



**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

FEABHRA 2022
FEBRUARY 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:

A significant element of our work programme is associated with trees. Our staff have been engaged with works in Mount Pleasant, Woodlawn Grove and Closegate Street.

Staff are currently completing work in the Viewmount area and will then proceed to carry out work in Pine Court, Newport Square, Ardkeen Village and Hillview. A number of trees have been planted in recent weeks in Lacken Wood, Maypark Village and Birchwood. Tree planting will be carried out in Ballybeg in the coming weeks.

The plants in three prominent flower beds on the Millennium Plaza have gone beyond their usefulness and staff have commenced the removal of these spent plants. Replanting of these flower beds is scheduled to be carried out in the coming weeks.

Ground conditions have slightly improved and with an increase of growth our grass contractor has commenced an initial grass cut. Areas to be cut at this time of year will depend on weather & ground conditions, however all areas shall be attended to in due course.

Tramore:

Where ground conditions have been favourable staff have been able to carry out some grass cutting. This initial cut is used to remove the longer growth which has occurred over the recent months. The ground conditions are the determining factor here and therefore not all areas can receive this initial cut. In the next number of weeks staff shall be largely involved in tree planting particularly along the ring road where we have had a number of failures.

Environmental Education & Awareness

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. National Spring Clean will take place during the month of April; registrations are now being taken at www.nationalspringclean.org

Green Flag Programme

School visits and assessments are well underway for green flag renewals. Fifty one schools are due to renew their Green Flag this year. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, April 1st 2022 for the 2021/2022 academic year. Schools applying for their first Green Flag, Litter & Waste theme, can submit an application by Tuesday, March 1st, 2022. Green School visits will take place virtually once again this year until Covid advice allows in person visits once more. Schools have been seeking advice online via Zoom, email and also by telephone to date. Online workshops with secondary schools continue to be requested, with recycling and various waste prevention issues continuing to be the most popular topics.

Workshops for Schools

Secondary schools involved in biodiversity themes of the Green Schools programme are currently being offered themed workshops to help them in their work. This includes primary, secondary and special schools in Co. Waterford who are working on biodiversity and may include advice on developing a school garden or encouraging pollinators into their school grounds.

Waterford City & County Council has also been working with the Waterford Teachers Centre to pilot a Climate Literacy programme with four secondary schools this Spring. This involves a 10- week Climate Literacy programme, focused on improving climate literacy and fostering behavior 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, behaviors, 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. There will be training sessions weekly online (due to Covid limitations) to support teachers to deliver the content of the class. After the teachers have been trained they will be fully qualified to deliver the course to as many groups of students as they wish.

Waste prevention

The recently advertised five week interactive Sustainable Gardening Course quickly booked up. This course for community groups or individuals interested in reducing their impact on the environment began in mid-January. Topics covered include reducing your waste, growing your own vegetables, planting for pollinators, alternative to chemicals and much, much more. We are currently taking bookings for a Growing Together Course for anyone interested in growing their own vegetables and pollinator plants. This will be of special interest to Tidy Towns groups and Green School coordinators. Registration is being taken at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/growing-together-sponsored-by-waterford-city-county-council-registration-201977097937>

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