

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

FEABHRA 2020
FEBRUARY 2020

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 28 85

Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City:

Work on trees makes up a large part of the current work programme within the city. In recent weeks tree pruning works have been completed on trees in The Willow's, Keane's Road, Ursuline Court, Viewmount, and O'Connell Street. In Catherine's Grange and The Paddocks some trees which had caused significant damage to footpaths and had created a hazard for pedestrians have had to be removed. Work on the pruning of trees in Rockenham and Ferrybank has been completed. Work scheduled for completion over the next number of weeks includes the removal of a number of trees at the entrance to Hillview which the Roads Department have advised are restricting the sightlines of traffic leaving the estate onto the Cleaboy Road. The planting of new trees in more appropriate locations in the estate will ensure that there is no overall loss of tree cover in the estate. Forthcoming works will include pruning of trees within Viewmount; Grange Heights; Powerscourt and Hillview estate.

Tramore:

With improving weather and drying ground conditions staff have taken the opportunity to carry out grass cutting in some areas. This is an initial cut and therefore is only used to remove the longer growth which has developed over the recent months. Ground conditions determine whether grass cutting can be carried out and therefore in some areas where ground conditions are not favourable this initial cut must be delayed. As conditions improve staff shall be becoming more active in this element of our work and will progress to attend to all the areas which we maintain. Works are ongoing to carry out planned tree pruning to a number of trees situated along Train Hill. These trees which have been shaped by the prevailing winds and have had a negative impact on the properties close by. The sharp gradient of the hill means that working in this area is difficult therefore a plan has

been developed by our staff working with a local tree surgeon to carry out some pruning and shaping of these trees in order to ensure their continued growth.

It is planned to carry out some tree planting in the coming weeks within Sweet Briar to replace a number of young trees which suffered severe leaf burn in a storm last April.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition 2020

Following on from Tramore Tidy Town's excellent performance in the 2019 Super Valu Tidy Towns Competition, they have been nominated to participate in Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition for 2020 under the Best Kept Large Town Award category.

Ireland's Best Kept Towns Competition is an all-island initiative organised jointly by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council. Adjudication takes place during the month of May and the results will be announced at an awards ceremony in Belfast in June, subject to confirmation.

Environmental Education & Awareness

2GoCup

The 2GoCup campaign in Tramore is making progress with three coffee shops now signed up to take part. A promotional social media advertising campaign has commenced which it is hoped will encourage others to come on board with the initiative. In order to increase awareness of this campaign Waterford City & County Council would welcome your support by sharing the graphics and short videos on your social media as they appear on our social media channels.

Litter Prevention - Highlighting Plastic Waste Entering Our Seas

Waterford City & County Council Environment Section acting on a suggestion made by Tramore Eco Group has developed a stencil to be used to highlight the amount of litter entering storm drains along riverside or seaside areas in Waterford and Tramore. The stencil which is bilingual carries the message " Seo Tús Na Farráige Ná Caitear Bruscar" / "The Sea Starts Here Don't Litter" and acts as a reminder on drains that any litter placed in the drain will enter the sea. RTE News filmed the stencils first being placed in Tramore, interviewing members of Tramore Eco Group and Ms. Ella Ryan, Environmental Education & Awareness Officer with Waterford City & County Council.

Recycling/Waste Prevention

A talk about recycling/waste prevention was given in January, with another two planned for February (one in Carrickphierish and one in Ferrybank) and two more for March.

Two talks also took place as part of the Council's involvement in Junior Achievement programme in schools, one of these took place in Waterford with 50 pupils from Presentation Secondary School.

Green Flag Programme

As part of Waterford City and County Council's support of the An Taisce's Green Flag programme for schools, work is ongoing with schools to provide advice and support them in their work. Renewal visits for the next flag and first time assessments are also underway and will continue until the deadline of 27th March. These renewal visits cover topics such as energy, water, biodiversity, etc. while the first time assessment addresses litter and waste.

Local Litter Awareness Grant

The Local Anti Litter Awareness Grant has been advertised in local newspapers and through social media channels. This grant is idea for groups who are interested in receiving funding for public education and awareness initiatives regarding litter or graffiti. Previous grants aided those holding a cleanup, running an event or creating an information board. Application form are available on the www.waterfordcouncil.ie website or by phoning 0761 10 20 20. The grant application form should be completed and returned to the Environment Section for consideration by the closing date 7th March 2020.

Local Waste Prevention Grant

This grant supports communities to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local areas, and encourage partnership between local businesses, schools, charities and voluntary groups. Waterford City and County Council is offering community groups an opportunity this year to promote waste prevention, creating an opportunity to look at waste differently and to determine if we can handle our resources better and encourage a circular economy. Previous examples of funded projects include up-cycling community workshops creating sustainable products from waste, food waste prevention, repair/up-cycling events for Re-Use Month (October annually), bicycle repair workshops and projects that encourage the elimination of single use plastic within a community setting. The application form is available on our website www.waterfordcouncil.ie or from the Environment Section, Waterford City and County Council, phone no.: 0761 10 20 20. The Grant Application Form should be completed and returned to the Environment Section for consideration by the closing date 13th March 2020.

Tidy Towns Competition

Tidy Towns groups around the Metropolitan area are working towards entering this year's competition. Waterford City & County Council have been providing information and advice to groups on projects completed in their area for inclusion in applications.

Community Clean Ups.

Waterford City & County Council offer assistance throughout the year to the general public to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. Coastal communities are being engaged with and supported in conjunction with An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme. Waterford City & County Council support groups and individuals by providing the clean up materials and collecting the bags of litter for disposal.

Waterford Energy Bureau

Renewable Energy Technology

WCCC/ WEB have completed projects funded under the SEAI "Better Energy Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)" under the "Better Energy Communities Scheme 2019", which included heat pump installation at the library at Ladylane. The library building are now powered exclusively from renewable energy technology and is no longer dependant on fossil fuel for the provision of heating and hot water to the buildings. Other projects funded included Plaza Waterford lighting upgrades, lighting upgrades at Ardkeen Shopping Centre, Londis Store and Carbally Community Centre roof installation.

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 open to applications. Further information is available from the SEAI website.

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