



**Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge**
Waterford
City & County Council

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

EANÁIR 2022
JANUARY 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 102020

Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City:

Our Tree Works Programme will be the main focus of our work schedule from now until March. To date we have completed elements of tree works in Grange Manor, Comeragh Park, Tycor Mews and during December work took place in Mount Pleasant.

During December a clean-up of our parks was carried out. This work entailed the removal of the past years growth and a general tidy up of same, this was particularly important in key profile areas such as the Peoples' Park and the Bishop's Palace. Tree works during January will be within Closegate Street, Woodlawn Grove Viewmount, and thereafter Hillview and Cleaboy Avenue.

Tramore:

Presentation staff in Tramore have been involved in seasonal works. This has involved the planting of winter bedding, where planting is used to create both winter and early spring colour in key locations and to include tree works within Fieldstone estate.

During January the initial focus will be the completion of tree pruning within Monvoy Valley and following that the replacement tree planting of some 30 number semi mature along the Ring road from the GAA roundabout in the direction of the Golf Course.

IBAL (Irish Businesses Against Litter) 2021 Results

In the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Anti Litter League results for 2021 Waterford emerged as Ireland's only Clean City and was classed as Clean to European Norms.

The report cited that Waterford City topped the list of the cities surveyed by a 'long shot' and went on to add 'what is so striking about the top performing sites is not just the lack of litter but the overall presentation and maintenance of same.'

Areas such as Plunkett Train Station, People's Park, Medieval Triangle / Cultural Quarter, Bus Eireann Station (The Quays) 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 Car Park opposite People's Park had been a heavily littered site over several previous IBAL surveys, however, it was observed that a substantial clean-up had taken place, transforming the site completely.

Other sites which performed very well included the 'beautifully paved / pedestrianised' Michael Street, the Tramore approach road, and Kilbarry Nature Park which provided 'dedicated novel bins for plastic bottles, a poop and scoop facility' with a virtual absence of litter along the 2km pathway, however litter and dog fouling was noted in the viewing area which brought the Park's litter rating from an A to a B+.

Even poorer performing sites from recent surveys have been addressed, with just one heavily littered site out of a total of 24 surveyed. There was a notable improvement for Ballybeg over the previous survey. A large open area beside Brill @The Campus had formerly been heavily littered, however a huge clean up and clear out had taken place and this time around it was very much worthy of the top litter grade, while the residential area of Glencarra, Ballybeg Park playground and Musgrave Market Place were all very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Further information is available on the IBAL website [Irish Business Against Litter | IBAL](#)

Environmental Education & Awareness

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.

Waste prevention

Workshops continue to be offered online for the moment. A workshop on the topic of how to have a sustainable Christmas took place on November 29th with discussion on food waste prevention, recycling and reducing packing at Christmastime taking place alongside a demonstration on how to make a Christmas wreath from your garden materials. This event was fully booked.

There are still a few places left on the a 5-week interactive Sustainable Gardening Course for community groups or individuals interested in reducing their impact on the environment, beginning in January. Topics covered include reducing your waste, growing your own vegetables, planting for pollinators, alternative to chemicals and much, much more. A place can be requested at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-gardening-course-waterford-city-county-council-registration-201968442047>

Funding has been received from the EPA for a water station at each of the 5 Blue Flag beaches in Co. Waterford. The contract has been awarded for the installation of these water stations and it is expected that they will be in place before the beginning of the summer. These water stations will enable beachgoers to refill a water bottle instead of using and disposing of single use plastic bottles.

Home Energy Saving Kits

Home Energy Saving Kits will be available to loan from Libraries from the New Year. The kit contains five tools and practical exercises to help save energy at home. The kit includes a user manual, thermal leak detector, plug-in energy monitor, temperature and humidity meter, radiator key, stopwatch and fridge/freezer thermometer.

Schools

Workshops have been taking place online with secondary schools, on a number of topics, from litter and recycling to fast fashion and waste prevention.

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