



**Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge**
Waterford
City & County Council

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2020
SEPTEMBER 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.

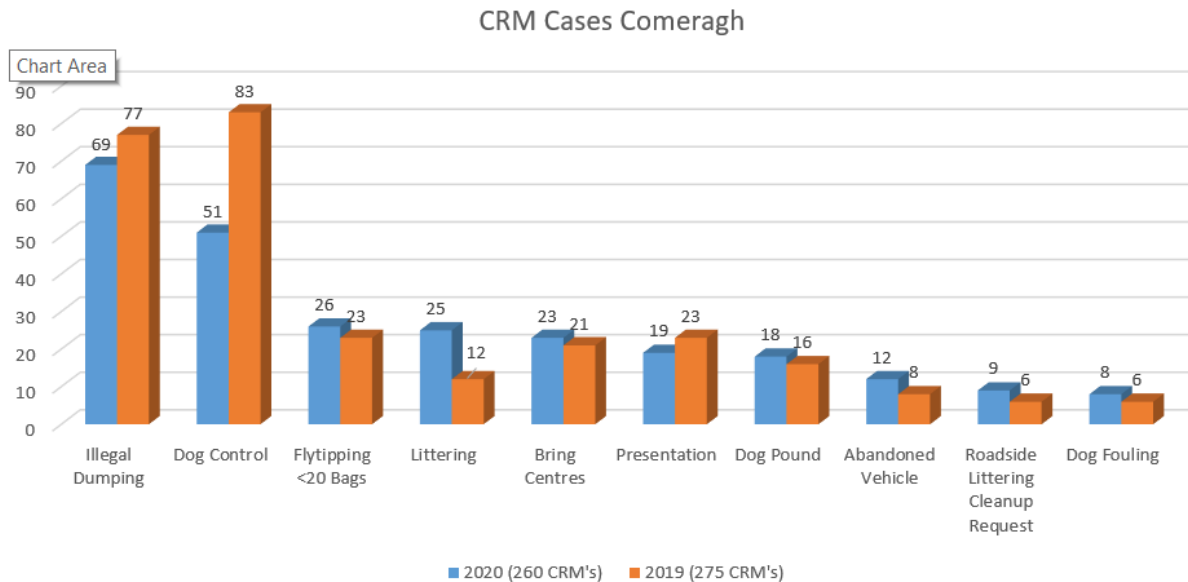
Clean up of illegally dumped tyres

A clean up of illegally dumped tyres was recently undertaken at four locations in the Comeragh area by staff of the Environment Department. In excess of 600 tyres which had been illegally dumped at Glenpatrick, Lough Mohra and two locations in Russelstown were removed from rural lands by a contractor engaged by Waterford City & County Council in an exercise that took over 10 hours to complete. An investigation by WCCC Environmental Enforcement Officers assisted by staff from Tipperary County Council is currently being carried out to establish the person/s responsible for this illegal dumping.



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 August 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.



Environmental Education & Awareness

Anti-Litter Campaign

A joint campaign targeting roadside litter is taking place with Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford County Councils across radio, social media and newspapers, prompting the community to call out litter louts. This campaign caught the public's attention and we received some requests for posters for the community for this.

Waterford City & County Council continues to 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. These clean ups continue throughout the winter months.

A dog fouling campaign has begun on social media to highlight the issue of dog litter, raise awareness about the litter fine and ask dog walkers to clean up after their dogs. A series of images and videos will be posted on social media over the coming weeks with the aim of becoming a talking point among the community and resulting in less dog fouling litter.

Waste prevention

Environmental workshops will be available online or as part of virtual workshops and will be offered to community groups and schools in this format during the autumn months. Normally these workshops take place in person and cover a range of issues such as composting, recycling, food waste prevention, waste prevention, etc. The first of these workshops is being trialled at present.

A virtual tour of some of the recycling facilities will be showcased as part of a regional road show project. Filming of this will take place in the first half of September.

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.

The over purchasing of paint has been an ongoing issue in Ireland and has particularly escalated during COVID 19. This joint project aims to make the community aware of how to calculate the appropriate quantities of paint required for any job, raise awareness about the best way to store paint and advise of the correct disposal method for any leftovers. 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 propose to raise awareness of how to calculate paint required, store paint, dispose of paint, etc with a longer term aim of identifying how best to set up a paint reuse scheme for any paint that cannot be prevented. This project will include an investigation in to the amount of paint tins brought to Civic Amenity Sites in Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford that are water based paints or dry/empty tins during 2020/2021 running a social media campaign to educate householders about the proper disposal of paint, paint calculators (used to calculate the correct amount of paint required for a job) and paint storage. 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.

Schools

A newsletter will be sent to all schools to encourage them to continue to participate in our schools environmental awareness programme and to inform them of the various programmes, competitions and projects available to them this year.

This year's Green Schools Seminars will be held virtually, with a seminar for each theme to accommodate schools on the various themes e.g. litter, waste, energy, water, travel, biodiversity, etc. These will be held in October to allow schools to settle in to the school year.

Climate Action Workshops

Climate action workshops for community groups had been due to take place, as funded through the Local Environment Action Fund Local Agenda 21 2019. These have been changed to take place in September and October via online training courses with smaller groups of people. Now that dates have been set these workshops are being advertised. Interested individuals and groups can register online at is <https://shrtm.nu/etpA> These Let's Talk Climate webinar offers Waterford communities:

- An introduction to climate science its impacts and solutions
- An introduction to climate action at a national and local level.
- A introduction to community dynamics and how to generate climate actions at a local level
- An interactive online workshop to identify and prioritise potential actions for implementation at a local level.
- A follow up action report and slide book to all participants.

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