

Macroom Municipal District Officer's Report

25th November 2022



1. General Municipal Allocation

To date, the following claims have been submitted in relation to the Amenity, Capital and Community Contract allocations under the GMA.

- 2019 - €204,446.74
- 2020 - €154,744.51
- 2021 - €131,886.00

2. Town Development Fund

To date, the following claims have been submitted in relation to the Town Development Fund under the GMA.

- 2019 - €97,024
- 2020 - €84,300
- 2021 - €54,700

Below are some images of recently completed project by Donoughmore Writers & Historical Group for tree pruning & cleanup of the old graveyard in advance of anniversary of St Lacteen's death, patron saint of Donoughmore, funded with assistance from the Community Fund.





3. RRDF Category 1 Announcement from DRCD

Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development, recently announced the Macroom Development Project as one of the successful Category 1 applications from the 4th call under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund which closed in April 2022.

This Macroom Development Project will see a number of interventions in the centre of Macroom, including the refurbishment of the vacant St.Colman's Church as an arts, community, cultural and heritage facility. The project will conserve and re-establish Macroom town centre as the economic, cultural and community hub of the town.

Funding of €7,212,103 has been granted under RRDF Category 1 under Phase 2 allocation. Phase 2 projects won't commence for a period of time (i.e. 12 to 18 months approx). This funding follows the Category 2 RRDF funding announcement of €395,000 secured earlier this year towards this project. This success reflects the quality of the proposal that was put forward and the commitment of all involved in the project and the vision it aspires for Macroom for future years to come. Few other projects, if any, have had such a successful outcome in such a short time with a proposal.

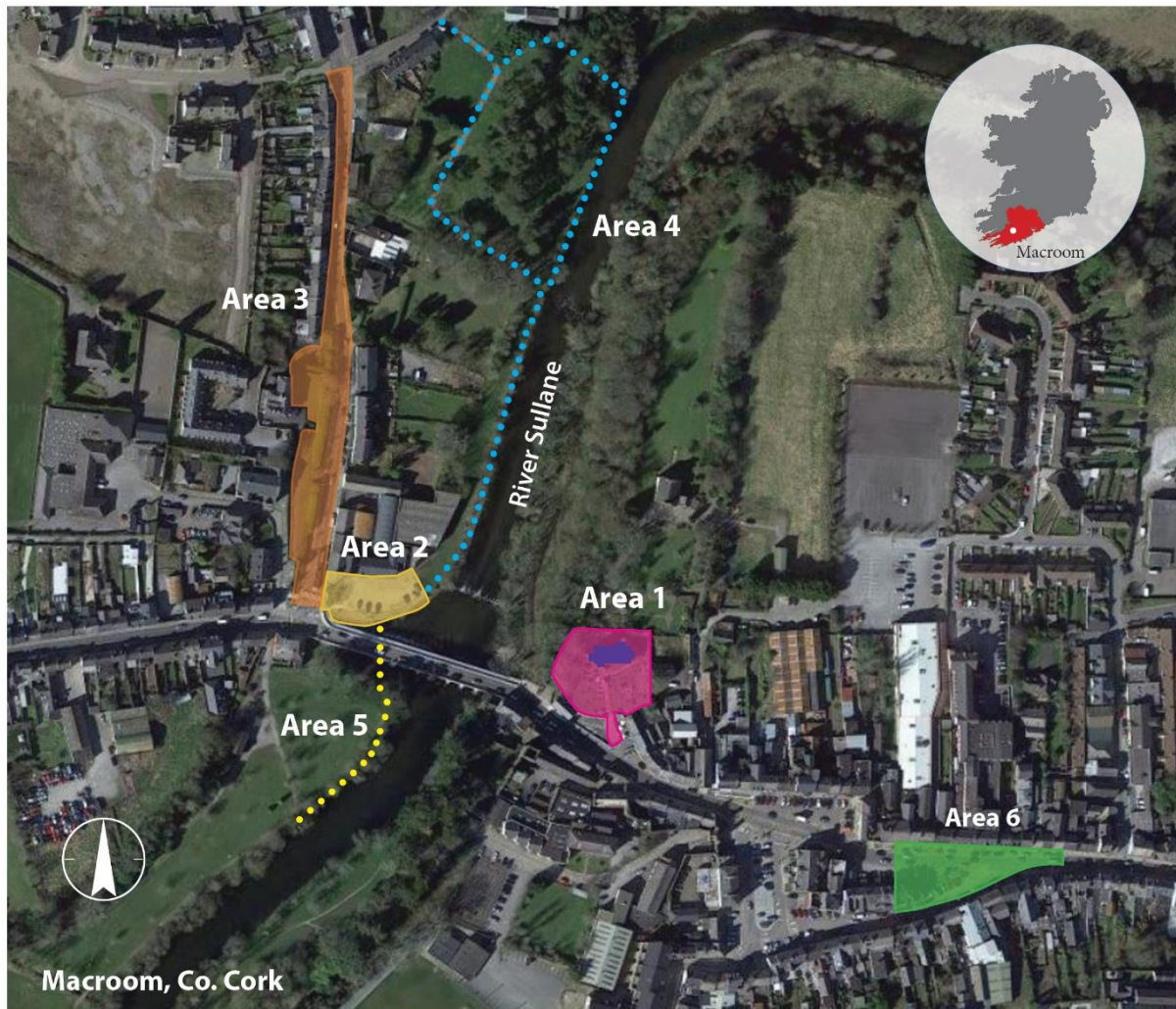
This project will be transformative for the town of Macroom and will see St. Colman's Church, currently unoccupied, developed into a focal & significant destination for the people of Macroom town.

This project relates to a number of interventions in the town centre of Macroom, developed through Category 2 funding, involving:

- The refurbishment of the vacant, disused and deteriorating St. Colman's Church off the Main Street and its re-use as a flexible arts, community, cultural and heritage location.
- Reconfiguration of O'Riada's car park and surrounding footpaths to fully utilise the available lands for public amenity
- Public realm development at Mill Dam/Masseytown to showcase the river and the dam and provide for a raised viewing area
- The development of a riverbank walk linking O'Riada's Car Park to the existing Fairy Garden Park and the connection of Mill Dam/Masseytown to the town park and Macroom Castle.
- The development of enhanced public realm on South Square, following completion of the bypass next year, to provide for a better public space

These projects have emerged from a collaborative approach between the Council and a number of key partners, all with the collective vision to deliver a flagship urban regeneration project to conserve and re-establish Macroom town centre as the economic, cultural and community hub of the town.

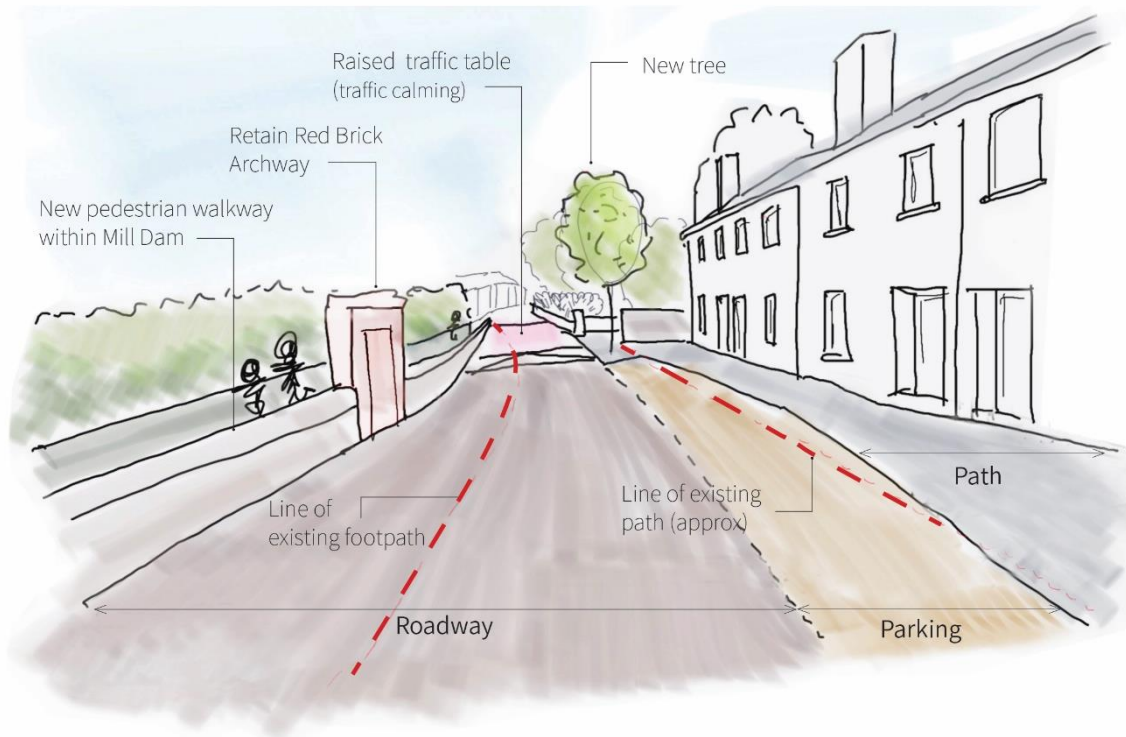
Below are some artists impressions of the completed project.



Aerial view showing locations of the development areas in Macroom (6 in total)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Area 1: St. Colman's Church | Area 3: Millrace Pedestrian Walkway | Area 5: Eye of the Bridge |
| Area 2: O'Riadas Carpark | Area 4: Riverbank Walk | Area 6: South Square |

Proposed intervention in celebration of the Millrace and the town's heritage and public realm improvements



Proposed Intervention – a paved riverbank walkway connecting the town centre to local amenities such as the fairy garden.



Proposed intervention by day – Positive and welcoming atmosphere, congestion free, pedestrian friendly. A reactivated town centre core.



Proposed Public Realm Works (amenity and recreational area)



4. 2022 Macroom Christmas Market

Macroom Municipal District intends to hold its traditional festive Christmas Market in Macroom Town Square on **Tuesday 13th December 2022 commencing at 9.00 am** which will be officially opened by Cathaoirleach of Macroom MD, Cllr Eileen Lynch.

This market will have many new stalls, together with the traditional stalls and those that trade each Tuesday. A marquee will be erected in the Town Square for the day and the roadway in front of the public toilets will be closed too. It promises to be a great day with plenty of treats & Christmas present ideas on offer.

Upstairs in Town Hall will also be open for trading and this year we will have a number of Secondary school students from transition year who will be selling items. We will also have Macroom School of Art who will be providing art demonstrations, free of charge & suitable for everyone, young & old. You will be able to make your own Christmas Cards.

As the bypass will have officially opened on the day of the market, we would strongly encourage everyone to come to this great event & to enjoy the festive atmosphere with loads to see, buy & to do on the day.

5. Historic Towns Initiative 2022 _ St Colman's Church, Castle St, Macroom

Under the Historic Towns Initiative 2022, St. Colman's Church, Castle St, Macroom was granted €215,847 in funding towards the necessary works to the Church to safeguard the building from falling into further disrepair. Works included:

- repointing of stone
- roof repairs
- works to stained glass windows
- repairs to entry doors
- structural repair to the tower
- consolidation and repair to the external envelope
- removal of vegetation
- repair of rainwater goods
- removal of cement pointing
- repointing of external stonework in an appropriate lime mortar.

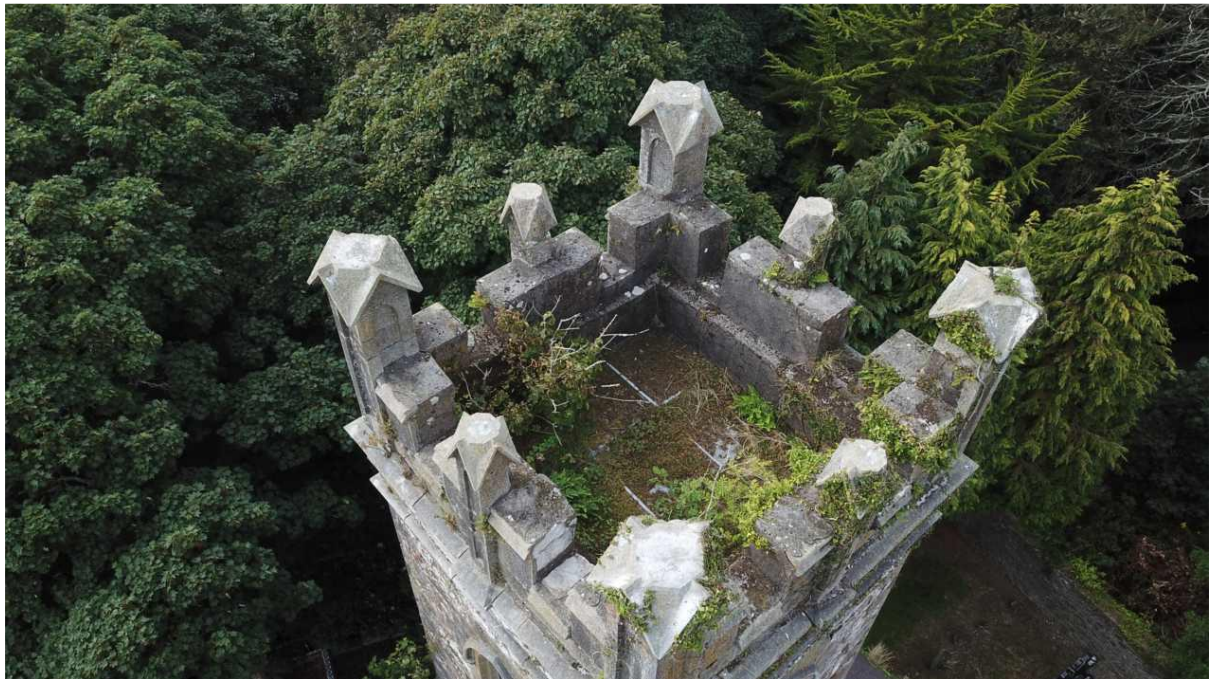
To ensure that this project was delivered on programme and on budget to a high quality, a very experienced team was assembled to deliver this project. The project was carefully managed by Raymond Higgins, Project Lead with the assistance of specialised contractors.

I'm sure you'll agree that a great project has been completed with the church looking great and the works completed clearly visible to all. This will protect the fabric of the building until it is developed further.

Below are some images of the project:



Tower viewed from West, prior to works.



Tower top/ roof with build-up of vegetation/ growth, and S/C render to parapet.



New tower roof with stone repairs and re-pointing ongoing. 1st November 2022





Tower scaffold removed first view of tower (through the mist!).

6. Macroom Library & Briery Gap Project _ Update

Works are continuing on the Macroom Library & Briery Gap with the brickwork currently underway. The construction site will be closed for the Christmas period from 22nd December to 2nd January 2023 but the site will be monitored during this time.

7. Christmas Parking Arrangements in Macroom

From Thursday 1st December 2022 to Sun 1st January 2023 (both dates inclusive), the first 2 hours of parking will be free of charge for on street car parking in Macroom

town and usual charges will apply thereafter. Please note that the Council car parks will remain free of charge as normal. This arrangement will be advertised in the local media & through the Council's social media outlets.

8. Christmas Lights 2022

Macroom

This year's Christmas lights will be officially turned on at 7.00pm on Friday 2nd December 2022 by Cathaoirleach of Macroom Municipal District, Cllr Eileen Lynch and to mark this event there will be a festive Christmas Market in the Town Square on that evening from 5.00pm to 8.00pm. This event is organised by the Lee Valley Enterprise Board & everyone is encouraged to come out & enjoy this event in the town.

Millstreet

The Christmas lights will be officially turned on at 6.00pm on Sunday 4th December 2022 and to mark this event Millstreet Vintage Club will showcase their vintage cars through the town. This evening is organised by Millstreet Christmas Lights Committee and everyone is encouraged to come out & enjoy this lovely event in the town.

Marie O'Leary

Macroom Municipal District Officer



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council