

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

The unseasonal stormy weather experienced during the month of August has largely dictated some of our work programme. Both storm Ellen and storm Francis had an impact across both city and county on our tree stock within our parks and within residential estates, largely due to the fact all the trees are still in full leaf and therefore susceptible to storm damage. While the number of trees fallen was small there were a considerable number of tree branches which fell and staff were busy dealing with them in the following days. Heavy rainfall during August also made it more challenging to remain course with our grass cutting schedule.

The An Taisce Green Flag Award for Parks is a scheme which recognises well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces. The Environment Dept. of Waterford City & County Council have submitted an entry for the competition in respect of Kilbarry Nature Park and have also provided assistance in the submission of an entry in respect of the Greenway. In the early part of August, both sites were judged and we now await on the outcome of these results which are due to be announced in mid September.

Kilbarry Nature Park has also been entered in the Pollinator Project Award. The Pollinator Project Award is jointly run with An Taisce and the National Biodiversity Centre to support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This award is specifically for Parks or Gardens that have made every effort to support the local pollinating insect population and promote their importance.

In the next number of weeks our work programme will include improvement works to the hedgerow along the footpath at Belvedere Manor, repair and restatement works in the green area of Pine Court, Belvedere Manor, Viewmount and the green in Ballybricken. Repairs will also be carried out to sections of the boundary wall of the Peoples Park.

Tramore:

Due to an increase in cleansing & maintenance demands to cater for the influx of large numbers of tourists over the summer months some works which were due to take place had to be rescheduled to commence in early September. In the coming weeks we will be cutting meadows around the boating lake, along the road front to the back strand and the embankments along the ring road. It is important to cut and remove the old vegetation from these meadows in order for them to produce and flower in next year's growing season and to support biodiversity.

Landscaping of the Copper Coast roundabout to encourage biodiversity is planned to take place shortly. This will involve the removal of the current phormium plants and the sowing of a biodiversity rich flowering meadow which will flower late next spring into summer. We will also be developing and planting the flower bed at the altered junction of the upper branch and the old Waterford road which will support many pollinating plants and be visually attractive.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter

Meetings with community groups such as Tidy Towns are now being held online in place of face to face meetings. For example, a number of Zoom meetings have been held with Tramore Tidy Towns since March in order to progress projects, etc.

A regional anti-litter campaign is currently in place to highlight the effects of litter on our roadsides and to ask road users to bring their litter home with them. This campaign which appeals to the public to call out litter louts is being broadcast on radio, social media and newspapers. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the amount of litter on our roadsides.

This campaign has caught the public's attention and we have received some requests from communities for posters to be erected in their community.

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 led by Waterford City & County Council and is targeted at the prevention of paint waste. Other local authorities participating in the project are Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council.

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 provides advice for 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. A social media campaign will help 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 online, 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 which are funded through the Local Environmental Action Fund Local Agenda 21 will take place in September and October via online training courses with smaller groups of people. These workshops are being advertised and interested individuals and groups can register online at <https://shrtm.nu/etpA> The "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