



DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

NOLLAIG 2020
DECEMBER 2020

General Environment Enforcement

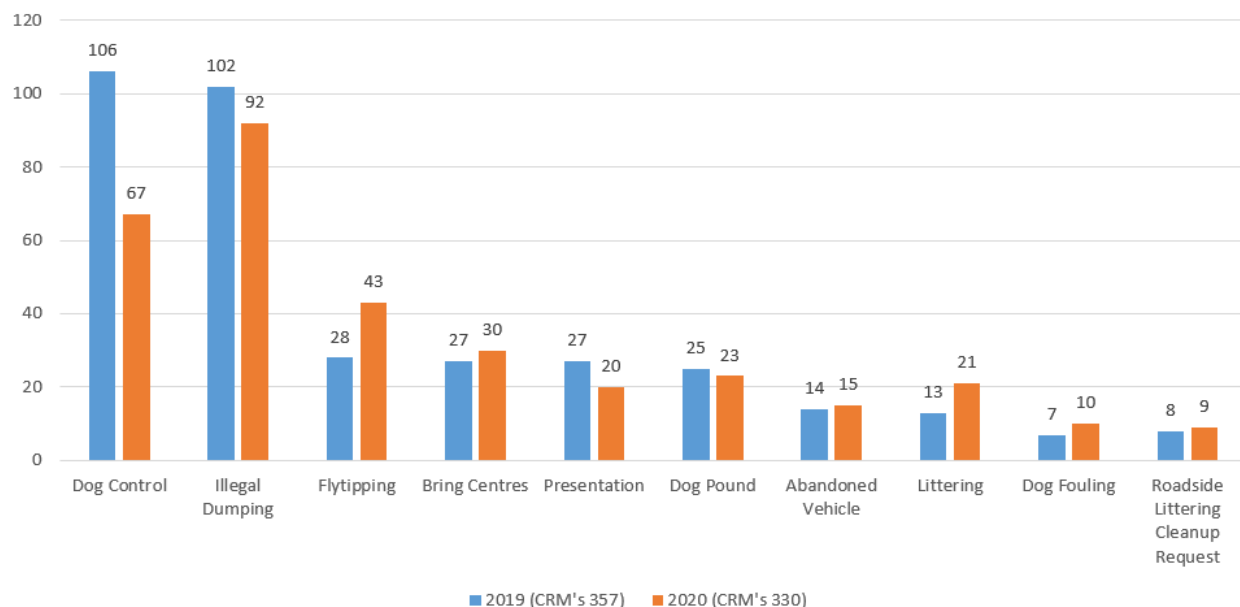
Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where evidence of an offence is available.

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 20 20.

CRM Activity

The following graph shows a comparison of the top ten categories of CRM cases recorded by the Environment Dept. in the Comeragh area in the period January to November for the years 2019 & 2020. Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate complaints received and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected. The Waterford City & County Councils Dog Wardens continue to investigate all control of dogs issue throughout the City & County.

CRM Cases Comeragh



Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2024

Advertisements have recently been published & broadcast on local radio to advise that Waterford City & County Council propose to replace the current Litter Management Plan and has prepared the Waterford City & County Council Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2024.

A copy of the Waterford City & County Council Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2024 is available on the www.waterfordcouncil.ie website.

Written submissions in relation to the Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2024 are invited by Waterford City & County Council and will be taken into consideration by the council before the plan is made and implemented. The closing date for receipt of written submissions is 4pm on the 11th January 2021.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste prevention

As part of "Waste Awareness Week" Waterford City & County Council hosted a virtual waste roadshow from the 23rd to the 29th November. This event included a website & social media account take-over, virtual workshops on recycling, textile upcycling, etc. – the topics were: Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste, Reuse of Textiles, Food Waste and a video of some of our recycling facilities. Traditional media articles included radio & print press, advertisements on WLR FM for the week. WLR FM played an interview on the news bulletin and the morning show also interviewed Renew Enterprises, a social enterprise that repairs and sells lawnmowers and bikes.

The themes for the week were as follows:

Monday, November 23: Recycling. Social media posts, recycling explained via video, a local video of recycling facilities and a virtual Schools workshop on recycling.

Tuesday, November 24: Greener Cleaning – video on how to clean using non-hazardous ingredients, social media posts and link to resources.

Wednesday, November 25: Food Waste – video on how to reduce food waste at home, social media posts

Thursday, November 26: Launch of our 'Paint Smarter' LAPN project, to include social media posts, a short video, tip of the day videos, point of sale information leaflets and stickers, etc.

Friday, November 27: Textiles –social media posts, video tutorials on how to repair clothing and an online workshop re textile upcycling workshop.

LAPN funding was recently granted by the EPA for two associated projects:

The first of these is a joint project with Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council (with Waterford City & County Council as the lead authority in this project) to prevent paint waste by raising awareness about top tips to purchase, store and dispose of paint to create least waste. The over-purchasing of paint has been an ongoing issue in Ireland and has particularly escalated during COVID 19. In previous hazardous waste collection days at our Civic Amenity Sites, we have noticed a significant collection of non-hazardous paints. In order to prevent wasted paint, we are raising awareness of how to calculate paint required, store paint, dispose of paint, etc. These tips are being shared online through social media posts and videos, on radio and at point of sale in hardware and paint shops. <https://vimeo.com/481622966/6a89c369dc>

The second project receiving funding from the EPA is a feasibility study to assess the viability of establishing a paint reuse social enterprise in Co. Waterford working through one of our Civic Amenity Sites.

Litter

Waterford City & County Council continues to offer assistance throughout the year to the general public and schools to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. These clean ups continue throughout the winter months.

Waterford is taking part in the Picker Pals educational programme for primary schools. The programme engages children through a story world, with programme specific readers and activity books given to every child in the class. A "Picker Pack" is also provided which contains a child and adult litter-picking tool to be taken home by a different student every week. The family then go on a litter picking adventure in their local area with the child reporting their activity back to their classmates. When they return the pack, they are asked to talk about what they found, fill out worksheets on how they can prevent the littering of these items and come up with solutions. It aims

to get children and their families looking at litter in their local environment and talking to classmates, family and neighbours about the issue.

Schools

School workshops have moved online for now and schools are beginning to take the opportunity to receive workshops and talks online now, particularly waste prevention and recycling workshops. Five schools have taken part in virtual workshops about recycling and waste prevention to date.

Veterinary Services and Food Safety Update

As the local authority veterinary service is considered to be an essential service, food safety surveillance inspections and meat inspection, slaughter and animal welfare audits, traceability and labelling audits have been ongoing throughout the Covid-19 pandemic in the 6 approved meat premises (3 slaughterhouses and 3 meat processing premises) and 3 registered meat premises under supervision in accordance with the service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). All such duties are carried out in accordance with public health and government guidelines in relation to Covid-19 and specifically in accordance with Council SOP No.20 on LA Veterinary Inspector Covid-19 Requirements- May 2020 developed for the local authority veterinary service across the country.

Sampling activity during Quarter 2 was suspended due to labs not operating. However as of July 2020, all relevant labs have resumed normal operations and Quarters 3 and 4 sampling has been carried out i.e. veterinary medicine residue sampling, microbiological sampling of carcasses and meat products and food additive sampling.

Face to face meetings and training have been replaced by conference calls, Zoom meetings and other online training. The whole-time veterinary inspector attended online training in September organised by FSAI entitled 'Principles of Intelligence Led Food Fraud Control' comprising 3 sessions of 3 hours each over a number of days as well as a Dog Control Webinar on 5th November (also attended by other Council staff involved in dog control).

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