



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

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

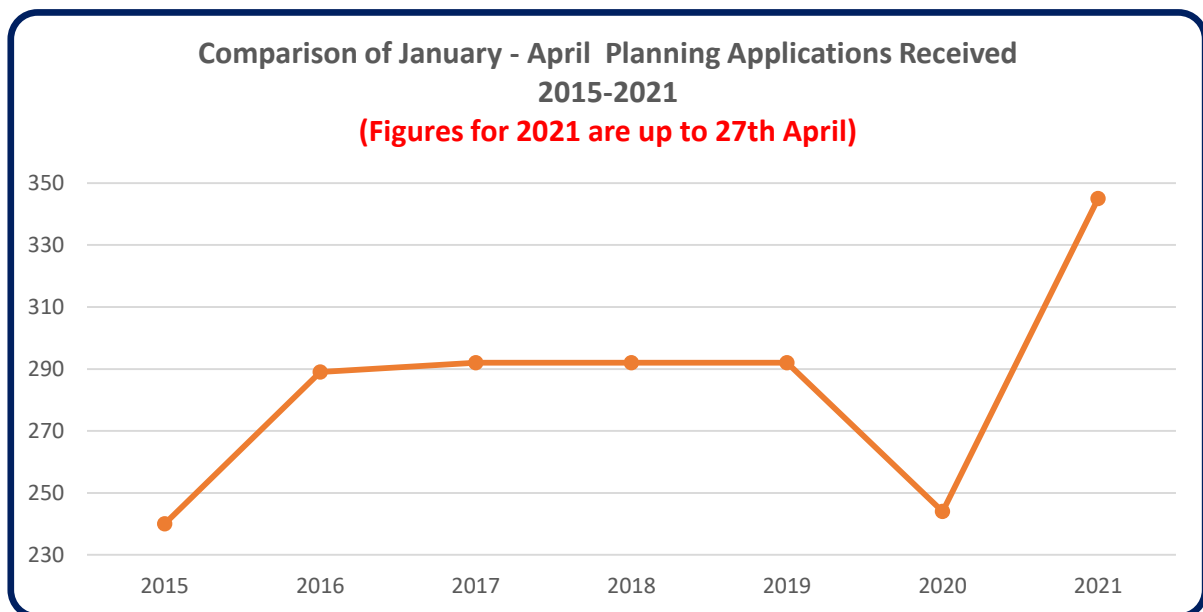
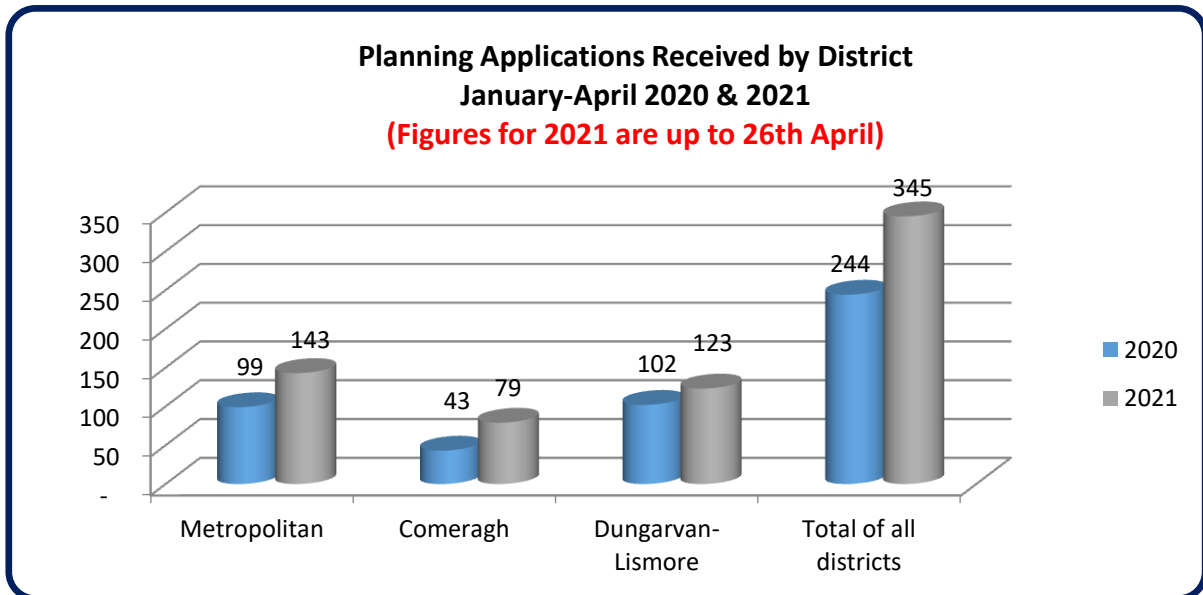
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Planning Applications Received – Countywide

82 Planning applications were received in the month of April countywide (to 26th April). This compares with 48 planning applications received in the same month in 2020. Additional responses are also being received to further information requests. Final figures for the month of March 2021 show a total of 119 applications received in that month. This is the highest level of monthly applications received, with the exception of December 2020, since 2008.

A total of 345 planning applications were received in the year to 27th April 2021. This compares to 244 planning applications which were received to the end of April in 2020.



The number of applications which have been decided to date in 2021 has increased significantly. 288 applications were decided in up to the end of April 2021 compared to 216 for the first four months of 2020. This represents an increase of 33% between the two years.



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

The draft development plan has been presented to the Plenary Council in April as per the timetable outlined in the table below.

This is being 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. NOW COMPLETED	12 wks	Mon 18/01/21	Mon 12/04/21
Submit Draft Dev Plan to Plenary Council and obtain Resolution. CURRENT PHASE	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 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 27th April:

New enforcement cases opened:	53
Warning letters issued:	54
Enforcement notices issued:	8

Conservation Grants

All applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structure Fund (HSF) have been assessed. The BHIS grants have been allocated to 18 projects throughout the county which include works such repairs to windows and thatch roofs. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has also confirmed approval of €50,000 for Mount Mellary and €50,000 for Curraghmore House under the Historic Structure Fund.

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. 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.

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. It is hoped that works will commence as soon as possible following the lifting of Covid related restrictions in the construction industry.



Kilmacthomas Railway Station Conservation Works

Works are nearing completion on the repair of the historic Railway Station. The signal box has been restored and the access steps have been put in place.

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.

Community Monuments Fund

An application has been submitted for funding to the Community Monuments Fund for support towards conservation repairs of Knockboy Medieval Church West Waterford, Molana Abbey and analysis of Ground Radar Data at the Woodstown Viking Site.

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

**Séamus Doran,
Administrative Officer,
Planning Department
30th April 2021**