



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2021
OCTOBER 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:

Last Spring as part of improving the biodiversity of our city a number of large green areas were left to grow to meadow; these included areas in Cherrymount, Avondale; Ballybeg Drive, Manor Lawn alongside the areas within the Nature Park and Kilbarry Cemetery which have been so for a number of years now. These areas equate to 6.5 hectare which have been left grow for the summer months and which have also been a great asset to the biodiversity of the city. The meadows within the residential estate all have now been cut with both the Nature Park and Kilbarry Cemetery are awaiting cutting. We work with local farmers who take cut and take this vegetation as additional fodder for the winter months, this ensures no waste is being generated and the cutting of these meadows shall allow for re-growth next Spring and a new flourish of flowering species.

In recent weeks and with the increased usage of our car parks, staff have been involved in 'clean ups' of the planted areas within Waterside, Millar's Marsh and Bolton Street car parks alongside this an autumn maintenance of the Poleberry walkway cutting back the overgrowth where necessary.

The Autumn works programme will include the cutting back of overgrowth along the Sallypark entrance to the city and along a section of the Abbey Road, Ferrybank. This will lead us into our winter tree maintenance programme, where many items which were scheduled for the beginning of this year and which were not completed owing to Covid restrictions will now be rescheduled to begin in November.

Tramore:

In recent weeks the wildflower meadows around the town of Tramore have been cut as part of our maintenance programme, this is necessary to ensure they remain viable and producing where they are required to be cut in autumn, this shall allow for re-growth next spring and a new flourish of flowering species. The areas cut have been; around the boating lake, within the industrial estate and areas along by Somerville and estuary road. Again we worked with a local farmer who would have cut these areas and subsequently baled where these bales will provide this farmer with additional fodder over the winter months. As part of the baling process these bales are wrapped in plastic and this year we choose to go with the Purple Bale Initiative and use a plastic supplier which donates a percentage of the sale to the Crumlin Children's Hospital, this is a worthy cause and creates a little interest over the number of day the bale making process is taking place in Tramore.

Currently staff in the process of re-landscaping the junction of the Upper and Lower Branch road, where this flower bed will contain Biodiversity friendly planting and seasonal interest. In the next short while the hanging baskets will be removed from the street poles where they have now come to their end of useful life.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste

October is Reuse Month

Reuse Month takes place in October and the public and all organisations are invited to hold and attend community-based workshops a multitude of areas such as managing food waste and upcycling everything from fashion to furniture. The idea is to bring people beyond the idea of "reduce, reuse and recycle" to a more conscious prevention of waste in the first place. Further information

<https://www.mywaste.ie/reuse-month/>

Green Picnic Campaign

The Green Picnic campaign will be extended into the autumn and winter months. During the period June to September the Green Picnic campaign asked people to bring their litter home with them and bring reusable items wherever possible. We aim to promote positive and active participation in a campaign that will focus on the theme of reuse and encourage all to take responsibility for their actions and their waste. For the coming months, we will be engaging with Businesses, Secondary Schools, Tidy Towns groups and Sports Clubs to involve them in taking action on reuse also. This will be done via workshops, competitions and resources. Details of all of these events/projects are available on

www.waterfordcouncil.ie.

Tackling Single Use Water Bottles

Secondary schools will be invited to take part in a competition to tackle the high number of single use water bottles in their community. To be in with a chance to win a contactless water dispenser and reusable bottles for their school, they must attend an online workshop to learn more about the issue and encourage local businesses to offer water refills.

Sports Clubs can get 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 are invited to attend a workshop with Conscious Cup to learn more about how to encourage the use of reusable cups at cafes, etc.

Fast Fashion

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 to inform them about fashion and the environment on 13th October. In Ireland, half a tonne of clothing is dumped every minute, producing 12 tonnes of carbon emissions. 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 will also be held to give tips and advice on how to prepare and up-cycle pieces of old furniture.

Litter

“Bag it, Bin it”

The Bag it, Bin it regional dog fouling campaign continues to evolve. A comprehensive education pack for primary schools will be launched after the midterm break and sent to schools, complete with lesson plans and presentations for teachers, worksheets for pupils and a song.

Local Litter Clean Ups

Waterford City & County Council continue to receive regular 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. A national “Big Beach Clean Up” event took place recently, supported locally by Waterford City & County Council.

“Picker Pals”

Picker Pals – 36 classes schools in Waterford will take part in this litter education programme this school year. Aimed at 1st – 3rd 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.

Gum Litter Taskforce

We are taking part in the Gum Litter Taskforce's campaign once again this year. The campaign looks to build on the success of previous years as the percentage of gum as a proportion of litter has dropped by 64% since the campaign began. The campaign is making a strong return for 2021 after being postponed last year due to COVID-19. This year's campaign will be different in that the national and local authority launch events will be done virtually, and the campaign will have a stronger social media presence in order to reach a wider and younger audience.

Litter Challenge for Secondary Schools –

Secondary Schools in Waterford City are invited to enter 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 October, November and December and carry out an environmental awareness activity of their choice. Details of this competition has been sent to schools.

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