

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNGARVAN/LISMORE**

Economic Development Report July 2024

1. Trails

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023.

June 4th: Minister Humphreys announces €926,515 Outdoor Recreation Funding Boost for Waterford - Under Measures 2 and 3 of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023 funding of €926,515 has been announced for four projects in County Waterford giving a further boost to outdoor recreation and local communities in the county.

- Crough Wood Walk – Embankment stabilization project: €175,505 in ORIS funding
- Dunmore East Coastal Walk – Upgrade of Steps at Portally Cove: €108,000 in ORIS funding
- Benvoy Beach - Upgrade of existing access to beach: €143,010 in ORIS funding
- **Ardmore Beach – Development of 870m walkway at Ardmore Beach: €500,000 in ORIS funding.**

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022.

The following ORIS 2022 projects in progress currently:

- Cappoquin Railway Loop Walk (Measure 3): Preparing detailed design and tender documents with the aim of commencing the procurement process before end July 2024.
- Villierstown Access to River Blackwater (Project Development Measure) – Tobin Consulting engineers have been appointed as design team to prepare planning application of enhanced amenities and access to the water for recreation at Villierstown Quay and environs: Project Development Measure.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020:

Progress: Measure 3 project:

- Ballinacourty Greenway Spur and Ballinclammer Beach Access: Works currently underway on above mentioned project to improve access to the beach from Ballinclammer car park.

Waterford Trails

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

2. Tourism

Waterford Rural Tourism Network

The Waterford Rural Tourism Network (WRTN), is continuing to develop. Since the beginning of 2024 the following have been delivered by Runda Hospitality: Networking events, Online & in-person meetings, First of 5 Learning Journeys, FI Programmes, B2C workshops. There is much more planned for delivery by the end of 2024.

DEDP Implementation Group

As the Waterford Destination & Experience Development Plan (DEDP) nears completion a stakeholder Implementation Group has been established to ensure the tourism industry has a clear voice in the delivery of actions and projects identified in the plan. Two in-person meetings have taken place to date.

Ireland From Above Filming

A new 6 part series being filmed in Ireland for broadcast on PBS in the US has commenced filming in Waterford. We can look forward to a full 25min episode showcasing the intriguing stories and sites of interest in Waterford City and County being broadcast to millions of viewers in the US.

Visit Waterford Update

After a strong start to 2024 where Waterford was listed in the *New York Times top 52 places to visit in 2024* article. Visit Waterford and member's website analytics clearly showed the benefits of this international exposure. Visit Waterford delivered a national and international campaign for St. Patrick's Day Festival in Ireland which resulted in the digital campaign reaching over 162k people in 5 countries and a feature in the Irish Star US

MEMBERSHIP: VW now have 64 members (a 25% increase so far this year) which demonstrates that VW is gathering momentum and the value of the work of VW is being recognised by more stakeholders.

Water-Sports Activity Facility Centre Development Ardmore

Significant funding from Fáilte Ireland of €1.2mil per site has been secured and plans have been updated for the inclusion of Changing Places Facilities.

Progress is as follows in Ardmore:

Part 8 planning approved.

3. Rural Economic Development

Town Village Renewal Scheme 2023



Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding of over €20 million to benefit rural towns and villages the length and breadth of the country on Monday, 29 April, 2024. Waterford received funding for three projects, total grant assistance €707,671.00:

WATERFORD	Project / Location	Description	Allocation
Waterford	Kill	Development of an integrated community park with integrated seating, play and musical equipment, performance area and ancillary works within the grounds of the Kill Community Centre.	€243,471
Waterford	Lemybrien	Development of an interconnected village centre with urban green spaces as health promoting environments.	€214,200
Waterford	Lismore	The regeneration of a derelict shed within the Lismore Union Workhouse complex into a community facility for Lios Mór Mochuda Men's Shed.	€250,000
3			€707,671

Town Centre First

Measure 1 Town Team Support Fund –

Waterford successful in accessing funding of €10,000.00 for both Lismore and Kill. Funding will be used to support the establishment and/or development of town teams and to better understand the unique features of towns. The projects will be managed by the DRCD-funded Town Regeneration Officer in Waterford.