

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

MEITHEAMH 2022
JUNE 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:

Staff have been focused on the control of unnecessary weed growth; the weather has hampered this somewhat with its unpredictable nature and therefore slowed progress.

Grass cutting operations have also been a key feature of the work programme and at this time the 'Let Dandelions Bee' initiative is coming to an end. These areas have been of great benefit to our bees this spring. Over the coming weeks these areas will be cut back and maintained in line with our regular grass areas for the remaining part of the year.

With the summer season approaching a key item has been the preparation and planting of our summer seasonal bedding; thus far the bed at Thomas Francis Meagher has been planted with summer bedding with the planting of bedding at the Folly with the beds at Ballybricken to follow. This will then be followed by our hanging baskets in early June.

Tramore:

Grass cutting is in full operation in Tramore. Similar to the city the 'Let Dandelions Bee' initiative where areas of interest have been allowed to flourish with dandelions bloom for a few short weeks are now coming to a natural end and being returned to regular maintenance.

The larger areas set aside for Biodiversity meadows around the boating lake and the Somerville road are beginning to flourish as important habitats. These areas shall be continually monitored and include regular cutting of the perimeter areas, around the base of any trees within and litter picks the entire area.

IBAL Survey

Waterford City continues to be the cleanest city in Ireland in the most recent nationwide survey of the Irish Business Against Litter Anti-Litter League and was deemed to be Clean to European Norms.

The judges for the IBAL Anti Litter League ranked Waterford 14th out of 40 towns and cities surveyed, remarking that *“Waterford City is a consistently highly ranking city and this time around it has excelled.”*

“Almost all of the city centre sites were top ranking – these included Broad Street / Barronstrand, Lady Lane, Viking Quarter / Medieval Quarter and both the Bus Eireann Station and Plunkett Train Station – the latter two created a very good first impression of the city and this high standard was sustained for many of the remaining sites. The People’s Park and Waterford Nature Park are wonderful green spaces which have been particularly well presented and maintained – this takes a big commitment, but it is great to see them being enjoyed by so many. The grounds of Waterford Courthouse were spotless and WIT / SETU was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Other examples of top ranking sites included Waterford Retail Park and the Hyper Centre.”

The judges for the IBAL Anti Litter League ranked Ballybeg 23rd out of 40 towns and cities surveyed and Clean to European Norms, remarking that there was *“A hugely improved overall result for the area of Ballybeg”*.

The IBAL Anti-Litter League Rd1 2022 reports are available here:

[Anti-Litter League Rd1 2022 – An Taisce reports | IBAL](#)

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste prevention

Waterford City & County Council are working to encourage the use of reusable cups at cafes in conjunction with 2GoCup. With 22,000 single use cups used every hour in Ireland, we are seeking to get cafes involved in a reuse campaign. The timing is good for a campaign of this nature, with Covid restrictions gone and the recent announcement of the levy on single use cups. We have now received commitment from ten cafes to take part in this initiative ; five cafes along the Greenway and five in Waterford. This will be launched in July, once all ten businesses have received their delivery of 2GoCups. It is hoped that these cafes will then become case studies to encourage other cafes to accept and move towards reusable cups.

Green Flag Programme

Despite a challenging year, sixteen schools have recently been awarded a Green Flag. An online awards ceremony and National Green Flag Raising Day took place on 25th May, with schools encouraged to celebrate their achievement by raising their Green Flag on this day.

Biodiversity

As part of the South East Technological University (SETU) Centre for the Advancement of Learning of Maths, Science and Technology (CALMAST) Bealtaine Living Earth Festival, Waterford City & County Council ran two workshops, one for schools and one for families/individuals. The Bealtaine Living Earth Festival celebrates Ireland’s rich biodiversity and the country’s natural heritage with a particular focus on the South-East.

Climate Change

Waterford City & County Council have been working with a further four schools and the Waterford Teachers Centre to continue the Climate Literacy programme with secondary schools this autumn. The Climate Literacy programme is delivered over a period of ten weeks and is focused on improving climate literacy and fostering behaviour 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, behaviours, 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. After the training the teachers will then be able to deliver the course by his/herself with as many groups of students as they wish.

We also took part in a climate change discussion with Waterford’s Youth Advisory Climate Council, sitting on the panel and speaking to the youth council on actions taken regarding climate change.

Leave No Trace

As members of Leave No Trace, Waterford City & County Council are supporting the new national public awareness campaign from Leave No Trace Ireland this summer. The “Love This Place” campaign calls on the public to take care and responsibility when outdoors in managing dogs, preventing litter, and ensuring that there are no fires unless on a designated site. It also asks the public to play their part by acting responsibly so that everyone can experience and enjoy

outdoor spaces while helping to protect them from increased pressures this year. The campaign will include social media and radio advertising running throughout June, July, and August.

Litter Awareness

An educational anti-dog fouling resource pack for primary school teachers has been sent to all primary schools in the county. This pack contains lesson plans, worksheets and activities to teach children about the impacts of dog fouling, develop responsible attitudes and behaviours around cleaning up after their pet and allow them to understand the relevance to their own communities. The lessons are primarily aimed at 3rd and 4th class students but can easily be adapted for younger or older pupils.

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. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

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