

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

Economic Development Report to the end of April 2022

Mount Congreve

New Visitor Centre

- The new visitor centre will house a café, along with a retail space for visitors. Works to this area are progressing well, with the steel frame in the main courtyard now completed. The contractor is also carrying out 1st fix mechanical and electrical works, as well as plastering works in some areas. The supply of raw materials continues to be very challenging and a revised completion date of 31st August 2022 has been advised by the works contractor.

Carpark

- Works to resurface the existing Dairy carpark are now complete. WCCC continue to liaise with the Office of Public Works regarding the construction of a new 80 space carpark adjacent the main avenue to the house.

Integrated Constructed Wetlands

- The wetlands will treat wastewater from the new visitor centre and act as a hub for biodiversity, once complete. The planting of the wetlands is currently ongoing.

Interpretation, Orientation & Wayfinding

- The interpretation, orientation & wayfinding scheme is a crucial part of the visitor experience. This will involve the telling of the story of Mount Congreve through an interactive visitor experience in the main house, as well as various installations throughout the garden. All external signage, interpretive installations, and the fitout of the visitor experience in the main house are currently out to tender.

Food, Beverage & Retail

- A tender to appoint an operator for the food and beverage (F&B) offering in the new visitor centre has been completed. Works are well underway, in consultation with Fáilte Ireland, on the design of the retail space. Product selection and development for the retail area is also ongoing.

Garden Works & Play Features

- Numerous elements throughout the garden will be upgraded and improved as part of the works. These include the resurfacing of 3kms of the path network, which has now been completed. Works to repair the waterfall, restore the temple and clean the façade of the house are currently underway also.
- The supply and install of a bespoke play scheme for Mount Congreve is currently out to tender.

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) Application

- WCCC has completed a revised RRDF application for Mount Congreve to seek additional funds, which are required as a result of inflation over the past 2 years.

Trails and Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2020:

- Measure 1: Boolas Loop Walk/Curraheen Trails-maintenance and upgrade project in progress. Due for completion 30th June.
- Measure 1: Nire Valley Walks-maintenance and upgrade project complete.

- Measure 2: Mahon Falls improved trailhead, parking and passing bays. Planning approval in place. Tender documents currently being prepared.

ORIS 2021:

- Measure 1: Cleary's Boreen, Portlaw, improvement works. Due to commence in the coming weeks.
- Measure 1: Walk Waterford ongoing promotion. Revision and re-print of trails brochure and promotional materials. RFQ being drafted.
- Measure 2: Kilmacthomas River Walk improvement works. Project has commenced with surfacing of section of walkway. Further works to be carried out during 2022.
- Measure 2: Installation of footfall counters at key trails and outdoor recreation amenities countywide. Tender documents being prepared.
- Measure 3: Mahon Bridge/Crough Wood trailhead and improved car parking area. Tender documents for detailed design being drafted.
- Project Development Measure: Copper Coast Walking Trail Feasibility study. Tender documents to engage design team currently being drafted.

Waterford Greenway:

- Durrow Station Casual Trading area: Applications being accepted for summer season 2022.
- Durrow Playground: Site cleared, and groundworks currently being carried out at location 300 metres from Durrow Car Park. Due for completion late summer 2022.
- Ongoing Greenway improvements and enhancements. Ongoing with funding support from TII.

Waterford Greenway to Suir Blueway Connection:

- WCCC and Tipp Co Co have engaged TOBIN consulting engineers to carry out feasibility study into recreational trail connecting Waterford Greenway and Suir Blueway: Kilmeadan-Portlaw area-Carrick-on-Suir.

Rural Economic Development

Portlaw – Town Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021

Painting of 8 building facades has been completed.

Stradbally Town Village Renewal Scheme 2020

Contractor on site installing pathways and ancillary works for the Park. First phase of planting for the Biodiversity Park is completed.