



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

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

**BEALTAINÉ 2023**  
**MAY 2023**

**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**

- Weed spraying contract tendered and awarded. First application ongoing since April 2023.
- Stump grinding contract works ongoing in city and environs.
- Maintenance of our parks and open spaces is ongoing. No mow May initiative in place throughout various areas in the city for biodiversity.
- Works to Boules Court, Peoples Park to take place in May 2023.
- Summer bedding ordered delivered in April. Bedding being prepared for planting in People's Park, TF Meagher monument, Millennium Plaza and Apple market planters amongst other areas throughout city.
- People's Park Fountain – Final tender evaluation being reviewed and finalised for award shortly. Works expected to start in August 2023.
- Graffiti Waterford City – A rise in offensive graffiti around parts of the city since the new year.
- City Centre Cleansing - Cleaning regime ongoing with crew power washing inner city streets.

**Playground in Kilcaragh Park**

Planning Department contacted to identify if development contributions can be allocated to this project.

**Tramore**

- Maintenance of our parks and open spaces is ongoing. Due to adverse weather conditions during April there were delays in commencing mowing in certain areas due to soft ground conditions. No mow May initiative in place throughout various areas in Tramore for biodiversity including the Doneraile.
- Tender to be completed for an electric scut truck vehicle for beach and parks cleansing and general open spaces works.
- Stump grinding contract awarded for Tramore. Works to take place during May 2023.
- Crews preparing for summer season. Many large bins repaired and repainted along with railings and other public realm features. Cleansing regime ongoing.
- Summer bedding and hanging basket bedding certain areas planted with May seeing delivery of hanging basket bedding.
- Inclusion Park upgrades a priority for 2023 and awaiting funding confirmation.

### **Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023**

The following City & Countywide projects have been approved for funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023 in the functional area of Waterford City & County Council.

Project Title	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Approved
Coastal and Soft Ground Clean Ups	€5,000	€5,000
Rural roads litter removal	€25,000	€19,500
Community Clean Ups Waterford City & County	€10,000	€10,000
Chemical Amnesty Day	€12,000	€12,000
Anti Dumping Signage for WCCC Vehicles	€2,000	€2,000

### **Climate Action**

#### **Climate Action Plan**

A pre-draft consultation for the Climate Action Plan will be live in May and we will share it with elected members when it is available.

#### **Creative Ireland Collaboration**

The Climate Action Team are working with the libraries to deliver climate change awareness programmes. We are working with the knitting groups to create a piece of art showing climate change over the last 100 years and we are working with the literacy programmes in the Education Training Board.

### **Environmental Education & Awareness**

#### **Green Flag Programme**

School visits and assessments were completed for both green flag renewals and first time applications. A renewal visit must take place before a school submits a renewal application form for their renewal Green Flags (Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and the Global Citizenship themes). Renewal visits are carried out by the Environment Awareness Officer. 24 schools will be awarded their flags at a Green Schools ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **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. These have begun again in earnest. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter is then arranged following the clean-up. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations are now being taken at [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://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 bags of litter for all clean ups. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.

#### **Tidy Towns**

We have been working with Tidy Towns groups to further their work towards the 2023 competition. The closing date for entries this year is 10<sup>th</sup> May. Tidy Towns groups around the county will be working towards keeping their area looking well for adjudicators over the coming months. The national SuperValu Tidy Towns competition is an annual contest organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The competition involves participating areas being rated on all aspects of their local environment and prizes are awarded to the best under many different categories, from Litter to Sustainability. The overall winner is "Ireland's Tidiest Town" which is announced at a national ceremony in September each year.

#### **Grants**

A local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant and a local Circular Economy Grant have been advertised on the website, social media and in local newspapers. Application forms and further information on both grants is available through the website.

**Local Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grant:** this is for community groups, youth groups, schools or other community development organisations, based in County Waterford, who are interested in receiving funding for public education and awareness initiatives regarding litter or graffiti.

**Local Circular Economy Grant:** a circular economy is based on long-life products that can be renewed, reused, repaired, upgraded and refurbished to preserve natural resources, protect habitats and reduce pollution. It is about finding ways to keep items in use longer and not generating as much waste in the first place. It is about rethinking the

way we do things – redesigning the items we use – changing attitudes and changing behaviours about what we buy and what we throw away. The main focus for applications this year should be on projects to promote a circular economy e.g. repairing, reusing, building skills and knowledge in the community to facilitate repair and reuse, changing attitudes and behaviours to how we use items, reduce use of single use items (encourage use of reusable items).

**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)