

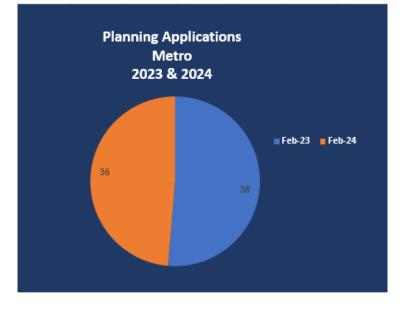
Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan Meeting – March 2024

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Planning Applications Received – Metropolitan Area

36 Planning applications were received in Metropolitan Area in February 2024. This compares with 38 planning applications received for the same period in 2023.





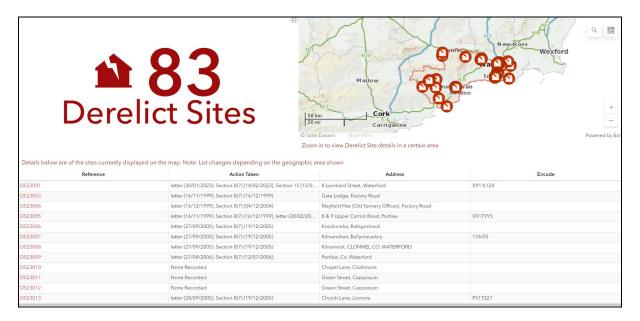


DERELICT SITES

The Derelict Sites Team are currently dealing with 278 properties that are considered either derelict or potentially derelict. The activity in recent months has substantially increased with 83 derelict properties identified and on the Derelict Sites Register.

To date we have 278 Derelict Site files open.

• Waterford Metro District = 176 Open Files.



The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in February '24.

Derelict Sites	February	Waterford Metro District
No. of new files opened	15	7
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	-	-
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	4	2
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	-	-
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase Acquisitions (CPA) (see note below)	2	2
No of Vesting Orders signed	3	3

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACQUISITION OF DERELICT SITES (CPA)

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide funding for Compulsory Purchase Acquisition's on a rolling basis for Waterford/ Dungarvan and Tramore 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.

On the 27th February 2024 Waterford City and County Council were granted approval for a further 56 properties which will be funded for under URDF Call 3. The total number of properties that the Council have been approved for under URDF Call 3 is 130. These additional approved properties will widen the goal posts and make it easier for the Derelict Sites Team to meet their CPA/CPO targets going forward. The break down and distribution of these additional properties is as follows:



• Waterford Metro Area = 36 Additional Properties.

There were 2 CPA's initiated in February and publicly advertised. The deadline for submissions expires at the start of April. The Council will move to the vesting process where applications for registration of title will be made to the Property Registration Authority. The proposed acquisition by CPA are at the following locations:

- 6 Sion Row, Dock Road, Ferrybank, Waterford City
- 29 Great Georges Street, Waterford City, X91 YH92

In March, 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.

Forward Planning March Plenary Report

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Draft Annual Revised Map

On the 1st of February last, Waterford City and County Council prepared and published the RZLT draft annual revised map for the 2025 tax liability year where the following general stages apply to the annual mapping process:

- Publication of a draft annual revised map followed by a 2-month period of public consultation, accompanied by
 placement of advertisements in local press and across Waterford Council social media accounts;
- Receipt of written submissions from landowners and consideration thereof;
- Notification of written determinations made by Waterford Council to the relevant landowners who made written submissions to the draft map;
- Making of appeals to An Bord Pleanála where landowners are aggrieved by the determination of the council;
- Publication of final annual revised map at the start of the relevant tax liability year followed by a repeat of the process to prepare a new draft annual revised map.

The draft annual revised map is available to view on the council consultation portal consult.waterfordcouncil.ie. Written submissions can be made by relevant landowners querying the inclusion of their land up to the 1st of April 2024 and at time of writing one single written submission has been received which is published on the portal. We will keep the plenary council updated on principal issues arising during the process of preparing the final annual revised map throughout the year.

Local Area Plans (LAP) and Local Transport Plans (LTP) for Dungarvan/Ballinroad and Tramore

We are awaiting confirmation from the NTA of our recommendation to appoint consultants to prepare the local transport plans. It is intended that both the LTP and LAP for each of the settlements can progress concurrently following appointment of the relevant transport consultants. We will continue to inform the Council of progress in this regard.

Heritage Officer Report

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024

The Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme is now open for applications. This is for community/voluntary and not-for-profit organisations nationwide to apply for funding for heritage projects. The closing date for applications is Monday, 25th of March 2024 at 5pm. Applications must be made via the Heritage Council's online grants management system. Funded projects must be completed by 15th of November 2024. Last year, seven Waterford-based projects were funded through the scheme. These included the restoration of an 18th century oil painting of the Medieval Cathedral in Waterford and the funding conservation management report of a Well House at Mount Melleray Abbey.



World Wetlands Day February 2nd

World Wetlands Day was celebrated on February 2nd at the bird hide in Tramore Nature Park where well known nature enthusiast Denis Cullen of the Irish Wildlife Trust gave a talk on the range of birdlife on the Back Strand.

Biodiversity Officer Appointment

Waterford City and County Council have appointed a Biodiversity Officer, Marina Mulligan who commenced her post on March 4th based in Forward Planning Section. Marina will be working on community biodiversity outreach and developing the Waterford Biodiversity Action Plan.