



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

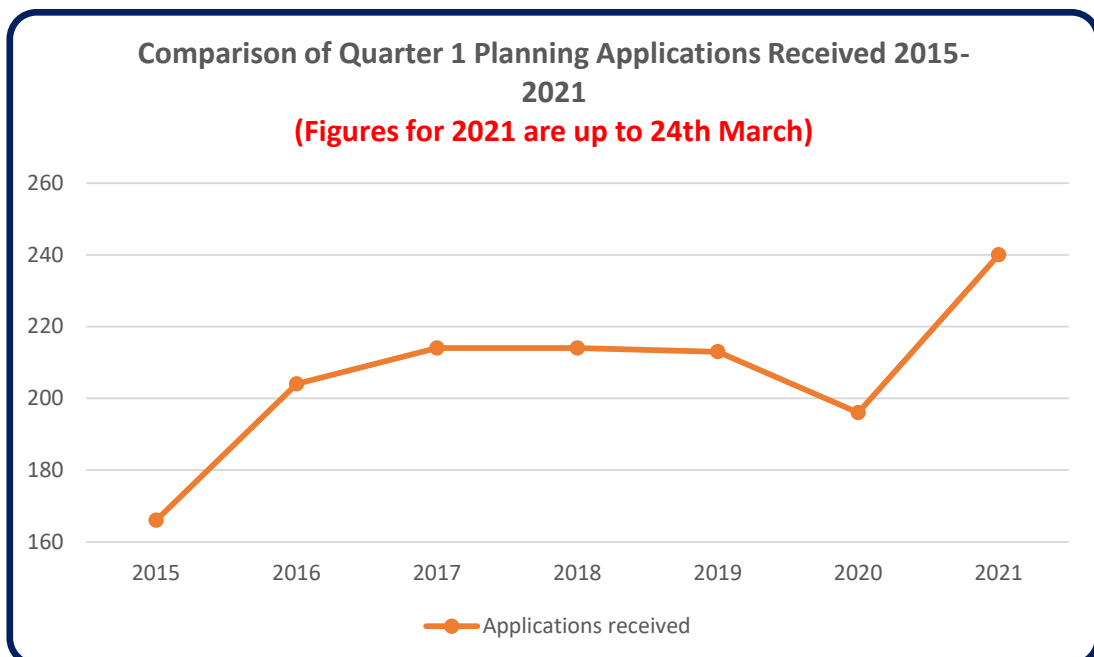
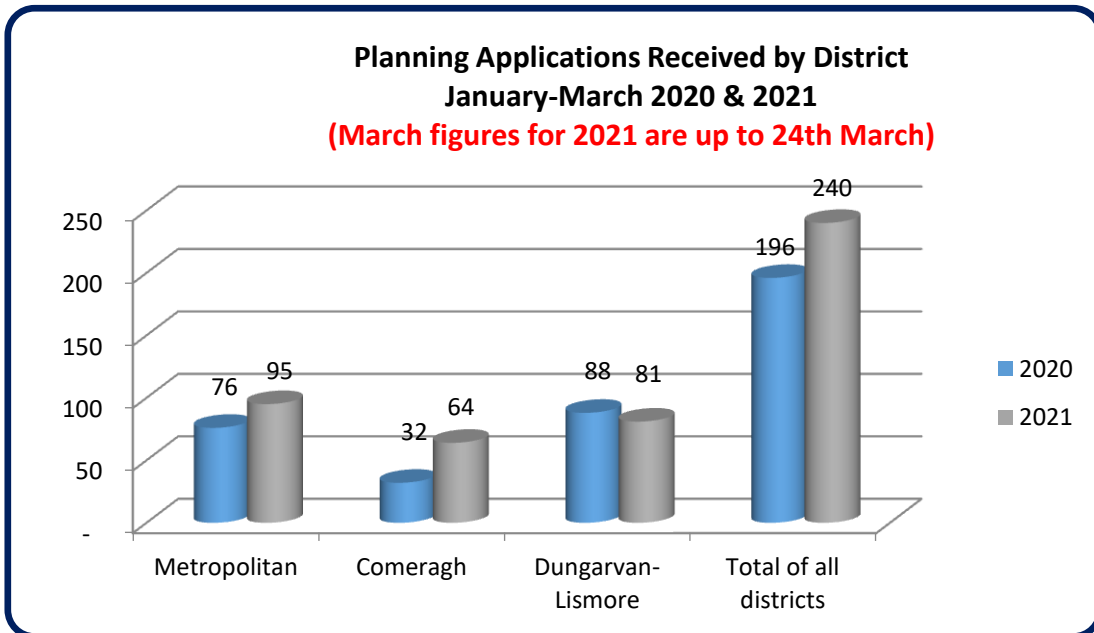
Waterford City & County Council Planning Report to Metropolitan Meeting – April 2021

DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

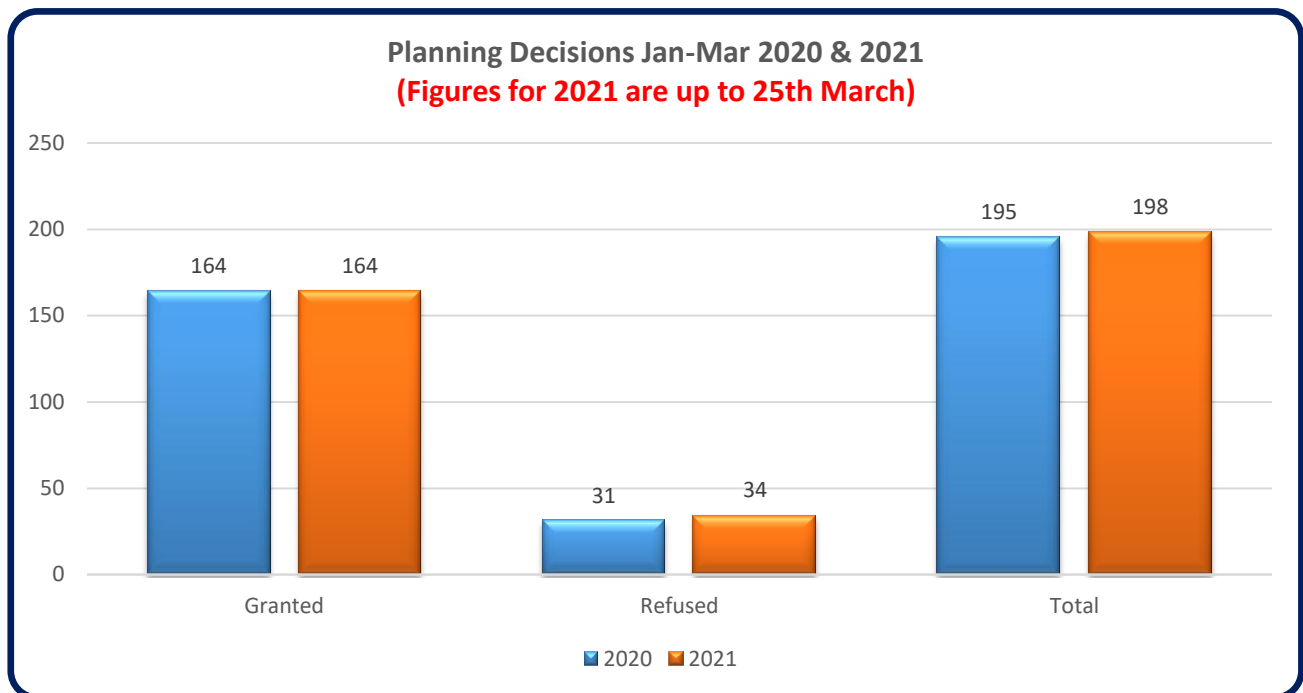
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Planning Applications Received – Countywide

96 Planning applications were received in the month of March countywide (to 24th March). This compares with 82 planning applications received in the same month in 2020. Additional responses are also being received to further information requests. A total of 240 planning applications were received in the year to 24th March 2021. This compares to 196 planning applications which were received to the end of March in 2020



The number of applications which have been decided to date in 2021 has increased slightly. 198 applications were decided in up to 25th March 2021 compared to 195 for the first three months of 2020. The annual difference in decisions made will increase in the coming months as the increased amount of applications received in the first quarter of 2021 come due for decision.



Update on preparation of the draft Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The draft development plan is currently being prepared for your consideration, having regard to the content of the Report of the Chief Executive and subsequent Direction by the Council to the Chief Executive, given in January. The timeline for preparing the draft development plan indicates that it will be presented to the Plenary Council in April as per the table below.

This will be followed by a series of discussions and workshops with the Plenary Council throughout the months of April, May and early June to allow full consideration of the draft development plan and associated documents. A 10 week phase of public consultation will then take place from late June to late August during which time written submissions will be invited from members of the public and other interested parties. It should be noted that written submissions regarding the zoning of land for particular purposes should only be made during this 10 week period.

In a manner similar to the initial phase of public consultation last summer, it is intended to have a dedicated online consultation portal available through which the draft development plan and support documentation can be accessed and through which written submissions can be made.

Activity	Duration	Start	Finish
Development Plan Preparation Period.	Max 104 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Fri 15/07/22
Pre Draft Plan Public Consultation. NOW COMPLETED	8 wks	Mon 20/07/20	Mon 14/09/20
Prepare CE Report on submissions and submit to Plenary Council. NOW COMPLETED	8 wks	Mon 14/09/20	Mon 09/11/20
Liase and discuss with Plenary Council and obtain Resolution on CE Report. NOW COMPLETED	10 wks	Mon 09/11/20	Mon 18/01/21
Prepare a Draft Dev Plan. CURRENT PHASE	12 wks	Mon 18/01/21	Mon 12/04/21

Submit Draft Dev Plan to Plenary Council and obtain Resolution.	8 wks	Mon 12/04/21	Mon 07/06/21
Notice of preparation of Draft Dev Plan.	2 wks	Mon 07/06/21	Mon 21/06/21
Public Consultation on Draft Dev Plan.	10 wks	Mon 21/06/21	Mon 30/08/21
Prepare CE Report on submissions received and submit to Plenary Council for consideration.	12 wks	Mon 30/08/21	Mon 22/11/21
Resolution of Plenary Council on CE Report and Draft Dev Plan.	12 wks	Mon 22/11/21	Mon 14/02/22
Notice of Material Alterations if necessary.	3 wks	Mon 14/02/22	Mon 07/03/22
Final Public Consultation on Material Alterations.	4 wks	Mon 07/03/22	Mon 04/04/22
Prepare C.E. Report on submissions.	8 wks	Mon 04/04/22	Mon 30/05/22
Plenary Council to consider CE Report and make Resolution.	6 wks	Mon 30/05/22	Mon 11/07/22
New Dev Plan comes into force.	6 wks	Mon 11/07/22	Mon 22/08/22

Planning SPC

A meeting of the Planning SPC was held on 23rd March to progress their deliberations on the Draft City & County Development Plan.

The items for discussion on the agenda were:

- City & County Development Plan
- Planning Enforcement
- PPN submission on engagement with Irish Water

Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement service of Waterford City & County Council continues to operate throughout the current lockdown as planning enforcement is deemed as an essential service.

The following figures show the work undertaken in 2021 up to 24th March:

New enforcement cases opened:	26
Warning letters issued:	29
Enforcement notices issued:	4

Conservation Grants

All applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) have been assessed. We await the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approval of the recommendations and all applicants will be contacted by email in due course.



Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) On 4th of March, Minister O'Brien and Minister of State Malcolm Noonan of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, announced that Tramore will receive funding under the Historic Towns Initiative 2021. In keeping with the Government commitment to a Town Centre First policy, Minister O'Brien stated "that it is his hope is that these heritage-led regeneration projects will bring economic benefits to our historic towns, thereby helping them to prosper once again."

This programme is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Heritage Council. Waterford City and County Council has been allocated €75,000 for works to the Victorian railway station in Tramore.

When Waterford City and County Council acquired the Victorian Railway Station in 2017, it was in a derelict condition due to fire damage. Since then Waterford City and County Council have carried out some enabling works and conservation works to the roof and parapets. In 2021 Waterford City and County Council propose to carry out further conservation works to the windows and doors of the station. The funding will address the vacancy and dereliction of this building, promote conservation and prepare the building and its curtilage for occupancy. The past and proposed works ensure the embodied energy retention by reuse of our historic stock.

The proposed works to the building and the other works proposed for the curtilage and adjacent ground endeavour to re-establish Railway Square as the town's transport hub and the terminus of a proposed greenway from Waterford City to Tramore.

Waterford Wetland Survey

An application for funding to the Heritage Council for a wetland survey has been successful and Wetland Surveys Ireland have been appointed to carry out a survey of 39 wetland sites. These habitats are important for biodiversity, flood attenuation and climate change but are under pressure from drainage and reclamation. The survey will inform the biodiversity section of the City and County Development Plan.

Biodiversity Funding

Three funding applications have been submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Biodiversity Fund for funding towards a survey of swifts and survey of the Saltmarsh Habitat at Tramore Dunes and co-funding for the Waterford Wetlands Survey.

Woodstown Viking Site

An application for funding to the Heritage Council for project management of the Woodstown Plan in 2021 has been successful and Abarta Heritage have been appointed to oversee delivery of key actions including heritage information signage for the site, Viking artwork and inventory of artefacts.

Decade of Commemorations

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media have allocated €50,000 to Waterford City & County Council for the 2021 programme of commemorations.

Ten applications were received under the Community Commemorations Grant Scheme with a total funding allocation of €23,000

Community Heritage Grant Scheme

The Community Heritage Grant Scheme administered by the Heritage Council has opened for applications with a closing date of 29th March.

**Séamus Doran,
Administrative Officer,
Planning Department
26th March 2021**