

Macroom Municipal District Officer's Report

30th June 2023



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.

- 2020 - €180,219.51
- 2021 - €152,704.80
- 2022 - €109,683.47

2. Town Development Fund

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

- 2020 - €84,300
- 2021 - €54,700
- 2022 - €49,152

3. CLÁR Fund 2023

3no applications submitted to Macroom MD have formed part of the Council's submission to Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) under Clár 2023. These applications are outlined below:

M1 Projects:

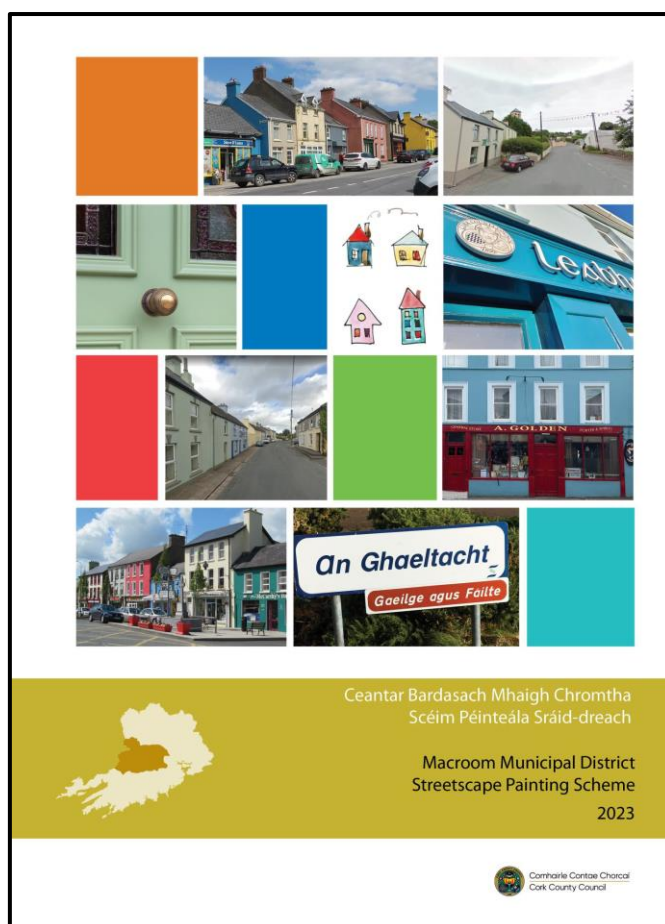
- Millstreet Community Hall – roof refurbishments & upgrades.
- Inchigeelagh Community Island Park upgrade project with Croi an Laoi Group
- Muinefliuch National School Natural Trail – development of trail.

We expect a decision from DRCD during Q4 2023. All groups who have made applications under this Fund have been notified in writing if their application formed part of the final 15 being submitted from Cork County Council.

4. 2023 Paint Scheme

The closing date for the 2023 Paint Scheme was Thursday 15th June. We have been inundated with applications under this year's Scheme. We have received a total of 72 applications. At present we are assessing these applications & writing out for any outstanding documentation. The following is a breakdown of the applications per area:

Name of Town / Village	Total No of Applications	No for Paint Only	No for Contractors
Macroom	35	11	24
Millstreet	12	7	5
Cloughduv	3	0	3
Coachford	5	0	5
Inchigeelagh	7	7	0
Cill Na Martra	10	9	1
TOTALS	72	34	38



5. RIAI Awards

The “Béal na Bláth Centenary” project scooped 2 major awards at last week’s RIAI Awards ceremony:

- Category – Public Space and Urban Design (Winner)
- Category - Public Choice – 2nd Place

A fantastic result for a great project of historical significance and well done to all involved including the Cork County Council team & partners:

Project Partners

Scott Tallon Walker Architects
Professor Finola O’Kane, UCD
Arkil Ltd

Funding Partners

Department of Defence
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
Department of An Taoiseach

Community Partners

Michael Collins Béal na Bláth Commemorations Committee

A stunning project that provides a fitting tribute to the history & heritage of Ireland’s past.





6. Art Exhibitions

This summer upstairs Town Hall will again be converted to gallery space to facilitate art exhibitions during July, Aug & part of Sept. These ever popular & growing exhibitions will no doubt attract many interested visitors again this year. The exhibition for July will have a particular interest to people of this MD.

New Artwork about Irish Road Bowling being presented in Macroom Town Hall

The Score, by Irish artist James L Hayes, is a contemporary art project and exhibition about the sporting tradition and culture surrounding Irish road bowling played in County Cork. Commissioned by Cork County Council in 2021 and supported by Creative Ireland, this presents a unique and creative response to Irish Road Bowling in

collaboration with members and players from Ból Chumann na hÉireann, (The Irish Road bowling Association). The final artworks will be exhibited in Macroom town Hall from Saturday 8th July to Saturday 29th July as part of Cork County Council's annual Summer exhibition programme.

James L Hayes is an Irish contemporary artist based in Cork. His work varies from making sculptures, installations, performance works, and films, to developing large scale sculptural commissions and public art projects. His art practice references history, anthropology, and popular culture. The Score will be initially exhibited in Macroom Town Hall where it will be presented as a multi-screen film and sound installation with bespoke sculptural artworks and objects. The Score has an accompanying sound composition by Peter Power.

The Score looks at both the tradition and contemporary culture of Irish Road Bowling and refers to the history and material of the cast iron road bowl. Road bowling competitors throw a metal ball along a predetermined course of country roads; the aim is to use the fewest number of throws. The sport originated in Ireland and is now mainly played in counties Armagh and Cork. The game is played with a 28oz cast iron bowl, in the past stone or iron bowls were used.

Bol-Chumann na hÉireann was formed in Enniskeane, County Cork on the 20th of November 1954. Bol-Chumann na hÉireann was preceded by the ad hoc, All-Ireland Bowllaying Association which was composed of Cork men. Today Bol-Chumann na hÉireann has approximately fifty clubs in the county of Cork with male and female road bowling players of all ages.

James L Hayes is an accomplished artist. He has had exhibitions in Ireland and abroad, and it is wonderful to see a creative response to cultural institution Ból Chumann na hÉireann. While Road Bowling isn't unique to Cork it is a big part of our cultural heritage and through this artwork it is memorialised and brought to new audiences. This type of creative process involves more than just the artist and gives people who usually don't make art an opportunity to be creative. It aligns with our aims in Cork County Council Creative Strategy which works to ensure that all people living in County Cork have the opportunity to realise their full **creative** potential.

The Score by James L Hayes is funded by Cork County Council Arts Office and Creative Ireland. This exhibition opens at Macroom Town Hall on Saturday July 8th at 7pm by Dr Seán O Tuama and will run until Saturday July 29th 2023. The exhibition will be open from Tuesday to Sunday from 11.00 am to 6.00pm with admission free & open to everyone.

An update on the Art Exhibition to be held during August will included in next month's report. This exhibition will be by Dolores Lyne and will be part of the ongoing decade of commemorations supported by Cork County Council



7. 2023 Historic Towns Initiative - Update

Under the 2023 Historic Towns Initiative Stream 2 (funded by The Heritage Council) Macroom Municipal District was successful in securing funding of €40,000 towards the development of a Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Macroom & specifically looking at New Street & Castle Street in the town core.

This plan will highlight the current assets in the area & will aim enhance the natural beauty of these streets in a planned & measured manner. Streets like New Street and Castle Street have been unable to develop to their potential because of the sustained traffic. This is now an opportune time to look at these streets, assess the heritage & historic value of them & develop a plan which could be replicated in any other town in the Municipal District, in Cork County or even nationally. Macroom town is similar to other towns of its size but it has some lovely unique historic features and natural assets already, so the plan is to highlight current assets in the area & to enhance its natural beauty in a planned & measured manner.

This project is currently at tender stage with tenders submitted being currently assessed with a successful tenderer to be awarded the project shortly. This project has a timeline for completion of end Oct 2023.

As part of this funding & project, an event will be held during National Heritage Week to showcase the historical & heritage value of Macroom & to outline the works being undertaken with this project. Further details on this event will issue closer to the date. A provisional date for this event is Tues 15th August 2023 but this will be confirmed, together with further details at a later stage.

8. Macroom Music Festival

The Lee Valley Enterprise Board (LVEB) sponsored by Cork County Council held its first Macroom Music Festival over last weekend, with the culmination of the festivities being the concert on Saturday headlined by The Frank & Walters. This event has been a great community effort & success for the town. A special note of thanks to Marcella & to James & his team on the excellent cleanup of the town undertaken by them early on Sunday morning.



Marie O'Leary

Macroom Municipal District Officer



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council