

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

FEABHRA 2020

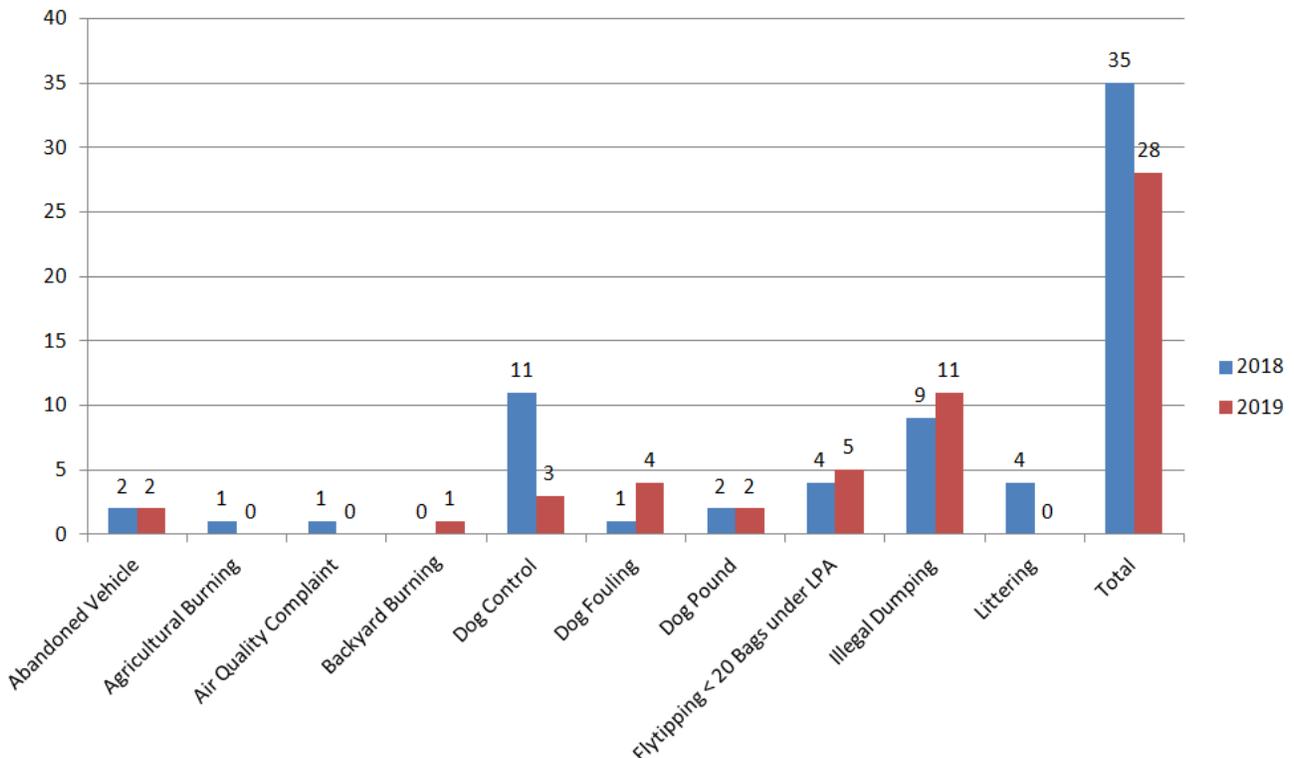
FEBRUARY 2020

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 20 20.

Environmental Enforcement

The following graph shows a comparison of the top ten categories of CRM cases recorded in the Dungarvan / Lismore area during January in the years 2018 & 2019. 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.



Presentation & Cleansing

Dungarvan:

Presentation staff in Dungarvan have in recent weeks been carrying out works on trees at Lisfennel; Meadowlands; Southways and have removed a number of the cherry trees growing along the N25 between the Kilrush roundabout and the Spring roundabout. These cherry trees had been fading in recent years and had failed in the last growing season and therefore required to be removed. To compensate for the removal of trees which have failed or trees which have caused damage to footpaths we will in the coming weeks, where ground conditions permit, be planting semi-mature trees already grown on in a nursery through their formative years, this shall ensure these trees will maintain our tree cover within the town environs. As spring approached staff are preparing a plan for the maintenance of the planted areas along the Youghal Road entering the town, similarly the Youghal Road roundabout and the planted areas along the N25 in the direction of the Coolagh Roundabout. The plan will include the replacement of plants which have failed in the last growing season. A replacement planting programme for the rose beds situated at the Castle is also planned as these roses which have been growing for many years and now are in decline and suffering with disease.

Works at St. Michaels cemetery, Ballyduff Upper:

Work has been completed on the removal of trees from the eastern boundary of the cemetery. These trees, which were mostly of the Leylandii variety, had become overgrown and had restricted access to some of the graves. The trees also posed the risk of falling onto grave headstones and surroundings during high winds.

Tender documents are currently being prepared for the development of footpaths, headstone foundations and plot markers for a new section of the cemetery.

The following photographs show the trees before works were carried out and the area following completion of the works:



Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter Prevention

Waterford City & County Council Environment will shortly commence the use of a stencil which was developed to highlight the amount of litter entering storm drains along riverside or seaside areas in the Dungarvan / Lismore area. 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.

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.

Talks on Waste Prevention / Recycling

A talk about waste prevention / recycling was given in January to the Deise Women's Group, with another two talks planned for February 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 Dungarvan with 6th class pupils from a local primary school. Any groups wishing to sign up for a talk on waste prevention / recycling should please contact Ms Ella Ryan, Environment Dept. at tel. 0761 10 29 38.

Green Schools 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.

Tidy Towns Competition

Tidy Towns groups around the city & county 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. We are currently developing a workshop to be delivered to Lismore Tidy Towns regarding greener cleaning methods using non hazardous/chemical ingredients.

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.

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 libraries at Dungarvan and Lismore. The library buildings are now powered exclusively from renewable energy technology and are no longer dependant on fossil fuel for the provision of heating and hot water to the buildings. Other projects funded included lighting upgrades at Clashmore Gaa Club, Piltown Community Centre.

Public Lighting

A new public lighting specification has been completed for the City and County including led lighting with dimming profiles in new housing estates. The new design guidelines will bring standardization in regards to lighting design for WCCC.

Tender Documents are being tendered for the retro fitting of 16,000 public lights within Waterford. WCCC public lights are being included within a tender due to be advertised in March for counties within the southern region. Funding has been received for to complete the retro fitting from the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment under the Climate Action Fund. Retro fit works are due to begin in late 2020 following the completion of the tender process.

Home Energy Upgrades

To date under the SEAI private homes energy upgrades via the home energy grants and the free energy upgrades for fuel poor housing over 24% of the housing units in Waterford have received upgrades which equates to 12,707 homes. Of this sum 8,407 housing units received grant funding and 4,300 housing units received free energy upgrades. Currently there are a range of grants available for a range of energy efficiency measures which include heat pump installation, heating system control system, solar water heating, solar photo voltaic electric grant, attic, cavity / external wall insulation measures. Further details on energy grants for businesses and farms are available from the [SEAI](#) website.

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