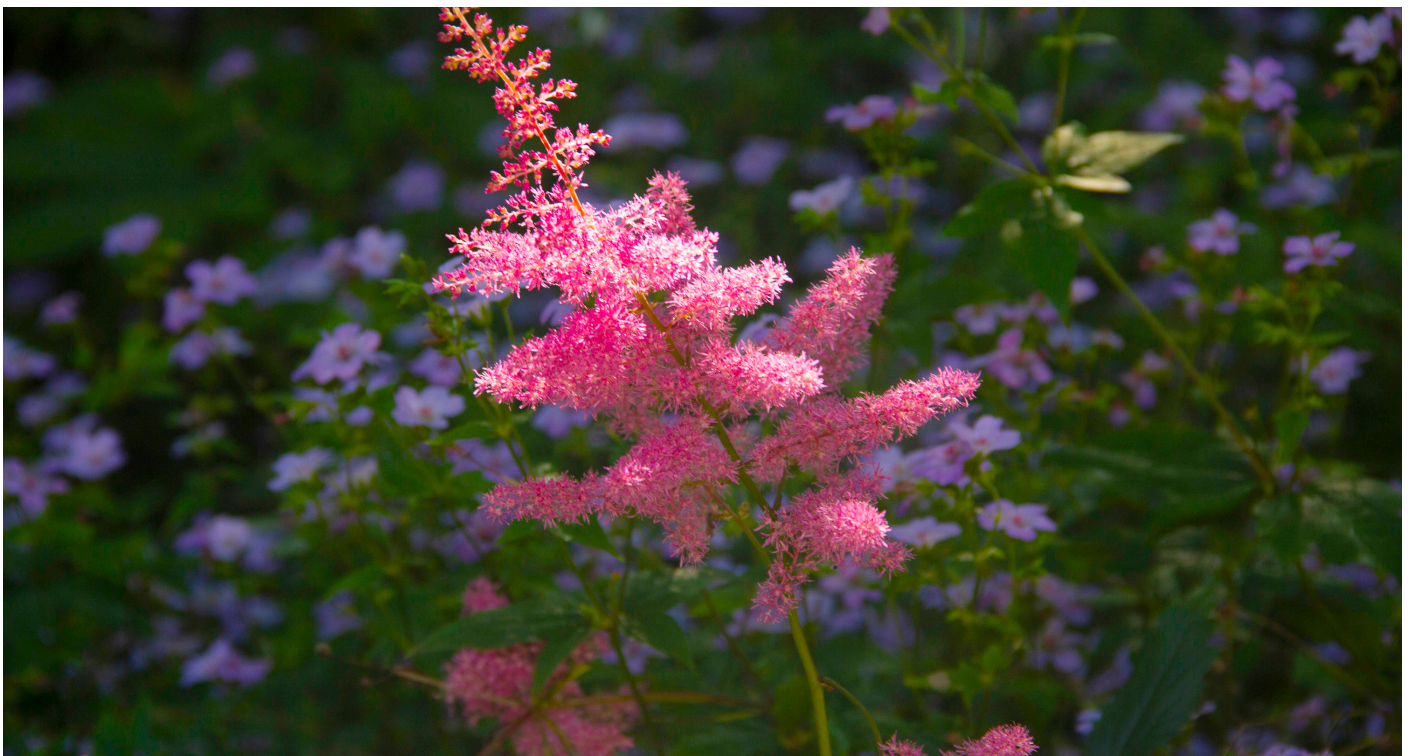
CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of January 2024 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 27 Ukraine related calls

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

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



Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2024 – 26TH JANUARY 2024.

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE LITTER POLLUTION ACTS 1997 (AS AMENDED)	
Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	16
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from previous year)	23
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	7

ENFORCEMENT UNDER THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTS 1996 (AS AMENDED)	
No of Complaints	291
Legal Actions Initiated	0
Statutory Notices Served (Waste Management 1996 as amended)	0
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	9
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	21
Other Statutory Notices – Air, Noise and Water	0
Other Fixed Penalty Notices Waste Management Act 1996	0

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Chief Executive's Report and the Draft Climate Action Plan with changes noted on foot of suggestions made in the consultation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment documents are available on Decision Time. Elected members will be asked to adopt the Climate Action Plan on 8th February next and there will be a workshop for elected members in advance of the Council meeting to discuss the Plan and the proposed changes.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND

The deadline for applications for the Community Climate Action fund was 19th January. 25 communities applied for funding. The projects will now be assessed by a team of independent assessors within the Council and the chosen projects will go forward to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for final approval. Once approved communities will have 18 months to deliver their project. The total amount to be distributed in this programme is €564,000.

EU FUNDING

The Climate Team have been successful in securing €163,000 in funding through the Interreg fund. This fund will further collaboration between large organisations in the City to reduce emissions and put in place governance to achieve the same over 3 years. It will give Waterford an opportunity to learn from other European cities further along the way to becoming a zero carbon city.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Introduction of Deposit Return Scheme

From 1st February, a new Deposit Return scheme will be introduced in Ireland. When you buy a plastic, aluminium or sell drinks container that features the Return logo, you will pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink; you will then get this deposit back when you return your empty, undamaged container (to any shop). We have been working with our Communications Section to post on social media and have also created a local case study to make the general public aware of this in the coming weeks.

Green Schools Programme

All Green Schools working on a flag for this current school year must receive a visit and submit an application by 15th March 2024. Green Schools visits are therefore well underway, with schools availing of an assessment visit to their school. Themes range from Litter & Waste to Water and Biodiversity.

Composting for Schools Programme

The 8 Secondary Schools taking part in the Composting for Schools programme are currently working on an action plan to tackle waste within their school and receiving student and staff training. The initial visit was carried out to conduct a waste audit, helping schools to prevent, reduce and reuse their waste, and putting 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.

Rubbish Schools Film Festival

The Environment Department is working with Createschool to offer 4 secondary schools in County Waterford the opportunity to participate in the Rubbish Film Festival. The Rubbish Film Festival is a really unique opportunity for Transition Year Students to showcase their creative talents, create awareness on Environmental Issues such as Climate Action and learn some new digital storytelling skills in the process. Each participating school will receive an intensive 2-day workshop on-site in their school from Createschool to help them gain and/or develop the skills to create their own short ONE MINUTE film or films that will create awareness among their peers on their selected environmental issue. Festival All costs are covered by the Environment Department of Waterford City & County Council.

Connecting Communities Roadshow

The Environment Department is taking part in a Connecting Communities Roadshow at 7 locations around the county this spring. Currently, other partners at the Roadshow include various WCCC departments, Waterford PPN, Waterford Sports Partnership, Waterford Leader, Waterford Area Partnership, Local Link, HSE Health Promotion, Waterford Volunteer Centre, Community Guards, Fire Service and WWETB, with the idea that the greater the collaboration, the better the attendance at each roadshow. The Environment Departments display will focus on food waste prevention, correct waste segregation and WEEEEE.

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. Community groups continue to request environmental talks. Our Environment Awareness Officer can facilitate this.

Management Report Plenary 8th February 2024.

Libraries

In January, Waterford City & County Libraries were full of activity with many courses and classes operating regularly throughout the month. Statistics are representative of 30 days of activity

<u>No. of Visitors this month</u>	<u>28,372</u>
<u>Active members</u>	<u>36,623</u>
<u>Issues in Branch</u>	<u>26,766</u>
<u>On Line Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</u>	<u>10,375</u>
<u>Events & Activities</u>	<u>383</u>

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY:

- Writers at Waterford Libraries hosted the 'Art of Reading Book Club' online event with authors, Colm Toibin and Claire Kilroy.
- Chair Yoga classes for those living with a chronic condition have begun in association with the Waterford Sports Partnership.
- Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga are hosting a bi-weekly Irish class during its My Open Library Hours on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- The Well festival of Arts and Wellbeing was launched on January 25th with a performance by the Bealtaine Choir, we look forward to this festival in February.
- Librarians Tracy Mceneaney and Jennifer Loughran spoke on the Claire Byrne show on RTE on January 29th about reading recommendations and strong female characters.
- "Design and Create" your own comic book classes were run between January 16th and 30th. These classes offer a great insight into storytelling and help to develop literacy skills.
- Among the numerous other classes taking place across our branches there are Digital Skills classes, Waterford Area Partnership English classes and Parenting Teens courses.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The Well festival of Mental Health & Wellbeing will take place in early February.
- Tuesday night talks will begin on the last Tuesday of every month, they will begin with a talk on the Knights Templar project on February 27th.



Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

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

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A Housing & Building	38,699,258	35,728,461	108%	41,538,514	38,036,305	109%
B Road Transport & Safety	48,616,683	49,146,777	99%	33,200,102	33,752,918	98%
C Water Services	10,739,268	11,790,929	91%	10,191,763	11,163,993	91%
D Development Management	26,812,132	21,992,796	122%	16,125,581	11,448,028	141%
E Environmental Services	21,615,402	21,512,181	100%	3,132,082	2,875,458	109%
F Recreation & Amenity	16,038,707	15,464,575	104%	2,259,269	1,614,234	140%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,008,628	1,068,270	94%	373,057	399,696	93%
H Miscellaneous Services	9,424,412	9,678,508	97%	11,434,067	10,749,476	106%
LG Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	19,667,628	19,667,628	100%
RA Rates	0	0	0%	36,035,961	36,674,758	98%
	172,954,491	166,382,494	104%	173,958,024	166,382,494	105%
Surplus/Deficit				1,003,533	0	

Collections

Airgeadas Finance										
Summary of main collections Dec 2023 YTD										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'	[6]	[7]	
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2023	Accrued ytd to Dec 2023	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Dec 2023	Gross Bal 31-12-2023 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/[4-1]]	% Collected ytd re 2023 Accrual & collectable [5/([4-1])]
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Rates	3,008,361	36,035,258	- 2,872,504	-	36,171,115	33,977,282	2,193,833	1,300,000	97%	102%
Loans	1,534,038	3,353,397	329	-	4,887,764	3,515,071	1,372,693	-	72%	105%
Rents	3,903,206	17,515,182	- 3,256	-	21,415,132	16,431,949	4,983,183	-	77%	94%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	-	1,245,934	947,899			2,193,833
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				185,447	72,099	67,289	1,047,858			1,372,693
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				207,066	129,278	210,095	4,436,744			4,983,183
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Dec 23'	1		Cost -	1,126	€0.00	Average Value when in O/D :			€6.7M	