

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
April 2024

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Príomhfheidhmeannach
Aibreán 2024

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Management Report Plenary 11th April 2024.

Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate.

Mayors Official Engagements March 2024.

Friday 1st	N Tutor on Track, SETU Arena, Waterford.
Saturday 2nd	Thomas Francis Meagher Tri Colour Dinner, Granville Hotel, Waterford.
Sunday 3rd	Ceremonial raising of the National Flag, The Mall, Co. Waterford. Celebration of International Women's Day, Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Waterford.
Monday 4th	Healthy Ageing Seminar, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.
Tuesday 5th	Assessment Group Local Enhancement Programme 2024- Online. Student Enterprise Awards - County Final, The Tower Hotel, Waterford. Launch of National Tree Week, Elm Park, Tramore, Waterford.
Thursday 7th	Photocall for Climate Action Plan, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford. Waterford VTOS (WWETB) Awards Ceremony, Tower Hotel, Waterford.
Friday 8th	Mayors Welcome for relatives of Dr. Mary Strangman, City Hall, Waterford. National Enterprise Awards, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford. Building and Design Awards, Intercontinental Hotel, Ballsbridge Dublin.
Monday 11th	RIAI/DHLGH National Housing Conference, Tower Hotel, Waterford. Launch of the Roses from the Heart Exhibition, SETU, Cork Road, Waterford.
Tuesday 12th	City of Waterford Brass - Metropolitan Mayoral Reception.
Thursday 14th	All Ireland Housing Awards 2024, The Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin.
Friday 15th	Photocall launch of the NTAs Walking and Cycling Index 2023, Billbery, Waterford.
Saturday 16th	Spoken Word Event, Cultural Quarter, Waterford. Multicultural Celebration of Language and culture, St. Patricks Gateway, Waterford.
Sunday 17th	St. Patricks Day Celebrations- Attended by different representatives.
Tuesday 19th	George Morrisson Mayoral Reception- Dublin. Probus Lunch, Tower Hotel, Waterford.
Thursday 21st	Estuary men's Shed - Metropolitan Mayoral Reception.
Friday 22nd	Waterford and District Junior League Mayoral Reception. Renaming of the Dr. Mary Strangman Large Room, The Mall, Waterford.
Saturday 23rd	Waterford and District Junior League Book Launch, Tower Hotel, Waterford.
Wednesday 27th	Freedom of the City for Gilbert O'Sullivan.
Thursday 28th	Visit Carthen Controls. Industrial Park, Co. Waterford.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development North Quays

The North Quays main contract works programme is significantly advanced and progressing well. The substructure works for the Sustainable Transport Bridge is continuing, the first of four piers is now visible within the most southerly cofferdam. The fabrication of the steel deck superstructure in Belgium is c. 75% complete. The pile support slab for the South Plaza is substantially complete.

The Transport Hub building concourse and the support walls for the station concourse and columns are substantially complete, with works continuing on the station platforms. Works have also progressed to installing the bridge/ concourse precast beams and external lift shafts.

Road and access infrastructure is progressing well, with works continuing on the various bridge structures, in particular with western access bridge and greenway underpasses. Traffic management measures continue to be in place, with works continuing along the median at Dock Road / Fountain Street.

Pump Station

Testing and commissioning for the new Pump Station is ongoing and substantial completion is anticipated in May 2024.

Ferrybank Pump station and greenway underpass viewed from Abbey Road Flood Defence Scheme

Stage 1 detailed design for the Flood Defence Scheme to the west of Plunkett Station is complete.



Local Enterprise Office

Local Enterprise Office figures

Indicator	Local Enterprise Office figures		Additional Supports	
	At end of Mar 2023	At end of Mar 2024	No. of App	Value of App
Measure 1				
No. of Clients applying	5	15		
No. of Clients securing	5	15		
Value of support approved	€116,220	€161,060		
Measure 2				
No. of clients receiving	983	812		
Value of support given	€108,709	€77,114		

*Lean For Business and Green For Business approvals were included in Measure 2 support figures for 2023.

Expat Taxes wins Waterford National Enterprise Award:

Expat Taxes Ltd., a Waterford company specialising in tax for expatriates has been named as Waterford's Enterprise Award winner and will go on to represent Waterford at the 24th National Enterprise Awards which will take place in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Thursday May 23rd 2024.

The other four finalists in the Waterford NEAs were:

- Euro Tachograph Solutions Ltd
- CMC Hygea Ltd
- Reso Health Ltd
- Uoto Ltd

The Waterford Enterprise Awards took place as part of the Local Enterprise Week programme, with over 200 participants engaging in 15 events held across Waterford City and County from March 4th to 8th.



Communications

The Communications Department distributed 15 media releases.

The Communications Department drafted 6 Mayoral speeches.

In-house graphic design:

Communications department designed a Media pack for the conferring of the Freedom of Waterford City and County on Gilbert O' Sullivan.

QR code also provided link to digital copy for download and social media assets for livestream.

Annual report

Compilation and design of 36-page 2023 Annual Report

Think Waterford First Campaign

Radio:

Accolades and Invest copy airing w/c March 4th to w/c April 15th

- Newstalk
- Dublin's 98FM
- Limerick Live 95
- Cork's RedFM
- Galway Bay
- Beat 102-103
- WLRfm
- East Coast Radio (Wicklow)
- KFM (Kildare)

Press:

Irish Times Special Content Piece – published March 25th

Management Report Plenary 11th April 2024.



GILBERT O'SULLIVAN
FREEDOM OF WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY
March 27th, 2024



Annual Report 2023



3 Appendices

Launch of new Waterford City and County Council website:

The site went live on March 5th. It is extremely user-friendly, easier to navigate and makes relevant information easier to find. There have been considerable accessibility improvements, ensuring the site is highly accessible, with ongoing improvements in this area to promote and champion inclusivity.

Streamlining processes make for a more efficient service, with interactions quicker and more straightforward.

With enhanced language ability the site is available in 12 languages.

The site is also designed with energy efficiency in mind, supporting WCCC's commitment to sustainability.



Top 10 pages not including homepage:

- Planning
- All Services
- Vacancies
- Pay Online
- Viewing a Planning Application
- Choice Based Letting
- Latest News
- All Documents
- Contact Us

Language Translation:
Irish
Arabic
Spanish
German
Ukrainian

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

	Reach	% Change	Followers	% Change
March	426,187	-15%	49,264*	1%
February	501,305	-6%	48,902	1%

Downloads: 17,758

Page Views:

136,769

Unique Page

Views:

107,038(+20.7%)

Viewing Device:

Smartphone +60.7%

Desktop 35.8%

Tablet 1.8%

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

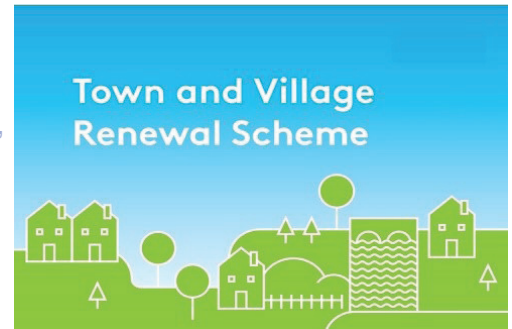
Town Village Renewal Scheme 2022 – Marketing Measure

Marketing Measure project description was to develop and deliver a cohesive, integrated marketing campaign for Waterford, which would target remote workers and mobile talent.

Delivered by the Councils Communications Team, the “Think Waterford First” campaign was hugely successful in increasing brand awareness and reach.

- o The campaign reached around 7.2 Million unique users.
- o The promotional video recorded over 1.8 Million views

The project was supported by a grant under the 2022 Town Village Renewal Scheme, monies claimed March 2024.



RURAL TOURISM

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

Currently implementing 12 projects around the county, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) between 2020 and 2023.

Greenway Feasibility Studies

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



TOURISM

Visit Waterford Update

Membership increased to 55: Following consistent efforts from Visit Waterford and the establishment of a membership sub-committee member numbers are growing steadily.

Increased online visibility and engagement: in a recent report on 2023 activity VW highlighted that Engagement across all Visit Waterford online platforms increased significantly:

- oWebsite traffic increased by over 35% resulting in over 100,000 users
- oFacebook Followers: 31,000 (+7%)
- oInstagram Followers: 8,410 (+17%)

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New York Times Article: VW commissioned the creation of a video showcasing the recent awards and accolades, including Waterford featuring in the New York Times Top 52 places to go in 2024, won by the county. This video was sent to all VW members for them to use and issued to the media with a press release promoting the Best of Waterford experience. As a result, VW was featured in Hospitality News, Dining in Dublin and by Pól O Conghaile on The Today Show.

Winter Ad Campaign: Jan – March

Paid ads included 2 social uplift features on the Irish Independent with a guaranteed reach of 160,000 per video. The first video showcased the tourism offering in Waterford City and brought audiences to the Best of Waterford experience on the Visit Waterford Website. The second showcased the county and brought visitors to the explore page on the VW website. VW also ran a print ad in the Irish Independent Spring Supplement. A further digital ad will be released on March 24th. Visit Waterford also had radio ads running on Beat and Today FM. Visit Waterford are currently running a competition on Lorcan Murray's Classic Drive for a 2 night stay, B&B and dinner on one evening at The Tower Hotel.

Portia Jones-Travel Goals Podcast

VW worked with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland to welcome Portia Jones to Waterford, Portia visited a number of VW members during her visit including, Waterford Treasures, Sólás na Mara, Waterford Distillery and Mount Congreve Gardens. She produced a 2 part podcast as a result of her visit. VW have established a working group to facilitate a coordinated welcome for cruise ships to Waterford, ensuring passengers can experience as much of Waterford as possible during their visit. The group includes representatives from VW, WCCC, Port of Waterford, Bus Eireann, Excursions Ireland, Volunteer Waterford and the Harbour Master in Dunmore East. Actions have been agreed and the group are working together to deliver clear communications and transport options to passengers as well as ensuring they have a warm welcome through the Waterford Ambassador Programme.

Waterford's St. Patrick's Day Festival 2024

VW worked with WCCC to promote the four day St. Patrick's Day Festival in Waterford City. As part of the promotional activities VW ran a number of international ad campaigns across digital platforms reaching approx. 162,000 people across North America, UK, France and Germany. The domestic campaign included digital ads, competitions and a press release. As a result of the press release The St. Patrick's Day Festival was featured in a number of regional and national publications, including Irish Country Magazine, The Irish Star and Waterford Live.

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

The next Economic Development & Enterprise SPC will be held in October 2024.

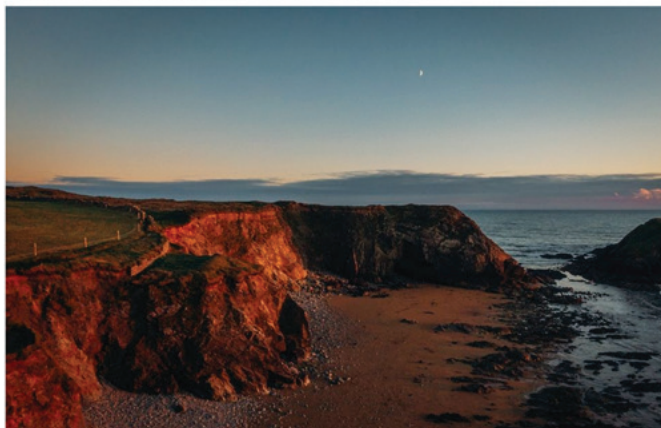
Irish Independent

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Explore Waterford: Plan the ultimate trip to Ireland's Ancient East this Summer

Discover the best of Waterford, as seen in The New York Times.



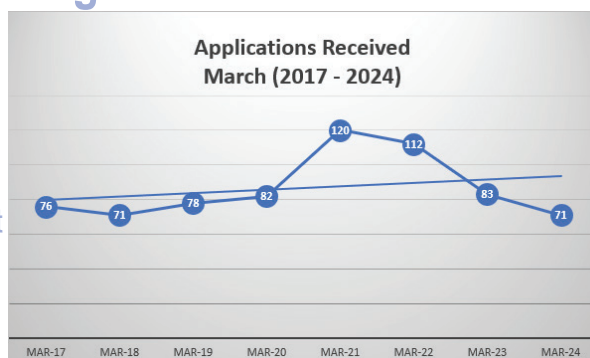
Pleanáil / Planning

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED – COUNTYWIDE

71 Planning applications were received countywide in March 2024. This compares to 83 planning applications received for the same period in 2023.

A total of 215 planning applications were received in the year to 31st March 2024. This compares to 220 planning applications which were received in the same period in 2023.

54 Planning applications were granted in March 2024 with 7 applications refused.



Derelict Sites

The Derelict Sites Team are currently dealing with 280 properties that are considered either derelict or potentially derelict. The activity in recent weeks has substantially increased with 82 derelict 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. To date we have 280 Derelict Site files open.

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 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..

Derelict Sites

	March	Total		March	Total
No. of new files opened	2	280	No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	17
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	0	81	No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase Acquisitions (CPA)(See Note)	2	27
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register		55	No of Vesting Orders signed		7

One property was removed from the Derelict Sites Register in March. The derelict sites team successfully worked with the property owner to bring this property back out of dereliction.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACQUISITION OF DERELICT SITES (CPA)

There were 2 CPA's initiated in March 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. In April, we are commencing work on three further CPAs.

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.

Heritage Officer Report

Decade of Commemorations

Waterford's Two Civil wars- Armed conflict and national strife in Waterford 1922-1924 a publication by Dr. Pat McCarthy will take place on Wednesday April 3rd in the Garden Room of Waterford Medieval Museum. The book was funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media's Decade of Commemorations Fund. The Department have allocated €15,000 for the 2024 Commemorations Fund which will be allocated to support of film and publications and a programme celebrating the Irish language in the development of the Free State in 1924.

Heritage Plan Grant Scheme

All four projects submitted to the Heritage Council's Heritage Plan Fund have been successful and funding has been allocated.

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2024

Over 10 applications have been submitted from community groups across the county for the Heritage Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme. The fund is open to community/voluntary and not-for-profit organisations for heritage projects which must be completed by 15th of November 2024. Last year, seven Waterford-based projects were funded through the scheme.

Community Monuments Scheme

Six applications have been submitted from projects across the City and County under the Community Monuments Scheme 2024 which provides funding for the conservation and interpretation of archaeological sites and monuments pre-1700. The outcome of the application process will be known by end of April.

Conservation Officer

Waterford receives €506,693 in funding for Built Heritage

Malcolm Noonan TD, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced funding under 2 schemes for Protected Structures and historic buildings - the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024 and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2024.

In Waterford, funding of €242,400 will be provided for 27 projects for private and public buildings in the city and county under the BHIS scheme. This will support works such as the repair of historic roofs, walls and chimneys, repair of joinery and repair of historic stained glass. This funding also includes €73,793 which has been ring-fenced specifically for thatch house projects.

Under the Historic Structure Fund €264,000 has been allocated for 4 projects.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing Applications				
<i>* inc files from carried forward</i>	March 2023	Year 2023	March 2024	Year to date 2024
Applications received	184	2127	206	600
Applications assessed *	47	567	62	192
Applications Validated*	98	N/A	127	N/A
Approved for social housing supports following interview	39	N/A	53	N/A

Housing Allocations

Housing Allocations					
	New Tenancies March 2023	Cumulative Tenancies 2023	New Tenancies March 2024	Refusal of new Tenancies	Cumulative Tenancies 2024
	25	388	17	11	71

CHOICE BASED LETTING (CBL) SCHEME

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 1,342 There have been 359 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					
March	7	6	2	1	7
Year to date	24	8	6	3	7

Tenant Purchase applications

	Applications received	Applications awaiting info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
2024 Tenant Purchase					
March	4	4	3	6	0
Year to date 2024	25	13	13	13	1
Year to date 2023	17	1	7	14	12

Housing Assistance Payment

	March 2023 HAP Tenancies	March 2024 HAP Tenancies	"24 No. of active HAP Tenancies set up	Applications approved	Cumalitive number of active HAP tenancies to date
HAP Tenancies	29	24	-15	4,882	1614

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Inspections of Dwellings

HAP Dwellings Inspected	34
Dwellings Requiring Improvements	32
PRTB inspections carried out	103

Housing First Programme

Tenancies 2024	
Number of Tenancies in place at 24th March 2024 with Housing First supports.	Feb
	33

In March, Waterford City & County Council carried out 314 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 5 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 March 2024	Value of applications March 2024	Cumulative number of applications approved 2024	Cumulative value of 2024 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	10	€89,691.00	39	€285,865.50
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	0	€0.00	2	€64,890.00
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	20	€114,445.25	62	€313,674.12

Housing Grant Applications Received & Validated:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:	Housing Grant Applications Incomplete & Returned:
46	12	30

Homeless Services

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS)	26th Feb – 24th March	Cumulative 2024	Total 2023
Number of Callers to WIHS seeking a service	273	776	3,404
Assessments by a Homeless Officer	80	218	961

Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation

	24th March 2024	24th March 2023
Number of Single Persons	78	63
Number of Families	21	16
Number of Adults in Families	36	19
Number of Children	42	30

HAP PlaceFinder Service

	26th Feb – 24th March	Cumulative 2024
Number of Assessments by the Homeless HAP Officer	26	78
Number of HAP PlaceFinder Tenancies HUB Complete	13	39

Capital Projects

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects

<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Units</i>
Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects	375
<i>Part V</i>	43
<i>Repair and Lease Buy & Renew – Countywide</i>	128
Total Units in WCCC Projects	676

Housing Capital Schemes - Approved Housing Body Projects

	<i>Units</i>
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects	99

Housing Efficiency Retrofit

Total Units: 81

REFURBISHING OF HOUSES

BECOMING VACANT FOR RE LET:

<i>March 2024</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Handed over/ Works completed</i>	8
<i>Newley Vacant</i>	8

TENANT “IN-SITU” SCHEME

135 Enquiries received

40 Waiting to hear back from Vendor for further information

32 Sale Completed

29 Sale Agreed

7 Offers made and awaiting to hear back from Vendors

4 Awaiting WCCC inspection/ Independent Valuation

23 Not proceeding (reasons below)

3x Tenant left property themselves

2x Tenant doesn't want to stay in the property and has requested transfer

Tenant's allowed stay in property by landlord, landlord didn't want to proceed further.

7x Not suitable for tenant in-situ scheme and informed about Cost Rental Tenant in-situ scheme

Landlord want's to sell to highest bidder on the open market

3x Can't reach agreement with Landlord.

4x Tenants accepted alternative social housing unit.

2x Vendor wanted property back for themselves to live in.

3x Property is located in Kilkenny and being looked at by Kilkenny Co Co.

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Waterford City and County Council (WCCC), at its plenary meeting on 14th March 2024, approved 288 allocations under the Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2024. The scheme provides grant aid assistance to community groups, residents associations and sports clubs who are engaged in community activity, providing community services or carrying out improvement works. The total fund for 2024 was €241,430. Waterford LCDC, at its meeting on 14th March 2024, approved 164 allocations under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024 General Fund (total fund of €153,405.12) and a further 26 allocations under the ring fenced Women's Fund (total fund €31,824.28).

The LEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by Waterford LCDC / WCCC. It's aimed at supporting groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with minor capital works and improvements to their facilities, and the purchase of equipment for community use. The Community Recognition Fund 2024 was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys on the 15th March. Once finalised, details of the fund will be included on the Council's website and communicated via the PPN and the Council's social media fora.

LEADER 2023-2027

Applications for the first targeted call were due at 12 noon on Thursday, 14 March 2024. Based on engagements the current estimate is 7 projects. The Evaluation Committee convened on 27 March 2024 and the recommended projects will be submitted to the LAG Meeting of 11 April 2024. The second deadline is: 10 May 2024 (12 weeks for works projects) Of the 63 EOIs received, 12 were found to be ineligible. The list of ineligible EOIs was submitted and will be reviewed at the next LCDC/LAG meeting.

LEADER 2014-2022

Inputs were submitted for the Annual LEADER Programme Report. There are currently five projects of which two are about to closed out.

ST. PATRICK'S PARADE AND FESTIVAL

A post event report for St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival 2024 is being compiled and will be available at the next plenary meeting. The Festival programme included the parade, 30 live music events, cultural attractions, historical events and family fun activities. Initial feedback from the general public, commercial sector and partner organisations has been very positive.

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)

Sample Projects Committed to for 2024

- Playful Streets
- Social Farming
- Place Based Approach to Community Wellbeing – Clashmore Kinsalebeg
- Connecting Community Roadshows
- Healthy Growing in the Community via GIY and Growing Consultants
- Autism Friendly Cities
- Aiseiri Community Project
- TREO and RENEW Enterprises
- Additional Place Based Approach to Community Wellbeing area

General Update

Healthy Waterford, a leading organization in promoting wellness within the community of Waterford, has undoubtedly made remarkable progress in the past year. Thanks to its dedicated efforts and unwavering commitment, we have witnessed significant improvements in the community sector, especially within the Waterford City and County Council. One of the key objectives of Healthy Waterford has been to fulfil its targets set by the Department of Health.

One of the most noteworthy achievements of Healthy Waterford in the current year has been the successful execution of Connecting Community Roadshows within the Municipal District Model of Wellbeing with the PPN. These roadshows have not only created awareness about the importance of health and wellness in the community, but they have also brought people together and fostered a sense of unity and solidarity among them. But Healthy Waterford does not intend to stop there. It has already scheduled Connecting Community Roadshows on an ongoing basis and are working on inclusion on Municipal District meetings on an annual basis, ensuring that the message of health and wellness reaches every nook and corner of the community. This proactive approach towards promoting and encouraging a healthier lifestyle is truly commendable and deserves recognition.

The second consecutive launch of the much-awaited 'Playful Streets' initiative by Healthy Waterford has been a massive success. This program aims to transform the streets into safe and playful areas for children to engage in physical activities, promoting a more active lifestyle. This year, the number of expressions of interest received for 'Playful Streets' has surpassed all expectations, with over 40 enthusiastic communities signing up. This not only indicates the increasing popularity of the program but also showcases the growing awareness among the community regarding the importance of physical activity for overall health and well-being. It is evident that Healthy Waterford has emerged as a pioneer in promoting and advocating for a healthier and happier community. It's efforts and initiatives have not only improved the physical health of individuals but have also positively impacted their mental and emotional well-being.

KEY PROJECT SPOTLIGHT – SOCIAL FARMING

Thanks to a robust collaboration among stakeholders, the council and these groups have successfully formed positive relationships. 8 Social Farming Placements took place, one day a week, for 12 weeks. 9 participants took part in the placements and 100 Social Farming days were delivered. Social Farming provides outcome focused placements for people accessing support services. The participants that attended the farms as part of this funding came from Intellectual Disability services. This enables the participants do normal everyday activities that we all do. The participants also helped out prepare for a local event which gave them the opportunity to work with local people which they may not have met otherwise. It is all the time integrating people with ID in our community.

NEW INITIATIVE – MINDING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH MESSAGING FOR WATERFORD GAA CLUBS

Initiated in partnership with the HSE Connecting for Life Team in South East Community Healthcare, the signage highlights ways that you can mind your mental health and promotes the services available if you need to access support. The signage was developed in collaboration with Healthy Waterford/WCCC, Mental Health Ireland and the Waterford GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee. 52 signs will be delivered to GAA clubs and a launch took place recently. It is the intention of the Waterford GAA health and Wellbeing committee, supported by Healthy Waterford, to continue this action throughout 2024 and embed the signage initiative.

NEW INITIATIVE – GROW IT FORWARD

Over 450 packs of food growing equipment were distributed. This has over 2000 packets that will support local communities to grow their own food. This will entail a 12-week programme of education. GROW it Forward is a food education & sustainability programme designed to educate, inspire and empower individuals to grow, share and understand how their local action can deliver global impact. GIY & Healthy Waterford will undertake pre and post programme evaluation to understand the Food Empathy impact of GROW it Forward. Food Empathy are the changes in knowledge, behaviour and attitude that happens when people start to grow some of their own food.

SLÁINTECARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME (SHCP):

- Work continues on progressing the various projects under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme with two seed funded projects in 2023 being completed and other 2 close to completion.

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- The open competition for the Seed Fund in 2024 is advertised on the PPN website with the deadline for applications being the 5th April 2024.
- Ongoing work continues with community groups, and all funding applicants will be contacted to discuss their projects in more detail.

WATERFORD LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (WLCSP):

COMMUNITY SAFETY INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS:

On the two successful 2023 Grant Applications to the Community Safety Innovation Fund, the recruitment process has been initiated for a Tackling Sexual Violence & Harassment (TSVH) Project Officer for the 'Consent Matters' Project is with HR in Waterford City & County Council.

WLCSP MEETINGS:

The next WLCSP Plenary Meeting, which is a public meeting is scheduled for Monday 8th April 2023 at 5pm in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan. A Steering & Oversight Group Meeting took place online on Thursday 28th March 2024.

WLCSP is participating in the WCCC 'Connecting Communities' initiative.

WLCSP Co-ordinator attended the Domestic, Sexual, and Gender Based Violence – Cross Border Sharing Learning Workshop in Drogheda on 12th March 2024, and prepared a briefing for the Partnership.

The Chair, Co-ordinator and Partner members attended the Anti Racism Symposium on 6th March 2024, where the Chair presented on the Community Safety Plan in relation to racism. The Chair, Sean Aylward, & Eddie Mulligan, Co-ordinator attended the Launch of the Garda Youth Awards on 1st March 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 105,500 (@ 24th March) 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 directly to over 2,110 Ukrainian refugees in the Council run rest centres and have matched over 1,586 of those with pledged and Council sourced accommodation. Over 760 Ukrainians are accommodated in pledged properties throughout Waterford currently with new pledges required on an ongoing basis. Any queries on same should be directed to offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie or 058 22059

MIGRANT INTEGRATION:

The last Migrant Integration Strategy Meeting took place on the 27th March 2024 and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 29th May 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 and should be completed shortly.

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. The SICAP sub-committee met on 7th March last. Waterford Area Partnership gave presentations on the 2023 End of Year Report and the 2024 Annual Plan. The annual plan was subsequently approved by the sub-committee. KPI Targets as set out in the tender process are 79 for Goal 1 and 949 for Goal 2. The subcommittee decided on the following local priority target groups "living with disability", "people living in jobless and low paid households" and "people living with disadvantage". Percentage targets for the local priority target groups will be negotiated with Waterford Area Partnership in the coming weeks.

CLÁR MEASURE 1 - DEVELOPING COMMUNITY FACILITIES & AMENITIES

The Letter of Offer was issued by the DRCD and the Acceptance of Funding Agreement was returned to the Department on 12th February. All successful projects which received funding were notified and sent the terms and conditions in relation to the scheme.

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 month of March.

Fire Service Operational Activity:

Area	Fires	Special Services	False alarm/ Good intent	False alarm /Malicious
Total for March 2024	28	29	18	0
Year to date 2024	104	150	55	0
Total for March 2023	67	50	19	0
Year to date 2023	166	126	62	0

FIRE SAFETY:

Fire Safety:

	March 2024	YTD 2024	March 2023	YTD 2023
Fire Safety Certificates	8	20	9	38

Building Control:

Applications received	March 2024	2024 YTD	March 2023	2023 YTD
Commencement Notices	42	90	28	285
Completion Certificates	24	54	21	211
Disability Access Certs	4	11	2	65

New functions associated with the Building Control Regulations, introduced on 1st March 2014, are being delivered within Emergency Services. Notices and applications associated with these regulations are shown above.

CIVIL DEFENCE:

Civil Defence activities during the month of March 2024 continues with assistance in the response to the urgent needs of the Displaced Persons (DP's) fleeing from the effects of the Ukraine Crisis.

- Logistical support & Transport of over 12 Ukraine related calls
- Transportation to Medical appointments such as Hospital Visits, GPs, Dentists etc

For Local Events we were involved in supporting:

- Thomas Francis Meagher Tri Colour Celebrations
- St Patricks Day Parades
- Missing Person Search assisting the Gardai
- RSA Joint Agency Road Safety Promotion
- National Long Service Medal Ceremony for 40 & 50 years of service to Civil Defence, Trinity College, Dublin

The Civil Defence volunteers have also completed a number of Core skills courses like Cardiac First Responder and Manual Handling courses.

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS:

1ST JANUARY 2024 – 25TH MARCH 2024

Environmental Inspectors employed	4
Litter Fines Issued	47
Fines issued under the Waste Collection Permit Regulations	0
Cases where legal proceedings have or are about to be initiated	5
Warning Letters issued	53
Directions under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act 1996 (WMA)	5
Statutory Notices under Section 55 of the WMA	8
Statutory Notices under Section 18 of the WMA	0
No. Households contacted re: Waste	22
Total Environmental Complaints/Reports Received	846
• Litter	365
• Waste Complaints	319
• Construction and Demolition Waste Complaints	5
• Air & Odour	14
• Noise	3

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Climate Action Plan is now published and available for viewing on the Climate Team website, <https://waterfordcouncil.ie/services/environment/climate-action/> in our Civic Offices and in Lady Lane and Dungarvan Libraries.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Green-Schools promotes long-term, whole-school action for the environment Green-Schools with primary and secondary schools. There are 61 schools in Co. Waterford due to renew their Green Flag this year. A renewal visit must take place before a school submits a renewal application form for their renewal Green Flags (Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and the Global Citizenship themes). Renewal visits are carried out by the Environment Awareness Officer. The purpose of the visit is to demonstrate that the school has an active Green-Schools programme in operation and has been maintaining previous themes in addition to working on the current theme. Schools applying must first complete an assessment visit from the Environment Awareness Officer before submitting their renewal application. All Green Schools working on a flag for this current school year must receive a visit and submit an application by 15th March. Themes range from Litter & Waste to Water and Biodiversity. This has meant lots of school visits have been taking place recently to meet with Green School Committees and talks to classes.

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 to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter is then organised for after the clean-up takes place. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April. Registrations are now being taken at www.nationalspringclean.org As part of this the Environment Department supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter for all clean ups. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.

WORKSHOPS

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. Environment's display will focus on waste prevention.

Rubbish Schools Film Festival

The Environment Department is working with Createschool to offer 5 secondary schools in County Waterford the opportunity to participate the Rubbish Film. 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. All costs are covered by the Environment Section of Waterford City & County Council. An awards ceremony will take place in late April for this



Management Report Plenary 11th April 2024.

Libraries

In March, Waterford City & County Libraries were full of activity with many courses and classes operating regularly throughout the month.

<u>No. of Visitors this month</u>	<u>38,734</u>
<u>Active members</u>	<u>26,095</u>
<u>Issues in Branch</u>	<u>28,241</u>
<u>Online Borrowing including, ebooks & emagazines</u>	<u>10,079</u>
<u>Events & Activities</u>	<u>140+</u>

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH:

- Writers in Waterford Libraries - author and musician Sandy Kelly. She was interviewed by acting City & County Librarian Mary Conway about her book, 'In My Own words', and took the time to perform a few songs as well. Over 40 people attended.
- The final of the Munster-wide JCSP 2024 South East Superspellers Challenge was held on March 12th, 11 schools participated with a team from De La salle declared the overall winners, and Mount Sion and St Pauls taking runners up spots.
- Bhí éachtraí go leor i Leabharlanna Phort Láirge do Sheachtain na Gaeilge - Bingó as Gaeilge, Ciorcal Cainte, Maidin Caife agus cuairt ó Amy ó Wikimedia Community Ireland chun an scéal a scaipeadh faoi Vicipéid.
- Marcus Copley of Waterford Civic trust gave a Tuesday night talk about the Blue Plaques of Waterford on March 26th, this was the second event in this series.
- Aslam hosted a series of career workshop for autistic adults on March 21st & 28th, these workshops will continue into April.
- Waterford's 5th Global Women's conference took place on March 8th. The theme was Inspire Inclusion and speakers included Nyanchama Okemwa, Chair, European Network Against Racism (ENAR), the Malayalee Dance Troop, Dymphna Nugent, WLR and Amy Uí Riordáin, Oifigeach Gaeilge | Irish Language Officer, Pobal Wikimedia na hÉireann. Over 85 people attended.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Spring into Storytime will run in April across all branches.
- West Waterford festival of food will host an exhibition of historical appliances.
- Createschool will facilitate a workshop on podcasting for teens on April 5th.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT:

- Waterford Library staff participated in training with Down Syndrome Ireland on running book clubs for their community.
- Smartphone classes to breach the digital divide.
- My Open Library services enabling access 7 days a week from 8am to 10pm in our Tramore branch is fully operational with almost 100 registrations in its first few weeks.
- Waterford New Communities network meets monthly and works to connect local migrant communities with service providers.



Airgeadas / Finance Revenue Account

Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division Y.T.D. to February 29, 2024

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A Housing & Building	6,730,055	41,563,728	16%	7,186,881	44,314,893	16%
B Road Transport & Safety	4,370,952	51,275,588	9%	1,720,432	35,389,805	5%
C Water Services	1,469,521	11,132,863	13%	1,356,131	10,471,953	13%
D Development Management	3,956,944	28,239,462	14%	2,092,616	16,909,187	12%
E Environmental Services	3,620,364	23,749,974	15%	420,123	4,363,080	10%
F Recreation & Amenity	2,808,618	16,449,172	17%	423,632	2,047,469	21%
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	156,542	1,114,946	14%	36,317	402,240	9%
H Miscellaneous Services	1,573,121	9,786,133	16%	1,796,533	11,137,972	16%
LG Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	3,527,557	21,165,340	17%
RA Rates	0	0	0%	6,184,988	37,109,928	17%
	24,686,117	183,311,867	13%	24,745,208	183,311,867	13%
Surplus/Deficit				59,091	0	

Collections

Airgeadas
Finance

Summary of main collections Feb 2024 YTD

	A Gross Bal as at 1-1-2024	B Accrued ytd to Feb 2024	C Write Offs and Vacancies	D Waivers & Credits	E Total for Collection [1+2-3]	F Collected ytd to Feb 2024	G' Gross Bal 29-02-2024 [4-5]	[6] Specific Provision	[6] % Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	[7] % Collected ytd re 2024 Accrual & collectable [5/(4-1)]
Rates	2,044,492	36,614,101	-	-	38,658,593	6,380,295	32,278,298	1,300,000	17%	17%
Loans	1,372,693	573,726	-	-	1,946,419	575,121	1,371,298		30%	100%
Rents	5,120,781	1,455,097	6,065		6,581,943	1,916,583	4,665,360		29%	131%
Aged Analysis :										
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths			Net Balance
Rates				-	30,671,902	-	1,606,396			32,278,298
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths			
Loans				115,779	62,134	112,555	1,080,830			1,371,298
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks			
Rents				164,516	105,446	164,781	4,230,617			4,665,360
Overdraft Levels										
Days in Overdraft in Feb 24'	0		Cost -	0	€0.00		Average Value when in O/D :		0	