

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

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**NOLLAIG 2021**  
**DECEMBER 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: 0818 102020

**Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces**

**Waterford City:**

Now that the trees have become dormant it is the optimum time to commence our Tree Programme which will run through until March. Currently we are finalising details of the work to be carried out during the period until the early January and planning ahead until March. To date we have completed elements of tree works in Cluain A Laoi, Comeragh Park and Ashley Court and will progress to works in Hillview.

In the earlier part of the month our work involved the preparation and planting of our winter bedding to create both winter and early spring colour in key locations around the city. To date planting has taken place using Cyclamen at the Thomas Francis Meagher monument; Reginald's Tower and the planters in John Roberts Square, ornamental kale has been used at the Folly Roundabout and Bellis, spring flowering option in Ballybricken.

Annually a key work item within Parks & Open Spaces section is the procurement and standing of the City's Christmas trees which took place in November in order to the final preparations to take place in advance of lighting the trees. This year staff placed a 55 foot Christmas tree in John Roberts Square. The operation which took place in the early hours of the morning required a crane to stand the tree in a purpose built stand.

Waterford City and County Council has retained its Green Flag Award status for 2021/2022 for two outstanding amenities in Waterford City and County being Kilbarry Nature Park and the Waterford Greenway. The Green Flag Award competition which is judged by An Taisce is an international mark of quality which recognises the efforts of local community engagement with green space involvement. Parks & Open Spaces staff are responsible for the everyday care and maintenance of Kilbarry Nature Park, thus ensuring that the park is maintained to a high standard. Three of the 2021 Green Flag Award winning parks were also identified by the National Biodiversity Data Centre for an additional Pollinator Plan Award. This award is specifically for those Green Flag Parks or Gardens that have made an effort to support their local pollinating insects and to promote their importance. Kilbarry Nature Park was the overall winner in the Pollinator Projector Award competition.

## Cherrymount Little Native Neighbourhood

At a recent meeting of the Plenary Council a presentation was made by Comhairle na nÓg which included details of their tree planting scheme at Carriganore. Waterford City & County Council subsequently received an enquiry from Comhairle na nÓg to ascertain if a similar project could be carried out on Council lands. Previously, the Environment Department had examined possible areas for tree planting under the Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme, however the costs of developing the lands identified to meet the criteria for grant eligibility under the scheme were excessive therefore an application under the scheme was not pursued. Nevertheless, the lands remain suitable for tree planting. In recent weeks we have been in discussion with Comhairle na nÓg, WIT, Waterford Lions Club and Waterford and South Tipperary Community Youth Service (Be Environmental! Erasmus+ Project) with a view to developing a native woodland on a portion of the green area adjacent to John's River at Cherrymount. The objective is to establish a woodland, made up of 1,500 trees of native species, ecologically appropriate to the site.



**Figure 1: Propose site location, exclusion zones and net area.**

## Tramore:

Staff in Tramore have been involved in works largely associated with preparing the towns parks & open spaces for winter. The summer hanging baskets have now been removed from their locations and the ground summer bedding is been removed and in key locations around the centre of the town to be replaced with spring flowering primroses, polyanthus and viola in order to bring some colour in the coming months. Building on the success of previous years the Christmas tree has been erected in the Town Park across from the Majestic Hotel and two further Christmas trees have been placed on the newly refurbished Main Street and the in the Priest's Road car park.

## Bird Hide at Tramore Nature Park

Work to develop a new bird hide at Tramore Nature Park has been substantially completed. Some additional minor landscaping works are required before the facility comes into use.

This project has been delivered by Waterford City & County Council in conjunction with Tramore Eco Group and has been funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.



### **Pedestrian Bridge at Newtown Woods**

Waterford City & County Council have completed work on the installation of a new pedestrian bridge at Newtown Woods, Tramore.



### **Environmental Education & Awareness**

#### **Tidy Towns Competition 2021**

This year's Tidy Towns awards took place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November. County Waterford was well represented at this year's Tidy Towns Awards, with the following prizes being awarded to towns / villages in the Metropolitan area:

Silver Medal Winner: Tramore

Waterford Results by population category:

Category A: Fenor – 318 marks

Category B: Cheekpoint – 275 marks

Category C: Dunmore East – 309 marks

Category F: Tramore – 335 marks

The full results booklet can be viewed at <https://www.tidytowns.ie/SV-TidyTown-Results-Booklet-2021.pdf> Reports for individual towns and villages can be read at [https://www.tidytowns.ie/reports/?report\\_year=2021&report\\_county=waterford](https://www.tidytowns.ie/reports/?report_year=2021&report_county=waterford)

### **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. As part of this, Waterford City & County Council ran a competition with Secondary schools competition to tackle the high number of single use plastic water bottles used in their community. Classes attended an online workshop to learn more about the issue and encourage local businesses to offer water refills and encourage local businesses to sign up to appear on the Refill Tap Map in order for their school to be in with a chance to win a contactless water dispenser (funded by the EPA's LAPN grant) and reusable bottles for their school. De La Salle College, Waterford finished as runners-up in this competition and were awarded a prize of reusable bottles.

We continue to work with Sports Clubs to reduce 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. If you are involved in or know of any clubs that would like to join the fight against plastic at their club, please contact Ella Ryan at [eryan@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:eryan@waterfordcouncil.ie)

Workshops continue to be offered online for the moment. A workshop on the topic of how to have a sustainable Christmas took place in November 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.

Bookings are currently being taken for 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. This course is online and booked out quickly when we ran it in early 2021. A place can be requested at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-gardening-course-waterford-city-county-council-registration-201968442047>

### **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.

### **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](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie)