

**PRESS RELEASE 4th March, 2024**

TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN FOR COURTOWN/RIVERCHAPEL

Minister Heather Humphreys has announced that Wexford County Council has been awarded €30,000 to complete a Town Centre First Plan for Courtown/Riverchapel.

Town centre first aims to create Towns that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live work and visit. It supports towns to function as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community, is Government Policy informed by data and best practice and is delivered by local authorities in partnership with communities.

The €30,000 allocation for Wexford County Council to work in Courtown/Riverchapel is the first announcement on a suite of supports that will be available to County Wexford under the Town Centre First initiative. Wexford County Council will be applying for further funding in the coming weeks under this suite of supports for Town and villages around the County. The suite of supports are

1.Town Support Fund whereby up to 3 Towns/Villages in County Wexford will receive up to €10,000 to establish a Town Centre First Team

2. Town Centre First Plan whereby 1 Town will receive €30.000 to complete a Town Centre First Plan. (Courtown/Riverchapel being the Wexford Town)

3.Project Development Measure. 2 Towns will receive up to €50,000 to develop a project to shovel ready status.

Welcoming the news Cllr Pip Breen Cathaoirleach of Gorey/Kilmuckridge Municipal District saw this as a great opportunity to move Courtown/Riverchapel forward and was looking forward to the collaboration that informs a Town Centre First Plan. This €30,000 will help Courtown/Riverchapel achieve its full potential and place it in a strong position for future national regeneration funding streams. The purpose of the plan is to engage communities to articulate a coherent vision for their town and working together it can be of great benefit to the area.

Director of Services with responsibility for town centre first Liz Hore along with Town Regeneration Officer Mick Mc Cormack welcomed the news and after completing Town Centre First Plans in both New Ross and Enniscorthy the regeneration unit working in collaboration with the community and the Wexford County Council multidisciplinary Town centre first team would be drawing on the lessons, learnings and experience of the first plans and aim to put a plan that best reflects the needs and ambitions of Courtown/Riverchapel.

**ENDS**

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