

DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

FEABHRA 2023
FEBRUARY 2023

General Environment Enforcement

Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected.

Members of the public are encouraged to contact the local authority to report all incidents of illegal dumping or littering by using the following telephone number: 0818 102020

Presentation/Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City

- Tree works Programme is ongoing, working off a priority list.
- A portion of tree works has been tendered and this will be awarded and completed in February 2023.
- Tree pruning ongoing at various areas around city.
- Weed spraying contract tendered and awarded. First application expected in April 2023.
- Maintenance of our parks and open spaces is ongoing.
- Railway Square planting has been completed.
- Ballybricken Green – Final landscaping to be completed in February 2023. A number of picnic benches have been installed to enhance the green space.
- Peoples Park Fountain – Civil works including ESB and associated services connections awarded. Construction works substantially completed. ESB to run cabling for new power source.
- Tender for water feature has been published on e-Tenders.
- City Centre Cleansing – Cleaning regime in place with crew power washing inner city streets.
- Hedge cutting schedule ongoing throughout city nearing completion.

Tramore

Tramore crews are currently tree pruning with a large body of work currently ongoing. Ballycarnane in Tramore has been an area concentrated on this month.

- Maintenance of our parks and open spaces is ongoing.
- Presentation ongoing repair of paths and playgrounds. Inclusion Park upgrades are a priority for 2023.

Climate Action

Community Climate Action Fund

The Climate Team expect the Community Climate Action Fund to open in the next month for Expressions of Interest. The fund is to finance community projects of up to €20,000, between €20,000 and €50,000 and between €50,000 and €100,000. The projects will be in one of the following 5 areas: Home & Energy, Travel, Food & Waste, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action. The Climate Team will hold in person and online workshops for communities across the City and County once the fund is launched and will publicise it through the PPN network.

There is also a second strand within this fund for communities who would like to partner with communities in the North of Ireland to share experiences and develop skills. The Community Climate Action Officer commenced duty with the Council on 16th January.

Climate Action Plan

The statutory process for creating the Climate Action Plan commences in March. Data required for decision making within the Climate Action Plan is currently being gathered. Once this data has been collated a pre-draft questionnaire to collect input from the Waterford public as to what they think should be included in the Climate Action Plan will be issued. The new Climate Action Plan will be implemented between 2024 and 2029.

Energy Efficiency

- The first of WCCC environmental inspector electrical vans have been delivered. Two further EV's are to be delivered in February and will be operated by the environmental inspectors.



- An electrical contractor has been appointed to complete the installation on the electrical services at the Museum of Death, which will be located at 3,4&5 Cathedral Square.
- A contractor has been appointed to complete energy efficiency works at Tramore Library. Upgrade works include a new air-water heat pump system, which replaces the current oil boiler and insulation upgrades to the building.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Lost Fishing Gear Pilot Project

Waste gets washed onto our coastline and beaches ... but it's not always litter. Some of these are fishing items that still have value and can be put to good use again, contributing to the circular economy. The Environment Department been working with The Harbour Master in Dunmore East, Bord Iascaigh Mhara and the Clean Technology Centre about a potential reuse project that would involve recovering usable fishing items from local beach cleans taking place between Cheekpoint and Tramore. This would involve local communities, the fishing industry, BIM and Waterford City and County Council. The idea is to take fishing equipment that is collected during regular beach cleans by existing groups and putting them to one side at our depots in Tramore and Dunmore until they can be collected/dropped to the harbour in Dunmore East for repair or reuse. An information session for groups to learn more about what this initiative involves, the types of fishing materials suitable for reuse/repair, etc. was held in the Lifeguard Training Centre, Tramore on 9th February last.

Community Clean-Ups

Waterford City & County Council facilitates community clean ups throughout the year to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations have commenced at www.nationalspringclean.org As part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.

Green Flag Programme

Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and award programme, working with primary and secondary schools across the country. School renewal visits and assessments are underway for green flag renewals and first time applications. There are 61 schools in Waterford City and County due to renew their Green Flag this year. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, March 24th for the 2022/2023 academic year.

Burning of Agricultural Waste – Extension to Exemption

Regulations were signed on Friday, 27th January which provide an extension to the exemption which allows for the burning of agricultural green waste.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/fa8a9-final-regulations-signed-on-burning-of-agricultural-green-waste/>

This exemption is now extended until 1st March 2023 and the Environment Department can now accept applications to issue notification reference numbers relating to the Burning of Agricultural Waste until that date. Applications will close again on 2nd March 2023 until 31st August 2023. One final exemption will be granted from 1st September 2023 to 30th November 2023 and the Environment Department will again accept applications relating to that 3 month time period.

The Burning of Agricultural Waste Notification Form is available on the Environment Section of the Council's website: <https://waterfordcouncil.ie/departments/environment/waste-management/disposal-by-burning.htm>

Website

Environmental Information continues to be added to the Environment section of the Waterford City & County Council website which can be found at www.waterfordcouncil.ie