



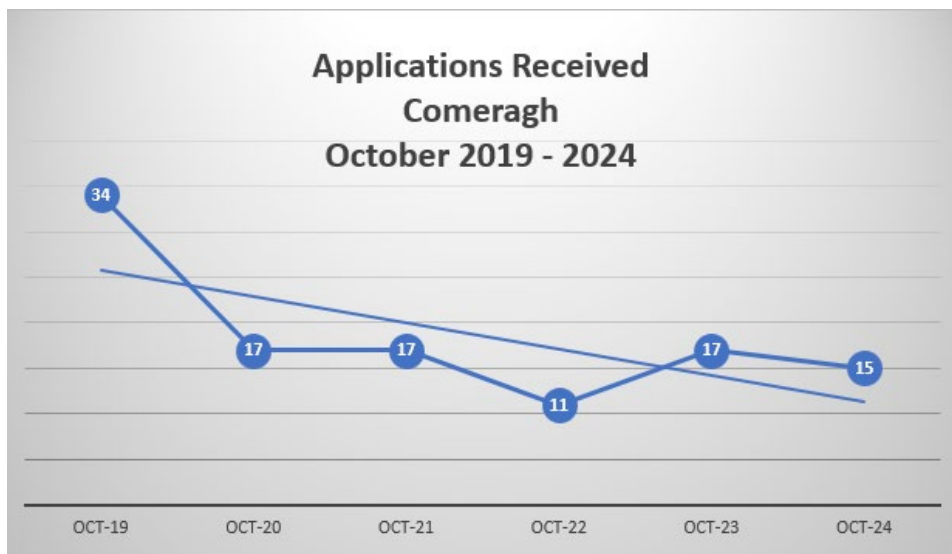
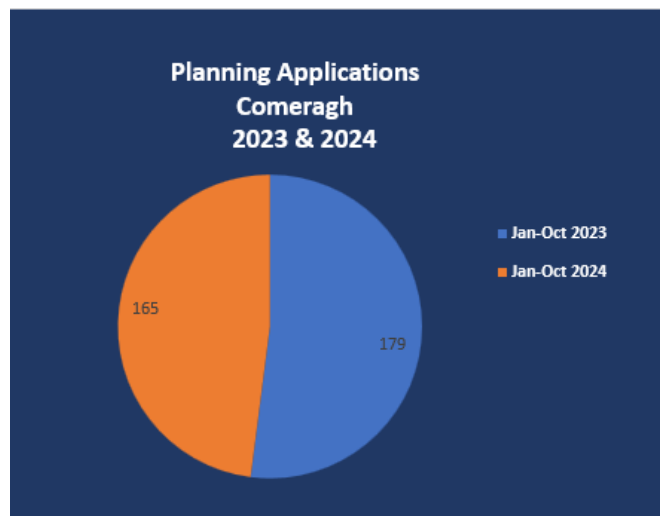
Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Comeragh District Meeting – November 2024

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

Planning Applications Received – Comeragh District

15 Planning applications were received in the Comeragh District from 1st October 2024 to 31st October 2024. This compares with 17 planning applications received in the same period in 2023.

A total of 179 planning applications were received in the year to 31st October 2024. This compares to 165 planning applications which were received in 2023.





FORWARD PLANNING REPORT

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Draft Annual Revised Map

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

1. 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;
2. Receipt of written submissions from landowners and consideration thereof;
3. Notification of written determinations made by Waterford Council to the relevant landowners who made written submissions to the draft map;
4. Making of appeals to An Bord Pleanála where landowners are aggrieved by the determination of the council; and,
5. 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.

We are currently in stage 5 in this timeline. A total of two appeals (ref WFD - C30 - 10 and WFD - C30 - 14) have been made to An Bord Pleanála relating to our own determinations to retain lands as in-scope for the purposes of the tax. The final determinations of An Bord Pleanála have upheld the view of the planning authority, and the relevant lands remain in-scope for the tax. We will now proceed to publish the final annual map for 31st January 2025 and prepare a new draft annual revised map for publication on the 1st February 2025.

HERITAGE OFFICER REPORT

The Waterford City and County Heritage Forum has prepared a Draft Heritage Strategy 2025-2030 and is inviting input from the public. The Strategy can be viewed on <https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/consultation/draft-waterford-heritage-strategy-2025-2030>. The Heritage Strategy sets out strategic objectives relevant to all aspects of heritage including archaeology, built, cultural, intangible and natural heritage which will guide annual action plans to achieve those objectives.

The public were invited to make a submission on the Draft Strategy to Bernadette Guest, Heritage Officer, Waterford City and County Council.

Shared Island Study Trip

Culture and heritage staff from Waterford City and County Council and members from Portlawn Heritage Group hosted a delegation from Mid and East Antrim on a two-day study trip on November 5th-6th. The trip was funded by Creative Communities on a Shared Island, an initiative of Creative Ireland. The project aims to develop connections between communities in Mid and East Antrim and Waterford through a variety of culture and heritage projects.

CONSERVATION OFFICER REPORT

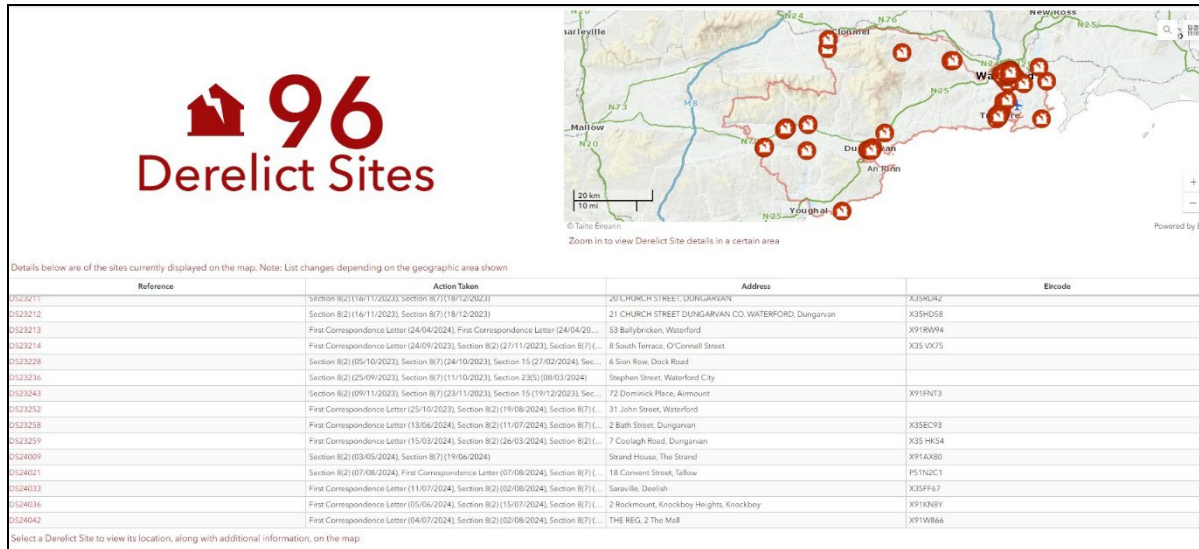
Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024	25 conservation projects granted funding of €242,693 euro, under the BHIS have now been completed. The works generated a spend of €581,630 and provided over 1260 days of employment.
Historic Structure Funds (HSF) 2024	The 4 HSF Projects - Mount Melleray, Curraghmore House, Whitfield Court and St Augustine’s Abbeyside, have been completed with funding of €214,000 euro. These works generated a spend of €464,000 and provided 1243 days of employment. The extra benefits of built heritage funding also include non-conservation works, benefit to the local economy and improvement of the streetscape.
Built Heritage Funding for 2025	The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has announced funding of €212,958 under BHIS 2025. We received 41 applications and these are being assessed at present. The Dept will be announcing further funding under the Ring-Fenced Thatch and Historic Structures Fund in early November. The application forms will be on the Council website and will be assessed in January



ACTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT AND DERELICT SITES TEAM

The team is currently addressing a total of 299 properties classified as either derelict or potentially derelict. Recent weeks and months have seen a significant increase in activity, with **96** properties now listed on the Derelict Sites Register. Initial engagement with property owners or their representatives is crucial for resolving issues related to dereliction and for gaining insights into the various factors contributing to the properties' current state.

Comeragh Municipal District: **18** Open Files



The level of activity in the property market concerning vacant and derelict properties has notably increased. Among the properties we have identified as derelict, several have been reintroduced to the private market voluntarily, with some currently at the 'sale agreed' or 'to let' stages. We are actively engaging with the new owners of these properties to ensure they are fully informed of their obligations under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Additionally, the introduction of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant has contributed to a significant rise in the number of derelict and vacant properties available on the market at this time. The table below provides a snapshot of October 2024's activity.

Derelict Sites	October	Total
No. of new files opened	22	299
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	8	132
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	2	100
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	1	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase Acquisitions (CPA)	3	38
No of Vesting Orders signed	3	15

In October 2024, the derelict sites team successfully collaborated with property owners to restore these properties, thereby alleviating their derelict status. Many of these properties also participated in the Urban Façade Improvement Scheme, administered by the Economic Development Department.