

Macroom Municipal District Officer's Report

28th July 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. Village Enhancement Fund 2022

In 2022 Aherla Village was awarded the Village Enhancement Fund for upgrades & enhancements to the village.

Meetings were held with the community to identify their priorities for Aherla and a programme of enhances was agreed and included the following works:

- Development of community recreational area in the village to include:
 - Installation of new information board
 - Recreational seating
 - Bike Stand
 - Paving & landscaping this area
- New Christmas Tree with lighting for the Village
- Works at Creeds Cross

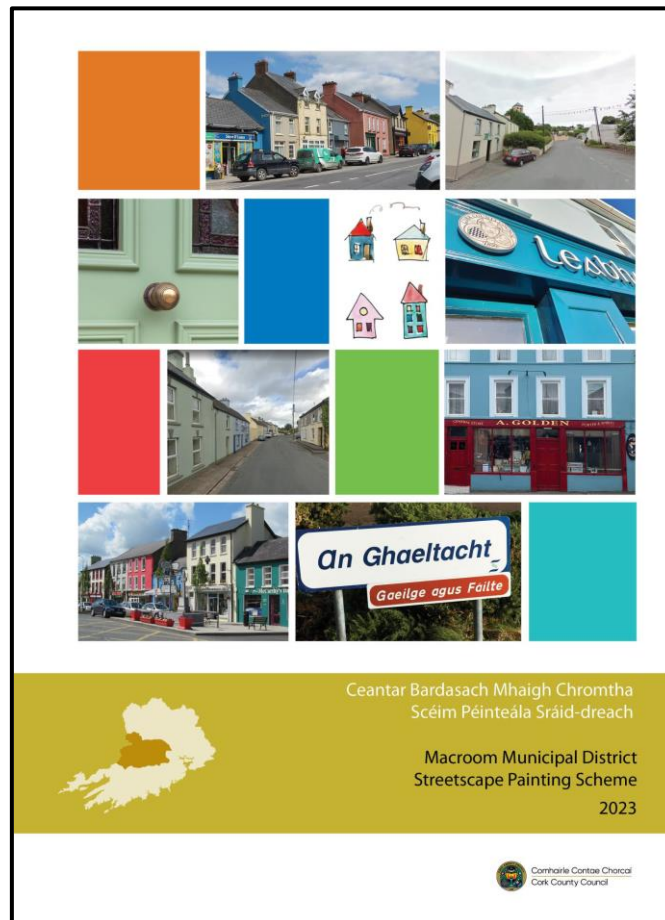
Below is an image of the completed project for the recreational area. Work continues on the remaining elements of the overall project and further updates will issue over the coming months.



4. 2023 Paint Scheme

Following the closing date for the 2023 Paint Scheme, all of the 72 applications have been assessed with letters of offers going out to 69 successful applications. 2 applications were unsuccessful as their applications were for areas not covered in this year's scheme and we are awaiting further information on 1 application before a final decision is made on that.

The total value of applications received was €56,7840 while the overall allocation for this Scheme is €22,965. Correspondence has issued to all of the applicants.



5. Art Exhibitions

The hugely successful exhibition by James L Hayes entitled “The Score” has been running throughout July & is coming to end this Saturday 29th July 2023.

The Art Exhibition to be held during August is entitled “To The Letter” by Dolores Lyne, will open on Sunday 6th August at 3pm in Macroom Town Hall.

This exhibition is part of the ongoing decade of commemorations supported by Cork County Council. To The Letter, a series of paintings and photography, is a culmination of a year of research into safe houses, stories and places of note across Cork. Award-winning artist and theatre designer Dolores Lyne is marking the centenary of her grand-uncle Liam Lynch, Chief of Staff of the Anti-Treaty IRA. To The Letter is inspired by a trove of personal letters written by Liam to his brother Tom, the confidant in whom he felt safe, writing unique letters that covered the most dramatic and tragic events of Lynch’s life in the War of Independence and the Civil War.

The artist, originally from Kerry and based in Galway, has been commissioned by the Cork County Council Library and Art Service and Commemorations Committee of Cork County Council. Dolores followed the letters back to the locations across County Cork where they were written, visiting the remote and beautiful hill farms, the safe houses that provided sanctuary where Liam was protected and cherished. She met the descendants of those who had sheltered him, and they shared their stories with her; retracing his steps brought her closer to understanding him.

Works on canvas, the paintings focus on incidents and stories drawn from the brothers' correspondence. The letters are brought to life, referencing real places and people only hinted at or concealed behind initials, decoding at last the real addresses, the people who opened their homes and their hearts. There is an emphasis on the landscape and memories, of hill communities and the story of rural resistance.

The exhibition in Macroom Town Hall runs from Sunday 6th August to Thursday 31st August from 11.00am to 6.00pm, Tuesdays to Sundays.



6. Culture Night 2023

Culture Night takes place on Friday 22nd September 2023 with Macroom and Baile Bhuirne in this MD being part of the 17 hub towns for entertainment & events on this evening. A call out for proposals was undertaken in May & June. Crayon Creative are co-ordinating the programme for 2023 with the assistance of the Arts Office. As event details are finalised for Macroom & Baile Bhuirne, further updates will be provided. An event will take place in Macroom Town Hall to mark this occasion.

7. 2023 Historic Towns Initiative - Update

Work has commenced on the Heritage Led Regeneration Plan for Macroom. Southgate Associates have been appointed to carry out this work following the tendering process.

As part of this funding & project, an event will be held during National Heritage Week in association with the Heritage Council to showcase the historical & heritage assets of Macroom with a particular focus on traditional shopfronts and signage. The intended programme for this event is as follows:

- Date & Time for Heritage Event to be finalised
- Meet in Macroom Town Square by Macroom Town Hall (P51 YX48)
- Introduction by Raymond Higgins, Senior Exec Architect, Cork County Council
- Talk on history & archaeology of Macroom by Flor Hurley, Archaeologist, Southgate Assoc
- Walking tour with Chris Southgate, Conservation Engineer, Southgate Assoc chatting about shopfronts their conservation, materials and styles
- Walking tour to visit traditional shopfront on Main Street whereby Cormac Sheil, artist will demonstrate the work involved in traditional signwriting, materials and who will be painting the sign
- Walking tour to return to Town Hall for coffee and chat with discussion & engagement on Macroom, the ambition for its future development and the improvements that everyone would like to see in their town.

This free family orientated event is open to everyone but registration in advance will be essential. Registration for this event will be through Macroom Town Hall at 026-41545 or macroommd@corkcoco.ie.

Further details and advertising of this event will be done through the Council's social media outlets and through local media. This event will also be publicised on the Heritage Council's National Heritage Week website which showcases the events occurring during this time.



Marie O'Leary

Macroom Municipal District Officer



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council