

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

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

**AIBREÁN 2022**  
**APRIL 2022**

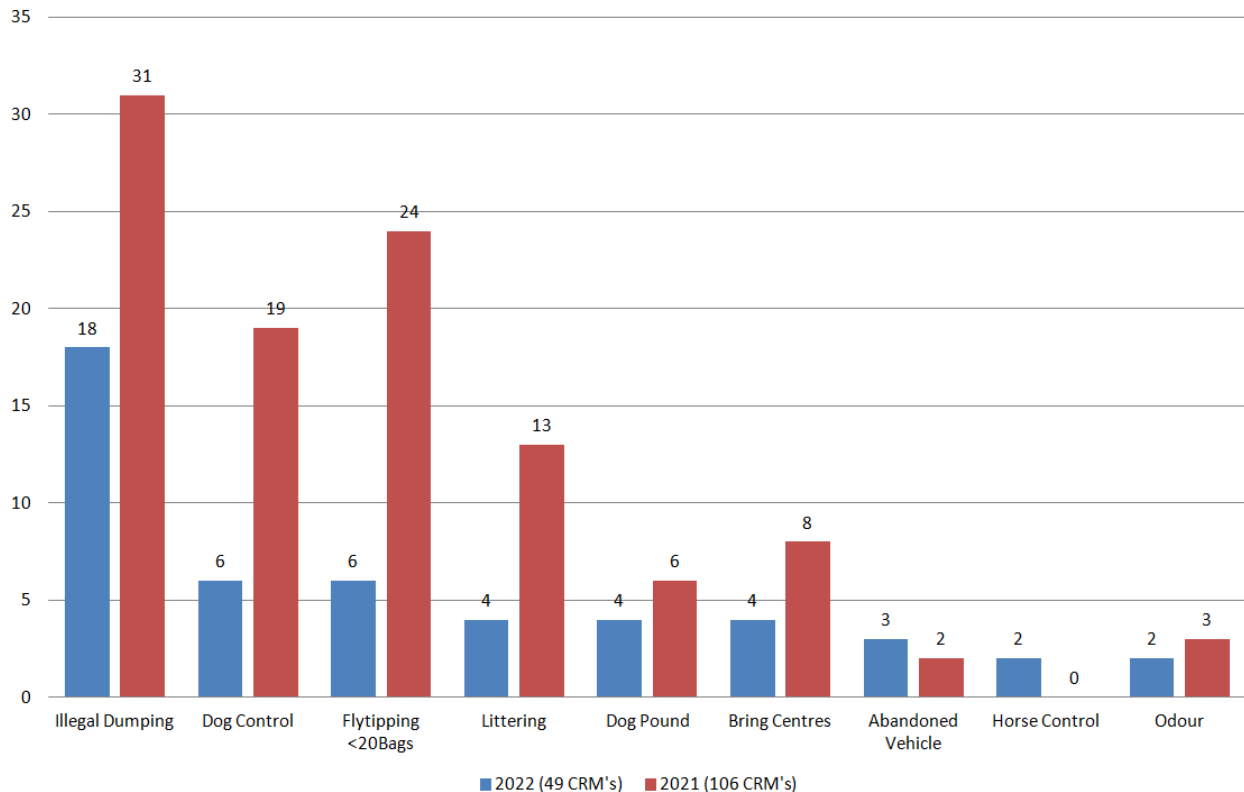
**General Environment Enforcement**

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.

**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 to the end of March in the years 2021 & 2022. 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**

### **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. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations have commenced at [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://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 afterwards.

### **Green Flag Programme**

School visits and assessments are well underway for green flag renewals and first time applicants. Fifty one schools are due to renew their Green Flag this year. The deadline for renewal applications was on Friday, April 1st 2022 for the 2021/2022 academic year. Green School visits can take place either in person or virtually, however most schools have chosen to have an in-person visit.

### **Biodiversity**

The interactive “Growing Together” course ran during March and continues into April. Participants learn to grow their own vegetables and pollinator plants. It has proven to be of special interest to Tidy Towns groups and Green School coordinators. A once off “Wildflower Masterclass” took place in March and provided advice on how best to re-wild/plant a wildflower area to help pollinators and biodiversity.

National Tree Week took place 20 – 26<sup>th</sup> March. Waterford City & County Council distributed 300 free native saplings to schools across Co. Waterford. A tree planting event also took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March to mark National Tree Week.

### **Tidy Towns**

A series of short online talks for Tidy Towns groups will continue during April, on the topics of litter management, sustainability, special awards categories and planting for pollinators. Speakers taking part include a winning Tidy Towns groups from Clare, the Biodiversity Data Centre about the Pollinator Plan and the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of Rural & Community Development. All local Tidy Towns groups were contacted with details of these events and invited to attend.

### **Climate Change**

In conjunction with the Europe Direct Centre at Central Library a number of online lunchtime events were held during March, entitled ‘Climate Action – what changes can I make?’. The events explored what action we can all take to contribute to the Waterford and National Climate Action Plans to create a better local and national environment for the present and the future. Events included talks on furniture upcycling demonstration using locally recycled paint from Renew Enterprises, a talk about wildflowers, how to grow your own vegetables active travel and how climate change is affecting our coastal heritage locally.

Waterford City & County Council has been working with the Waterford Teachers Centre to pilot a Climate Literacy programme with secondary schools this Spring. This involves a ten week Climate Literacy programme, focused on improving climate literacy and fostering behaviour change in schools. The course is developed to include teacher training, resources, and lesson plans. The teacher training is designed to equip teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and skills required to effectively and confidently deliver not only this course, but also across their curriculum subject as the course can complement any subject framework that has an environmental strand. There will be training sessions weekly online to support teachers to deliver the content of the class. Following training teachers will be able to deliver the course by themselves to groups of students.

### **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)