

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

As we approach the depths of winter trees have become dormant allowing us to make progress with work on our Tree Programme. Currently we are finalising our work programme to bring us up to early January, while planning for works through to March. To date we have completed elements of tree works in Ursuline Court, Island View and Ferndale and are now working within Earls court.

In the earlier part of the month planting of our winter bedding was carried out which will ensure 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 and Bellis, spring flowering option in Ballybricken.

Annually a key work item within Parks & Open Spaces section is the placing and standing of the City's Christmas trees which took place during November in time for the final preparations to take place in advance of lighting the trees; again this year trees were placed in John Roberts Square, Ballybricken, and in front of the Menapia Building.

**Tramore:**

Staff in Tramore have been involved in works necessary to prepare for winter. The summer hanging baskets have now been removed from their locations together with the ground summer bedding which has served its course. Flower beds around the town are being planted with spring flowering primroses, polyanthus and viola in order to bring some colour in the coming months. Staff have recently erected a Christmas tree in the Town Park.

**Playgrounds**

**Waterford City:**

Department of Children and Youth Affairs grant aided refurbishment of the playground at Manor St John is underway. It is expected that works will be completed in early December.

Wet Pour\* repairs have been made to surfaces in the playgrounds at Kilbarry Nature Park, Butler Community Centre and the People Park.

The repurposing of the playground area in Railway Square as a pocket garden is underway. Painting of railings, lights and bollards have been completed.

An additional three swings (including one inclusive swing) and new inclusive spring play equipment have been added to Ballbeg playground along with new wet pour and stone paths to equipment.

*\*Wet Pour surfacing is a mixture of rubber granules bound together by a polyurethane resin and is specifically developed for use on children's playgrounds to give maximum safety.*

#### **Tramore:**

Work on installation of a new pedal go around feature in the inclusion park is continuing. This work has been grant aided by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Wet Pour\* repairs have been complete to the playground on Priests Road. Presentation staff completed the painting of all the playground during the recent Covid-19 lockdown. Replacement fence panels have also been installed to prevent unauthorised access to the playground.

*\*Wet Pour surfacing is a mixture of rubber granules bound together by a polyurethane resin and is specifically developed for use on children's playgrounds to give maximum safety.*

### **Environmental Education & Awareness**

#### **Waste prevention**

As part of "Waste Awareness Week" Waterford City & County Council hosted a virtual waste roadshow from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 with Presentation Primary School

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. We are currently exploring this with a social enterprise based in Waterford.

#### **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.

One new small meat business has been recommended for registration in November and will commence operating soon.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie)