



**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

MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2021
SEPTEMBER 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

Public Parks in the Metropolitan Area

The following motion proposed by Cllr. Frank Quinlan and agreed at the December 2020 Metropolitan Council meeting was referred to the Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC for consideration. A discussion document was prepared and considered by the SPC at the meeting held on 21st July 2021.

"In light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the importance of outdoor recreation spaces; Waterford City & County Council will carry out a full design of a multipurpose walking, running and cycling track in the People's Park to cater for all ages and abilities in a safe and controlled environment. Furthermore, WCCC will seek alternative funding streams for the project should the costs be prohibitive from internal resources."

While there was broad agreement with the motion the SPC felt that the People's Park should not be looked at in isolation and recommended that the Metropolitan Council would set up a working group to look at the functionality of the People's Park and the role of parks generally within the Metropolitan area.

Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City:

During August our work programme centers around maintenance, with staff carrying out pruning the perimeter hedge around Farronshooneen Park and Ballybeg Park and the maintenance of the internal paths. This summer has seen a number of events being hosted within Wyse Park by a number of voluntarily groups such as Spraoi, Waterford Youth Arts and the Rogue Gallery. These free events which have been run in compliance with relevant Covid-19 restrictions have brought added focus to the public on Wyse Park. Staff have been working to ensuring the park is clean, safe and maintained throughout the summer.

The Green Flag Award for Parks is a scheme which recognises well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces; where An Taisce, manage the Award in Ireland. Building on the success of Kilbarry Nature Park and the Greenway in last years competition we have again entered these locations for this years the Green Flag Awards for Parks. Part of the judging for the competition

includes a physical visit and assessment of the site. At the end of July, both sites were judged and we now wait on the outcome of these results which are due to be announced in late September.

Kilbarry Nature Park has also been entered for the Pollinator Project Award. The Pollinator Project Award is jointly run with An Taisce and the National Biodiversity Centre to support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This award is specifically for Parks or Gardens that have made every effort to support the local pollinating insect population and promote their importance.

Tramore:

The work programme for our staff was tailored to accommodate the increase in tourists over the summer months in Tramore. The work programme concentrated on aspects of maintenance in order to have Tramore presented at it's best. Some works which had been planned for the summer months have been rescheduled for later in the year. In the coming weeks the meadows maintained for biodiversity, around the boating lake, along the road front to the back strand and the embankments along the ring road, will be cut. It is highly important to cut and remove the old vegetation from these meadows in order for them to produce and flower in next year's growing season. The grass will be baled and used by local farmers for fodder over the winter months. Staff are currently developing and planting a flower bed at the altered junction of the upper branch and the old Waterford road. This flower bed when completed will be visually attractive and support many pollinator friendly plants.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter

"Bag it Bin it"

The Bag it, Bin it regional anti-dog fouling campaign continues to evolve. The social media posts have progressed to the effects of dog fouling on others, most recently on children. We have been working with Waterford Childcare Committee on this message. The Bag it Bin it message has been produced in stencils for footpaths, and community groups, residents associations, Tidy Towns groups, Foroige, Eco Groups, etc have been borrowing these stencils to get this message out to local communities over the summer months. These communities have received help in creating videos, social media content, stencils on footpaths, awareness days and dog litter counts, etc. A comprehensive education pack will be sent to schools in September, complete with lesson plans for teachers, worksheets for pupils and a song.

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.

Leave No Trace

Waterford City & County Council's membership of Leave No Trace was launched recently. Leave No Trace promotes responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. As more of us seek the beauty and pleasure of outdoor recreation this year, our combined effect on the environment increases. We asked for the public's help in keeping our county's beaches, parks and beauty spots clean as we promote the Leave No Trace theme.

Gum Litter Taskforce

Waterford City & County Council 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.

Waste

Green Picnic

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.

Fast Fashion

A Fast Fashion resource has been created for use by teachers in Secondary Schools and will be released in September. This includes a teachers pack, presentations for use in class and an online workshop for teachers to inform them about fashion and its effect on the environment. 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.

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