



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

MÁRTA 2023
MARCH 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

- Open space tree works completed for Spring 2023. Works completed both in house and by specialist contractor. In particular works completed between Kingfisher and Hibernian Football Pitch. A list of tree works is already being compiled for Autumn 2023 works programme.
- Tender awarded for tree stumps removal 2023 for Waterford City. 200+ stumps are to be removed throughout the city. Contract has been awarded to Dermot Casey Tree Care Ltd. Work to commence in April 2023.
- Hedge cutting now complete until Autumn 2023.
- Commencement of Let Dandelions BEE underway, a swart will be cut around the areas set aside.
- Weed Spraying contract awarded for 2023. First application to take place in early April. Cleansing and Open Spaces crews have increased site cleaning throughout the city to remove organic matter to reduce growth and the need for spraying.
- Cleansing – 200 plus black bags dumped in the city alone in February. Stickers are placed on bags which are left in place to highlight to the public prior to removal.
- Playground tender underway to replace Multi play tower in Farronshoneen/6 Acres. New soccer goals in place on the green.
- Gate to be tendered for Crypt/Gothic Arch area in Wyse Park to stop anti-social behaviour and littering.

Tramore

Tramore crews have completed tree pruning with a large body of work having taken place.

Ballycarnane in Tramore was an area concentrated on. Trees were impacting footpaths and needed removal. A number of trees were planted in the area to replace ones removed.

Maintenance of our parks and open spaces is ongoing.

- Presentation ongoing repair of paths and playgrounds. Inclusion Park upgrades a priority for 2023
- Tender to be completed for an electric scut truck vehicle for beach and parks cleansing and general open spaces works.

Climate Action

Community Climate Action Fund Launch in March – Over €500,000 to go to Waterford communities

Friday, 10th March was the official launch date of the new Community Climate Action Fund. A webinar was held on that day and the same session was held on Wednesday, 8th March in the Granville Hotel, Waterford. Communities will have until Friday, 19th May to submit their Expression of Interest. Communities are advised to work with the Community Climate Action Officer in developing their project idea. The Community Climate Action Officer can be contacted via email at: climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie. The projects will be under the themes of Home/Energy, Transport, Shopping and Recycling, Food and Waste and Environmental Awareness. This fund is open to Community Groups and Sports Teams and projects must be able to demonstrate the impact that they will have.

Climate Action Plan Drafting

Monday, 6th March was the day by which the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications must officially launch the statutory process of Climate Action Plan drafting. Each county will draft a Climate Action Plan and that plan will set out the actions each county will take in reducing our emissions and in preparing for extreme weather. Consultation documents will be shared with elected members as we develop them, and as per the requirements of the legislation.

Energy Efficiency

The stadium pitch flood lights have been replaced at the WRSC and installation was completed in February 2023. Upgrade works are funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports & Media.



WCCC senior management have adopted an energy policy whereby WCCC will strive to reduce energy consumption and CO2 related emissions by 50% by 2030. The consumption of fossil fuels in Waterford City and County Council public buildings will cease by 2025.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Green Flag Programme

Green-Schools promotes long-term, whole-school action for the environment Green-Schools with primary and secondary schools. There are 61 schools in Co. Waterford due to renew their Green Flag this year. A renewal visit must take place before a school submits a renewal application form for their renewal Green Flags (Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and the Global Citizenship themes). Renewal visits are carried out by the Environment Awareness Officer. The purpose of the visit is to demonstrate that the school has an active Green-Schools programme in operation and has been maintaining previous themes in addition to working on the current theme. Schools applying must first complete an assessment visit from the Environment Awareness Officer before submitting their renewal application. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, 24th March next for the 2022/2023 academic year. This has meant lots of school visits have been taking place recently to meet with Green School Committees and talk to classes.

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 takes place after the clean-up takes place. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April. Registrations are now being taken 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 for all clean ups. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.

Workshops

A recycling workshop took place with two groups at St Brigid's Family Resource Centre on 23rd February. This workshop explained what can and cannot be recycled and enabled participants to recycle correctly and to reduce their waste. It also provided tips and reasons behind living more sustainably.

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