

Macroom Municipal District Officer's Report

3rd November 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 - €159,204.80
- 2022 - €118,477.00

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

Below is image of recent improvements and new equipment at the Lee Valley Rowing Club. This project was completed with assistance from the Community Fund.



3. CLÁR Fund 2022 Update

Four projects were granted funding under 2022 Clár Fund. The project by Scoil Abán Naofa in Baile Mhic Íre has now been completed. This project, granted funding of €22,365 involved the creation of an outdoor community space. The Crann na nÓg Project was based on the creation of a new outdoor community amenity, focussing on promoting socialisation, tourism and local heritage.

This was achieved by converting a plot of unused land by Scoil Abán National School and the new public Community Hall into a community space, with seating, informational signage and a significant tree carving. This carving was created from a large (6m+) stump of a 120 year old tree, which was planted by students of the national school upon opening of the school in 1900, and was a considerable landmark in the parish. The tree carver, John Hayes transformed the leftover stump into a sculpture, depicting and celebrating the history and culture of the parish.

The informational signage installed details the story of the tree and the meaning behind each of the carvings depicted in the sculpture. The sign is bilingual and has an interactive digital element, allowing visitors to scan a QR code for additional information and translation for tourists. Surrounding the seating, a pollinator friendly garden has been planted, which adds to the visual appeal for visitors and passers-by. Below are some before and after images of the project.







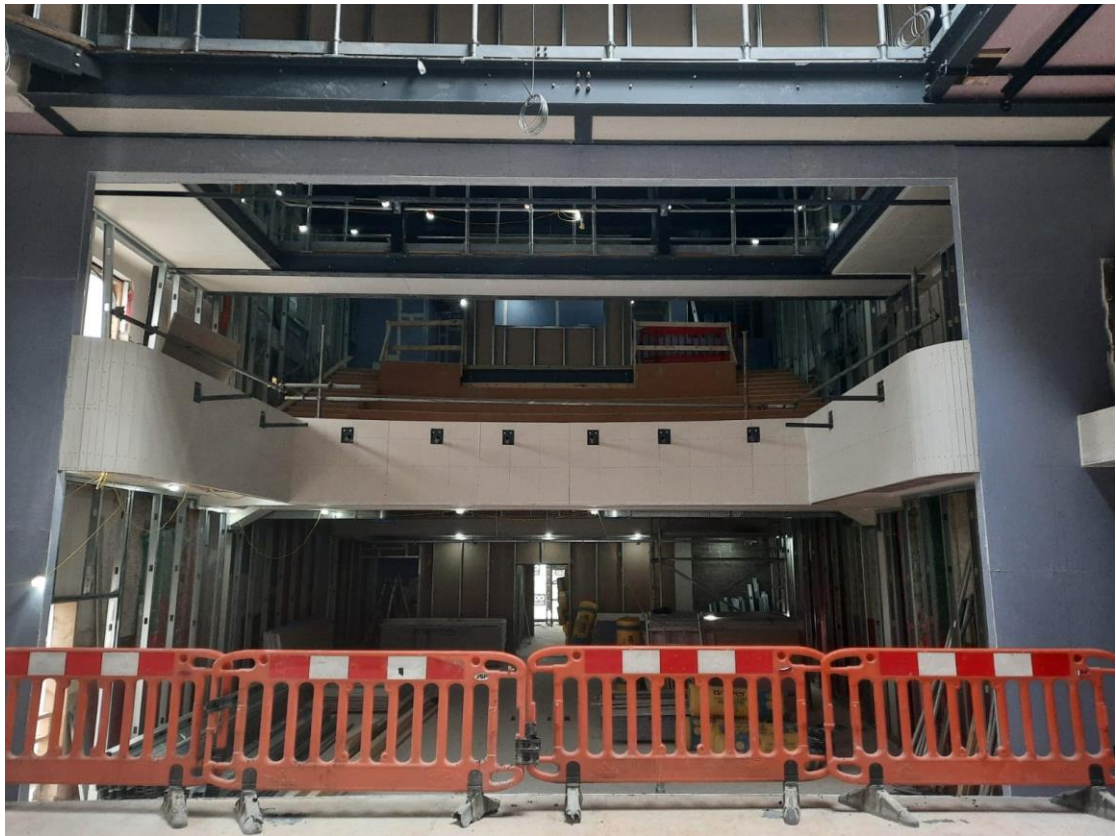
Work is continuing on the other three projects and these are likely to be completed in the next number of weeks / months. These projects are:

- Ballingearry Public Toilets refurbishment project
- Millstreet Mens Shed Project – refurbishment of Old Fire Station for Mens Shed
- Millstreet Community Council for the purchase of community gym equipment

4. Macroom Library & Briery Gap Theatre Project Update

This project is continuing apace and is on target for the construction phase of the project to be completed in Q1 2024 with the fit outs then to be completed and it is hoped that the building will open to the public during Q2 2024.

At present 1st and 2nd fixings and internal works are being completed. Below are some images of the interior of the building as it now is really starting to take shape as a theatre & library.



5. 2023 Paint Scheme Update

As you will recall, there was a huge response to the 2023 Paint Scheme announced earlier this year with 72 successful applications awarded funding under this Scheme to a total of €22,965. To date, 21 applications have been completed with a total of €7,230 allocated for these. The remaining 51 applications have been sent reminders to finalise their applications as this 4 month Scheme has closed. A remaining allocation of €15,735 is currently unclaimed on this Scheme. Below are some images of completed painting works on premises allocated funding under this Scheme.



6. 2023 Macroom Christmas Market

Macroom Municipal District intends to hold its traditional Christmas Market in Macroom Town Square on **Tuesday 12th December 2023 commencing at 9.00 am.**

The plan is to close the road at the public toilets for the day to facilitate the erection of a marquee in the Square to accommodate additional stalls and to allow for the safe passage of visitors through the market. We are currently inviting interested stall holders to contact the Town Hall to book a place at this market. Due to the level of interest in this market, stall positions are filling up fast. The local schools are also being contacted to see if their Transition Year students would be interested in taking a stall at this market. We also plan to open upstairs in Macroom Town Hall to accommodate additional stall holders. As parking in the Square will be removed on this day, we encourage visitors to use the free car parks available in the town centre & adjacent to the Market.

For the first time last year, we engaged with Macroom School of Art who held workshops upstairs in Macroom Town Hall & they did demonstrations on Christmas card making and did workshops with those interested in making their own cards. We plan to work with the School of Art again this year to provide similar workshops free of charge to those interested.

On 12th December, this Christmas Market will be opened & launched by the Cathairleach of Macroom MD, Cllr Ted Lucey and everyone is welcome to attend and we encourage people to come out & enjoy this wonderful event that each year is increasing its visitors & the number of stalls too has increased year on year.





Marie O'Leary

Macroom Municipal District Officer



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council