

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

EANÁIR 2023
JANUARY 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

Winter seasonal planting is currently taking place at the Thomas Francis Meagher monument; Reginald's Tower; the Folly Roundabout (completed) and the planters in John Roberts Square and Apple Market. Within Ballybricken green planting of spring flowering Bellis will follow, which will grow over the next number of months and by spring will present a colourful display.

Tree works Programme is ongoing. This will be one of the main work items between now and the end of March.

Maintenance of parks will continue throughout the coming months and remains a high priority.

Civil works associated with the refurbishment of the fountain in the People's Park have commenced. The tender for the fountain work is being finalised.

Tramore

Staff in Tramore have been involved in planting with winter/spring flowering which will provide colourful displays during the coming months. Hanging baskets from Main Street and the lower promenade have been removed.

Spring/Summer flowers have been ordered for this year. Tramore crews are currently tree pruning with a large body of work currently underway. Ballycarnane was an area concentrated on during December.

Tramore's location on the coast ensures a slightly milder climate and grass shall continue to grow later in the season and where ground conditions allow grass requires to be maintained, where at all possible.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan

The compilation stage of data collection for the Climate Action Plan for the City and County is currently underway. In early 2023 WCCC will go out to community groups and others to obtain their input on what actions should be taken. The Climate Action Plan will include a study of all the greenhouse gas emissions in the county and will have a risk assessment of areas most likely to be impacted by climate change (flood plains, roads, piers etc.). It will contain a detailed study of the opportunities for reducing climate emissions in the city and all of these studies along with the input from the public will help us to create actions that the Council will either deliver on or will influence between now and 2029. This will be the first Climate Action Plan for the county and it will be reviewed every 5 years. WCCC

will hold a workshop on 20th January next for elected members to explain the Climate Action Plan process and to obtain input from them. An invitation to the workshop will be sent to elected members.

Community Climate Action Fund

January will see the publicising of the Community Climate Action fund. This fund provides over half a million euro of funding for community environmental projects. There will be many events held in January where communities can learn about this fund.

Environmental Education & Awareness

The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools has been completed and judged by IBAL. A prizegiving and presentation of certificates of participation took in the Mayor's Parlour in early December. 15 secondary schools across Waterford city and county entered the competition and received litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and bags to allow them to carry out litter picks of their designated area. Over a six week period, schools carried out clean ups, with many schools embracing the competition fully, carrying out 3 clean ups per week with different classes. The winning school which won prize money of €1,500 (sponsored by Tom Murphy Car Sales) was Blackwater Community School in Lismore, with St. Augustine's College (Abbeyside) and Mercy Secondary School (Waterford) being highly commended.

As part of Reuse Month we created a toolkit for swap events to encourage reuse and repair; this toolkit will provide tips, posters and social media posts to enable community groups, schools, etc. to reuse items by running swap events for items such as sports equipment, clothes, musical instruments, school supplies and more. This is available on the Council website and information has been sent to community groups, schools, sports groups, etc. The toolkit was presented to PPN members at their December meeting in Dungarvan. We continue to encourage schools, community groups, etc to use this when planning for 2023.

Irish Business Against Litter Survey (IBAL) Year end results for 2022 – Waterford ranked as Ireland's Cleanest City

Waterford has emerged as Ireland's Cleanest City in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Anti-Litter League. The city ranked 12th out of 40 cities and towns and was classed as Clean to European Norms.

The report cited that Waterford City performed strongly once again and went on to add, 'What is so encouraging is that a previously highlighted site has since been addressed – the Miscellaneous site (diagonally opposite train station) at the Bridge...this time around it was a much-improved site with a virtual absence of litter.'

Areas such as Broad Street/Barronstrand Street, Plunkett Train Station, Medieval Triangle/Cultural Quarter, People's Park, and the grounds of Waterford Courthouse, were regarded as excellent sites, were well presented and maintained and a complete absence of litter was noted throughout.

The report also noted that 'based on the amount of litter/cigarette butt notices and the lack of litter at Bus Eireann Bus Station, it is clear that litter is taken very seriously.'

Several approach roads to Waterford city received a Grade A ranking. It was noted that the R448 Newrath Approach Road was 'a very freshly presented route with very minimal litter items throughout and presented a very good first impression of Waterford City, and this was maintained for many of the remainder of the sites surveyed.' The Cork Road approach was 'an exceptionally freshly presented route with excellent road surfaces/markings. No visible litter issues throughout the stretch of road surveyed.' A virtual absence of litter was noted along the Tramore Approach Road also.

Other sites which performed very well included IDA Industrial Estate, SETU Cork Road, George's Street, Kingfisher Sports Facility, and Bolton Street Car Park.

The Riverwalk from Edmund Rice Bridge to Wallace Memorial, where extensive enhancement works have taken place is improved by 'attractive new paving looks very well. All aspects of the area surveyed were in excellent condition e.g., signage, lifebelts, seating, planted areas etc. It was excellent with regard to litter.'

Waterford Nature Reserve/Kilbarry Nature Park is an extraordinarily clean site with 'just one mineral can throughout an entire 2km route!'

The Bring Centre at Tesco, Ardkeen was however described as a litter blackspot that wasn't just casually littered but 'subject to dumping.'

There was a strong performance for Ballybeg over the previous survey. A couple of sites which had previous been heavily littered have since been addressed. The main access routes were all top ranking, along with Tesco and Ballybeg Park/Playground with the latter a lovely amenity which was very well presented and maintained.

Further initiatives that Waterford City and County Council promoted and supported in 2022 included the Green Dog Walker Programme, Leave No Trace, work with Tidy Towns and other community groups and the Anti-Graffiti and Anti-Litter Awareness Grant Scheme.

Further information is available on the IBAL website: <https://ibal.ie/anti-litter-league-rd1-2022-an-taisce-reports-2/>

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