

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD**

Economic Development Report November 2022

1. North Quays

There has been significant interaction, assessment and commercial interrogation between the Council, ISIF and the newly appointed SDZ developer, Harcourt Developments. ISIF and Harcourt Developments are currently progressing a joint venture in respect of development of the SDZ site, subject to their internal approval mechanisms. A sale agreement is currently being prepared for the Council to dispose the site to the development company.

In August 2022 the North Quays Final Business Case was submitted to the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. On Wednesday 9th November the Government gave approval for €170.6 m of investment in the Waterford North Quays Infrastructure Project and confirmed approval for Gateway 3 of the Public Spending Code. The Council is finalizing details for the award of contract for the construction of the public infrastructure project (comprising sustainable transport corridor, transport hub and access infrastructure), and proposes to appoint the contractor before the end of November 2022.

Other contracts

- South Plaza enabling works - Suir Plant Civil Engineering Ltd is completing all enabling works on the South Plaza area. Post works part of the site will be made available for Winterval activities.
- Rock Stabilisation contract - Works ongoing by Cumnor Construction Ltd to be completed by February 2023.
- Abbey Road footpath widening contract - Mallwood Construction has been appointed and plans to commence works shortly.
- Pump station contract - David Walsh Civil Engineering has been appointed and proposing to commence works in November 2022.
- Pump station enabling contract – tender assessment ongoing.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

On 14th November, in accordance with gateway one of the Public Spending Code, the Preliminary Business Case for all 22 projects, set out in six clusters was submitted to the Dept Housing Local Government and Heritage (URDF section) for their review and approval.

John Somers Contractor has commenced works to 16-18 Barker Place, O'Connell St (Project L), for the fit out / repurpose of the ground floor as a Community and Cultural Hub in the heart of the Cultural Quarter. Works should be complete within a three-month period.

The part 8 planning application for the change of use of 120 Parade Quay has commenced and is on public display until 15th December. The part 8 planning process for the Parade Quay housing, commercial and public realm development will commence in December 2022.

The CPO of 25/26 O'Connell Street is complete and proposals for the property will be developed with WCQ.

There is ongoing communication and progress with SETU for the development of the Munster Express building.

3. Destination Towns

The following outstanding items associated with the original Failte Ireland grant allocation are now being progressed with an anticipated completion date of April/May 2023:

- Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between the Mall and Bishop's Palace – design ongoing
- Installation of new Sculptures to guide 'footfall' to and highlight the Viking Triangle – tender awarded and works ongoing.
- Upgrading of the existing pedestrian 'Way Finding' Signage and orientation mapping – tenders have been returned and preferred tenderer selected but formal appointment deferred until examples of existing works have been assessed
- Improvements to the visibility of and presentation of the Council owned car parks – design complete tender has been advertised on eTenders, return date is 11/11/2022

Funding under Destination Towns has also supported the development of a new digital story trail featuring augmented reality (AR) which was launched on 15th November. The Waterford Digital Story Trail explores the history, culture, and heritage of 15 different locations in the heart of the city centre, including Reginald's Tower and Waterford Crystal. Through the use of augmented reality smartphone technology, visitors and locals can experience Waterford's past by watching digital animations of characters and architecture appear as if they are in the physical world right in front of them. The trail can be accessed for free by either scanning one of the numerous QR codes on signs located throughout the city trail.

For more information visit:

<https://digitalstorytrail.visitwaterford.com/>



4. Tramore

The following items remain outstanding:

- Control of the access/egress to Main St for local residents –cost estimate from Contractor still not confirmed
- Removal of O/H electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey's Hill junction – no update from ESBN as to when this will take place
- Link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to new car park – gates were raised but further adjustment still required as the 'locking bars' are too long to allow gates to open fully. NBC to review.

Refurbishment to No. 9 Main Street for ground floor commercial use and upstairs accommodation is ongoing, February 2023 is now the likely completion date, tenant has been advised and doesn't have an issue with this revised timeframe

5. Water Activity Centres Tramore

- Work has commenced and it is expected to have Part 8 drawings and documentation for the centre by December 2022.
- It is anticipated that the centre will be completed and operational by Q2 2024.

6. City Centre Management

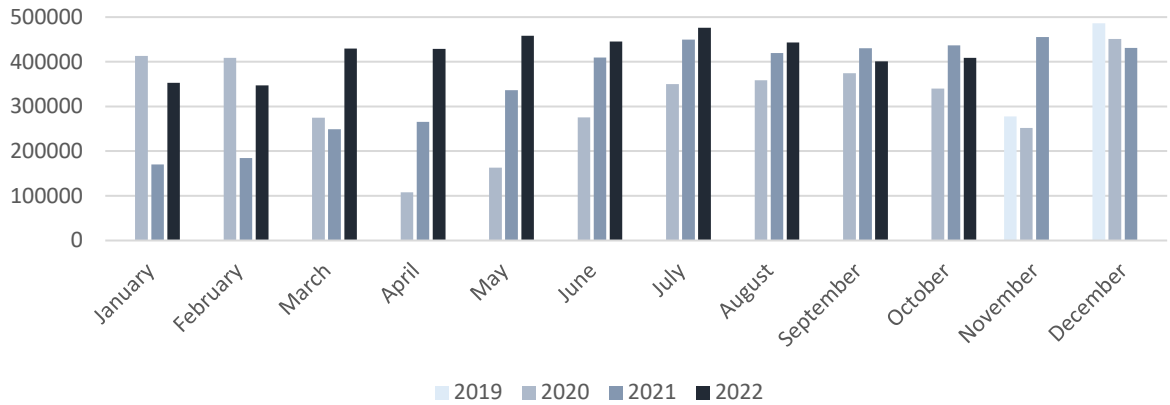
- The next Waterford City Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday 24th November.

- An Access and Parking Sub-Group has been established to develop an action plan to address city centre access and parking issues.

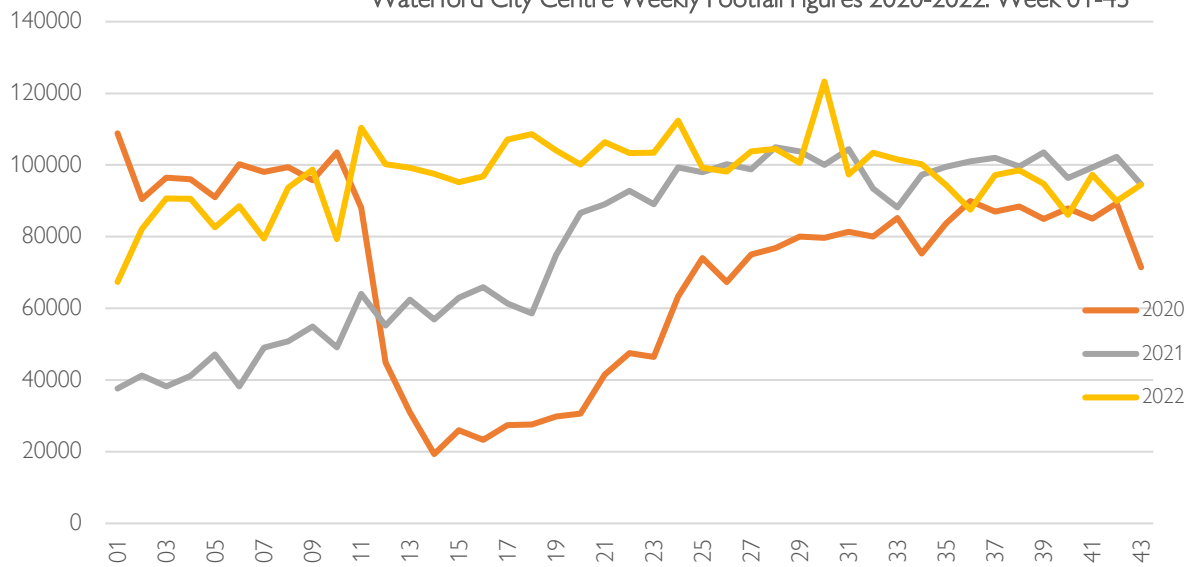
City Centre Footfall Analytics

Waterford City Centre Footfall Comparison 2019-2022

Note: Footfall system went live 15th November 2019



Waterford City Centre Weekly Footfall Figures 2020-2022: Week 01-43



7. Rural Economic Development

Shared Island Fund

Waterford City and County Council in partnership with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, has been awarded almost €250,000 to initiate regeneration projects in Portlaw and Dunmore East in Waterford along with the partner communities of Portglenone and Glenarm in Antrim. The Waterford project elements will specifically look at vacant, derelict and underutilised properties and facilities in these towns with a view towards their regeneration and repurposing.