

**DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH**  
**TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

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

**NOLLAIG 2021**  
**DECEMBER 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 evidence of an offence is available.

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 10 20 20.

**Prosecution of Unauthorised Waste Collector.**

“Man in the van” waste collector sentenced to 6 months in jail for illegal dumping.

In Waterford District Court on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Waterford City and County Council secured a prosecution against an unauthorised waste collector for collecting waste illegally and dumping it at a cliff near Annewstown, Co Waterford.

The dumping occurred in the area of the UNESCO Copper Coast Geopark and with a Special Protection Area for birds.

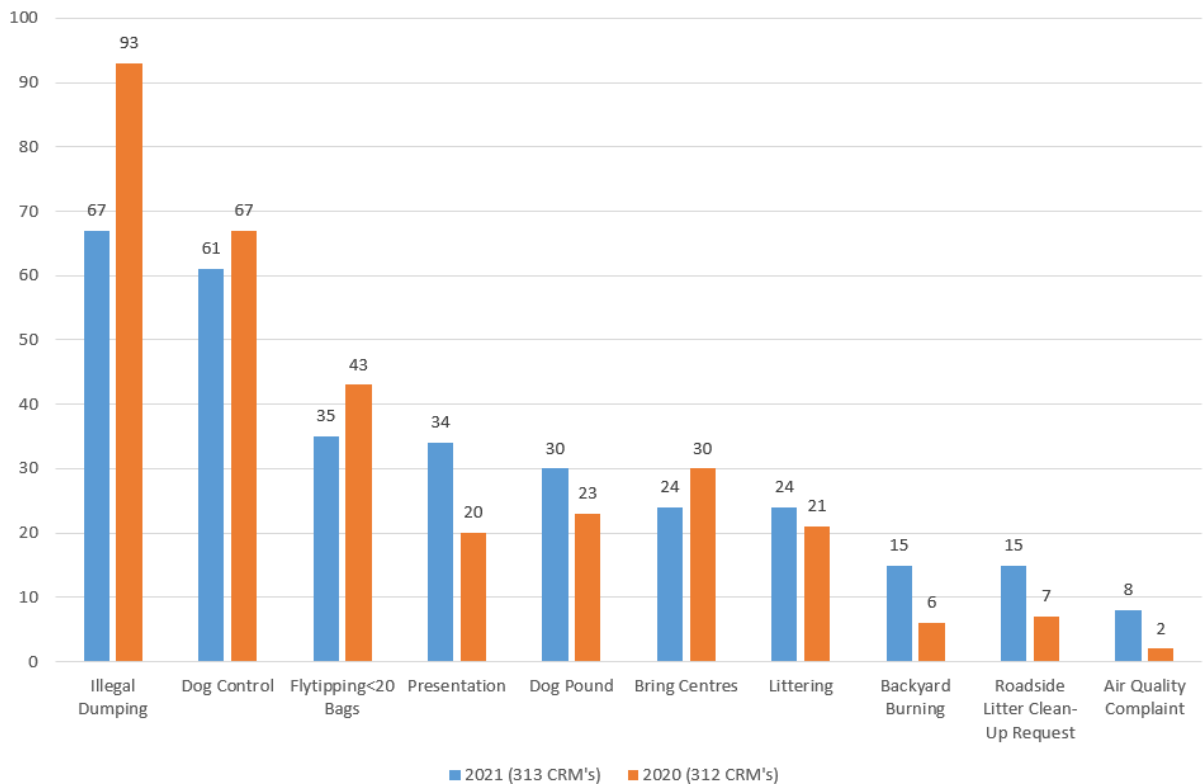
The dumping was first reported anonymously in July 2019, and required a specialist working at heights team to safely remove the waste from the cliff top.

In sentencing Judge Staunton described illegal dumping as a “scourge” and highlighted the efforts locals undertake to promote tourism and that dumping like this in a beauty spot undermines that effort.

The waste collector was sentenced to 6 months in jail, in addition to a €200 fine and €6,100 in costs.

**CRM Activity**

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded by the Environment Dept. in the Comeragh area in the period from January to November in the years 2020 & 2021. Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate complaints received and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected. The Waterford City & County Councils Dog Warden continues to investigate all control of dogs issue throughout the City & County.



## **Environmental Education & Awareness**

### **Tidy Towns Competition 2021**

This year's Tidy Towns awards took place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Each entrant is assessed under eight criteria with a total of 470 marks available. County Waterford was well represented at this year's Tidy Towns Awards, with the following prizes being awarded to towns / villages in the Comeragh area:

Gold Medal Winners: Stradbally

Silver Medal Winners: Ballymacarbry

County Awards: Stradbally was highly commended in this category.

Endeavour Awards: Clonea Power

The full results booklet can be viewed at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/SV-TidyTowns-Results-Booklet-2021.pdf> Reports for individual towns and villages can be viewed at [https://www.tidytowns.ie/reports/?report\\_year=2021&report\\_county=waterford](https://www.tidytowns.ie/reports/?report_year=2021&report_county=waterford)

### Waterford Results by population category:

Category A: Ballymacarbry – 348 marks  
 Lemybrien – 239 marks  
 Clonea-Power- 236 marks

Category B: Stradbally – 351 marks  
 Kilmacthomas – 298 marks

Category C: Portlaw – 286 marks

### **Waste prevention**

October was National Reuse Month. A full calendar of events was scheduled around the country, from online tutorials and workshops to videos and podcasts. As part of this, Waterford City & County Council ran a competition with Secondary schools competition to tackle the high number of single use plastic water bottles used in their community. Classes attended an online

workshop to learn more about the issue and encourage local businesses to offer water refills and encourage local businesses to sign up to appear on the Refill Tap Map.

We continue to work with Sports Clubs to reduce the number of single use plastic bottles at their club grounds too by taking a pledge to reduce single use plastic. By signing up to Refill's Tap Map, sports clubs can receive a free sign for their tap and be in with a chance to win 100 branded reusable bottles for their members. If you are involved in or know of any clubs that would like to join the fight against plastic at their club, please contact Ella Ryan at [eryan@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:eryan@waterfordcouncil.ie)

Workshops continue to be offered online for the moment. A workshop on the topic of how to have a sustainable Christmas took place in November with discussion on food waste prevention, recycling and reducing packing at Christmastime taking place alongside a demonstration on how to make a Christmas wreath from your garden materials.

Bookings are currently being taken for a 5-week interactive Sustainable Gardening Course for community groups or individuals interested in reducing their impact on the environment, beginning in January. Topics covered include reducing your waste, growing your own vegetables, planting for pollinators, alternative to chemicals and much, much more. This course is online and booked out quickly when we ran it in early 2021. A place can be requested at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-gardening-course-waterford-city-county-council-registration-201968442047>

### **Litter**

Waterford City & County Council offers assistance throughout the year for groups/individuals who volunteer to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas.

### **Bring Banks – Portlaw**

A recent request to relocate the Bring Banks currently situated at Portlaw GAA Club to Clodiagh House, Portlaw was considered by the Environment Department. It is considered that the access and turning area available at the site is not suitable for the service trucks which would be required to provide regular maintenance of the Bring Banks. In order to provide a more suitable location within the town Waterford City & County Council is currently carrying out preliminary site suitability investigations at Connolly Road, Portlaw to establish if the site for the development of a Bring Bank facility. The development of new Bring Bank site at this location will be subject to the procedures set out in Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and will require public consultation and will include a period during which submissions or observations in relation to the development may be made by the public. Subject to the outcome of the "Part 8" process works to accommodate the Bring Banks currently located on the L4033 at Portlaw GAA Club which will be transferred to the new site, will commence.

### **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)