

# Macroom Municipal District Officer's Report

28<sup>th</sup> March 2025



## 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.

- 2022 - €202,514.50
- 2023 - €135,471.31
- 2024 - € 43,241.23

## 2. Town Development Fund

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

- 2022 - €89,514.86
- 2023 - €52,853.32
- 2024 - €36,543.39

Below are some images from Baile Bhuirne and District Community Council who completed their Astro Turf Project which was supported with assistance from the Community Fund.





### **3. 2025 General Municipal Allocation & Town Development Fund**

#### **2025 Community Fund**

A total of 78 applications were received by the Macroom MD in respect of the 2025 Community Fund Scheme. The total value of applications received was €1,034,951 while the allocation under the Community Fund 2025 is €197,253.

A listing of all applications deemed eligible and recommended for approval by the elected members of the Macroom Municipal District is set out in a separate document as an appendix to this report and will be provided at the MD meeting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

#### **2025 Town Development Fund**

The 2025 TDF allocation is €98,000. The proposed allocations under the 2025 Town Development Fund is also listed in a separate document and will also be provided at the MD Meeting.

### **4. The Heritage Council – Grants Update – Macroom Castle Gate Lodge**

Macroom Castle Gate Lodge, a structure of historical and heritage value in Macroom's town centre has been awarded funding of €200,000 under the 2025 Historic Towns Initiative, towards sensitive restoration and conservation works to weatherproof this structure for the future.

This funding represents 80% of the funding for the project. There is a 20% match funding requirement with this grant. Consequently, the entire project will be to a value of €250,000.

The castle's arched gateway is a symbol of the town, used as a logo on community websites, and replicated on the town's boundary as a symbol of Macroom. It is the intention of Cork County Council with Macroom Castle Demesne Trustees who manage Macroom Castle Demesne on behalf of the townspeople, that the presentation, activation and interpretation of the gateway could create a flagship heritage attraction, actively promoting the 300 acres of public riverside amenity within, currently unknown to visitors.

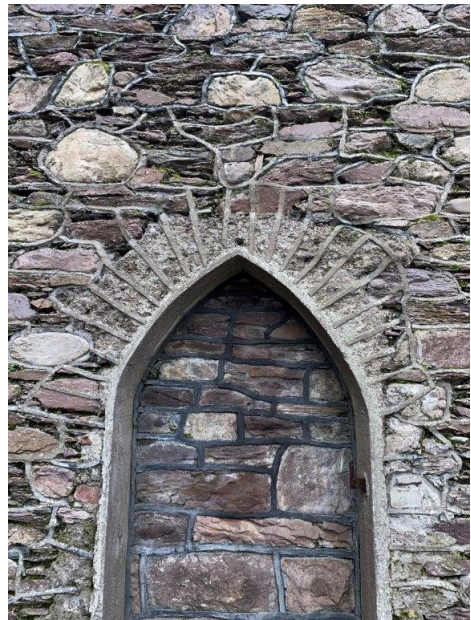
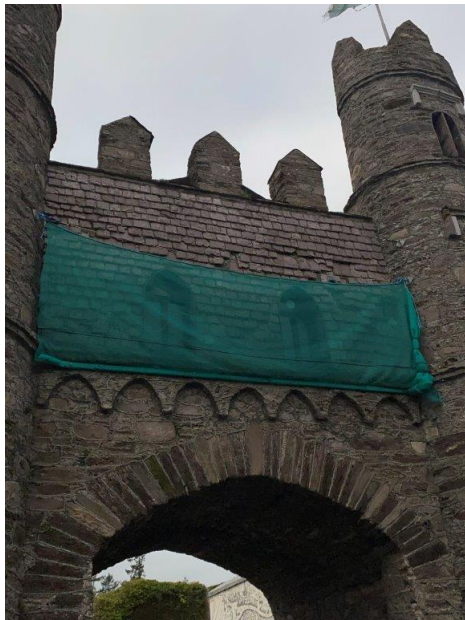
The proposed conservation and consolidation works will support heritage-led regeneration and enhance the historic character of Macroom for both residents and visitors. In 2024, a heritage-led regeneration plan for Macroom funded by the Heritage Council, identified the Gate Lodge as a priority project.



Located in the heart of Macroom's main square, the Gate Lodge is of significant cultural and historical importance to the local community. A public consultation revealed that 63% of residents prioritised its conservation, emphasising its role as both a heritage asset and a key tourism attraction.

The works proposed are essential conservation and consolidation works and are necessary to repair and weather the structure. The works have been assessed and deemed to have no negative impact on the archaeological significance or structure of the Gate House. Macroom has significant historical connections through TC Murray, William Penn etc and therefore attracts many tourists during the tourism season. This area, being a main attraction in the historic centre of town urgently requires this necessary work to enhance it visually and to make it a destination for a visit. This project could considerably enhance the public realm of the town centre and thus increase the tourism potential of the town.







## 5. CLÁR Fund 2023 - Update

Under Clár 2023, 3 projects for Macroom MD were granted funding, as follows:

Community Project	Grant Allocated
Millstreet Community Hall Roof Repairs Project	€48,112
Redevelopment of the Community Island Park Project in Inchigeelagh	€43,200
Develop Muinefliuch Family Forest Nature Trail Project	€14,097
<b>Total Allocated to Macroom MD under Clár 2023</b>	<b>€105,409</b>

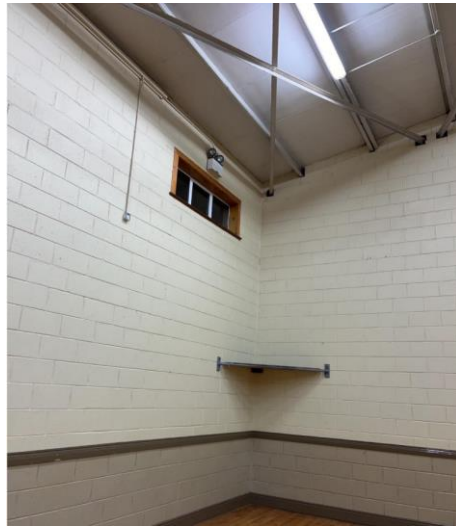
### Millstreet Community Hall Roof Repairs Project – Update

This project entailed essential repair of all defects to the existing roof panels and flashings to eliminate leaks and also included the electrics at Millstreet Community Hall. This project is now fully complete and has made a significant difference to the appearance of the building and to its weather tightness. With this work completed, the building is now more energy efficient with the structural integrity being significantly improved. This project ensures that the longevity of the roof is now extended, thus protecting the interior from weather elements.

Incorporating the electric works and new LED lighting not only enhances the safety and functionality of the space but also contributes to energy efficiency. LED lighting consumes less power compared to traditional lighting that was in the hall.

Below are some before and after pictures of the completed project:





## 6. 2024 Community Recognition Fund – Update

Under Window 3 the following two projects from Macroom MD have been included as part of the Council's submission to the Department for funding under the 2024 Community Recognition Fund. We'd hope to have a decision on these applications in the near future. A total of eight projects were submitted under this final window for funding.

Community Project	Grant being Sought
Millstreet Community Council for renovation of community building for various uses including meeting room, fitness room, youth café and events.	€50,000
Mc Egan College Macroom for the development of Sensory and Quiet Space Restructuring Works.	€50,000

## 7. 2025 Village Enhancement Scheme

The allocations under the 2025 Village Enhancement Scheme will be made at the April MD Meeting. Members are encouraged to submit any suggestions for this Scheme by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 whereby they can be assessed with provisional allocations to be brought before the April Meeting for Members approval.

## 8. 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme has been launched and which is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland by focusing on stimulating town centre economic and social regeneration. This will be achieved through projects which support sustainable employment creation, town centre resilience and regeneration, enhancing our streetscapes, and bringing vacant and derelict buildings and lands back into use as community multi-purpose spaces through refurbishment and renovation.

Applications can be made under the following categories:



**Main Scheme**

3 applications - funding €50,000 to €300,000 per application

1 application - funding €50,000 to €500,000 per application

**Project Development Measure**

2 applications - funding of up to €50,000 per application

**Building or Land Acquisition Measure**

Up to 3 applications - total fund of up to €500,000 per local authority

The Closing date for receipt of applications to the Department is:

- Friday 2nd May 2025 for the Building and Land Acquisition Measure and
- Friday 25th July 2025 for the Main Scheme and Project Development Measure.

Further details on submission on the application process is available on the Council's website at [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie) or [www.yourcouncil.ie](http://www.yourcouncil.ie) .

## **9. Greening of Macroom Town Hall**

As part of the St. Patrick's Day and weekend celebrations, Macroom Town Hall and Millstreet Carnegie Hall were turned green for the weekend. Below is an image of Macroom Town Hall.



*Marie O'Leary*

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Macroom Municipal District Officer



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council