

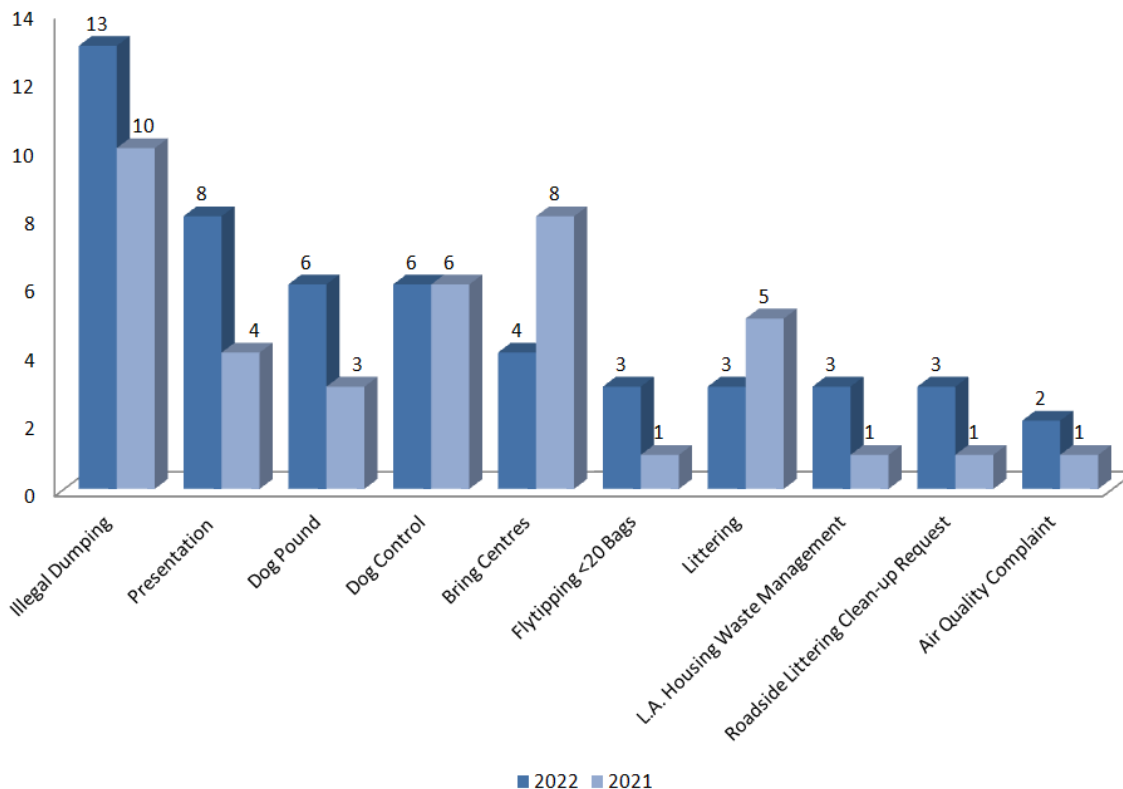
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNGARVAN/LISMORE

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT
FEABHRA 2022
FEBRUARY 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: 051 8492020.

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



Presentation & Cleansing

Dungarvan:

Staff are currently in the process of completing an initial cutting of grass from our parks to remove the longer winter growth. As the season develops grass cutting will become more frequent. With current ground conditions being favourable staff have commenced tree planting which will include the planting of trees along the New Line and within the Kilrush roundabout.

Scheduled tree works:

N25 Kilrush – this line of Popular trees which line the N25 section between the Fairlane and Kilrush roundabouts underwent crown thinning and crown reduction together with the necessary removal of one of the trees in the autumn of 2020. In the autumn of 2021 one of these trees succumbed to a fungal disease. Thereafter Waterford City & County Council commissioned an independent arborist to survey and report on this particular tree line.

The findings of the survey indicated that a total of eleven Popular trees require to be pruned, as with all trees as they enter the maturity stage. These pruning works include the reduction of end weight on limbs overhanging the N25, crown cleaning or removing any minor deadwood within the crown and crown raising or removing the lower limbs. These trees will require monitoring and works where necessary into the future and are scheduled to be re-inspected in eighteen months time.

The tree line entering Landsend housing estate contains a total of seventeen trees with mix of Ash, Beech & Pine, with the majority being Pine. The trees can be described as mature to late mature and to a large part their condition would be classed as fair to poor. There has recently been a failure of one of these mature trees. A survey was recently carried out which identified the necessity for the removal of six trees some of which are displaying very evident signs of decline and others which are the subject of suppression of their canopies due to overcrowding which has the potential to contribute to their overall failure. In order to avoid their likelihood of failure with the potential resulting damage it has been deemed prudent to remove these six trees at this juncture. The removal of these trees will provide the opportunity for their replacement with a number of new plantings within this section allowing for the mature canopy of the remaining trees whilst ensuring the new plantings equally have adequate space to develop to mature canopy size.

Following a procurement process a tree surgeon has been appointed and work on both trees projects listed above is scheduled to be carried out during the month of February, in advance of the bird nesting season.

Cleaning of water courses:

Works to complete the clean-up of the water course and wetlands between the N25 and Fr. Twomeys road were carried out in recent weeks. The works included the removal of some Willow trees to allow the construction of an access road to enable machinery access the wetland to remove accumulations of vegetation and litter. The access road will allow easier access to the area thus facilitating more regular clean ups of the area when required. See photograph below.



A new safe access was installed at the head wall on the pond adjacent to Aldi carpark to facilitate removal of litter that accumulates at this location. This access will facilitate more regular cleaning of this area.

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 will take place during the month of April; registrations are now being taken at www.nationalspringclean.org

Green Flag Programme

School visits and assessments are well underway for green flag renewals. Fifty one schools are due to renew their Green Flag this year. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, April 1st 2022 for the 2021/2022 academic year. Schools applying for their first Green Flag, Litter & Waste theme, can submit an application by Tuesday, March 1st, 2022. Green School visits will take place virtually once again this year until Covid advice allows in person visits once more. Schools have been seeking advice online via Zoom, email and also by telephone to date. Online workshops with secondary schools continue to be requested, with recycling and various waste prevention issues continuing to be the most popular topics.

Workshops for Schools

Secondary schools involved in biodiversity themes of the Green Schools programme are currently being offered themed workshops to help them in their work. This includes primary, secondary and special schools in Co. Waterford who are working on biodiversity and may include advice on developing a school garden or encouraging pollinators into their school grounds.

Waterford City & County Council has also been working with the Waterford Teachers Centre to pilot a Climate Literacy programme with four secondary schools this Spring. This involves a 10- 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 (due to Covid limitations) to support teachers to deliver the content of the class. After the teachers have been trained they will be fully qualified to deliver the course to as many groups of students as they wish.

Waste prevention

The five week interactive Sustainable Gardening Course quickly booked up. This course for community groups or individuals interested in reducing their impact on the environment began mid January. Topics covered include reducing your waste, growing your own vegetables, planting for pollinators, alternative to chemicals and much, much more. We are currently taking bookings for a Growing Together Course for anyone interested in growing their own vegetables and pollinator plants. This will be of special interest to Tidy Towns groups and Green School coordinators. Registration is being taken at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/growing-together-sponsored-by-waterford-city-county-council-registration-201977097937>

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