

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

SAMHAIN 2020
NOVEMBER 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

Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City:

Our current work programme includes the preparation for and planting of our winter bedding to produce both winter and early spring colour in key locations around our city. To date planting has taken place using Cyclamen at the Thomas Francis Meagher monument; Reginald's Tower and the planters in John Roberts Square where ornamental kale has been used at the Folly Roundabout. Within Ballybricken green planting with spring flowering Bellis has taken place. These plants will grow slowly over the next months and come spring bring a colourful display.

Now that trees have become dormant work on the Tree Programme will be carried out until next March. Currently we are finalising our work programme to bring us up to early January, while still finalising the remaining part through to March.

The contractor appointed to carry out tree stump grinding of any trees which had to be removed over the last year has now completed their work within the city. The contractor carrying out tree stump grinding will be carrying out work in Tramore.

Maintenance of our parks will continue through the coming weeks and will remain a high priority to deal with additional footfall during current Covid-19 restrictions.

Tramore:

Staff in Tramore have with the been involved in works largely associated with the season and preparing for winter. The summer ground summer bedding has served its purpose and currently this is been removed in key locations around the centre of the town and replacement planting with spring flowering Bellis will be undertaken. Tramore's seaside location provides a slightly milder climate and results in continued grass growth later in the season. Maintenance of these grassed areas will continue where weather conditions allow.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste prevention

October was National Reuse Month. A full calendar of events was scheduled around the country, from online tutorials and workshops to videos and podcasts. All events were listed on www.mywaste.ie. Two of the events which took place in Waterford were a schools competition and a sustainable textiles webinar. The webinar was well attended, with all 45 spaces filling up within 3 days. A follow up textile upcycling workshop will take place on 27th November.

Waterford will host a virtual waste roadshow on the 23-29th November, including a website & social media account take-over, virtual workshops will be delivered each day – the topics are: Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste, Reuse of Textiles, Food Waste and a video of some of our recycling facilities. Traditional media articles including radio & print press, accurate and most of all up to date.

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. These will be shared online through social media posts and videos, on radio and at point of sale in hardware and paint shops. 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 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. It is hoped to launch this project on 26th November, to link it in with the virtual waste roadshow taking place between 23rd – 29th November. 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 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.

Schools

This year's Green Schools Seminars were held online on between 5pm – 8pm on Monday 19th October, with a seminar for each theme to accommodate schools on the various themes i.e. litter & waste, energy, water, travel, biodiversity, etc. Anyone who couldn't attend the seminars on the night were offered an individual presentation afterwards to convey the information to them. Some schools are beginning to take the opportunity to receive workshops and talks online now, particularly waste prevention and recycling workshops.

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