

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

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**EANÁIR 2020**  
**JANUARY 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 28 85

**Extension of Smoky Coal Ban to Tramore**

The ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous fuel (or 'smoky coal ban') was first introduced in Dublin in 1990 in response to severe episodes of winter smog that resulted from the widespread use of smoky coal for residential heating. The ban proved effective in reducing smoke and sulphur dioxide levels and was subsequently extended to other areas. The ban now applies in twenty Low Smoke Zones including Waterford City and environs and Clonmel environs.

In December 2019 it was announced by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment that from September 2020, that the "Smoky Coal Ban" will extend to Tramore town.

The designation as a low smoke zone means that it is an offence to place on the market, sell or distribute, within the zone, any solid fuel in a bag unless—

- (a) it is sealed,
- (b) there is printed on such bag a notice stating the name and address of the person who packed the bag, and "SMOKELESS FUEL — Contents comply with the Air Pollution Act Regulations".,
- (c) they hold a record showing that the bagged product is not a specified fuel. (ie a bituminous coal).

It is an offence for the public to burn any bituminous fuel in a low smoke zone

There are various on the spot fines ranging from €250 to €1000 for various offences related to these offences.

**Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces**

**Waterford City:**

Despite difficult weather conditions the winter flower bedding programme has been completed. The area around the Thomas Francis Meagher monument and Reginald's Tower had previously planted with Cyclamen at the early

part of the season; both the Folly and Ballybricken were completed in early December. These planting schemes will provide colour and interest through the next number of months. Another project which staff have worked on was the pocket garden at the Noel Browne memorial. This area has been cleaned and prepared for a spring time planting when ground conditions will be more favourable.

The Christmas break is always a time where people have a little more time and where weather is suitable people do enjoy to get out and enjoy our parks; staff are conscious of this, and in the lead up to Christmas greater efforts were in place to ensure our parks were presented to the highest possible standard. A large part of our work programme for the coming months will be related to our tree works programme. To date works have been completed in Rockfield Park; Ballinakill Downs and Viewmount and Rice Park. In the next short term staff shall be completing works in Ursuline Court; The Willows, Keanes Road; Hillview and complete further items in Dunmore Road and Viewmount area.

### **Tramore:**

Staff have completed the planting of our winter bedding programme, including planters within the centre of the town and key markers at the entry points to the town. These flower beds will provide interest and colour through the next number of months.

A storm in early spring last year resulted in severe leaf burn to a large number of our more recent tree plantings around the town. This damage ultimately led to their decline over the summer months and now the decision has been made that a number of these trees will require to be replaced over the coming months.

Each year Waterford City & County Council work closely with Tramore Tidy Towns and other various voluntary groups to plan for the national Tidy Towns competition. Preparations are already underway in Tramore for this year's competition.

### **Environmental Education & Awareness**

#### **Irish Business Against Litter**

The results of the Irish Business Against Litter anti litter league were announced on 6<sup>th</sup> January. Waterford city centre was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 40 towns and cities surveyed and was judged to be cleaner than European Norms. The judges commented that "With so many top ranking sites in Waterford City there were some which deserved a special mention – People's Park, Waterford Court House, the Cultural Quarter, Barronstrand Street, River Walk along the Quays and Plunkett Train Station – there is clearly great pride in the presentation and maintenance of these sites." Ballybeg did not retain its clean status, dropping to moderately littered and ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 40 towns and cities surveyed. The judges noted that "fewer than half of the sites examined were free of litter. The top ranking sites included residential areas of Glencarra and Meadowbank, Musgrave Business Park, Tesco and Ballybeg Community Development Project at the Campus – not only did they score well with regard to litter but they also presented well. By far the lowest ranking site was Common land by St. Saviour's GAA Club – this wasn't just littered but subject to major dumping (e.g. builders' rubble / radiators). A derelict site at Ryan's Bar and Lounge was not quite as bad but still presented poorly with burnt debris and sacks of clothing at the clothing bank." Waterford City & County Council are currently reviewing the report with a view to putting in place measures to improve those locations which are less than grade A.

#### **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.

#### **Green Flag 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 assessments for the next flag have commenced. There are currently 99 schools taking part in the Green Schools programme in Co Waterford. Schools have been reminded that the deadline for renewal assessment is Friday, March 27th 2020; all visits must take place before this date in order to be eligible to renew a Green Schools flag this academic year. The next date will be March 2021.

### **Highlighting Plastic Waste Entering Our Seas**

Waterford City & County Council has recently acquired stencils designed and created to highlight the amount of plastic/rubbish that enters our sea through on-street storm drains. This stencil is bi-lingual and will be painted on a number of storm drains around Waterford and Tramore over the next couple of months.

### **Local Litter Awareness Grant**

In order to facilitate community and school clean ups during National Spring Clean and over the summer, this grant will be advertised in early February, with a deadline of early March for applications. This timeframe will enable successful applicants to receive funding before April. These grants will be advertised on [www.waterfordcouncil.ie](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie), on the Council's social media and in local newspapers.

### **Local Waste Prevention Grant**

A waste prevention budget is set out in the Southern Region Waste Management Plan and amounts to €16,194.15 for Waterford City & County Council (it was agreed regionally to allocate a minimum spend of €0.15/inhabitant on local prevention projects). In 2018 30% of this waste prevention budget was allocated as a small grant to communities for waste prevention projects. This grant will be advertised in early March with a closing date for application of early April. These grants will be advertised on [www.waterfordcouncil.ie](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie), on the Council's social media and in a local newspaper.

### **2GoCup**

The 2GoCup campaign in Tramore is making good progress. The social media aspect of the campaign will be rolled out in January. In order to increase awareness of this initiative we will encourage people to share the graphics and video short video to be published on the Waterford City & County Council social media channels.

### **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)