



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

SAMHAIN 2021
NOVEMBER 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 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: 0761 10 20 20

Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City:

Part of our current work programme is the preparation and planting of our winter bedding where planting is used to create both winter and early spring colour in key locations around our city. To date the removal of the summer hanging baskets and planters entering the city via Sallypark has been completed.

Currently winter seasonal planting is taking place, using Cyclamen at the Thomas Francis Meagher monument; Reginald's Tower and with ornamental kale being used at the Folly Roundabout and the planters in John Roberts Square. Within Ballybricken green planting of spring flowering Bellis will follow, which grow over the next months and come spring bring a colourful display.

Now that trees have become dormant it is an opportune time to begin our Tree Programme. It is envisaged that this shall be one of our main work items from now through to next March. Currently we are finalising our work programme to bring us up to early January.

Maintenance of our parks shall continue through the coming months and shall remain a high priority. In the coming weeks planting of autumn bulbs will take place with the Bishops Palace garden and the replanting and updating of two of the rose beds within the Peoples Park.

Tramore:

Staff in Tramore have with the onset of Autumn been involved in works largely associated with the season and preparing for winter. The summer ground summer bedding has served its purpose and currently this is been removed. Key locations around the centre of the town will be planted with spring flowering Bellis in order to bring some colour in the coming months. The hanging baskets on Main Street and the lower promenade are being removed having come to their end of seasonal display.

Due to Tramore's seaside location it benefits from a slightly milder climate which helps the grass to continue to grow later in the season. Where ground conditions allow this grass continues to be maintained by our staff. Work associated with our tree maintenance programme will continue throughout the month of November.

Environmental Education & Awareness

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. All events were listed on www.mywaste.ie. Events in Waterford included:

- Secondary schools competition to tackle the high number of single use water bottles used in their community. To be in with a chance to win a contactless water dispenser and reusable bottles for their school, classes must attend an online workshop to learn more about the issue and encourage local businesses to offer water refills.
- Sports Clubs involved in reducing 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. Clubs can also opt to learn more about a range of ways for their club to reduce their impact on the environment.
- Community groups, Tidy Towns groups, businesses and general public were invited to attend an online workshop with Conscious Cup to learn more about how to encourage the use of reusable cups at cafes, etc. to learn how simple it is for any business to get involved and in the campaign and how we in our communities can encourage this positive climate action.
- A Fast Fashion resource has been created for use by teachers in Secondary Schools and is available to download from the Council's website, www.waterfordcouncil.ie/departments/environment/awareness.htm. This includes a teachers pack, presentation for use in class and an online workshop for teachers took place to inform them further about fashion and the environment on 13th October. This resource will allow classes to take action on a range of environmental issues such as waste, climate change and water pollution by discussing issues around fast fashion.
- A virtual furniture up-cycling workshop took place on 21st October to give tips and advice on how to prepare and upcycle pieces of old furniture.
- A 2-hour interactive workshop about Sustainable living took place on 2nd November to help people find easy and enjoyable ways to move towards more sustainable living.

LAPN funding was recently granted by the EPA for a project to encourage the use of reusable water bottles in place of single use plastic bottles. The first part of this funding covers the cost of the contactless water dispenser prize for the schools competition and the second funds a water refill station at each of the 2021 Blue Flag Beaches in Waterford.

Green Schools

This year's Green Schools Seminars were held online on in October and November, with a seminar for each theme to accommodate schools on the various themes i.e. litter & waste, energy, water, travel, biodiversity, etc. Anyone who couldn't attend the seminars on the night can access the presentation afterwards.

Litter

- We continue to receive requests for clean up materials and collection of 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.

- Picker Pals – 36 school classes will take part in this litter education programme this school year. Aimed at 1st & 2nd classes, Picker Pals combines storytelling, environmental learning and real world action in the local community. Picker Packs are created from old sails gathered from sailing clubs. This encourages students and their families to take action against litter and to become more conscious of the sources and types of litter locally.

IBAL (Irish Businesses Against Litter)

Waterford city centre was placed 11th out of 40 areas judged and deemed to be clean to European Norms in the interim report for 2021 issued by IBAL. Ballybeg was placed 37th out of 40 and deemed to be littered. Staff from Waterford City & County Council, Environment Dept. have carried out inspections of all the sites judged in the surveys and have made arrangements to carry out clean-ups of public areas included in the survey. Waterford City & County Council will correspond with the owners of private sites advising them of the comments made by judges. Work is ongoing to engage the community in Ballybeg and to facilitate clean-ups of the areas.

Litter Challenge for Secondary Schools

Secondary Schools in Waterford are participating in a litter competition to win €1500 for their school. This prize has been sponsored by Tom Murphy Car Sales. To take part a school carry out a clean of a given area in November and December and carry out an environmental awareness activity of their choice.

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