



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

MEITHEAMH 2023
JUNE 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

- Weed spraying contract tendered and awarded. Second application to take place in June 2023.
- Stump grinding contract works complete in city and environs.
- Maintenance of our parks and open spaces is ongoing. No mow May initiative in place throughout various areas in the city for biodiversity. Grass cutting is getting under control after a very wet March/April.
- Works to People's Park Boules Court have been completed. Old timber picnic benches have been ordered and are due to be fitted to replace older timber benches in the park. Additional works have taken place to create concrete slabs for new games tables that Waterford Sports Partnership have ordered.
- Summer bedding planting is ongoing. Bedding has been completed in People's Park, TF Meagher monument, Millennium Plaza and Apple Market planters amongst other areas throughout city. New planting is ongoing around Bishops Palace.
- Large planters to be installed around Waterford Train Station this week. Hanging baskets to be installed next week.
- Peoples Park Fountain – Final tender evaluation completed and tender award to be completed shortly. Works expected to start August 2023.
- Graffiti Waterford City – A rise on offensive graffiti around parts of the city since the new year. Upsurge in Graffiti over the last 6 weeks.
- City Centre Cleansing – Cleaning regime ongoing with crew power washing inner city streets.

Playground in Kilcaragh Park

Planning Department contacted to identify if development contributions can be allocated to this project.

Tramore

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- Grass cutting is getting under control after a very wet March/April.
- Stump grinding contract works for Tramore has been completed.
- Crews preparing for summer season. Many large bins repaired and repainted along with railings and other public realm features. Cleansing regime ongoing.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan

The pre-draft consultation on the Climate Action Plan is live and submissions can be made until 5.00pm on 16th June. The Consultation lays out the challenges that are ahead for Waterford, what the Council's responsibility is and what other places have done. Bearing these in mind, we are asking the public what climate actions they think the Council should take and what they would like to be able to do themselves. The Consultation has been shared with the PPN, Schools, the Chambers and it has been publicised on the Council's media platforms. We will continue to promote it across the next 3 weeks and we are hosting information sessions in the libraries. We look forward to hearing from many Waterford people as possible on this important topic.

The actions decided upon and approved by the Councillors in January 2024 will be the actions that Waterford City & County Council will take between now and the end of the decade to reduce emissions in the City and County and to prepare for Climate Change.

A workshop on the Consultation was delivered to elected members on 1st June last.

The following is the link to the Climate Action Plan Pre-Draft Consultation:

<https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/consultation/climate-action-plan-pre-draft-consultation>

Community Climate Action Fund

We await the opening of the Community Climate Action Fund. Details are being worked out on issues such as bridge funding for communities. While the fund has not yet opened, any community with a Climate project idea (Energy, Transport, Waste etc) are encouraged to get in touch with our Community Climate Action Officer by email at: climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie so that she can review the project with them to determine if it is suitable for funding.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste Prevention

National Food Waste Recycling Week took place from 5th – 11th June with the intention of promoting food waste recycling as a positive climate action but also reminding people to do it correctly. Recent research shows a 2% increase in plastic found in food waste collections, a trend that needs to be kept in check and reversed. As part of this, ads were run on local radio and a social media campaign was run to promote food recycling.

Drinking water stations at beaches at Dunmore East and Tramore are now in place. These will enable visitors to the beach to refill their water bottles, thus encouraging reuse and refilling. This will also reduce the number of plastic bottles disposed of.

Litter

Ballot bins were recently installed in Waterford City, Tramore and Dungarvan and are an initiative to encourage smokers to properly dispose of their cigarette butts. The ballot bins feature an engaging voting system that is a fun way to get people to vote by placing their cigarette butts in one of two voting slots. The ballot bins feature customisable questions and smokers can vote on the topic. The polls will be regularly updated and will feature Yes / No polls with questions such as 'Were Ross and Rachel on a break?' or 'Pineapple on Pizza?' Other polls will offer a choice of answers such as 'Best Blaa filling?' and 'Which came first? The Chicken or the egg'. While the topics may be fun and engaging, cigarette butts pose a real societal and environmental problem. They are the most common form of litter in both Waterford and indeed the world, with an estimated 4.5 trillion cigarette butts thrown away every year.

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. These have begun again in earnest. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter is then arranged following the clean-up.

Biodiversity

As part of CALMAST's Bealtaine Festival of Living Science, a workshop was run in Kilbarry Nature Park with a local school. The nature park provides an ideal opportunity for this interactive workshop to explore nature, biodiversity

and waste within Waterford City. It encompasses an integrated wetland, wildflower meadows, Kilbarry Bog and all this on a remediated landfill.

Grants

A local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant and a local Circular Economy Grant were advertised on the Council's website, social media and in local newspapers. Applications have been assessed and funding offers made.

Local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant: This is for community groups, youth groups, schools or other community development organisations, based in Waterford City and County, who are interested in receiving funding for public education and awareness initiatives regarding litter or graffiti.

Local Circular Economy Grant: A circular economy is based on long-life products that can be renewed, reused, repaired, upgraded and refurbished to preserve natural resources, protect habitats and reduce pollution. It is about finding ways to keep items in use longer and not generating as much waste in the first place. It is about rethinking the way we do things – redesigning the items we use – changing attitudes and changing behaviours about what we buy and what we throw away. The main focus for applications this year should be on projects to promote a circular economy e.g. repairing, reusing, building skills and knowledge in the community to facilitate repair and reuse, changing attitudes and behaviours to how we use items, reduce use of single use items (encourage use of reusable items).

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

The Statutory Consultation Phase for the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy has launched and is running from Wednesday, 3rd May until 4.00 pm on Wednesday, 5th July.

This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2023 to 2029.

Ireland is moving away from the traditional linear 'take-make-use-dispose' model towards a 'circular economy' regenerative growth model where resources are reused or recycled as much as possible and the generation of waste is minimised. The transition to a circular economy is essential to reduce pressure on natural resources, aid in achieving climate targets, support Sustainable Development Goals and create sustainable growth and jobs.

This Plan includes specific targets, policies and actions to enable the waste and resource sector to meet the circularity challenge and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

The Plan is available to view and make submissions on <https://www.mywaste.ie/national-waste-plan/>

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