

# Chambers Awards 2023

Advancing business together



# Awards

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Chamber of the Yéar perpetual award  
Kindly donated by XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX  
Artist: John Behan

# Communications & Representation

Celebrating success in the representation of our members

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Representing the interests of business members and the experience of the local business community is one of the core responsibilities of our chambers.

Coupled to this is the need to create awareness of, and appreciation for, the Chamber's work in advocating for their business community.

This advocacy and engagement with national, regional and local stakeholders is a crucial part of sustaining success for our member chambers.

This year's nominees for the Communications & Representation award includes:

**Cork Chamber**

*Cork Chamber Economic Trends Report*

**County Kildare Chamber**

*County Kildare Chamber Policy Newsletter*

**County Wexford Chamber**

*County Wexford Chamber Business Award Podcast Series*

**Galway Chamber**

*Galway 2070 – a regional city of the future*

**Waterford Chamber**

*Network Magazine & Getting to Know You Podcast*

# Cork Chamber

## Cork Chamber Economic Trends Report

Cork Chamber represents over 1,000 companies employing over 100,000 people in the Cork region. The Economic Trends is a quarterly report produced by Cork Chamber which serves to engage with and inform their membership base regarding important issues for the future operation of businesses in the Cork region. The Quarterly Economic Trends Survey records all data and is the foundation on which the report is built. The resulting publication is a business focused media tool distributed directly to the desks, screens & mobile devices of the region's top business leaders, entrepreneurs and decision makers. Distributed within the Chamberlink Magazine and other digital reads, the report findings are also shared via the Cork Chamber website, directly to members via weekly e-newsletters, quarterly dedicated e-Flyers, social media channels, and video & multimedia assets. This makes it one of the strongest communication tools within the Chamber suite with rich, data-driven content, that is employed across multiple channels



# County Kildare Chamber

## County Kildare Chamber Policy Newsletter

County Kildare Chamber Policy Newsletter was established in March 2022. Originally the newsletter was designed as an e-newsletter, with six issues a year. However, as it quickly became a well-read publication in December 2022 the Chamber decided to make the newsletter a monthly issue. County Kildare Chamber uses this newsletter to highlight issues of importance to its membership. This includes legislation passing through the Oireachtas, Irish and European legislation coming into force which will have a direct impact on the Chamber's membership and Chamber engagement with key government agencies and local and regional stakeholders. The newsletter also gives an update on topical events that the Chamber is hosting, which might be of interest to businesses in Kildare. It gives an in depth look at submissions, reports and lobbying activity the Chamber has completed in the past month. The Policy Newsletter also gives members an understanding of the work of the Chamber's Policy Advisory Council; a group made up of business leaders from a wide industry and geographical spread of County Kildare. Meetings are held once a quarter and are used as a sounding board for the Chamber regarding policy positioning and representative activities.

**Policy Advisory Council**

The Policy Advisory Council held its first meeting of 2023 on 17th January

Guest speaker Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, Simon Kavanagh presented to the grouping and outlined how the Chamber & the Council can work together going forward for the betterment of the County

The Policy Advisory Council is composed of members, interested in actively contributing to the success of our lobbying. The Council meets throughout the year, agreeing priorities and formalising working groups to develop specific topics for advocacy work. The focus of the Council's work can be seen through the Chamber's representative work to Local Authority and Government Departments. You can view the Chamber's representations [here](#)

The next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council will take place on **30th March 2023**, with Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Simon Cowley TD.

You can find out more about the work of the Policy Advisory Council and its membership [here](#)

**Chamber Representation**

**2023/24**

The 2022 County Kildare Chamber Membership Survey found that 75% of businesses are either concerned or extremely concerned with the effects of rising energy cost on their operations and profitability. The survey also showed 70% of its original base is not working as a result of the economic conditions. 75% of respondents saying they had not been able to work at the moment. This is double most businesses reporting an increase in energy costs, with 27% of Kildare companies saying their costs had increased by 50% over the period. It would appear you can read the full report [here](#)

As a result of significant lobbying by a number of business organisations, including County Kildare Chamber, the Government on 21 February announced it will suspend the eligibility criteria of the scheme.

Under the changes, the qualification criteria will be relaxed to the end of 2023. The threshold for small value will be cut from the current 50% increase in electricity or gas costs compared to the same period a year ago, to a 25% increase. Those charged will work retroactively from the start of last September.

The level of support will also increase from 45% to 50% of eligible costs from March 1st. The payment will remain capped to a monthly limit, but that will also rise from the current €10,000 to €15,000 per month per trade in profession from next month.

Payment will be subject to an overall cap of €60,000, up from €30,000 where the business is carried on from more than one location.

Business support scheme, 'ask to be assessed', [Contact Kildare Chamber](#), [Address your representation](#) or [Businesses can be advised of status, support, advice please](#)

2023





## County Wexford Chamber

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### *County Wexford Chamber Business Award Podcast Series*

500 guests attended County Wexford Chamber's Business Awards gala ceremony on May 27th, 2022. Given the success of the event, and the level of entrepreneurship on display by Chamber members and the wider business community in 20 award categories, the Chamber decided to roll out a podcast series featuring the award winners. The aim of this was to be a voice for the business community to the business community in County Wexford and beyond. Fifteen episodes were recorded, with the winning entrepreneurs interviewed by Chamber President Brendan Crowley & CEO Emma Dunphy. The aim was two-fold: to build the Chamber's authority and credibility and to showcase the award-winning business' authority and credibility in their sector. Each business enters the awards to pit themselves against the best in their sector and the podcast series is another extension of the PR surrounding award wins. The esteem in which the awards are held facilitates the award winners to ratchet up their PR, especially important in the post-pandemic era and cost of living crisis, when every edge is vital to a business' viability. The podcast series allowed the Chamber to reach a whole new audience, and evidence of that reach is the combined 32,000 downloads of interviews with all 20 award winners.

## Galway Chamber

### *Galway 2070 – a regional city of the future*

Galway 2070 – a regional city of the future showcases how Galway as a city can triple in size by 2070, based on certain conditions. The key condition to unlocking the potential of the city as a low carbon, sustainable, and greater densified city of the future is the delivery of the Galway City Ring Road, which is the central cog of the campaign. When this happens, it will enable pedestrianisation of the urban core, delivery of cycle infrastructure, Bus Connects, park and ride facilities and a much simpler city to manage from a transport and logistics perspective. The core objective of this communications and representation initiative is to create an understanding of the potential of Galway city as a modern, thriving city of the future if certain conditions are met. It is to enable employers to fully support the approval and delivery of the Galway City Ring Road, in the comfort of knowing it is enabling the delivery of a sustainable city of the future.





# Waterford Chamber

## *Network Magazine & Getting to Know You Podcast*

Network Magazine is a quarterly publication, promoting Waterford Chamber, its members and positive news stories to members and readers all over the globe. Across the 52+ pages, Waterford Chamber is strategic in using the magazine as a tool to market the Chamber, in terms of events, initiatives and lobbying, so readers are fully aware of the work being done as a representative body for the business community. The Network Magazine also has news, features, pictures and interviews marketing Waterford and the wider region as a great place to live, work, invest and do business in. To compliment the communication offering, Waterford Chamber has also started a new Podcast called 'Getting to Know You', which delves deeper into issues covered in the magazine, while also featuring members and debating hot topic issues. Between printed copies and online readers, The Network Magazine has a quarterly readership in the region of 20,000, while the podcast has a growing listenership through the Chamber website. It is presented, produced and edited by the same team who create Network Magazine. The magazine is distributed among members, in strategic business locations across Waterford and at events. It is also sent to key stakeholders and internationally, while the Podcast is also shared digitally.



# Event of the Year

Championing chambers that make every event an opportunity

Events are pivotal to the role that chambers play in their local business communities, providing valuable opportunities for connecting, networking and sharing knowledge.

Chambers organise a diverse range of events, both in-person and virtual, all year round. Recognising the significance of events, this category aims to honor the most exceptional, accomplished, and immersive experiences within our network.

This year's nominees for the Event of the Year includes:

**Cork Chamber**  
*Cork Digital Marketing Awards 2022*

**Dundalk Chamber**  
*Cross Border Business Cruise*

**Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber**  
*Menopause - The Case for Change*

**Ennis Chamber**  
*Ennis Chamber President's Lunch*

**Fingal Chamber**  
*Fingal Connects Business Expo*

**Limerick Chamber**  
*President's Dinner and Regional Business Awards*

**Laois Chamber**  
*Shine in Emo 2022*

**Sligo Chamber**  
*Sligo Chamber Centenary Launch*

**Tralee Chamber**  
*Tralee the Christmas Kingdom*

## Cork Chamber

### *Cork Digital Marketing Awards 2022*

The Cork Digital Marketing Awards provide a platform for Cork businesses to showcase their digital successes and achievements. All facets of digital marketing are recognised with 16 award categories including Best in Content Creation, Best Digital Marketing Team and awards for individual channels from Website, Twitter to Instagram. Running for the 9th year, these unique awards returned in 2022 with a new brand identity bringing together 220 marketers across Cork's local digital community. The promotion of the awards started mid-July via a launch with media partner Irish Examiner until the awards ceremony which was held on the 21st of October at the Carrigaline Court Hotel with host Sinead Kennedy. The entrants were broken down into 3 stages including nominees, semi-finalists, and finalists. All entries were judged by members of the public, through an independent and confidential judging panel with each stage announced via our promotional channels giving the nominees in each stage recognition and brand visibility. On the evening, the very worthy Overall Digital Legend 2022 was announced as IMART and Fuller Marketing.





## Dundalk Chamber

### *Cross Border Business Cruise*

The Dundalk & Newry Chambers came up with the idea of a cruise on Carlingford Lough to connect members in a social setting. They enjoyed the beauty of the area, local produce and local entertainment. Carlingford Lough Ferry is a fantastic visitor attraction. Due to Covid restrictions, the Chamber Members from the various Chambers in the border region did not get a chance to network with each other. As such, the vital element of building cross border relationships through face-to-face networking was missing. Dundalk & Newry Chambers came up with the idea of cruise on Carlingford Lough to connect members with other Chambers from the Cross Border Region in a social setting. Over 200 members of the business community from the various Cross Border Region could enjoy the beauty of the area, enjoy local produce and local entertainment. Carlingford Lough Ferry is a fantastic visitor asset, and this unique event gave members the opportunity to network. Kilkeel, Warrenpoint and Drogheda Chambers as well as the newly established South Armagh Business Improvement Group were also involved. The event was sponsored by Louth County Council and showcased the Sea Louth Sea Food Trail.







## **Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber**

### *Menopause - The Case for Change*

Menopause is experienced by 50% of the population and the other 50% may be impacted by it. Therefore, menopause is not only a women's issue but a societal issue. Menopause affects 30% of female employees in Ireland today, so it is a significant issue for our workforce. To address menopause in the workplace and start the conversation, the Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber worked with The Menopause Hub to host a completely unique collaborative online event for employers. During the session, Loretta Dignam, CEO & Founder of The Menopause Hub presented, 'Menopause - The Case for Change', smashing the taboo surrounding menopause, debunked the myths, and helped attendees learn how to make the workplace menopause friendly. The online event in September 2022 attracted business owners, managers, supervisors, team leads, menopause at work & wellness at work ambassadors and HR professionals. The strong participation demonstrated the willingness of employers and workplaces to engage and learn to support women experiencing menopause. This has since been followed up with the creation of Chambers first Menopause in the Workplace Employer Support Pack.

## Ennis Chamber

### *Ennis Chamber President's Lunch*

Ennis Chamber's Presidents Lunch complemented SDG13 and focused on "Off-shore Energy Opportunities for County Clare. The excellent keynote speaker was Minister Paschal Donohoe, with impressive presentations by Dr. Val Cummins on 'Offshore Floating Wind Energy opportunities off Loop Head'. Allan Mulrooney the Interim CEO at the Western Development Commission gave an overview of the supports available to Clare businesses - with a special nod to renewables and sustainable opportunities. Ennis Chamber fused lobbying on offshore renewables into an 'annual occasion', while creating a sociable and informative networking event. The Chamber used the opportunity to showcase a selection of businesses with distinct stories to tell, such as the story of a craft brewery led by a female entrepreneur who previously worked in finance in Luxembourg, who returned home and together with her brother converted a dairy house to a brewery.

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## Fingal Chamber

### *Fingal Connects Business Expo*

Fingal Chamber, in collaboration with Fingal County Council hosted and project managed the first ever Fingal Connects Business Expo. Over 40 businesses in Fingal exhibited at the event, which showcased the very best that businesses in the region have to offer. The event not only offered a single location for businesses to gather with hundreds of local suppliers, partners, and future customers; it also provided a unique opportunity to learn more about what's on offer in Fingal, and the prospect of purchasing products and services from exhibiting suppliers and vendors.

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## Limerick Chamber

### *President's Dinner & Regional Business Awards*

Limerick Chamber hosts the annual Limerick Chamber Presidents Dinner and Regional Business Awards in November each year. This is now noted as a staple prominent event for the business community. The event annually sells out, with a waitlist of those hoping to attend each year. The event annually draws an attendance of over 420 people and has proven to be a fantastic opportunity for smaller companies to network and mingle with large FDI companies. The event has provided attendees with a platform to provide profiling, branding and connection. The event is all organised by the Limerick Chamber Events Manager, so everything is completed inhouse. Limerick Chamber has significantly grown the impact and overall production of the event. The event also provides a unique experience for local businesses of all sizes to mingle with their peers and politicians based locally who have been able to connect and represent the business needs.

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## Laois Chamber

### *Shine in Emo 2022*

Shine in Emo is a one-day event, bringing together the worlds of sport, business, food and tourism. The inaugural Shine in Emo event took place on Saturday 21st May 2023, attracting a crowd of nearly 5,000 people to the beautiful grounds of Emo Court and Parklands, a historic setting in Laois. 32 sporting teams competed for the €10,000 prize fund, with 120 business exhibitors located around the main sporting arena. This event was a brilliant showcase for Laois Chamber, and an opportunity to gain new members. The event was free to attend, with affordable exhibitor fees for members and non-members of Laois Chamber. The 2023 event is being held on Saturday, 27th May 2023.





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## Sligo Chamber

### *Sligo Chamber Centenary Launch*

Sligo Chamber launched a year-long celebration of its centenary on Monday the 16th of January, with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the entrance to Lyons Café on Quay Street where its first statutory meeting was held. To mark the launch, the Chamber's board members and staff dressed up in clothing that would have been typical of the attire worn by men and women in Sligo in the 1920s.

As well as the unveiling of the plaque, the launch was marked by a buffet, speeches outlining how the Chamber came into being 100 years ago and a reading of the minutes of the first ever meeting of Sligo Chamber.

Throughout the year, the Chamber will continue to celebrate its centenary. Among the events are fortnightly releases of articles drawn from researching the archives of Chamber meetings from 1923 to 1953. Each article reflects a challenge that the Chamber had to address during the first few decades of its existence. Sligo Chamber will also release a specially commissioned commemorative video comprising of archive footage of Sligo over the past century.

## Tralee Chamber

### *Tralee the Christmas Kingdom*

'Tralee the Christmas Kingdom' was an initiative between Tralee Chamber and Kerry County Council to promote Tralee as destination to attract people into the Kerry's capital, to shop, eat and enjoy the lead-up to the festive season. The Christmas programme was designed to support local businesses through a number of interactive events that required the public to engage with the business community. Such events included 'Elf on The Loose' where a 7-foot Ernie the Elf went on the loose around Tralee and 'Search for the Magic' which required the public to find all 5 letters of the word magic, then share the images on social media to win daily prizes. A two day 'Island of Geese Christmas Market' was developed to showcase Tralee's vibrant food producers, craft makers and local entertainers. 5000 visited over the two days of the Christmas markets. Tralee Chamber Alliance also ensured that 'Tralee the Christmas Kingdom' was a family occasion. This was achieved by hosting 'Elf Trail' and 'Santa Claus Live Shows' every weekend in December. Festivities concluded with a street party on New Years Eve which saw record numbers in attendance.



# Lobbying & Policy Campaign

Ensuring that the voice of business in Ireland is heard

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Policy and lobbying are key Chamber activities advocating for the interests of our members and the broader region.

This category acknowledges the effort involved in orchestrating impactful policy campaigns. It highlights the behind-the-scenes work that goes into ensuring the success of these campaigns, which are instrumental in shaping and influencing crucial decisions.

This year's nominees for the Lobbying & Policy award includes:

**Cork Chamber**

*Securing Electric Trains for Cork*

**County Kildare Chamber**

*Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS) review and expansion*

**Dublin Chamber**

*Moving the Dial on Right to Request Remote Work*

**Letterkenny Chamber**

*Standing Up for Infrastructure - Cross Border Chambers Lobbying Together*

**Limerick Chamber**

*Better Regions Initiative - Housing*

**Waterford Chamber**

*Autism Friendly City*

## Cork Chamber

### *Securing Electric Trains for Cork*

Cork Chamber champions Cork as a globally recognised place for business, innovation and quality of life.

Cork's biggest and most impactful opportunity to achieve real positive change in the transport system and contribute to the 2030 climate-neutral target is the delivery of upgrades and projects in the suburban rail network, specifically the electrification of the suburban rail network.

At government level, the message received in 2022 was that there is no lack of resources available for investment, and with most Cork suburban rail lines already in place and a wide range of housing developments along those lines to the east and north of the city, it is clear that accelerated suburban rail development offers the quickest way to decarbonise the transport system and encourage people out of their cars.

With an uncertain macroeconomic environment internationally and Cork in need of mass transit investment, Cork Chamber advocated successfully for the moving forward of investments where budgets had already been committed, with procurement contracts signed in 2022 that may have to wait until 2025 otherwise. There is no reason to wait around to invest in sustainable transport systems that will bring huge benefits economically, socially and environmentally.



## County Kildare Chamber

### *Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS) review and expansion*



In January 2023, County Kildare Chamber released its Q1 Member Sentiment Survey. A large portion of the survey was dedicated to TBESS, which has been introduced in Budget 2023 by the Government to support the SME sector during a period of sustained energy increases.

The survey was conducted over a two week period from the 24th of January-7th February. The survey focused on extracting a large amount of data to showcase Chamber priorities. The survey questioned whether a company had been able to avail of the TBESS support, whether it was appropriate in cushioning against rising costs and why a company may not have been eligible.

The survey results showed TBESS in its current form was not working as a support to the business community. 76% of businesses stated they had not been able to avail of the support, with 30% stating the application process was too complex and time consuming for the anticipated payback from the scheme. A further 30% stated their energy costs had not increased enough over the reference period allowed.



With the correlated data, the Chamber went about an extensive lobbying campaign to national and local media, government departments and senior ministers on behalf of its members.

## Dublin Chamber

### *Moving the Dial on Right to Request Remote Work*

Dublin Chamber researched and gathered feedback from its members through various mediums (such as roundtables, member-elected taskforces and quarterly surveys) to develop a position accurately representative of the concerns and views of Dublin Chamber members with regard to the right to request remote work.

This position was then championed at several in-person meetings with some of the most senior members of government, supported by complimentary research and reports conducted by Dublin Chamber.

Dublin Chamber has been tracking the trajectory of the right to request remote work since it was first announced to ensure that the corresponding legislation achieves a necessary balance between both the needs of employers and employees.

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## Letterkenny Chamber

### *Standing Up for Infrastructure - Cross Border Chambers Lobbying Together*

Cross border submission for urgent A5 upgrade.

Building on Letterkenny Chamber's MOU and ongoing work with Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, they got together to lobby for a crucial infrastructure project - the upgrade of the Western Transport Corridor.

This piece of infrastructure is the main corridor from Derry/Lifford to Dublin. It is currently one of the most unsafe roads in the region and is a huge impediment for businesses in the North West City Region.

This piece of infrastructure was included in the NDP 2007 -13, and the Irish Government committed to co-funding the project. However, over the intervening years, while the commitment from government remains, the project has been mired by Judicial reviews and public enquiries.

Letterkenny Chamber has always campaigned for this road but felt that the business community was not being heard in the public enquiries so decided to take a different approach.

Jointly organised by the Londonderry and Letterkenny Chambers of Commerce, the open letter was signed by businesses across Derry, Donegal, Strabane, Omagh and the wider North West. It was a strong endorsement of the absolute fundamental right to infrastructure for the region.



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## Limerick Chamber

### *Better Regions Initiative - Housing*

This report produced recommendations across several sectors to improve the viability of Limerick City. The Better Regions Initiative will produce independent economic research to further support calls for effective policy change to help revitalise Limerick City and the wider region.

The submission focuses on housing policy, addressing two key areas within the housing sector. Firstly, the Limerick Chamber Mid-West Rental Monitor analyses the open rental market in Limerick City and the wider region. This report is produced on a monthly basis. Based on several online resources, average and median price per month, along with BER ratings, number of apartments and one-bedroom homes available per month are detailed in the monthly report.

Secondly, the Short-Term Lettings (STL) report looks at the STL market in Co. Limerick. The report analyses the number of properties listed on Airbnb, the types of properties available and the location of these properties. The analysis seeks to assess if the STL market is a potential solution to the housing supply crisis in Co. Limerick. The report found that the forthcoming legislation will do very little to impact the STL market and quell the supply issues that are ongoing.



## Waterford Chamber

### *Autism Friendly City*

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Waterford Chamber is proud to be working with the Waterford Autism-Friendly City Committee in making Waterford Ireland's first Autism-Friendly City, through an initiative led by AsIAM, Ireland's National Autism Charity.

The Chamber is working with the business community to create a better working environment for people with autism, while also supporting parents of autistic children who are employed. Waterford Chamber has been very vocal in terms of the lack of support for autistic children and their parents, having lobbied Government extensively, while also contributing to press and radio interviews in this regard.

Waterford Chamber have directly challenged An Taoiseach, Leo Varadker, and Mary Lou McDonald, as well as Waterford based Oireachtas members. They have sent forward key policy recommendations, many of which have been taken on board and are under review for implementation.

Waterford Chamber are also using their communication tools - Network Magazine and Getting to Know You Podcast - as well as their social media and weekly newsletter to educate their community and invite their participation in these efforts.

In the near future, Waterford will be Ireland's first official Autism-Friendly City, under the AsIAM criteria, and Waterford Chamber is now being seen as a key driver of positive change for neurodiverse people.

# Local Authority Collaboration

Improving local economies



Establishing an effective collaboration with the local authority is vital for Chambers, underpinning its effectiveness in our towns and cities.

Engagement with the local authority can help Chambers enrich their community and provide robust support for their members. Recognising the significance of this alliance, we highlight innovative means of working with local authorities which forge strong bonds that contributes to the collective growth and prosperity of our regions.

This year's nominees for the Local Authority Collaboration award includes:

**Ballina Chamber**

*Ballina Salmon Festival 2022*

**County Tipperary Chamber**

*County Tipperary Chamber Aid Rescue of Clonmel Christmas Lights*

**Fingal Chamber**

*Business Chamber Awards*

**Galway Chamber**

*Stay, Shop and Play in Galway Campaign*

**Tralee Chamber**

*Tralee the Christmas Kingdom*

**Waterford Chamber**

*Waterford - A City of Opportunity*

## Ballina Chamber

### *Ballina Salmon Festival 2022*

Ballina Salmon Festival 2022 is the oldest running community festival in Ireland along the Wild Atlantic Way.

The festival delivers a packed programme of events that appeal to all interests and tastes. The programme includes live music of all genres, street theatre, art, food, heritage, fishing, and sports. Many events are free, ensuring accessibility, and a comprehensive children's programme ensures that families are well catered for.

With particular emphasis on Ballina's USP and that of the region, water sports and activities have made a welcome return to the programme itinerary over the last five years. The different features celebrate and illustrate the plethora of local natural assets, including the world famous River Moy, River Moy swim, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking on the River Moy.

Traditionally falling over the 12th of July, 250,000 visitors are welcomed to Ballina during the eight days of the festival. Collaboration is the key to its successful delivery, and a strong partnership between the business community, Ballina Chamber, Ballina Municipal District Council and Mayo County Council and community groups ensures the prosperous delivery of the festival, now in its 59th year and celebrating 60 years in 2024!



## County Tipperary Chamber

### *County Tipperary Chamber Aid Rescue of Clonmel Christmas Lights*

The Christmas Lights in Clonmel were at risk due to funding and the increased cost of energy. There was a request for the business community to get involved and help finance the Christmas Lights.

The team in Clonmel Borough District/Tipperary County Council reached out for support and County Tipperary Chamber were involved to help link together local businesses with the local authority to help secure funding and ultimately provide a festive atmosphere to the area, which in turn drives people to come and support local businesses.

Thankfully there were local companies who recognised the importance of having the town lit up this Christmas, with the result that they were successful in securing the necessary funding to have a similar Christmas experience as other years. The generous contributions, which supplement the annual Clonmel Borough District financial contribution, meant that the Clonmel 2022 Christmas lights and activities went ahead.

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## Fingal Chamber

### *Business Chamber Awards*

Fingal Business Chamber Awards were re-established in a post COVID era.

The awards were attended by over 500 people and 200 businesses in the region.



## Galway Chamber

### *Stay, Shop and Play in Galway Campaign*

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Galway Chamber, in partnership with Galway City Council and Failte Ireland, engaged in a campaign to promote retail in Galway through Content Creator Marketing. Some of Ireland's most popular social media content creators visited the City of the Tribes and showed their hundreds of thousands of followers what Galway has to offer.

The visits took place in November and December 2022 in the lead up to the Christmas period, a very important quarter for retailers in Galway. Galway hotels, restaurants, retailers and experience providers worked together to ensure the success of the campaign.

The content creators were carefully selected to appeal to a whole host of demographics and promote all aspects of Galway to their audience in a natural and organic way. They used the hashtag #iloveGalway to track engagement and reach. Each business they visited was also tagged, along with Galway City Council, Discover Ireland and Galway Chamber.



## Tralee Chamber

### *Tralee the Christmas Kingdom*

'Tralee the Christmas Kingdom' was an initiative between Tralee Chamber and Kerry County Council to promote Tralee as a destination to attract people into Kerry's capital to shop, eat and enjoy the lead up the festive season.

The Christmas programme was designed to support local businesses through a number of interactive events that required the public to engage with the business community. These events included 'Elf on The Loose' where a 7-foot Ernie the Elf went on the loose around Tralee and 'Search for the Magic' which required the public to find all 5 letters of the word magic and share the images on social media to win daily prizes.

A two day 'Island of Geese Christmas Market' was developed to showcase Tralee's vibrant food producers, craft makers and local entertainers. 5000 people visited over the two days of the Christmas markets.

There was a particular focus on ensuring that 'Tralee the Christmas Kingdom' was a family occasion, which was achieved by hosting and 'Elf Trail' and 'Santa Claus Live Shows' every weekend in December.

## Waterford Chamber

### *Waterford - A City of Opportunity*

Waterford Chamber and Waterford City & County Council are the lead partners on the 'Think Waterford First' Initiative, which was formed under the Ireland 2040 designation of Waterford as the capital city of the South East region.

In 2019, both Waterford Chamber and Waterford Council commissioned Rikon, a centre of innovation in Business Technology Management situated on the SETU West campus, to document key economic data relating to Waterford City and County, and the broader region.

In light of the pandemic, the data needed to be updated and the research set out to illustrate Waterford City's current economic position and future trajectory in terms of growth, investment and development; economically, culturally, and ecologically.

To support that, Waterford Chamber commissioned EY to conduct a feasibility study into the opportunities the city centre presents in terms of Waterford now being a University City.

Both sets of data are aligned and while no cohesive data existed heretofore, all stakeholders now have the information required to showcase Waterford as a city of opportunity.



# Most Innovative Project

Ensuring that the voice of business in Ireland is heard

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Chambers are the leaders of the business community in their areas ensuring that their regions become ever more attractive places to work, to live and to do business.

This category recognises the most resourceful and innovative projects that support members, enhances their communities or improves the practices within the Chambers.

This year's nominees for the Most Innovative Project includes:

**Arklow & District Chamber**

*Coffee and Classroom - Coaching through videos*

**Cootehill Chamber**

*Cootehill.ie website to promote the whole of Cootehill*

**Drogheda & District Chamber**

*#LookingGoodDrogheda*

**Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber**

*Menopause in The Workplace - Support Pack for Employers*

**Galway Chamber**

*Inclusive Pathways to Employment*

**Limerick Chamber**

*Strategic Development Pipeline*

**Waterford Chamber**

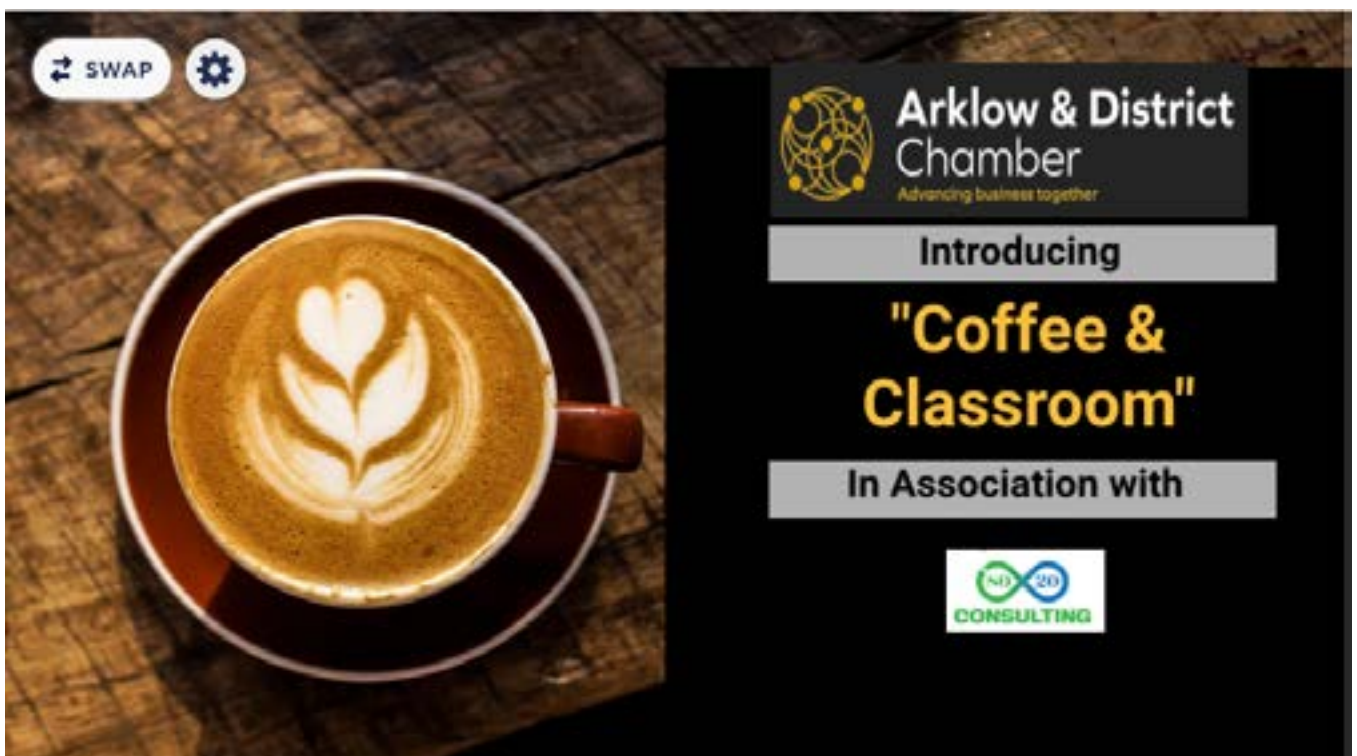
*Portalis Project*



## Arklow & District Chamber

### *Coffee and Classroom - Coaching through videos*

Given that many members go through similar business challenges the Arklow and District Chamber have created 52 videos (1 for every week in the year) that address the various challenges that businesses face. This initiative allows their members to access the videos that they require at a time that suits them best (Each video can be consumed over a coffee hence the initiative name “Coffee and Classroom”). It’s also a resource that can be shared with their staff to help in upskilling their teams. These videos can form part of an induction plan and can be viewed several times to ensure the user grasps the concepts being explained. With approx 3 hours of business content created, they expect this to be a major support to their members [click here for link](#)





## Cootehill Chamber

### *Cootehill.ie website to promote the whole of Cootehill*

The Cootehill Chamber applied for and got funding to create a website that would promote Cootehill as a one-stop shop. Raising Cootehill's profile as the place to move to, live, work, and play. In its entirety showing off its business opportunities, remote work options, vibrant community life, heritage, and attractions. They have 1) a 'doing business in Cootehill' section showing local business services and a business directory. 2) a marketplace where businesses, clubs, and the chamber sell products/tickets/vouchers, etc from their individual profiles. 3) an updates section with local news, an events calendar open to all to add their events, and a notice board. 4) Gallery of their landscapes and community events 5) Visitor's information of our attractions, accommodation, and culinary options 6) History page showing their rich heritage and connecting the diaspora with genealogy services 7) Soon to air is their 'New to Cootehill' page with all the information a newcomer or someone thinking of relocating might need, including a jobs page with local jobs. This page is especially useful to their many large industrial companies. They are often looking for long-term staff and the website is already proving useful to encourage people to take jobs or remote work and settle here.

## Drogheda & District Chamber

### *#LookingGoodDrogheda*

In a report by An Taisce for the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Anti-Litter League in June 2022, the survey results published placed Drogheda 39th out of 40 towns and cities surveyed. Seriously littered. Drogheda Chamber spearheaded a business-led response - developing a business charter.

Businesses signing up to the programme are committing to a series of tasks that collectively will contribute to improving the town's appearance. From the regular cleaning of footpaths outside their premises and presenting their shop front in the best possible way, to ensuring good presentation of waste, businesses are also asked to post photos of their good work with the hashtag #LookingGoodDrogheda on social media. Each business has been given a litter pack containing gloves and litter pickers, donated by Louth County Council.

Chief Executive of Louth County Council, Joan Martin, is fully behind the new initiative and has been working closely with all parties in recent months to ensure it is fully supported and implemented, "Louth County Council are delighted to be involved in this initiative and are particularly excited with the involvement of our partners, Drogheda Chamber, Love Drogheda BID and Drogheda Tidy Towns. Working together we can improve matters.", commented Joan Martin.



## Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber

### *Menopause in The Workplace - Support Pack for Employers*

Menopause affects 30% of female employees in Ireland today, and 4 in 10 women will consider leaving their job due to their symptoms (source The Menopause Hub survey 2022). Dignity in the workplace is essential for all staff, this must be reflected across all ages, stages and abilities.

Workforce shortage is one of our employers' biggest challenges and staff retention is becoming more vital than ever. By identifying what causes staff to leave and addressing those issues, staff that employers have already invested time in training and developing are more likely to feel valued and remain in employment.

Menopausal women considering leaving work due to symptoms are not leaving employment to go to competitors - they are leaving the workforce. Their skills are lost to employers at a stage where their knowledge and experience is an invaluable asset to the business.

Recognising that this issue can be addressed by a culture of openness and consideration, D&WW is the first Chamber in Ireland to have created a Menopause Support Pack for Employers. The support pack is designed to start the conversation around Menopause in The Workplace and provide employers with the knowledge and resources to support menopausal & perimenopausal women.







## **Galway Chamber**

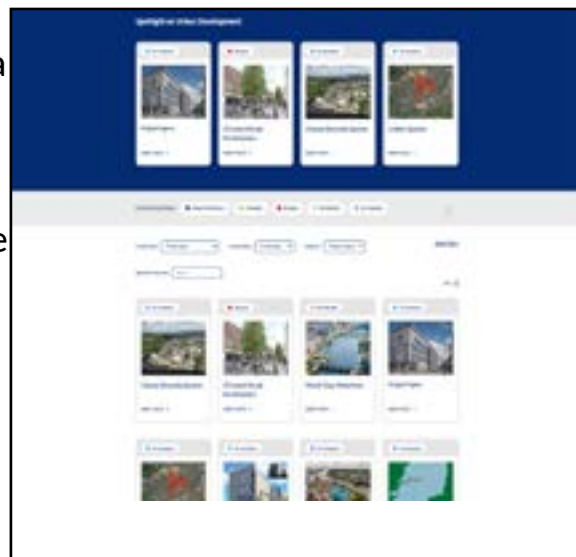
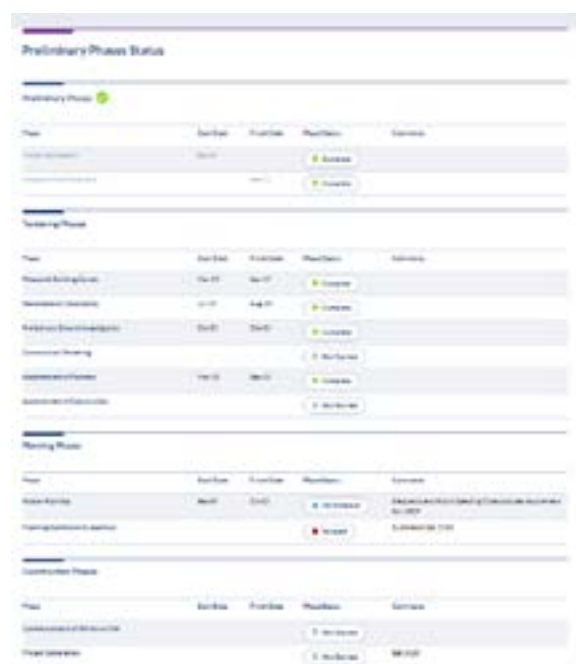
### *Inclusive Pathways to Employment*

Galway Chamber (GC) in partnership with the Galway City Partnership (GCP) applied for Government funding in Q1 2021. The aim of this funding was to undertake a pilot partnership focusing on 'inclusive pathways to employment' for individuals who suffered from conditions such as Neurodiversity, social agoraphobia, anxiety, depression, or those who were on the spectrum of autism or other such conditions.

## Limerick Chamber

### *Strategic Development Pipeline*

The Strategic Development Pipeline (SDP) is a Limerick Chamber-led initiative to monitor and outline the development of capital projects across the Mid-West. The purpose of the SDP is to ensure transparency of public projects and provide potential investors with an infrastructural timeline to highlight all the very positive public/private capital investment underway in the region. The goal of the SDP is to showcase and monitor ongoing public and private investment across the region. The SDP is an [open portal on the Limerick Chamber website](#) featuring projects from around the Mid-West, spread across various sectors, from commercial developments, housing, education and healthcare to public realm and transport. The SDP provides an up-to-date detailed overview of each project down into its elements from preliminary design, tendering, planning and construction while showing the current status of each phase. The SDP also provides estimated start and finishing dates for most phases using a colour coded system for ease of understanding. There are more than 39 capital projects on the SDP representing over €6 Billion in expenditure for the region.



# Waterford Chamber

## *Portalis Project*

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Portalis maps the story of the first journey between Ireland and Wales, dating back to the Mesolithic period, about 10,000 years ago. The project explores how those first settlers adapted to their surroundings in order to survive and seeks to understand whether there are any parallels with how we can adapt to climate change now.

Portalis is a design-led transdisciplinary pilot project, supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Cooperation Programme. The project is led by South East Technological University (SETU) and is supported by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Ceredigion County Council and Waterford Chamber of Commerce.

The Ireland Wales 2014-2020 European Territorial Co-operation (ETC) programme is a maritime programme connecting businesses and communities on the West coast of Wales with the South-East coast of Ireland. The programme focuses on seeking solutions to shared challenges including adaption of the Irish Sea and coastal communities to climate change, and cultural and natural resources and heritage.

The partnership delivering the project unites in the shared purpose of citizen-led co-development of fully inclusive activities tailored to the needs of our communities and visitors.

Waterford Chamber is the Network Development lead on this project.

# Partnership for Business

Working to make businesses better



Business collaborations are a key part of Chamber activities across the country and contribute to their success and influence locally.

This category highlights initiatives where Chambers have successfully worked in partnership with another organisation.

We highlight how these partnerships have helped to support and develop business in Chamber areas.

This year's nominees for the Partnership for Business award includes:

## **County Meath Chamber**

*The Apprenticeship Expo*

## **Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber**

*Jobs for Ukrainians*

## **Letterkenny Chamber**

*Invest Local: Staff Rewarded with Shop Local Spending - ShopLK*

## **Waterford Chamber**

*Toys4Engineers*





## County Meath Chamber

### *The Apprenticeship Expo*

The Meath Apprenticeship Expo is a one-stop-shop for all things apprenticeship.

A unique partnership for business with over 90 exhibitors on the day and representatives from all 66 apprenticeships. The Apprenticeship Expo is one of the biggest apprenticeship events in the country. Close to 4,000 attendees registered, from all over Meath, Louth and Westmeath but also had attendees (school groups and individuals) from Dublin, Kildare, Cavan, and Monaghan. County Meath Chambers' Expo is proving year on year to be the place to go to talk about all things Apprenticeships!

Employers build interactive exhibitions to demonstrate what they do and more importantly, what an apprentice would do if they took on an apprenticeship programme with them. Alongside the employers, the various apprenticeship programme managers (ETB's) and educators from various institutes around the country are on hand to speak with potential candidates and answer their questions. Career advice and CV-clinics were made available to all attendees. Speaker sessions were executed every half hour and more than 30 voices including employers, apprentices and educational experts were on stage to share their experiences. Experts were on hand from SOLAS, the new National Apprenticeship Office, Education and Training Board and the RSTC Dundalk with their advice.

# Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber

## *Jobs for Ukrainians*

Bridging the gap between skill shortages and local employment opportunities - matching Ukrainian skills to local employment.

In 2022 the Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber collaborated with a multi-agency team to match the skillsets of displaced Ukrainians with local employment opportunities.

The Chamber's role was one of facilitation; to match the individual Ukrainian with a local employer. We also helped to identify needs in terms of language, recognition of qualifications and skills gaps.

The D&WW Chamber worked with agencies to identify the challenges and issues facing Ukrainians looking to take on work – as an example, the issue of language barriers was addressed with the scheduling of English language courses.

Another issue highlighted was qualifications – existing qualifications were examined, and assistance was given in assessing what was compatible with our national system and levels of qualification. Gaps in skills or training were also identified so the team could collectively offer guidance on how to level-up skills.

For this initiative, the D&WW Chamber worked primarily with the Local Authority which was managing the Ukrainian refugee coordination programme. We also worked with the in-house translator, the Waterford Wexford Education & Training Board (ETB) and the Department of Social Protection.



## Letterkenny Chamber

### *Invest Local: Staff Rewarded with Shop Local Spending - ShopLK*

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ShopLK started out small with a vision for a local shopping initiative in 2004 and has grown into an established brand beyond recognition.

ShopLK began, as a small group of retailers working together with Letterkenny Chamber, to today's evolution of the project which now hosts 250 outlets working together under one brand - promoting local shopping, supporting local jobs and providing an opportunity for local employers in their efforts to support local businesses and give back to the community in which they exist.

Investment in this local initiative is supported by Donegal County Council and their support has enabled it to grow and become the trusted brand it is today.

Corporate customers make up 70% of the revenue - in most companies locally, every employee will receive a card at some stage during the year towards rewards/corporate gifting.

The Letterkenny Chamber have had growth over many years but the milestone of annual sales of €4m in 2022 brought it to a new level which achieved national media attention.(RTE)

This is a regulated gift card programme, it works because of their relationship with their payment provider, their relationship with the businesses that accept the cards and their trusted brand that brings corporates back to them year after year.



## Waterford Chamber

### *Toys4Engineers*

Toys4Engineers sees the coming together of multi-national and indigenous companies from all over Ireland and beyond to do business. Organised by Waterford Chamber, in partnership with South East Technological University, Engineering the South East and Waterford City & County Council, Toys4Engineers sees a week long series of events designed to encourage networking, learning and sales generation, while also exploring STEAM careers for students through third level education or apprenticeships. Main events include their Live Conference and Expo, Meet the Buyer offering, Career guidance seminars for parents and students and industry training, as well as extensive social media promotion of businesses and recruitment opportunities.

Toys4Engineers also has the support of IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Waterford Local Enterprise Office, Waterford Chamber Skillnet, Cobotics Skillnet, Chambers Ireland and all regional Chambers, as they endeavour to connect businesses, showcase technology and innovation and drive economic growth within the engineering sector.

These partnerships continue to grow year on year and the results are evident, as more and more companies come together to work in tandem to achieve greater results in terms of innovation in industry.



# Supporting members

Stronger together

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This award recognises projects which support our Chamber Business members.

Retaining current members and increasing the intake of new members is carried out through a range of initiatives by our members including targeted communication campaigns and marketing initiatives which highlight our Chambers' relevance to the business community.

This year's nominees for the Supporting Members award includes:

**Ballina Chamber**

*Virtual Advent Calendar 2022*

**County Kildare Chamber**

*Kildare Schools Roadshow*

**Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber**

*Boasting Business in Dungarvan & West Waterford*

**Letterkenny Chamber**

*'Member Welcome, Spotlight, Catch-Up & Events' Digital Content Marketing Campaign*

**Limerick Chamber**

*Limerick Chamber Membership Profile and Support*

**Waterford Chamber**

*Regional Leaders Programme*



## Ballina Chamber

### *Virtual Advent Calendar*

Ballina's Christmas Virtual Advent Calendar Shop Local promotion was a festive success, captivating shoppers throughout December. Behind each virtual advent door, local businesses in Ballina unveiled special Christmas offers, generating excitement and anticipation. This initiative showcased the diverse business community and encouraged support for local establishments during the holiday season. Spanning six weeks from December 1st to Christmas Day, the advent calendar featured a range of businesses offering unique gifts, tempting treats, and expert services. Discounts and special offers abounded, fostering a sense of community, and emphasising the importance of shopping locally.

The Christmas Virtual Advent Calendar Shop Local ingeniously blended modern online shopping with the traditional charm of advent calendars, inviting shoppers to explore Ballina's businesses and uncover hidden gems. It promoted the town as an exceptional shopping destination and a delightful place to visit. The initiative facilitated their success during the festive season by bridging the gap between businesses without an online presence and a wider audience.

# County Kildare Chamber

## *Kildare Schools Roadshow*

The Kildare school's roadshow idea originated from discussions at a Chamber Policy Advisory Council meeting, where members expressed interest in developing a trade expo for the next generation of students. Over a two-month period, the Chamber visited one school in each Municipal District, accompanied by 4-5 member companies. During these visits, the companies presented their businesses, shared industry insights, and highlighted potential career and educational opportunities. The students had the unique opportunity to engage in one-on-one conversations with the companies, fostering connections and building a link between the students and local businesses in their community.

This initiative aimed to create a strong bond between students, businesses, and the community, while also addressing future skills gaps in the county. By providing students with first-hand exposure to local companies and showcasing the diverse career options available, the roadshow empowered students to envision a future filled with possibilities. Simultaneously, it encouraged collaboration between the educational and business sectors, fostering a thriving ecosystem that would contribute to the county's growth and success. Through this proactive and innovative approach, the Chamber demonstrated its commitment to investing in the potential of the youth and creating a vibrant community where education, business, and community engagement thrive harmoniously.





## Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber

### *Boasting Business in Dungarvan & West Waterford*

The Dungarvan and West Waterford Chamber made a powerful impact in 2022 with their dynamic social media campaigns, showcasing members' business stories, successes, and generating widespread awareness. Their targeted promotions left a lasting impression on the community, offering exciting opportunities for businesses to shine.

During International Women's Day, the Chamber celebrated 20 women entrepreneurs who had launched their businesses since 2020. The Snappy Business Profiling campaign delivered concise and impactful messages about 35 businesses over five weeks. Their unique offerings, achievements, and special attributes were effectively conveyed, captivating audiences and sparking their curiosity.

On National Women's Enterprise Day, the Chamber proudly highlighted 49 remarkable women within their network, underscoring their invaluable contributions to economic growth and innovation in a single day of celebration.

The Chamber promoted their shop local vouchers. Over six weeks leading up to the holiday season, businesses proudly proclaimed "We Accept Chamber Vouchers," emphasising the importance of nurturing local enterprises and preserving economic prosperity.

Through strategic use of social media platforms and their website, the D&WW Chamber led impactful business promotions, increasing public awareness of their members' offerings and successes. Their efforts showcased the strength and unity of the commercial community, leaving a lasting impression on all who encountered their campaigns.



## Letterkenny Chamber

### 'Member Welcome, Spotlight, Catch-Up & Events' Digital Content Marketing Campaign

Letterkenny Chamber implemented a successful strategy to welcome new members with great content. They conducted interviews, gathered relevant information, and captured photos alongside key Chamber figures or branding. This approach created consistency and campaign cohesion with the help of graphic templates. The engaging welcome and catch-up posts, featuring compelling text, photos, and eye-catching graphics, were distributed across various channels and the Chamber's website. This initiative not only raised the profile of new members but also increased the visibility of Letterkenny Chamber, while enhancing SEO for both the Chamber and its members. The dynamic content marketing strategy aimed to drive recruitment, marketing, and overall brand awareness. Members themselves benefited from this approach by reposting the content on their own channels, gaining credibility, generating leads, and even repurposing the editorial text for their own promotional needs. This initiative played a crucial role in increasing engagement, brand awareness, and fostering a sense of community among the membership organizations, the regional business community, and Letterkenny Chamber.



## Limerick Chamber

### *'Limerick Chamber Membership Profile and Support*

Under the leadership of their Events and Communications Manager, Limerick Chamber has transformed their approach to marketing, membership, and events. With a dedicated team in place, they have introduced several initiatives to provide comprehensive support to their members, particularly in response to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Recognising the importance of fostering peer connections and offering a platform for members to voice their opinions on local issues, Limerick Chamber has positioned itself as a vital connector within the business community. Through their various channels, they have leveraged their existing following and online presence to amplify the profile and branding of their members.

One key aspect of their strategy has been to anticipate and address the specific needs of each membership tier. For example, Strategic Partners receive exclusive access to lobbying opportunities and participate in quarterly dinners featuring guest speakers who provide valuable insights on regional projects. Retail members, on the other hand, benefit from exclusive meetings with the local authority to discuss important city centre developments. The Chamber also facilitates surveys, webinars, and events that connect members with influential figures in their respective fields.

To enhance the membership experience, Limerick Chamber has implemented digital member packs, streamlined their end system, and expanded their range of events. These personalised initiatives have resulted in a significant increase in membership, improved retention rates, and the introduction of new networking opportunities for members to expand their professional connections.

Through their proactive approach and tailored support, Limerick Chamber has demonstrated a commitment to helping their members thrive and grow in an ever-changing business landscape.



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## Waterford Chamber

### *Regional Leaders Programme*

The Regional Leaders Programme, designed by and for the business community in the South East region, empowers professionals to develop their leadership skills. With the support of Waterford Chamber, Waterford Chamber Skillnet, and industry partner Bausch + Lomb, the programme expanded regionally in 2021. Participants, including senior managers, aspiring leaders, and entrepreneurs, engage in mentoring, workshops, and networking opportunities from September to June. By addressing employee retention concerns, the programme fosters commitment to organisations. Over 300 individuals have successfully completed the programme, with many securing internal promotions. This nine-month initiative exemplifies the dedication to cultivating strong leadership in the South East region.

# Sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals

Making sustainability matter



Sustainability and engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals as we approach 2030.

As SDG Champions Chambers support these goals and our award recognises the work done internally by Chambers and also externally in assisting business members to actively strive to accomplish the SDGs.

This year's nominees for the Partnership for Business award includes:

**Ballina Chamber**

*Ballina Green Town*

**Cork Chamber**

*Sustainable Cork Programme*

**County Carlow Chamber**

*Together Towards a Greener Carlow*

**Dublin Chamber**

*Dublin Chamber Sustainability Academy*

**Galway Chamber**

*The Evolving Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), and Sustainability Landscape; Demystifying ESG*

**Waterford Chamber**

*Regional Leaders Programme*





## Ballina Chamber

### *Ballina Green Town*

Ballina Green Town serves as an inclusive platform that unites the entire Ballina community, focusing on sustainability. With a vision to become Ireland's greenest town, Ballina has garnered support for its Green Town Charter, engaging the community's voice and securing LEADER funding for developing a strategy that paves the way toward a sustainable future. Led by the Mary Robinson Centre, Ballina Chamber of Commerce, and Ballina Green Town, this community-led effort strives for Ballina to become a European exemplar of large-scale decarbonization and a model for the green transition by 2030.

Embracing the mantra of "Thinking Global, Acting Local," Ballina Green Town firmly believes that the town can lead the way in decarbonization by prioritizing local initiatives within a defined framework. The vision encompasses five interconnected core areas: Energy, Mobility, Economy, Ecology, and People. Each area sets high-level targets and adopts three strategies based on proven methodologies, best practices, and an understanding of Ballina's critical social-ecological systems. This approach encourages action at all levels, from individual efforts to town-wide endeavours.

The initiative to make Ballina Ireland's greenest town brings together families, businesses, and community groups, fostering collaboration on ambitious and transformative projects that aim for a brighter and more sustainable future. Ballina Green Town actively engages schools, businesses, community groups, households, and government entities, recognizing that everyone has a valuable contribution to offer. Through collective effort and shared responsibility, Ballina is poised to lead the way in sustainable development and serve as an inspiration for other towns seeking a greener tomorrow.



**MAYO  
CLIMATE  
ACTION  
WEEKEND**

# WILL YOU GIVE US A DIG OUT?

**St Mary's Secondary School are starting an Edible Landscape biodiversity project & need compost!**

**Join us 10am this Saturday 26 Nov at Rathroeen Civic Amenity Centre to help fill compost bags for this great project.**

## Cork Chamber

### *Sustainable Cork Programme*

The Sustainable Cork Programme has gained significant momentum following the publication of their comprehensive report titled 'Building Economic Resilience' in 2020. Through their dedicated webinar series, the programme continues to focus on the three pillars of Sustainable Development: Economic, Social/Community, and Environment, offering in-depth discussions and meaningful engagement opportunities for attendees. These webinars serve as a platform for Chamber members and stakeholders to exchange ideas, share information, and network on sustainability and resilience-building topics.

At its core, the Sustainable Cork Programme aims to envision a more sustainable and resilient Cork, empowered by a thriving business community. Since its inception during the pandemic, the programme has played a vital role in educating companies across sectors on key sustainability issues. From exploring the effects of remote working on diversity to discussing the future of electric mobility, their initiatives span social, economic, and environmental dimensions. By providing valuable insights and raising awareness, the Sustainable Cork Programme enables businesses to make informed decisions that contribute to a sustainable future for Cork and its surrounding regions.



# County Carlow Chamber

## *Together Towards a Greener Carlow*

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Together Towards a Greener Carlow (TTGC) is a collaboration of the local business community to foster a greener and more sustainable future. Through active engagement, TTGC focuses on collaboration, education, and support to drive environmental improvement.

TTGC issues a monthly, green-focused newsletter, highlighting different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and showcasing members' sustainability efforts. This promotes the exchange of ideas and supports members on their sustainability journeys.

The newsletter serves as a platform for sharing available supports, events, and initiatives, aiding members in transitioning to sustainable business practices. These updates are also shared on TTGC's social channels and website, expanding their impact.

TTGC partners with organizations to host climate-focused events and training sessions, open to members, guests, and the wider community. These events address various challenges and promote SDGs. Examples include the Optimization Plus program, a webinar on the Impact of Domestic Abuse on the Workplace, and a roundtable discussion with UNICEF on Vaccines.

Members and businesses actively engage with TTGC's initiatives, benefitting from shared ideas and implemented changes. Together, they contribute to a greener and more sustainable Carlow.



## Dublin Chamber

### *Dublin Chamber Sustainability Academy*

The Sustainability Academy, launched in February 2020, empowers the business community of Dublin to take action on sustainability. It offers small and medium-sized firms the opportunity to enhance their skills and incorporate sustainable practices into their business models. The Academy provides a diverse range of courses, including Sustainability 101, Carbon Footprinting, Circular Economy, and Green Public Procurement. These courses are designed to cater to businesses at any stage of their sustainability journey, with content that evolves to meet their evolving needs.

Extensive research, including quantitative surveys and focus groups, revealed that businesses acknowledged the importance of climate action and sustainability but lacked clear guidance on practical steps to take. They sought leadership within the business community and a comprehensive resource that would assist them in initiating sustainability efforts, managing reporting requirements, and capitalizing on emerging opportunities. The Academy was established to bridge this gap by providing leadership and inspiring action on sustainability.

The Academy offers workshops and advisory support to help businesses enhance their sustainability practices and achieve their goals. Since 2021, the Academy has successfully organised 16 workshops, benefiting 150 businesses and engaging 250 participants who have completed its courses.





## Galway Chamber

### *The Evolving Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), and Sustainability Landscape; Demystifying ESG*

The rapidly evolving landscape of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting has transformed from a mere luxury to a necessity for mid-sized to large enterprises, brands, and publicly traded companies. Many of these organizations have allocated budgets to support their existing ESG strategies and goals. However, ESG reporting is not limited to these larger entities alone; it has become a crucial measure of success and progress for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well. Failing to deliver robust ESG reporting poses a competitive disadvantage and procurement risk.

Recognising a knowledge gap among SME members in this area, Galway Chamber took proactive measures to address this urgent need. We engaged member companies that had successfully implemented ESG programs to lead a comprehensive learning campaign. This campaign aimed to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices with companies that were embarking on their ESG journey with limited support.

Through this initiative, Galway Chamber equipped members with limited resources with practical tips on developing ESG programs, strategies, and goals. Their aim was to empower these members to initiate their ESG journey, enhance their business practices, and ultimately increase their attractiveness for investment.



# Chambers Ireland

Advancing business together

**#CHAMBERAWARDS**



# ZURICH