

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge

Waterford City & County Council



Management Report to Council

Bealtaine 2021

Michael Walsh,

Príomhfheidhmeannach

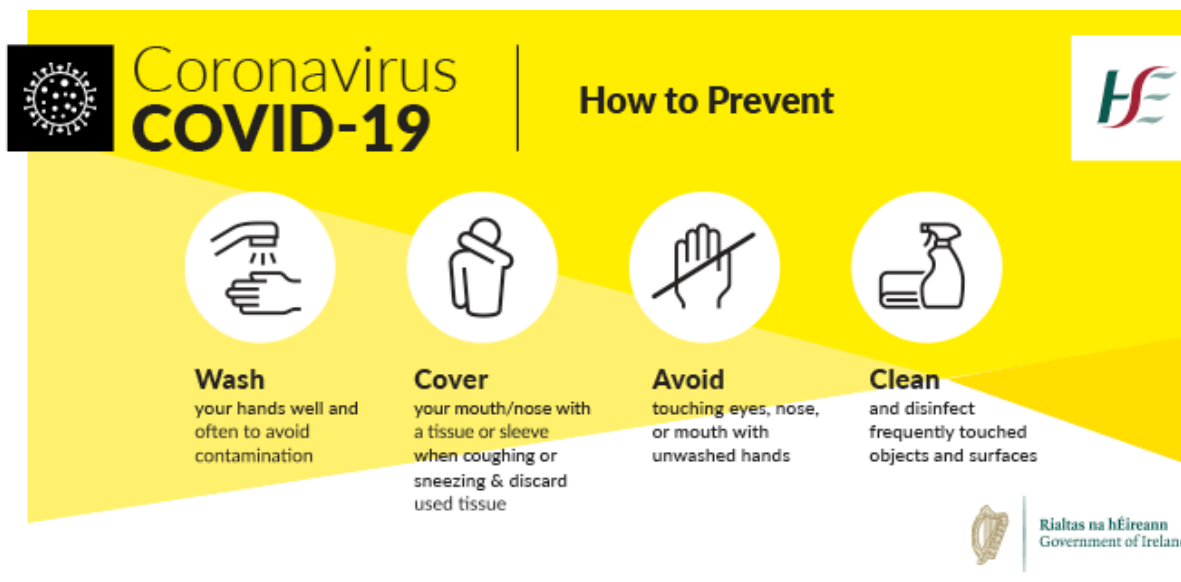
May 2021

Michael Walsh,

Chief Executive

Seirbhísí Corparáirdeacha / Corporate

How to protect yourself from COVID – 19



IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL

Check if you have symptoms of coronavirus. These are a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, fever (high temperature).

If you do have symptoms of coronavirus, phone your GP or local Emergency Department [ED] immediately.

Do not go to your GP or ED. Phone them first. Tell them about your symptoms. Give them the details about your situation. Avoid contact with other people by self-isolating. If you do not have a GP, phone **112** or **999**.

IF YOU ARE FEELING WELL

If you are feeling well, carry on with your normal routine.

Follow the advice on how to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and other infections such as flu.

Avoid spending time with people who are ill with a cough, high temperature, or breathing problems.

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus:

- avoid contact with people by self-isolating
- phone your GP or emergency department
- tell them your symptoms and the details of your situation

Meetings

All council meetings, CPG and SPC's to continue as remote meetings for the month of May.

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch / Economic Development

Infrastructural works

a. Main contract.

The main construction contract for the Waterford North Quays infrastructural works comprising the development of a Sustainable Transport Bridge, Transport Hub and SDZ Access Infrastructure Works is progressing, with tender documentation close to completion. The Tender Assessment Report for the first stage of SAQ Restricted Procedure Process has been approved by the Independent Assessment Board; the qualified submissions based on the Board's recommendations are being invited to proceed to stage 2 tender of the Restricted Procedure Process.

b. Planning applications.

- i) The preparation of a planning application for the western flood defence works is close to completion, to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in May 2021.
- ii) Part 8 planning applications are currently being prepared by Kilkenny County Council for the Belmont Link road & N29 Port Road, the planning processes are proposed to commence in May and September 2021 respectively.
- iii) A planning application for greenway access provision is also due to commence shortly.

c. Tender stage - advanced contracts/ enabling works.

- i) Tender documents for the relocation of the Ferrybank Pump Station were returned 31st March 2021. The submissions are currently being review by Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting engineers, with a Tender Assessment Report due in May.
- ii) Tender documents for the South Plaza Enabling Works and Rock Stabilisation contracts will be issued imminently.
- iii) Detailed design for Abbey Road and Belmont Road Sustainable Transport Improvements is progressing and it is anticipated that tenders will be issued shortly.

d. Ongoing contracts.

- i) Transport Hub Independent Design Safety Certification by a Notified Body (NoBo) and Sustainable Transport Bridge Cat 3 Independent Design Check contracts are progressing with Atkins and Hewson Consulting Engineers respectively, both due to be completed shortly.
- ii) It is expected the construction works to the South East Greenway at Abbey road will commence once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

2. Local Enterprise Office

Indicator	At end of April 2020 Cumulative Figure	At end of April 2021 Cumulative Figure
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	No. of Approvals	Value of Approvals €
Trading Online Voucher	34	€66,364
LEO Client Stimulus Scheme	37	€95,552

Figures included in cumulative table

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. **Please direct all queries to your Local Enterprise Office.**

3. Rural Economic Development

Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Main & Accelerated Measure – Currently 16 active main scheme projects & 16 active Accelerated Measure Projects. Project delivery continues where possible in current circumstances.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 – 12 completed Expressions of Interest were received before closing date from across the County. Submissions will be reviewed in accordance with guidance from DRCD.

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.

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 13TH MAY 2021

Scheme	Measure	Launch date	Closing date for applications	Announcement of successful projects (indicative)
<i>RRDF</i>	Category 1	N/A	Dec-20	Mid-April
<i>CLAR</i>	All Measures	15 th March	Friday 7 th May	Local Authority Measures - end June/early July
<i>COVID 19 Stability Fund (for information for Community and Voluntary Grou - Direct Application to POBAL)</i>	-	Early May	Late May	June/July
<i>Community Enhancement Programme(CEP)</i>				
<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	Mar-22

4. Tourism

(i) **Fáilte ireland platforms for growth – facility centres for water-based activities scheme**

Tramore and Ardmore have been approved under the Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth 2 – Facility Centres for Water Sports Activities funding scheme. The national funding scheme, to the value of €19million, will enable the development of a network of 22 Facility Centres for Water Sports across Ireland which will all align with an exemplar design commissioned by Fáilte Ireland.

(ii) **Urban animation scheme.** This Scheme has a total budget of €5 million. The amount of the investment grant may be up to 100% of Eligible Project Expenditure and is at the discretion of Fáilte Ireland. Projects of scale and impact are required; therefore project costs need to be a minimum of €250,000. While no maximum threshold has been set, this pilot scheme has a fund of €5m therefore we estimate that a maximum number of 10 projects will be awarded funded. The closing date for applications is 18th June 2021.

(iii) **Weather proofing and outdoor dining infrastructure.** Funding under this scheme is intended to upgrade and enhance streets and public spaces and implement weather-proofing solutions which will facilitate year-round outdoor dining in key tourism centres whilst meeting the needs of all citizens.

Funding of up to €200,000 is available and the closing date for applications is 27th May 2021.

(iv) **Outdoor seating and accessories for tourism and hospitality business.** This scheme is now open for applications from eligible businesses. The scheme will provide for up to 75% of the

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 13TH MAY 2021

ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased/installed with a maximum allowable contribution of up to €4,000 per applicant.

Expenditure must be incurred between 1st April 2020 and 30th September 2021. Note: Section 254 licence fees for outdoor seating have been waived again in 2021.




In addition the Department Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media launched a separate **Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021** to help local authorities open up and create public spaces and facilities dedicated to the arts, culture and festivals. €250,000 per local authority is available and there is no fixed closing date for applications. Projects which align with the above local authority schemes are being identified to progress the applications.

5. Communications & Marketing




Waterford 2040

The Waterford 2040 Executive group formally launched the new investment brand *Waterford – Find Your Future* on April 21st at a live streamed event filmed at the Theatre Royal. The event was opened by the Mayor, Cllr Damien Geoghegan who introduced the Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar who addressed the event by remote link and welcomed the new initiative to promote Waterford as a location for investment and development. The Tánaiste welcomed Waterford Council’s intention to propose the entire city of Waterford as a Decarbonising Zone (DZ). The live event was attended by 120 invited guests and the recorded video has been watched by 1,300 people with a further 1,800 views of the launch video which is a stunning showcase of Waterford City and County. Alongside the launch a social media presence has been launched which includes the following platforms and the table describes growth over a 9 day period post launch.

Waterford 2040 Activity: April 20-29th 2021

Platform	New Site names	Impressions	Posts/Tweets	Engagement	Followers
	Waterford-Find Your Future	279	11		+136
	@waterford2040	11,552	12	4.3%	+123
	@waterford2040	46,300	13	2.3%	+249

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 13TH MAY 2021

Social Media Analytics: March 2021 (Report compiled 28.04.2021)								
Channel		Followers	+/-	Posts	+/-	Reach	+/-	Engagement rate
	Waterford Council	15,798	156	64	11	131,864	-24%	3.4%
	Shop Waterford	2,012	51	18	-6	17,763	14%	N/A
	St. Patrick's Day	3,814	567	29	27	202,253	N/A	4%
	Waterford Council	11,712	66	160	27	283,900	58%	1.3%
	Shop Waterford	2,347	6	3	3	390	-8%	N/A
	Shop Waterford	861	14	42	7	1,395	27%	N/A

Internal Communications

An Internal Communications Focus Group was re-established in April 2021 with membership drawn from indoor and outdoor staff with a view to improving internal communications and improving how the Council communicates the work carried out in a positive and proactive way. The Focus Group will agree a Communications Strategy and a series of communications protocols for the organisation.

Corporate Communications

The Communications section is involved with all media queries and issue of press releases, management of radio advertising and council social media accounts. The section also issues the Annual Report which is live on www.waterfordcouncil.ie from 13th May 2021.

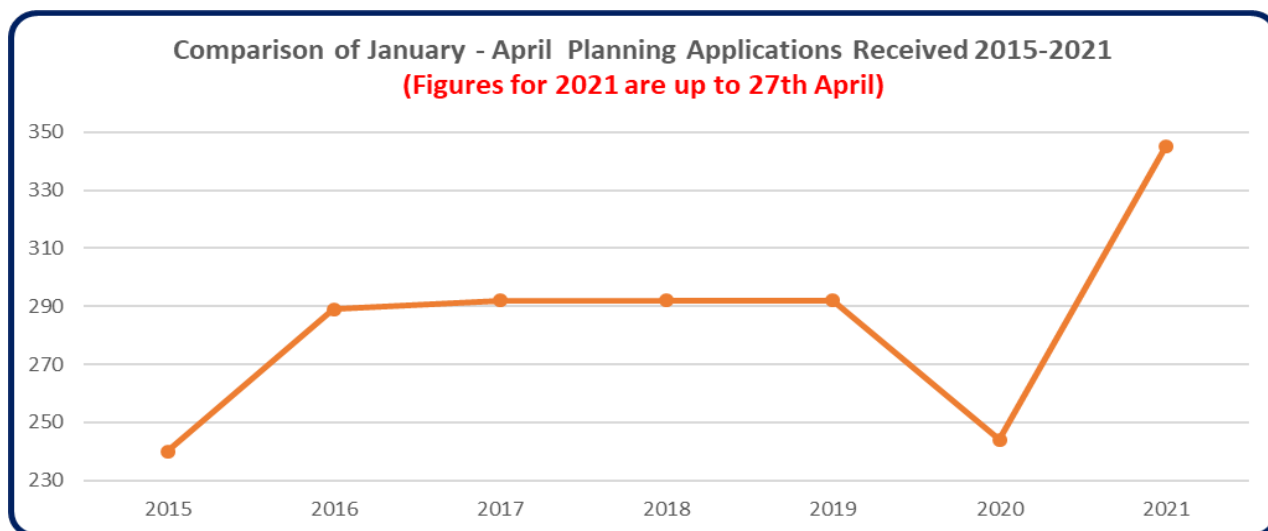
Pleanáil / Planning

Planning Applications Received – Countywide

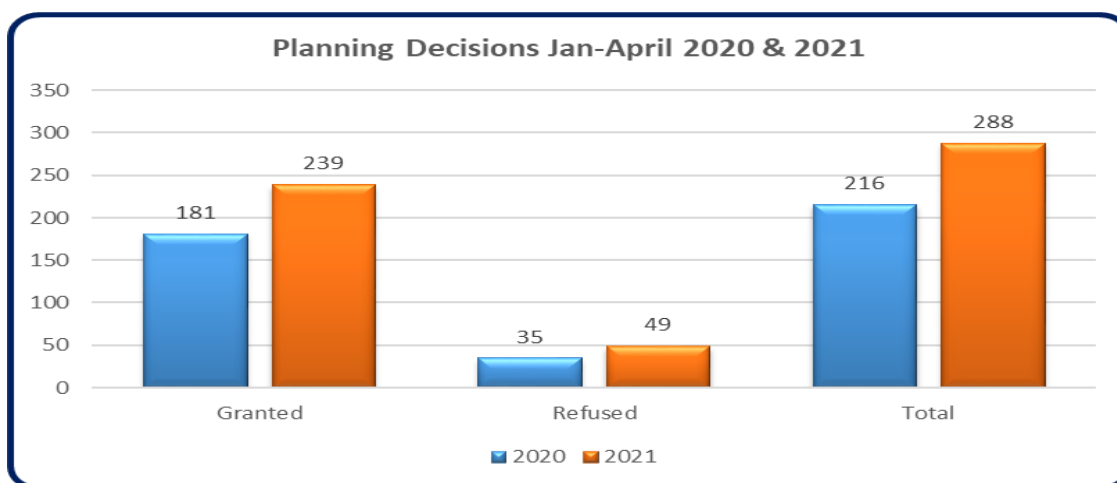
82 Planning applications were received in the month of April countywide (to 26th April). This compares with 48 planning applications received in the same month in 2020. Additional responses are also being received to further information requests.

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 a increase of 33% between the two years.



4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 13TH MAY 2021

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

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
Liaise 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 as 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.

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.

Bóithre agus Iompar / Roads and Transportation

Road Works Programme 2021

The 2021 Road Works Programme is now underway with Strengthening works ongoing. Surface dressing works will commence with a second crew week commencing 10th May, 2021.

Active Travel 2021

Active Travel Design Works and Section 38's are in progress for all Districts, with schemes to commence on a phased basis once the necessary approvals are received at District Level. All current Section 38 projects are available to view on the website www.waterfordcouncil.ie with submission deadline dates.

Winter Maintenance Programme

The Winter Maintenance Programme finished for this season on 25th April. Crews were out on 2 nights during the month of April.

Clár Scheme 2021

Applications for funding under M1 & M2 have been made to the Department of Rural and Community by the 7th May deadline. Funding is expected to be awarded by early July in respect of both measures.

Measure 1 – Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures

Measure 2 – Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities

Beach Bye-Laws 2021

The Roads Department has been liaising with An Garda Síochána throughout the County in relation to enforcement of parking regulations this summer, as provided for in the recently adopted Beach Bye-Laws 2021. Additional lining and signage is being put in place at various coastal locations in consultation with the Gardai to help address parking issues that arose last summer.

Additional resources to deal with litter will also be put in place however the message to the public is to take your litter home and help keep our beaches litter free this summer.

Tithíocht / Housing

Housing Applications

Housing applications	April 2020	Total Number of Applications Year 2020	April 2021	Total Number of Applications Year To Date 2021
Applications received	77	438	96	323
Applications assessed (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	67	423	113	388
Applications validated (incl files carried forward from previous month(s))	47	280	78	227
Approved for social housing supports following interview with applicant	47	245	82	237

Housing Allocations

Area	Tenancies during April 2020	Cumulative No. of Tenancies 2020	New Tenancies during April 2021	Refusal No. of New Tenancy offer	Cumulative No. of New Tenancies 2021
Voluntary Bodies	0	89	1	0	11
Districts	2	296	23	7	100
Totals	2	385	24	7	111

Choice Based Letting (CBL) Scheme

The total number of properties advertised on the CBL system to date is 780. There have been 196 refusals on properties to date.

Housing Loans applications

2021 Housing Loans	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Applications with Housing Agency/deferred for 6 months
April	9	1	2	6	7
YTD	27	1	12	6	7

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Tenant Purchase applications

2021 Tenant Purchase	Applications received	Applications awaiting further info	Applications refused	Applications approved	Sales Closed
April	10	3	2	5	2
YTD 2021	21	3	3	15	9
YTD 2020	61	2	21	34	13

2 Tenant Purchase sales closed in April.

Housing Assistance Payment

Housing Assistance Payment	April 2020 HAP tenancies	April 2021 HAP tenancies set up	2021 no. of Active HAP Tenancies set up	Cumulative no. of HAP Tenancies Set up to date	Cumulative no. of Active HAP Tenancies to date
HAP Tenancies	47	44	43	3,986	2,170

Inspections of Dwellings

2021	April-21
HAP	5
Compliant	0
Non-Compliant	5
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>	1
CAS	1
Non-Compliant	1
RAS	6
Compliant	5
Non-Compliant	1
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>	5
LTL	7
Compliant	1
Non-Compliant	6
<i>of which were Re Inspections</i>	2
Total	19

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In April, Waterford City & County Council carried out 201 planned and reactive inspections of our housing stock. As a result of these inspections 14 properties have had improvement works carried out to meet the standards for rented accommodation.

Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aid Grants

Grant Scheme Amount	Number of applications approved April 2021	Value of applications April 2021	Cumulative number of applications approved 2021	Cumulative value of 2021 applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability. Max. €30,000	5	€61,946.80	14	€172,066.97
Mobility Aids Scheme Maximum €6,000	1	€5,970.10	7	€38,796.52
Housing Aid for Older People Maximum €8,000	2	€10,038.18	7	€28,424.93
Total	8	€77,955.08	28	€23,9288.42

Homeless Services

Waterford Integrated Homeless Services (WIHS) (Opened 25 th February 2019)	April 2021	April 2020
Number of callers seeking services in WIHS 27th March to 30th April 2021. Up to the end of 2020, the service has had over 7,100 visitors since opening on 25th February 2019.	321	191
Number of presentations to WCCC Homeless Services 27th March to 30th April 2021 (1,267 presentation in total in 2021)	104	70
Number of Formal Homeless Assessments 27th March to 30th April 2021	65	38
Breakdown of Persons in Emergency Accommodation (EA) on:	30th April 2021	30th April 2020
Number of Single Persons in EA	55	63
Number of Families in EA	7	13
Number of children in EA	23	40
HAP Place Finder Service	April 2021	Cumulative (06.11.18 to 30.04.21)
Number of approval letters issued 27th March to 30th 2021 (565 approval letters issued to 31/12/2020)	29	678
Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies HUB Complete	11	389

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 13TH MAY 2021

(312 tenancies set up to 31/12/2020)

Number of HAP Place Finder Tenancies currently being processed (as at 30/04/2021)	19	N/A
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Housing First Programme Tenancies

Number of Housing First tenancies in place at 30th April 2021 (Target = 30 by June 2021)	27
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Homeless preventions, supported exits and sustained tenancies continue to be the priorities for Homeless Services in 2021. This will be achieved by continuing our partnership and collaborative working with the HSE and the various Homeless Service Providers in Waterford and by utilising our various projects in WIHS including our Homeless Prevention & Support Service, Advice & Information Service, Tenancy Support & Sustainment Service, HAP PlaceFinder Service and the Housing First Service

Capital Projects - details of breakdown to be provided at district meetings

Housing Capital Schemes - WCCC Projects				
Project Location	Units	Area	Current Position	Comment
Part V	26	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery On-going 2020 – 16 2021 – 10 (est)
Repair and Lease	151	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 41 2021 – 40 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Leasing	130	Countywide	Various Stages	Delivery on-going 2020 – 30 2021 – 50 (est) 2021 – 50 (est)
Total Units in WCCC Projects 824				
Total Units in Approved Housing Body Projects 157				

Refurbishing of houses becoming vacant for re let:

April 2021	TOTAL
Handed Over Works Completed	17
Newly vacant	6

Seirbhísí Pobail / Community Services

Rural Development Programme:

- April marks the beginning of the transitional LEADER programme.
- The first two projects under the transitional programme will go before the LAG committee in June.
- The Budget Breakdown and Potential Actions will be presented to LAG in May for adoption.
- The next three targeted calls will issue in May, August and November.

Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2021

All grant payments have been made with the exception of a few groups who have yet to return supplier set up form.

Waterford Age Friendly Programme:

The Thematic sub-groups continue to meet to progress the objectives of the AF Strategy. The work plan for all subgroups have now been submitted to Age Friendly Ireland. Discussions have also taken place between the Chair, the OPC and the Programme Manager regarding the key aspects of the strategy that need to be addressed before the drafting of the new strategy begins early 2022. The OPC continue to be actively engaged in the Community Response Forum in addition to assisting the Keep Well Campaign through the Stay Connected Programme, providing valuable support to identified projects e.g. Nursing Home Tablets, AF photographic competition.

Healthy Waterford:

Funding received is supporting initiatives including active community initiatives, disability actions, social farming and mental health.

JPC:

The next JPC meeting will be held by Zoom on Monday 14th June at 7pm. Meetings are continuing with the Department of Justice to progress the proposed Local Community Safety Partnership pilot project for Waterford. The position for the Co-ordinator post has been advertised, closing date 7th May.

Covid 19 Community Response Forum:

The CRF – various agencies and organisations working together to address Covid-related issues - continues to meet on a fortnightly basis.

Social Inclusion; Migrant Integration:

The Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy 2021 -2024 was launched by Minister of State, Joe O'Brien TD on 13th April.

Seirbhísi Éigeandála / Emergency Services

Fire Service Operational Activity:

Total call outs to incidents attended by the 10 fire stations of the Fire Authority are shown for the year to date and for the month of April. Emergency response has continued uninterrupted throughout the Covid 19 crisis with significant precautionary measures put in place to ensure the safety of fire crews and the community served.

	Fires	Special Service	False Alarm Good Intent	False Alarm Malicious
Total for April	129	33	17	0
Year to date	280	136	61	2
<i>Total for April 2020</i>	83	18	9	2
<i>Total for 2020</i>	707	455	182	16

Fire Safety:

The following applications for fire safety certificates have been received with comparison shown for the same period last year

Applications Received	April 2021	2021 Year to date	Total for April 2020	Total for 2020
Fire Safety Certificates	6	21	6	84

Building Control:

New functions associated with the Building Control Regulations, introduced on 1st March 2014, are being delivered within Emergency Services. Notices and applications associated with these regulations are shown below.

Application/Notification	April 2021	Cumulative Total for 2021	Total for April 2020	Total for 2020
Commencement Notices	31	99	15	285
Completion Certificates	21	82	19	224
Disability Access Certificates	3	12	5	45

Seirbhísí Comhshaoil / Environmental Services

Environmental Enforcement Statistics

1st January 2021 – 30th April 2021

Enforcement under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 (as amended)

Legal Action Initiated	0
On the Spot Litter Fines Issued (Pending Payment or Prosecution)	58
On the Spot Litter Fines Paid (Includes Fines from 2016 paid in 2017)	21
No of Notices Issued 9,16,17,20	0

Enforcement under the Waste Management Acts 1996 (as amended)

No of Complaints	1036
Legal Actions	0
Section 18's Statutory Notices Served (asking for info on Waste Issues)	0
Section 55's Statutory Notices Served (asking for Waste to be removed in a 2 week period)	8
Section 71's (Abandoned Vehicle Notices)	31
Warning Letters Sent (Packaging Info & Notice Follow Up)	32
Section 14 Directions	21
Section 107 EPA (Noise)	0
Fixed Penalty Notices on Waste Collectors	0
Regulation 33 - Requirement on a Registered Owner to deposit an End-of-Life Vehicle at an Authorised Treatment Facility. (European Union End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2014 – Fixed Penalty Notice.	0
Regulation 25 of the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 282 of 2014) as amended	0

Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter

Waterford City & County Council continues to offer assistance throughout the year to the general public and schools to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. These clean ups are ongoing and extremely busy this year not just with group clean ups but with an increased number of individuals and families taking part.

The regional dog fouling campaign is ongoing. The first 6 social media posts and 3 bilingual leaflets have been designed and are scheduled to be released online between now and mid July. These cover the first two themes of the "Bag it, Bin it" campaign, which address the responsibility of the dog owner to clean up after a dog and the effects that dog fouling has on others in the community. We are currently contacting the Irish Wheelchair Association, Waterford Childcare Committee, etc. to highlight the effects of dog fouling on others in the community. Radio advertisements in relation to the campaign have been

broadcast on WLR FM. Waterford City & County Council have also been working with community groups across Waterford to get the anti-dog fouling message out; a dozen communities have come on board to date and some of these have availed of the local Litter Awareness grant to support their activities. These communities have received help in creating videos, social media content, stencils on footpaths, awareness days and dog litter counts, etc. We are keen to work with other communities and groups also on this issue. Online and local activities over the summer months will ensure that awareness of the responsibilities of dog owners in relation to dog fouling will be highlighted. An education pack will be worked on over the summer months and released for use in schools and youth groups in September. A mid campaign boost the campaign is planned with a small number of responsible dog owners being rewarded with a high visibility dog jacket; this will be used to maintain momentum for the campaign and restate the importance of picking up after dogs as the evenings begin to grow darker. A regional ad campaign will feature on Beat FM at this time also, along with additional social media content, etc.

Tidy Towns

The national Tidy Towns competition entry form is due to be available online this month, with groups encouraged to include relevant photographs wherever possible with their entries in case judging cannot take place in person due to COVID-19. Groups must also submit their application online for the first time. A webinar on how to write an application was held for Tidy Towns groups on 13th April and included a talk by National Tidy Towns Adjudicator Fiona MacGowan. Webinar well attended.

Biodiversity

A Sustainable Gardening course which was held over the last five weeks has now finished. There was great interest in this course and Tidy Towns, community groups and community gardens were prioritised for places. Feedback has been excellent from the course, with participants commenting on how much practical advice they received on how to compost, reduce waste, take cuttings, how to identify what creatures live in your area etc.

Let Dandelions Bee – this campaign encourages leaving dandelions grow during March and April, instead of mowing them and is in line with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This provides early pollinators such as bees with an early source of food. This is of great importance to pollinators and is a simple action that we can all take. Signs are also being put in place on grassy verges to highlight that the grass is being left uncut to help pollinators such as bees.

Schools

This year, Green Schools assessments and visits are taking place online, in accordance with An Taisce's recommendations. An Taisce has extended the assessment deadline until the end of the school year to reflect this nationwide trend. The number of renewals and assessments are considerably lower this year, with many schools choosing to defer until 2022.

Ealaíona & Cultúr / Arts & Culture

Libraries

In April, all branches were closed to the public under Level 5 restrictions; staff continued the book delivery service for schools and vulnerable patrons with 2,149 items issued as part of 208 deliveries to households and schools during the month. In April 7,952 eMagazine, eBooks and eAudiobooks were checked out, active membership of the library service was 8,840 and staff delivered 49 events including;

- Easter Art Competition with Dungarvan Community Project, Foroige and Waterford CYPsy
- ‘Spring into Storytime’ events and activities
- ‘Blaa Book’ Podcast Series
- Ports Past and Present Project ‘Irish Sea Crossings and Irish Sea Stories’
- Grow it Forward seed growing kits campaign partnering with GIY funded by Healthy Ireland
- Kitti Caboodle Musical Postcards
- Waterford Inner City Parents and Toddler Group with St. Brigids FCC and Waterford Libraries
- First Time Parents Support Group with Barnardos, St. Brigids FCC and Waterford Libraries
- Build Waterford Winners Video
- Career Resilience Webinar with Compass Careers Social Media video
- World Autism Day activities
- EDIC New European Bauhaus Conference
- CILIP/LAI Conference 2021 presentation Waterford Library Participation in Community Helpline & Events etc hosted by Waterford Libraries during Covid
- Waterford’s Magdalene Heritage presentation for Waterford Memories Project & Waterford Libraries
- Digitising your Local Heritage webinar with Waterford Libraries, EDIC, Waterford Archives and DRI
- Work Matters events and activities
- Switching Off and Being Creative events and activities
- Dungarvan Camera Club window exhibition in Dungarvan Library
- Healthy Ireland ‘PhysioPilates’ Workshop & ‘Healthy Vegetarian Eating’ talk
- Staff online poetry videos, scrabble club, craft sessions, story times, and Facebook book club
- Waterford Dyslexia Zoom coffee morning

Upcoming Events in May:

- Bealtaine Festival Events and Activities
- Spring into Storytime Events and Activities
- Healthy Ireland ‘Healthy Body, Healthy Bones’ & ‘Diabetes Awareness’ Webinars
- Dungarvan Library Exhibition ‘The Vertigo Project’ by Jean Curran as part of Dungarvan Art Trail
- WIT Lunchtime Talks

Library Development:

Library staff support for Government's Keep Well programme continuing by organising events under the Switching Off and Being Creative theme and supplying statistics to inform the national data hub

- New eMagazine app 'Libby' from Overdrive launch
- Social media, newspaper and radio promotion for library events with staff interviews on WLR
- Building Covid Compliance checks completed in preparation for reopening libraries in line with Government Guidelines in May
- Shakti program, Towers and Tales, Well Festival and Right to Read initiative planning
- Staff training included CILIP/LAI Conference, LGMA Libraries Skill Share, Age Friendly Digital Ambassador Training, Getting Started with OverDrive Marketplace and Libby, LGMA Skills Share Digital Platforms and Hosting online events, Waterford Memories, Intreo Supports for Business and Employment, Train the Trainer with Access IT, Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme

Creative Waterford:

- Creative Waterford Open Call 2021 took place during March and April. Twenty-one projects from across the City and County were awarded funding. The average funding was approximately €2000 per award and includes heritage, arts, creative and community projects.
- Having been awarded *Creativity in Older Age* funding, Waterford Libraries are working on an intergenerational music project with the Bealtine Choir and Kilmacthomas Primary School. Lyric FM will broadcast a programme about the project on May 30th. Mobile Music Machine were also awarded funding for a further four concerts at residential care homes in the autumn and winter months of 2021.
- All details of Creative Waterford projects are on our social media pages (facebook, twitter and instagram).

Arts:

- The ArtLinks bursaries for emerging and professional artists in Waterford have been awarded. Full details on waterfordarts.com
- A successful online Poetry Day Ireland, Waterford took place for the second year with good viewer numbers and participation by Waterford writers.
- The Arts Office, Waterford City and County Council is pleased to be part of the Creation 21/22 project, a new initiative by *Carlow County Council Arts Service in partnership with the Local Authority Arts Offices of Dublin City, South Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford in collaboration with Carlow Arts Festival, Dublin Dance Festival, National Circus Festival, ISACS Network, United Fall Dance, Danseu Festival and led by The Performance Corporation. Supported by the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon Invitation to Collaboration scheme.* Applications are now invited for residencies specifically focussed on performing artists in the South East.

Airgeadas / Finance**Waterford City and County Council - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Y.T.D. to March 31, 2021**

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised
A	Housing & Building	6,589,596	29,905,750	22%	6,868,860	32,231,369	21%
B	Road Transport & Safety	6,108,506	46,501,378	13%	2,319,804	34,342,105	7%
C	Water Services	2,528,092	10,831,808	23%	2,430,969	10,419,107	23%
D	Development Management	3,997,888	16,894,259	24%	1,878,986	8,467,777	22%
E	Environmental Services	4,237,034	19,210,509	22%	435,449	2,847,343	15%
F	Recreation & Amenity	3,016,540	14,454,154	21%	398,585	1,806,387	22%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	222,097	979,517	23%	104,547	528,623	20%
H	Miscellaneous Services	5,463,982	9,620,230	57%	4,304,485	4,668,005	92%
LG	Local Property Tax / GPG	0	0	0%	4,916,254	19,665,016	25%
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	8,355,468	33,421,873	25%
		32,163,735	148,397,605	22%	32,013,407	148,397,605	22%
Surplus/Deficit					(150,328)	0	

4. MANAGEMENT REPORT PLENARY 13TH MAY 2021

Summary of main collections Mar 2021 YTD											
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G'		[6]	[7]	
	Gross Bal as at 1-1-2021	Accrued ytd to Mar 2021	Write Offs and Vacancies	Waivers & Credits	Total for Collection [1+2-3]	Collected ytd to Mar 2021	Gross Bal 28-02-2021 [4-5]	Specific Provision	% Collected ytd re Total for Collection [5/4]	% Collected ytd re 2021 Accrual [5/(4-1)]	
		€	€		€	€	€		€		
Rates	11,042,246	33,549,986	- 789	- 3,069,187	41,522,256	6,263,776	35,258,480	3,300,000	16%	19%	
Loans	1,912,249	809,973	-		2,722,222	826,729	1,895,493		30%	102%	
Rents	4,364,161	3,663,911	6,169		8,034,241	3,576,983	4,457,258		45%	98%	
Aged Analysis :											
				Less than 1 mth	2 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	greater than 12 mths				Net Balance
Rates				-	29,120,489	-	6,137,991				35,258,480
				0 to 3 mths	4 to 6 mths	7 to 12 mths	Greater than 12 mths				
Loans				144,713	71,169	188,926	1,490,685				1,895,493
				Less than 4 weeks	4-6 weeks	7-12 weeks	Greater than 12 wks				
Rents				131,322	104,076	138,637	4,083,223				4,457,258
Overdraft Levels											
Days in Overdraft in Mar	0		Cost -		€0.00		Average Value when in O/D : N/A		€	-	