

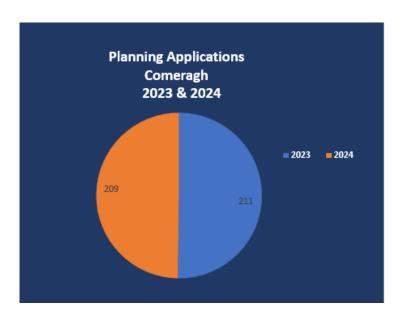
Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Comeragh District Meeting – January 2025

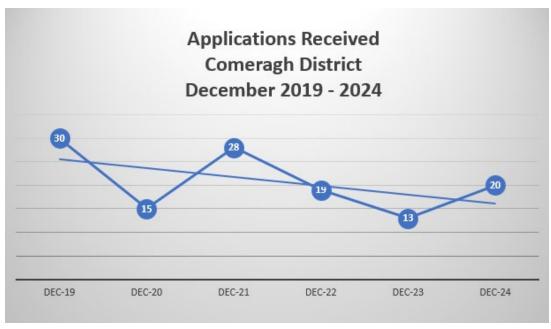
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COMERAGH

Planning Applications Received - Comeragh District

20 Planning applications were received in the Comeragh District in December 2024. This compares with 13 planning applications received in the same period in 2023.

A total of 209 planning applications were received in 2024. This compares to 211 planning applications which were received in 2023.







HERITAGE OFFICER REPORT

Waterford Heritage Strategy

Waterford City and County Heritage Forum has prepared a Draft Heritage Strategy covering the period 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. 10 submissions were received under the public consultation process and these will inform the final strategy which will be published in early 2025.

Funding schemes for 2025

The Heritage Organisation Support Fund (HOSF), which provides financial support to not-for-profit NGOs working in the heritage sector, is now open for applications.

https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/images/Heritage-Organisations-Support-Fund-2024.pdf

The Heritage Stewardship Fund, which provides financial support for staff in local authorities, state agencies and educational institutions with responsibility for heritage programmes, is now open for applications.

https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/images/Heritage-Stewardship-Funding-2024.pdf

The 2025 Community Monuments Fund is now open for applications until January 31st.

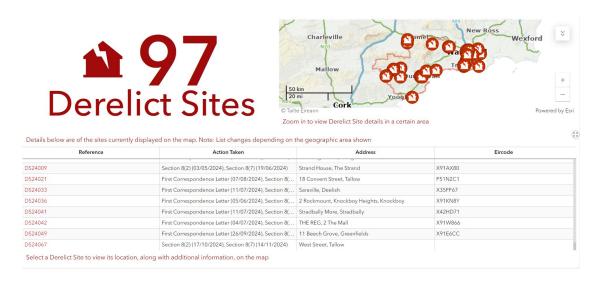
Stream 1 offers grants of up to €100,000 aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments.

Stream 2 offers grants up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports/Assessments and detailed Specification of Works that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation and maintenance of archaeological monuments. Stream 3 offers grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure, interpretation projects and small-scale emergency conservation works at archaeological monuments.

Details on www.waterfordcouncil.ie or contact the Heritage Officer directly.

ACTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT AND DERELICT SITES TEAM

The team is currently addressing a total of 306 properties classified as either derelict or potentially derelict. In recent weeks and months, there has been a significant increase in activity, with 97 properties now listed on the Derelict Sites Register. Initial engagement with property owners or their representatives is crucial for resolving dereliction issues and gaining insights into the various factors contributing to the properties' current state.





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.

Derelict Sites	Comeragh District
No. of new files opened	0
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter the site on Derelict Sites Register	1
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	-
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)	-
No of Vesting Orders signed	-

In December 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.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACQUISITION OF DERELICT SITES (CPA)

In December, 1 CPA was initiated and publicly advertised. The deadline for submissions will conclude on the 21st of January 2025. Should there be no objections to this CPA, the Council will proceed with the vesting process, during which applications for registration of title will be submitted to the Property Registration Authority.