

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD
Economic Development Report May 2025**

1. North Quays

The North Quays project reached a significant milestone in April 2025 with the granting of planning permission to Harcourt Developments for phase 1 of the private SDZ mixed use development.



Proposed view of the mixed-use development from the Sustainable Transport Bridge

The development will include significant residential accommodation, as well as office and hotel accommodation, retail offerings and high-quality public realm spaces consisting of:

- 350 residential units
- Office accommodation including ground floor creche & retail
- 160-bedroom hotel and conference centre
- 163-room aparthotel
- Retail units on ground floor of residential blocks
- High quality public realm spaces including public plazas, riverside boardwalk and greenway Multi-modal underground and surface parking.

Construction of the private SDZ development is anticipated to commence later this year.

The bridge superstructure is undergoing its final mechanical and electrical installations, surveys, inspections and certification in the Victor Buyck factory in Ghent, Belgium ahead of its transportation to Waterford. In advance of its arrival works are ongoing to the southern plaza area. The proposed layout and landscaping of this public plaza, that is centered around the Clock Tower is beginning to emerge. The South Plaza will connect the sustainable transport bridge with the South Quays, Barronstrand Street and onwards to the city centre.



South Plaza surface and landscaping works progressing

Road infrastructural works are also well advanced. The final traffic arrangements in Ferrybank are beginning to come into operation, this includes a new signalised traffic junction at the former Art Ri hotel entrance on Dock Road, providing a new interim access to the North Quays site. It is anticipated that the final road surfacing and associated roadworks in the Ferrybank area will be completed this summer.



New Traffic junction and interim access to the SDZ site

Drainage and roadwork have commenced on the South Quays. To minimise disruption to all users, the works and associated traffic management are being undertaken in phases that at times will include the temporary closure of footpaths, cycle lanes and single traffic lanes as well as the relocation of the bus stop at Meaghers Quays/Clock Tower. For a six week period the bus stop has been relocated 50 m eastwards, to the bus lay-by adjacent to the iPairc car park. This temporary bus stop will be served by local bus routes. All road users are asked to adhere to all local traffic management and follow directional signage for the duration of the works.



Construction of western footbridge in the foreground that will link directly to the Sustainable Transport Bridge, the platforms and train station are visible beyond

Part 8 planning permission was granted in April for the southern entrance/access to the new train station and it is expected that works will commence on the Southern entrance in September 2025. The main train station building is progressing well, with work continuing on the roof, external cladding, internal layout and northern entrance. This includes the northern plaza that includes set-down areas for cars, buses, taxis, bicycles etc.

Works are continuing on the railway flood defence scheme. The initial flood defence works comprised the installation of a sheet pile flood wall beside the rail corridor along the full extent of the North Quays site. In the coming months works will extend through the front of Plunkett Station and upstream of Rice Bridge and extensive trackside drainage and pumping stations will also be installed.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

Munster Express (Project F & H) – the design team, led by Butler Cammoranesi Architects, are progressing the detailed design and technical specifications for the building, works are due to be tendered in the summer with demolition works being included under the main contract.

3 & 4 Georges Street (Project B & C) – A revised Part 8 planning application for proposed office use is due to commence in May 2025.

The Art House / 7 & 8 Thomas Street (Project I & J) – Following a community engagement process the consultant team, led by Drake Hourigan Architects are progressing the project design. A Part 8 application is expected to commence in the coming weeks with reports and documents currently being finalised.



Parade Quay (URDF Projects P & Q) – Tender documents are currently being prepared for the proposed housing, public realm and commercial development at 124-130 Parade Quay.

Refurbishment work to 123A Parade Quay (aka; Central Hall; URDF Project R) is ongoing and is due to open Q3 2025 and linked to the adjacent Museum of Time building.

18 Lady Lane Concept designs are being developed in coordination with the project and funding partners for 18 Lady Lane, to create a new children's experience, Tír na nÓg, @ Lady Lane, Waterford. Enabling works commenced on site with asbestos materials removed from the main structure and demolition of the dormitory building. A Part 8 planning application is expected to commence in June 2025.

City Hall & Bishops Palace – Re roofing and external rendering works to both buildings are continuing and works are expected to be completed during the summer 2025.

Derrick Crane – Final sampling and testing of the paints and metals to further inform the Structural Assessment report are scheduled in May 2025. The Repair/Refurbishment recommendations/report is expected in mid-June and a decision will then be made on the extent of works to be undertaken.

3. Tramore

Metal Man

Access arrangements are being put in place and works are scheduled to commence at end of June post the first silage cut. Works include lime washing of all three beacon structures and repainting of the Metal Man statue. Works are expected to continue until September 2025.

Tramore Water Activity Centre

Awaiting final Failte Ireland approval to proceed to the Tender Stage.

4. Regional Sports Centre

Two items of work at WRSC are in progress:

1. Upgrade of the Public Toilets – Works are underway, ABS Construction commenced in early April and are scheduled to be complete by the end of May/early June.
2. Upgrade of Sprinkler System – Alan Commins Electrical Ltd have been appointed to carry out the works. The works schedule is being coordinated with matches/events timetable and it is anticipated that works will commence in June and completed in July.

5. Trails and Outdoor Recreation

Waterford City and County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Work is well underway on the preparation of the Waterford Outdoor Recreation Plan. It is an objective of 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – The National Outdoor Recreation Strategy' that each county prepares an Outdoor Recreation Plan and forms a stakeholder grouping the County Outdoor Recreation Committee. In this regard recent progress has included:

- Project team met with consultant team to finalise the actions and objectives of the plan on 10th April last. It is anticipated that the plan will be finalized by late Q2 2025 following SEA screening.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023:

WCCC submitted a number of successful ORIS applications under the 2023 scheme with works planned to take place throughout 2025:

Measure 1:

- Biodiversity hot spot and pocket recreation area on the Waterford Greenway, Carriganore - €30,000. Work is progressing well with further landscaping and planting planned for summer 2025. Project to be completed before end October 2025.
- Passage East Walking Trail – steps leading towards church – path repairs, drainage, install new steps - €30,000. On site visits took place in April and early May to look at issues. There are a number of challenges given the location of the pathway. Some survey has been carried out and report anticipated with regard to potential solutions before end May 2025.

Measure 2:

- Dunmore East Coastal Trail Project – Upgrade of steps at Portally Cove. Upgrade of section of trail between Dunmore East and Portally - €108,000. Drawings and tender specification currently being prepared by consultant engineer. It is anticipated these will be complete by end May 2025.

Waterford Trails

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

6. Tourism

Waterford Rural Tourism Network

Work with the Waterford Rural Tourism Network (WRTN) continues to grow and develop, together with Fáilte Ireland and Runda Hospitality & Tourism Solutions.

The most recent in person cluster meetings took place on the 24th April for the Waterford Estuary, Copper Coast & Comeragh clusters. Among other items discussed at these meetings were the details for the upcoming Learning Journey through the Waterford Estuary. This will be the 4th of its kind and will go towards increasing the awareness of Rural Waterford's offering and collaboration among the members.



Markischer Kreis

Our twinning partners from Märkischer Kreis in Germany took part in the Waterford Festival of Food for the second year in a row. This is one of the many successful collaborations between the two regions. The team had a stand at the Sunday market whereby visitors experienced mustards, honey, oils & juices from their region, paired with some local Waterford produce. The offering was warmly received, and the weekend visit was a success.



Visit Waterford

Visit Waterford remains at the forefront of marketing and promoting Waterford as a world-class tourism destination, driving national and international visitor growth through impactful campaigns and strategic collaborations.

Media:

In the month of April Visit Waterford delivered a series of paid ads across different media forms including print digital & radio, namely BEAT. Visit Waterford had an interscroller ad with the Independent between 10th – 24th April. Visit Waterford had a photocall for members in preparation for their new campaign. This campaign launched 1st May.

A press release was delivered to recruit ambassadors for Waterford who will assist with their new Digital Concierge project.

Membership

Visit Waterford now has a total of 71 members.

Cruise Tourism

Visit Waterford continues to work with key stakeholders in the newly formed Cruise Tourism working group. The view of this group is to co-ordinate the arrival of Cruise ships. The first ship of the season was due to dock on 30th April, this ship cancelled as the vessel was delayed in dry dock. The first ship will now dock in Waterford on the 1st July.

Want to become a Waterford Ambassador?

Are you passionate about Waterford?
Do you love sharing local tips and hidden gems?

We're looking for enthusiastic and knowledgeable individuals to join our Visit Waterford Digital Concierge Panel!

- Share your local expertise
- Help visitors discover the best of Waterford
- Be part of an exciting initiative

Interested? Email us at info@visitwaterford.com to learn more!

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