

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

Comeraghs Municipal District

May, 2021

Economic Development Report

1. Local Enterprise Office

Indicator	At end of Apr 2020	At end of Apr 2021
No. of clients applying for Measure 1 support	8	6
No. of clients securing Measure 1 support	8	6
Value of Measure 1 support approved	€154,420	€137,308
No. of clients receiving Measure 2 support	965	1052
Value of Measure 2 support given	€194,231	€298,202

Support – Trading Online Voucher	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals €
<i>Figures included in cumulative table</i>	34	€66,364

Support – LEO Client Stimulus Scheme	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals €
<i>Figures included in cumulative table</i>	37	€95,552

Green for Micro programme now open for applications

This new initiative from the Local Enterprise Offices is to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future. *The Green for Micro* programme is suitable for all micro-enterprises with up to ten employees, but it is particularly suited to

businesses in construction and the built environment, retail, manufacturing, textiles and fashion, food, electronics, plastics, and packaging.

The programme will help owners / managers to make more informed decisions to assist their businesses to reduce costs, lower their carbon footprint as well as improve the environmental profile of the business in the marketplace.

2. Rural Economic Development

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

Mount Congreve RRDF – Covid-delayed but work will be gradually re-commencing. Initial surveys indicated significant re-design requirements. Part VIII in respect of House, new Car Park and constructed wetlands currently on display

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018

Copper Coast Signage – Project progressing.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019

Lemybrien – Playground installed

Bunmahon - Covid-delayed but with contracts signed in respect of new lighting and walks improvements

Dunhill – Covid-delayed but contracts signed

Town & Village Accelerated Measure 2020

Kilmacthomas – Project advancing

Kilmeaden – Tenders currently being assessed

Bunmahon – Refurbishment - adult exercise equipment. Completed

Portlaw – Covid-delayed

Touraneena – Almost finished

Town & Village Main Scheme 2020

Stradbally – Biodiversity Park – Further community engagement needed before completing designs

Town & Village Main Scheme 2021

12 Expressions of interest received – currently being assessed

General

Minister Humphrey's issued an update to all Local Authorities regarding the delivery of the **Rural Development Investment Programme** during 2021. There are two new proposals 1. An additional €5 million funding for a Connected Hubs Call which aims to add additional capacity to the existing remote working infrastructure and 2. the DRCD will also be providing funding for the development of Town Centre Masterplans and would hope to have details of these proposals shortly.

See below table for details.

2021 Rural Scheme Roadmap (All dates in 2021 unless indicated)				
	Measure	Launch date	Closing date for applications	Announcement of successful projects (indicative)
<i>RRDF</i>	Category 1	N/A	December 2020	Mid-April
<i>CLAR</i>	All Measures	15 th March	Friday 7 th May	Local Authority Measures - end June/early July
<i>RRDF</i>	Category 2	Early May	July	October
<i>LIS</i>	-	May	June	Letters of Offer in June
<i>Town & Village Renewal - standard</i>	All applications	Week beginning 3 rd May	Mid- July	October
<i>Town & Village Renewal Connected Hubs Call</i>		April	Early June	June
<i>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure</i>	Measure 1	23 rd April	30 th June	September
<i>Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure</i>	Measures 2, 3 & Project Development Measure	23 rd April	30 th July	November
<i>RRDF</i>	Category 1	June	November	March 2022

3. Waterford Trails

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020:

- The flag ship project within the Comeraghs MD will allow for improvement works to the access road and Mahon Falls Car Parking which has been allocated €200,000 in funding. The parking capacity of the main car park will be increased from 39 to 85 spaces subject to planning approval. The project will also provide additional road lay-bys and modification of existing lay-bys to allow for safe passing. The proposed works will enhance road safety for walkers, cyclists and vehicular traffic alike. Improvements at the main trail head will also include a small amenity area with bike parking and new path to enhance access from the parking area to the walk into Mahon Falls. Pending full planning permission it is proposed that works would commence after the busy summer season in late 2021.

In January the Comeragh MD was also allocated funding under ORIS Measure 1 as follows:

- Nire Valleys Walk boardwalk/bog bridge improvements: Works to be completed by 30th October 2021.
- Boolas Loop Walk, Rathgormack: Funding allocated €10,800. Works to be completed by 30th October 2021.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2019:

Work substantially progressed under all ORIS 2019 projects. Remaining Measure 1 and 2 projects to be complete by 31st August 2021 (following extension granted by DRCD due to Covid restriction related delays).

- Measure 1: EuroVelo Cycle Route and Waterford Cycling Trails signage upgrade works; Walk Waterford Promotion including new brochure, mapping, videography and photography.
- Measure 2: Waterford Greenway Play Trail (30th November 2021).
- Promotional materials including trail brochures, videos, photography and mapping funded under ORIS 2019, currently being finalised. It is anticipated that Covid restrictions will allow the promotion of this new material which will highlight some well known Waterford trails along with those that are somewhat 'off the beaten track'.

4. Tourism

Fáilte Ireland's '**Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme**' for tourism and hospitality businesses was launched on the 31st March. Waterford City & County Council will be accepting applications from April 12th.

This scheme will be open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses and other establishments where food is sold for consumption on the premises.

Applicants can apply for a grant of up to €4,000 for up to 75% of the ex VAT cost of equipment purchased. Eligible expenditure will include: outdoor tables, chairs, umbrellas, electric heaters, screens, wind breakers, plant stands and wooden platforms.

Expenditure must have been incurred between 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2021. Applicants can claim for expenditure from April 2020. If they received funding under the Council scheme last year this will be taken into account. Also businesses not needing a 254 licence are eligible as they may have incurred cost on their own courtyard etc to create outdoor dining areas.

The provider of the hospitality offering must hold a section 254 licence in accordance with section 254 of Planning and Development Act 2000 if structures are on public places.

No fees will be applied by the Council for Section 254 licences in 2021.

Full details of the Fáilte Ireland's 'Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme' along with the application process will be available on Waterford City and County Council website from April 12th.