



**Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae Phort Láirge**  
Waterford  
City & County Council

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

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**FEABHRA 2021**  
**FEBRUARY 2021**

**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: 0761 10 20 20

**Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces**

Waterford City & Tramore

Covid-19 - Level 5 restrictions put in place in recent weeks have resulted in restricting a large part of the activities which we would otherwise be involved in at this time of year. In order to protect staff a large part of our maintenance works have been suspended; this being tree pruning, tree planting and shrubbery maintenance. Work in the primary maintenance of our parks remains ongoing that being maintaining litter bins and litter picking as this is seen as essential in providing the public with a safe and clean space to avail of recreation. When these restrictions are lifted, staff will return to these works. Where works are seasonal a review will be required to ascertain what is achievable in any remaining time frame, this review will take place when we have a clearer indication as to when it will safe to return to these works.

**An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 2, 2020**

Waterford City Centre: 8<sup>th</sup> out of 37 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

The recent results for the IBAL Anti-Litter League confirm that Waterford continues to be Ireland's cleanest city. It was noted that Covid-19 had not impacted on the cleanliness of Waterford city.

The report of the adjudicators states that "Some sites are consistently top ranking, such as Plunkett / Waterford Train Station, Bus Éireann Bus Station along the Quays, River Walk and Medieval Quarter – these deserve special mention as this requires on-going effort and attention. The 'Waterford Walls' initiative is a wonderfully creative way to 'take the bare look off' walls / buildings which might otherwise present very poorly. Barronstrand / Broad

Street were beautifully presented and exceptionally well served by not just regular litter bins but also bins specifically to accommodate 'Festival Litter'.

Full details of the results are available here; <http://ibal.ie/anti-litter-league/>

## **Environmental Education & Awareness**

### **Schools**

January, February and March are usually busy months for our work with Green Schools. This year, Green Schools assessments and visits are taking place online, in accordance with An Taisce's recommendations. Green School Committees will continue to be engaged with via Zoom. However due to the extended closure of schools, engagement has understandably been much lower than usual for this time of the year. An Taisce has extended the assessment deadline until the end of the school year to reflect this nationwide trend.

In an effort to continue to engage with schools, workshops are being offered online. Many teachers have expressed a preference for pre-recorded video content for workshops (due to internet connection, difficulty in scheduling live video with classes, etc.) and so this content is currently being created in order to offer this option to schools also.

### **Litter prevention**

Waterford City & County Council continues to offer assistance throughout the year to the general public, community groups and schools to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. These clean ups are ongoing. There has been an increase in the number of individuals & individual households carrying out clean-ups within their 5km limit at present, when groups cannot meet to carry out larger scale clean-ups as usual.

### **WCCC Biodiversity Events**

In conjunction with the Europe Direct in Central Library, we are working on a weeklong series of online events about biodiversity during the week 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February. The focus will be on nature in the garden and what individuals can do to encourage biodiversity. From tips to help biodiversity on your doorstep to a competition for children, promoting plants for pollinators and looking at garden birds, it will cover a range of topics suitable for biodiversity at home. All online events will be recorded and made available for viewing online afterwards also.

### **Tidy Towns**

The national Tidy Towns competition will go ahead this year, with groups encouraged to include relevant photographs wherever possible with their entries in case judging cannot take place in person due to COVID-19. Groups have also been encouraged to focus on biodiversity, green spaces and sustainable living. With this in mind, a webinar about planting for biodiversity will be held for Tidy Towns groups on 10<sup>th</sup> February. This webinar will include a talk by Consultant Ecologist, Botanist and National Tidy Towns Adjudicator Ms. Fiona McGowan. It will focus on practical ways to enhance biodiversity locally and will showcase simple projects that are feasible for any group.

### **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](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie)