



Draft Litter Management Plan

Report on Public Consultation Phase

A Mhaora agus a Chomhairleorí,,

At the SPC meeting held on 23rd September 2020, the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity SPC recommended that the draft Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2024 proceed to public consultation. The Plenary Council was informed of the commencement of the public consultation process by way of the Management Report at the November 2020 meeting.

The public consultation period commenced on 23rd November 2020 and ran until 11th January 2021. Notice was published in the Munster Express and Dungarvan Leader, on the Council's website, radio announcements were broadcast on WLRFM and notices posted via the Council's social media channels. Social media posts were viewed by 4,886 people and the document was accessed 137 times via the website. Details were also disseminated to community and voluntary groups through the PPN.

One submission was received from Dungarvan Tidy Towns Committee. The matters raised and our response is set out in Appendix 1 attached.

Following a further review within the Environment Department some additional information has been added as shown in red text in the document. In addition, the tables within the report have been updated to reflect outturns for 2020 where the information is available.

Under section 13 of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 – 2009 the making, review, amendment of replacement of a Litter Management Plan is a Reserved Function. The revised draft Litter Management Plan has been considered by the SPC who have recommended the document to the Plenary Council for adoption.

Is mise, le meas,

Fergus Galvin,
Director of Services
Roads, Water & Environment



Appendix 1 – Report on Submission

Dungarvan Tidy Towns Committee

3. Why is Waterford City & County Council required to have a Litter Management Plan?

Dungarvan Tidy Towns would like to acknowledge the key role played by the Council, to commend all involved for their efforts to reduce litter, and to thank the Council for the support and assistance provided to us, and to other groups, over the years. We would like to particularly thank Gabriel Foley and his team for their ongoing and vital support for our regular litter picks. And we would like to thank Luke O'Brien for unstinting assistance with equipment and material. We look forward to continuing to working closely with the Council for many years to come.

Response: Comments noted

5. Quantifying the Litter Problem.

Dungarvan Tidy Towns would welcome the ability, if possible and appropriate to have access and use of this App in order to help with the provision of litter statistics based on information gathered from our litter-picking activities.

Response: The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System is an innovative method, which is used to enable local authorities to manage litter pollution in a systematic, structured manner. The information gathered provides essential data to facilitate decision-making in relation to litter management at local, regional and national levels. Using a specially designed GIS application each local authorities functional area is mapped and then surveyed annually using Litter Pollution Surveys and Litter Quantification Surveys. The data produced by the System allows local authorities to gauge:

- the extent and severity of litter pollution in each local authority area;
- the types, most likely sources and causes of litter;
- the changes in litter levels from location to location and over time;
- the location of litter black spots; and
- the impact of new anti-litter measures.

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System is an environmental management tool that enables local authorities to tackle litter more effectively, by providing a framework for consistent and accurate self-assessment by local authorities. The guiding principle is, "if you can measure the litter problem, you can manage it". Based on an Environmental Management System, the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System is subject to constant auditing and continual improvement.

It is not possible for third parties to be given access to the system



7. Review of Previous Litter Management Plans

Dungarvan Tidy Towns suggests that further benefit may be gained by making it an objective of this plan for the Environment section to convene a forum of Tidy Towns groups, and other similar groups, within Waterford City &

County. Although in the case of Tidy Towns groups we are effectively in competition with each other, we all share the same underlying aim of keeping Waterford clean and presentable. With this underlying aim in mind there may be scope, through a new forum to be convened by the Environment Team, to gather information regarding litter hotspots from the various groups, and to share information with and between groups so that all have an increased likelihood of improvement and perhaps a greater ability to share resources or co-operate on city and county wide initiatives such as national spring clean.

Response: The Council acknowledges the excellent work being done by Tidy Towns Committees, schools, residents' associations and other community groups in tackling litter throughout the city and county. The Environment Department is in regular contact with many of these groups and hosts various workshops and seminars (more recently webinars) throughout the year and community groups can engage with the Council through these events. The Council will consider the establishment of an Environment Community Forum during the lifetime of the Plan

8. Continuing issues of Concern

Roadside litter

Dungarvan Tidy Towns notes that there have been once-off road closures and litter tackling on some regional or national roads in the past, which were quite costly, and the good work was soon undone. The cost could possibly be reduced while highlighting the issue through some inconvenience to motorists if some sections of road were partially closed (one way) for a few hours and volunteers deployed to do the litter picking following appropriate health and safety precautions.

Response: The Council welcomes the work done by volunteers who assist in National Spring Clean, community clean ups, beach cleans, street sweeps, etc. While supporting such clean ups it is unlikely that the Council would put road closures in place for such events.

Street litter

Dungarvan Tidy Towns can confirm that cigarette-related litter is a predominant problem in terms of street litter. It is also one of the most difficult types of litter to tackle in terms of how hard and time consuming it is to manually pick up cigarette ends with litter pickers.

We note with interest, and hope that the Council will also, recent media reports regarding possible advancements in the recycling of cigarette butts:

<https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2021/0104/1187566-cigarette-butt-filters-single-use-plastic/>

Response: This initiative is in the early stages of development and the Council will consider any initiative that reduces litter and promotes recycling.

Unauthorised Signage



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge Waterford City & County Council

Dungarvan Tidy Towns acknowledges the problem of unauthorized signage but would ask for forbearance from the Council where the temporary signage erected relates to a community or charitable endeavour and not a commercial activity; and a gentle reminder to the organiser would help to keep the public on-side.

Response: Temporary signage is only permitted for community or charitable events and permits are available from the Environment Department on completion of the application process. The majority of event

organisers are repeat applicants and know the process. Unauthorised signs are removed when they are erected in incorrect locations or where the organiser can't be identified.

10. Responsibility for meeting these Objectives

In other towns, villages and rural locations:

Dungarvan Tidy Towns acknowledges that emptying of bins outside the urban area is outside of our functional area, but we wish to make comment with regard to the provision of bins and bin collection at Clonea Strand, which is the most popular beach near Dungarvan. In peak summer, the number (and size) of bins struggles to cope with the volume of waste generated by visitors to the beach. The number of bins is reduced during off peak times notwithstanding that the beach remains popular with walkers, particularly during current 5km Covid-related restrictions, and the remaining bin is unable to cope with the waste generated, particularly at the weekend. The result is occasional unhygienic and unsightly waste at one of Waterford's most popular amenities. We would suggest increase bin provision or increase bin collection.

A wider point could potentially be made that given the sharing of responsibility for litter between the Roads and Environment Depts within the Council, the plan should state that collaboration between these departments is one of its aims and outline how it is achieved, e.g. the Environment Dept org chart is set out, but what are the interfaces with Roads (and possibly other depts) to ensure that high level objectives that are shared between them are tracked and met?

Response: The Environment Department has dedicated Cleansing Teams in Waterford City, Tramore and Dungarvan, the Cleansing function in all other areas is provided by the Roads Department on a more seasonal basis having regard to demand. There is good collaboration between the Environment and Roads Departments particularly in relation to the removal of illegal dumping.

- **Maintenance of litter bins – Checking and emptying**

Dungarvan

Dungarvan Tidy Towns would welcome installation of larger capacity compactor bins to replace smaller bins currently in place in the town. We would also welcome more bin to ensure that there are fewer walking routes (e.g. from Grattan Square to Abbeyside) where there are fewer bins. And we would welcome the ability to have variable branded messaging (including our logo occasionally) as a means of reminding people to bin their litter or to help communicate other possible relevant messages, e.g. the amount of the fine for littering.

Response: The location and capacity of bins is kept under review having regard to the demand and extent of littering at particular locations. The Council has recently purchased compactor bins that have the facility to display advertising/notices. These bins will be installed in urban areas in the coming weeks.



11. Monitoring & Performance Indicators

Dungarvan Tidy Towns would like to suggest that the Council might consider adding quantifiable targets/KPI's in relation to amount of waste generated and amount recycled. This presumes that it is possible to quantify and measure the amount of litter collected and the amount recycled via the various types of bring banks. It would be hoped that the amount recycled would increase while the amount of litter collected would decline.

Response: The Council has details of the tonnages of waste collected and disposed of each year. However, given the range of sources of the waste, i.e., street sweeping, litter bins, illegal dumping, community clean ups,

servicing of Council buildings, halting sites and LA house clearances it is not possible to say with accuracy what tonnage comes from what source. Tonnages of materials recycled through bring facilities are included in the LMP.