

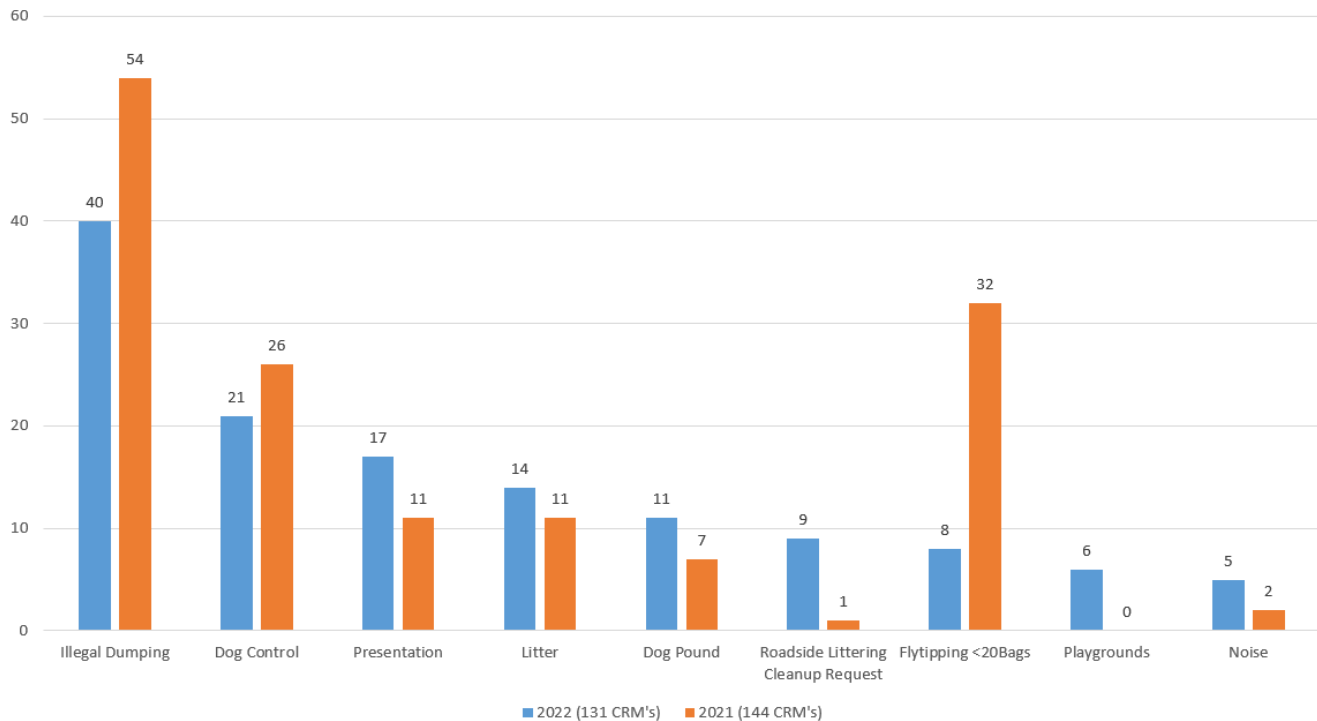
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNGARVAN/LISMORE

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 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 10 20 20

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded in the Dungarvan / Lismore area during the period to the end of March in the years 2021 & 2022.



Presentation & Cleansing

Dungarvan:

Following the completion of key elements of our Spring work programme which included the planting of trees within the central part of the Kilrush roundabout and the New Line our attention is now focused on preparation for Spring. Staff have completed a spring clean of Walton Park and the Town Park. Staff have been introducing planters with spring flowering daffodils in recent weeks in Grattan Square. These planters will be refreshed with Tulips as spring progresses.

A number of areas along the N25 and Youghal road have been prepared for re-sowing with wildflower. These areas will be seeded in the coming weeks and allowing for a successful germination, these areas will provide colour and a food source for our pollinators in summer.

As part of our support for the "Let Dandelions Bee" initiative we have refrained from cutting specific grass areas for a few weeks to enable bees to avail of flowering Dandelions, one of their most important food sources in early Spring. These areas will be marked with signage informing the public and will remain in place until mid-May by which time other food sources will be available to the bees. This participation in the "Let Dandelions Bee" initiative helps to promote Waterford's biodiversity and support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Moresby Park.

The redevelopment of Moresby Park is continuing and the new Moresby Buoy constructed by Coffey Engineering has been installed on site. Further works including the addition of the laths which were retained from the previous buoy, installation of the light and addition of elements of the original buoy have yet to be completed. The resurfacing of the pathway through the park is scheduled. Landscaping works are to be completed. New bollards and chain have been installed on the seaward side. The installation of picnic benches, bicycle stands, litter bins and flagpoles will complete the works with the park due to be open prior to Easter.

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; 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 – 26th March. Waterford City & County Council distributed 300 free native saplings to schools across Co. Waterford. A tree planting event also took place on Friday 25th 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 behavior 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, behaviors, 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