



DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

FEABHRA 2023
FEBRUARY 2023

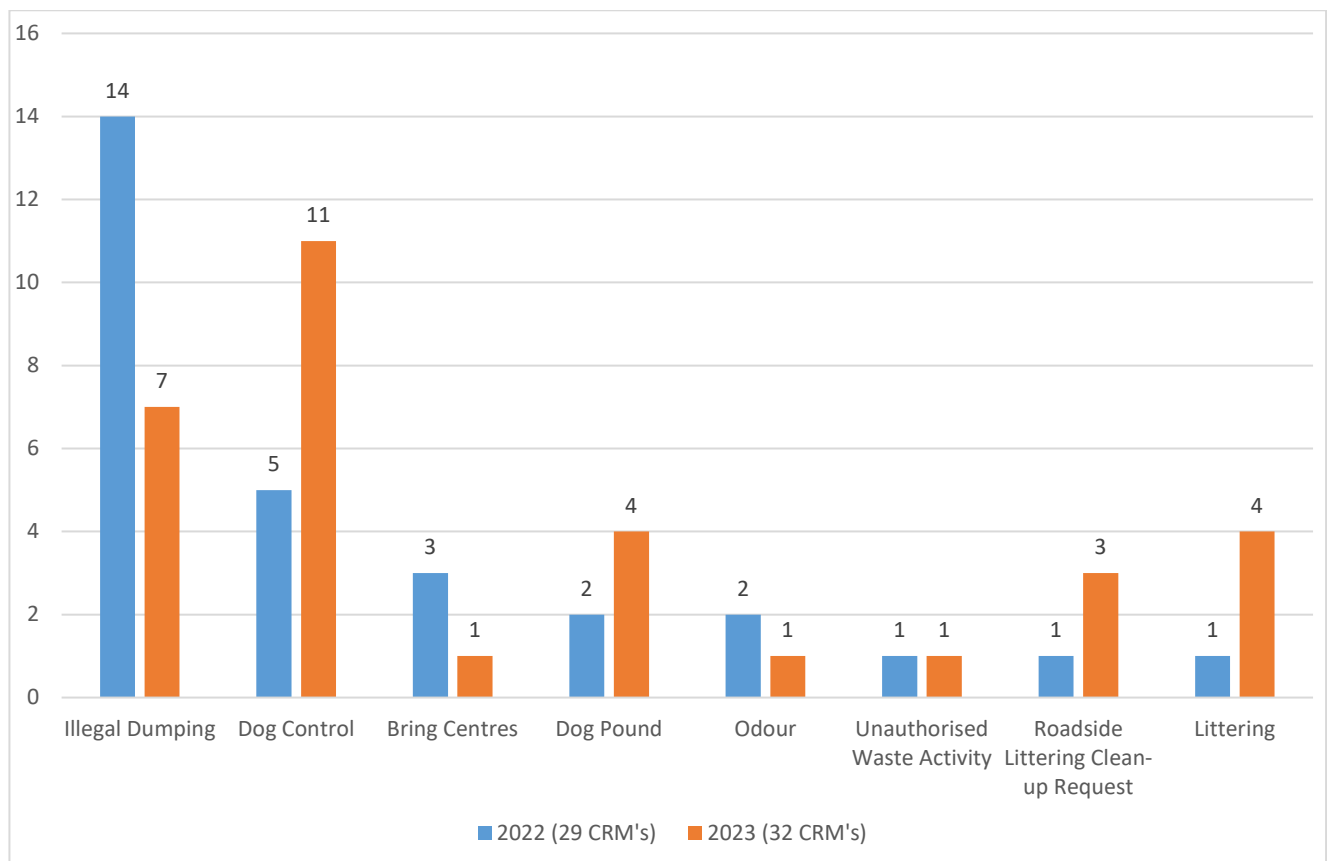
General Environment Enforcement

Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where evidence of an offence is available. Waterford City & County Councils Dog Wardens continue to investigate all control of dog issues throughout the City & County.

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: 0818 10 20 20.

CRM Activity

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded in the Comeragh area during the month of January in the years 2022 & 2023.



Climate Action

Community Climate Action Fund

The Climate Team expect the Community Climate Action Fund to open in the next month for Expressions of Interest. The fund is to finance community projects of up to €20,000, between €20,000 and €50,000 and between €50,000 and €100,000. The projects will be in one of the following 5 areas: Home & Energy, Travel, Food & Waste, Shopping and Recycling, Local Climate and Environmental Action. The Climate Team will hold in person and online workshops for communities across the City and County once the fund is launched and will publicise it through the PPN network. There is also a second strand within this fund for communities who would like to partner with communities in the North of Ireland to share experiences and develop skills.

Climate Action Plan

The statutory process for creating the Climate Action Plan commences in March. Data required for decision making within the Climate Action Plan is currently being gathered. Once this data has been collated a pre-draft questionnaire to collect input from the Waterford public as to what they think should be included in the Climate Action Plan will be issued. The new Climate Action Plan will be implemented between 2024 and 2029. The Community Climate Action Officer commenced duty with the Council on 16th January.

Energy Efficiency

- The first of WCCC environmental inspector electrical vans have been delivered. Two further EV's are to be delivered in early February and will be operated by the environmental inspectors.



- Contracts have been signed for the retro fitting of street lighting within the Comeragh Area. Funding has been received to complete the retro fitting from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications under the Climate Action Fund. Survey works are scheduled to begin in Waterford in February 2023 and lighting upgrades to be completed in mid-2024. Approximately 15,000 lights will be retro fitted under this process throughout Waterford.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Community Clean-Ups

Waterford City & County Council facilitates community clean ups throughout the year to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations have commenced at www.nationalspringclean.org As part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards. Groups are encouraged to register their clean up as a National Spring Clean event to receive additional resources from An Taisce.

Green Flag Programme

Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and award programme, working with primary and secondary schools across the country. School renewal visits and assessments are underway for green flag renewals and first time applications. There are 61 schools in Waterford City and County due to renew their Green Flag this year. The deadline for renewal applications is on Friday, March 24th for the 2022/2023 academic year.

Burning of Agricultural Waste – Extension to Exemption

Regulations were signed on Friday, 27th January which provide an extension to the exemption which allows for the burning of agricultural green waste.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/fa8a9-final-regulations-signed-on-burning-of-agricultural-green-waste/>

This exemption is now extended until 1st March 2023 and the Environment Department can now accept applications to issue notification reference numbers relating to the Burning of Agricultural Waste until that date. Applications will close again on 2nd March 2023 until 31st August 2023. One final exemption will be granted from 1st September 2023 to 30th November 2023 and the Environment Department will again accept applications relating to that 3 month time period.

The Burning of Agricultural Waste Notification Form is available on the Environment Section of the Council's website:
<https://waterfordcouncil.ie/departments/environment/waste-management/disposal-by-burning.htm>

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