

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

Economic Development Report October 2022

1. North Quays

Waterford City and County Council is in active dialogue with potential developers, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) and the Land Development Agency in respect of the North Quays SDZ site and intends to progress a proposal to conclusion in the coming months.

Contracts:

- The Final Business case for the North Quays project has been submitted to Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage for cabinet approval as part of the Public Spending Code Gateway 3 approval and also to the NTA. WCCC is engaging with the Dept and addressing any queries being raised.
- Suir Plant Civil Engineering Ltd is expected to complete the South Plaza Enabling works by end of October 2022.
- 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 in October 2022.
- Pump station contract - David Walsh Civil Engineering has been appointed and proposing to commence works in October 2022.
- Tenders for Water Sampling Contract were returned, Tellab Ltd has been appointed to carry out water sampling in the River Suir for a six month period prior to main construction works.

2. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

- The Preliminary Business Case for all 22 projects, set out in six clusters is currently being finalised for submission to the DHLGH in accordance with the Public Spending Code.
- A contractor is being appointed to fit out / repurpose the ground floor of 16-18 Barker Place, O'Connell St (Project L) as a Community and Cultural Hub in the heart of the Cultural Quarter. Works are to commence before the end of October. URDF funding of €641,654 has been awarded for this project.
- The part 8 planning application for the change of use of 120 Parade Quay is due to commence this month, while part 8 planning documents for the Parade Quay housing, commercial and public realm development will follow thereafter.
- There is ongoing communication and progress with SETU for the development of the Munster Express building. The CPO process is being finalised for 25/26 O'Connell Street.

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 March 2023:

- Improvements to the pedestrian crossing between The Mall and Bishop's Palace – design ongoing.
- Improvement works to Mall Lane – Active Travel team to carry out these works.
- 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 received and currently being assessed.

- Improvements to the visibility of and presentation of the Council owned car parks – design complete and almost ready for tendering

4. **Tramore**

- Control of the access/egress to Main St for local residents – awaiting price from Contractor
- Removal of O/H electric infrastructure and poles at lower Main St/Gallwey's Hill junction – waiting on ESNB to return to complete works
- Link between Quishes/Supervalu Car Park to new car park – prior to opening adjustment required to gates to allow them to 'open into' Quishes as well as certain road and line markings.

No. 9 Main Street: work on the refurbishment to for ground floor commercial use is ongoing and scheduled to be complete by January 2023. Tenant has been advised and doesn't have an issue with this revised timeframe

5. **Water Activity Centres Tramore**

- dHB Architects of Catherine's Hall, Catherine's St Waterford were formally awarded the design contract on 5th September 2022.
- Work has commenced and it is expected to have Part 8 drawings and documentation for both centres by December 2022.
- It is anticipated that both centres will be completed and operational by Q2 2024.

6. **Rural Economic Development**

Shared Island Funding

WCCC has been successful in its application to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Fund. Partnering with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, the Council has received some €230k to undertake regeneration planning in the communities of Dunmore East and Portlaw in Waterford along with Portglenone and Glenarm in Antrim. It would be hoped that this funding would be a prelude to further project delivery funding in the future. The awards were announced last Thursday by Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Minister Darragh O'Brien.



7. Trails and Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

- Projects funded under the above-mentioned scheme in 2021 including re-design of Walk Waterford promotional materials, currently in progress.
- Funding for successful projects announced by DRCD to the following projects under ORIS 2022 Measure 1 and Project Development Measure. An allocation of funding for the enhancement of open water swimming amenities in Dunmore East is included totalling €25,000.

Waterford Greenway

- A number of projects are currently being planned and/or implemented on Waterford Greenway with both WCCC funding sources and funding support from TII including:
 - Installation of bike maintenance stations along the route.
 - Fencing at a number of locations.
 - Upgrade works to the Greenway near Killoteran in collaboration with WSVR.

Waterford Trails

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors and local trail development groups around Waterford with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. www.visitwaterfordtrails.com
- The DRCD have announced funding for Community Trail Management Organisations which is being administered at national level by Pobal. Funding will support purchase of equipment, small scale maintenance/repair or promotion of eligible trails. In the Metropolitan District the Dunmore East Coastal Walk Committee have submitted a successful application for €2800. Funding allocated must be used before 30th November 2022.

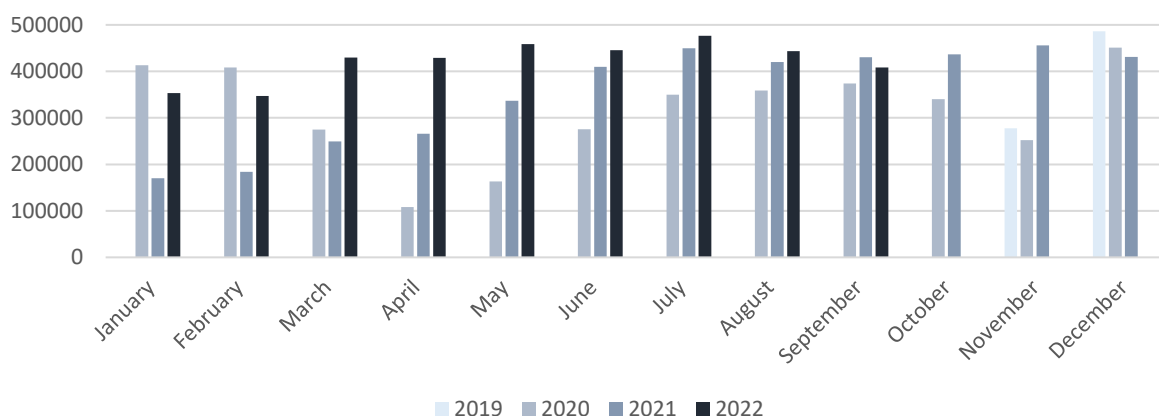
8. City Centre Management

- The next Waterford City Centre Management Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday 24th November.
- A Parking Sub-Group has been established to develop an action plan to address city centre parking issues.

City Centre Footfall Analytics

Waterford City Centre Footfall Comparison 2019-2022

Note: Footfall system went live 15th November 2019



Waterford City Centre Footfall Comparison 2019-2022

Note: Footfall system went live 15th November 2019

