

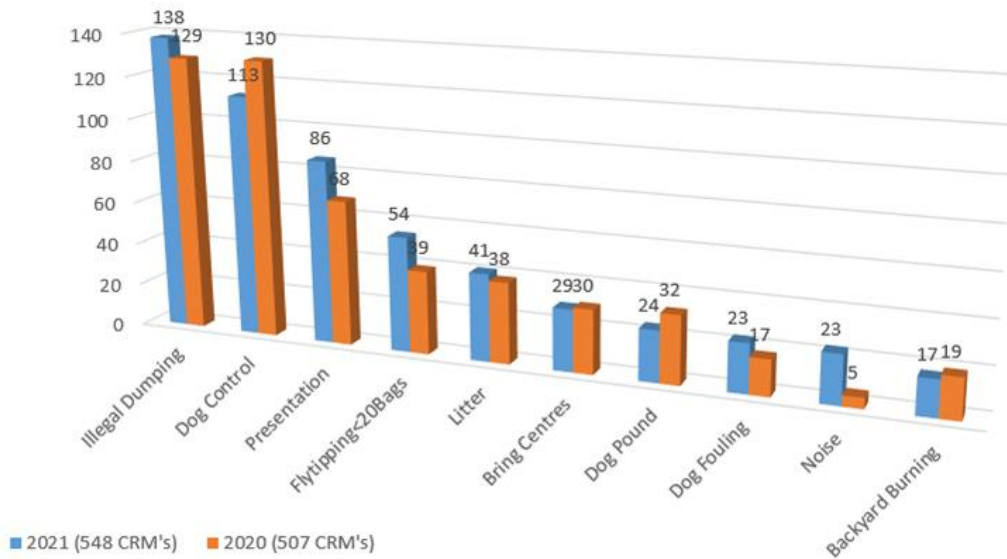
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNGARVAN/LISMORE

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT
EANÁIR 2022
JANUARY 2022

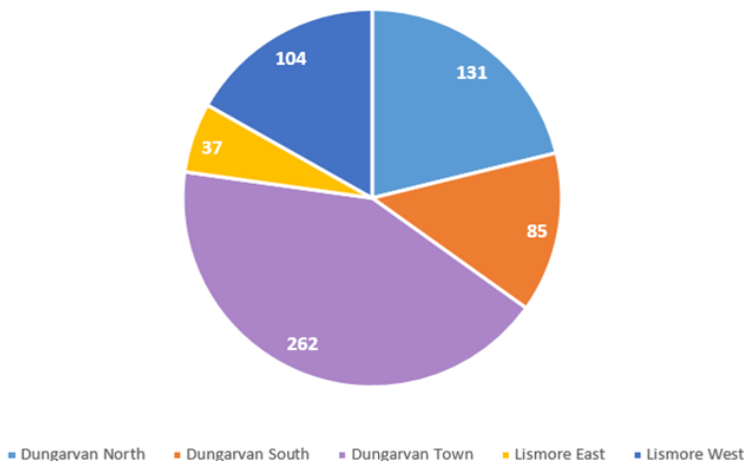
General Environment Enforcement

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: 051 8492020.

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded in the Dungarvan / Lismore area during the period from January to December in the years 2020 & 2021.



2021 - CRM's per Area



Presentation & Cleansing

Dungarvan:

The recent weeks gave us the opportunity to compete, a much needed clean of our parks. This entailed the removal of the past years growth and a general tidy up and the planting of our winter bedding, this was particularly important in Walton Park and the Town Park. The remainder of our winter planters were put in situ along the quays to facilitate outdoor dining in these areas. These planters and those already in place in Grattan Square will remain and will be refreshed with updated spring and summer planting.

Part of our forthcoming works schedule will be to complete our tree work programme which includes both the pruning and planting of new trees in the early part of the year. One such tree planting initiative will be the planting of approximately twenty semi mature trees along the 'New Line' section of the Greenway from the bridge linking the Clonea road to T.J. Murphy Place, through to Seapark in the early part of January; this will strengthen and augment this already important tree line.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter

We continue to receive 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.

Waste prevention

Workshops continue to be offered online for the moment. A workshop on the topic of how to have a sustainable Christmas took place on November 29th with discussion on food waste prevention, recycling and reducing packing at Christmastime taking place alongside a demonstration on how to make a Christmas wreath from your garden materials. This event was fully booked.

There are still a few places left on the a 5-week interactive Sustainable Gardening Course for community groups or individuals interested in reducing their impact on the environment, beginning in January. Topics covered include reducing your waste, growing your own vegetables, planting for pollinators, alternative to chemicals and much, much more. A place can be requested at <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-gardening-course-waterford-city-county-council-registration-201968442047>

Funding has been received from the EPA for a water station at each of the 5 Blue Flag beaches in Co. Waterford. The contract has been awarded for the installation of these water stations and it is expected that they will be in place before the beginning of the summer. These water stations will enable beachgoers to refill a water bottle instead of using and disposing of single use plastic bottles.

Home Energy Saving Kits

Home Energy Saving Kits will be available to loan from Libraries from the New Year. The kit contains five tools and practical exercises to help save energy at home. The kit includes a user manual, thermal leak detector, plug-in energy monitor, temperature and humidity meter, radiator key, stopwatch and fridge/freezer thermometer.

Schools

Workshops have been taking place online with secondary schools, on a number of topics, from litter and recycling to fast fashion and waste prevention.

Waterford Energy Bureau

NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building)

WCCC have adopted an energy policy whereby WCCC will strive to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040, improve the energy efficiency of the public building stock to comply with NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Building) standard by 2030 where possible and the consumption of fossil fuels in Waterford City and County Council public buildings will cease by 2025.

Better Energy Communities Scheme

WCCC are open to partner with community groups to include buildings within the 2022 WCCC application to Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland under the "Better Energy Communities Scheme". Funding of between 30% is available for businesses and 50% for community projects. Community building upgrades can include insulation, heating system, renewable energy technologies. The following projects have been successful in sourcing grant funding in 2021, Cappoquin Community centre (insulation upgrades, solar PV and led lighting), White Strand Child Care Centre Building Dungarvan (insulation upgrades), Credit Union Dungarvan (led upgrades and insulation upgrades) and WCCC Dungarvan Depot (EV charging points and Solar PV).



Solar photovoltaic panels installed at Waterford City & County Council, Dungarvan Depot.

Retro fitting of street lights

Contracts have been signed for the led retro fitting of street lighting within the Dungarvan / Lismore area. Funding has been received to complete the retro fitting from the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment under the Climate Action Fund. Retro fit works to begin in Waterford in 2022.

Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The WCCC "Climate Change Adaptation Plan" is currently being implemented. The plan details the how Waterford City and County Council will implement Climate Change Adaptation measures to reduce the impact of Climate Change. WCCC have an internal "Climate Action Team" in place that is implementing the actions of the CCAP. WCCC will have to develop a new Local Authority "Climate Action Plan", in 2021 for adaptation and mitigation measures as required under the new Climate Action Bill.

Covenant of Mayors Initiative

WCCC have joined the "Covenant of Mayors Initiative", which is the world's largest movement for local climate and energy actions. Signatories have endorse a share vision for 2050, accelerating the decarbonisation of their territories, strengthening their capacity to adapt to the unavoidable climate change impacts and allowing their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy. WCCC have pledged action to support implementation of the EU 55% greenhouse gas-reduction target by 2030 and the adoption of a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Support Scheme for Renewable Heat

The "Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment", has launched a "Support Scheme for Renewable Heat" (SSRH). This scheme includes grant funding for air-source heat pumps for businesses and farmers and tariff payment for biomass boilers, biomass / anaerobic digestion CHP's and anaerobic digestion boilers. The SSRH scheme is operated by SEAI and is currently open for applications.

EV charging points

WCCC have prepared a strategy for the 1st phase of electrical vehicle charging point's role out in Waterford. EV charging points will be located at 10 strategic locations throughout Waterford. A funding application is being prepared for submission to SEAI to cover part of the EV installation operational costs.

Locations for EV charging points to be installed as part of the first phase include Cappoquinn, Lismore, Tallow, Ardmore and Clashmore.

Sustainable Energy Communities

WCCC are supporting communities in joining the "Sustainable Energy Communities" initiative, where funding is available through SEAI, for the development of "SEC Master Plans" and funding is available for energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations. To date Clashmore / Kinsalebeg SEC have developed a master plan. A group within the Blackwater Valley are currently developing a master plan.

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