

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

MÁRTA 2022
MARCH 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:

Tree works remain the largest part of our day to day operations with staff having recently completed works at Viewmount. Tree works at Pine Court, Newport Square, Ardkeen Village and Hillview are scheduled to follow. Specialist contractors were engaged in the recent weeks to undertake tree works within Belvedere Manor and Riverview; this entailed the necessary removal of trees in Belvedere and tree pruning within Riverview.

In recent weeks staff have been carrying out replacement planting in the Peoples Park where a section of the yew ornamental hedge to the rear of the rose beds which had failed has now been replaced. Currently replacement rose planting is underway in two of the beds which had remained fallow for the last growing season. This will bring additional colour to the park with specialist 'David Austin' roses selected for these beds.

Staff have also completed a spring clean and cut back of the border within the Bishop's Palace where the planting around the 1916 memorial had become jaded and tired; this has now been removed and is due to be replanted shortly with ornamental grasses to reflect the tricolour. Alongside this the three number flower beds within the millennium plaza are being updated and replanted with summer flowering perennials.

Tree planting will become the primary focus over the coming period with semi – mature trees to be planted in front of the Tower Hotel; within the newly positioned planters in Cathedral Square; a number of replacement trees for the green area in Ballybeg adjoining the Cork Road. Equally this tree planting operation will include a number of residential estate planting and within Farronshoneen Park.

Within the last week we have experienced three storms which have had an impact on our tree stock. This has resulted in a number of trees being affected with staff having to remove fallen trees and debris from our parks and open spaces. The greatest impact of these storms has been the loss of one of our Evergreen Oaks within the Peoples Park. This was a substantial tree which formed part of the existing grouping of Evergreen Oaks from the origins of the park circa 1857. The possibility of developing a wood carving from the remains of this tree is currently being investigated.

Tramore:

Staff are currently undertaking tree planting works. Over the next while staff will be replacing forty number semi – mature trees from the GAA roundabout in the direction of Clarinwood, care and nurture shall be required to secure their establishment in the coming months.

Staff have also been undertaking some landscape works within the Somerville roundabout in preparation for the replanting of same by staff from the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens in a Japanese styled planting similar to the garden itself. This roundabout shall be sponsored by the Lafcadio Hearn Gardens creating a focal point entering the town.

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 have commenced at www.nationalspringclean.org ; as part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the litter.

Green Flag Programme

School visits and assessments are well underway for green flag renewals. There are 51 schools 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 can take place either in person or virtually. 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

Schools involved in biodiversity themes of the Green Schools programme are currently being offered biodiversity 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.

Tidy Towns

A series of short online talks for Tidy Towns groups will take place in March and April, on the topics of litter management, climate action, biodiversity and planting for pollinators, etc. All groups will be contacted with details of these events shortly.

Climate Change

Four Home Energy Saving Kits now available to borrow from our libraries. We are providing these as a toolkit that helps to save energy at home. With 5 easy-to-use tools and 6 practical exercises, this kit allows you to get a better understanding of the energy usage in your home, problem areas that may need your attention and ways to improve energy efficiency.

Waterford City & County Council have been working with the Waterford Teachers Centre to pilot a Climate Literacy programme with 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 to support teachers to deliver the content of the class. After the training the teacher will then be able to deliver the course by his/herself with as many groups of students as they wish.

We are working with Europe Direct Centre at Central Library to run a week of lunchtime events online during 21-25 March, entitled Acting for the Environment. Events will include how climate change is affecting our coastal heritage, a furniture up-cycling demonstration using locally recycled paint from Renew Enterprises, and a talk about wildflowers and how to grow your own vegetables.

Local grants

Applications are currently being invited for two grants: Local Anti Graffiti and Anti Litter Awareness Grant 2022 <https://bit.ly/AntiLitterGrant2022> to tackle litter or graffiti in a community and the Local Waste Prevention Grant 2022 <https://bit.ly/WastePreventionGrant2022> for any group that wants to help to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local area. Closing date for applications is 1st April 2022. Application forms and terms & conditions are available from www.waterfordcouncil.ie

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