



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2023
OCTOBER 2023

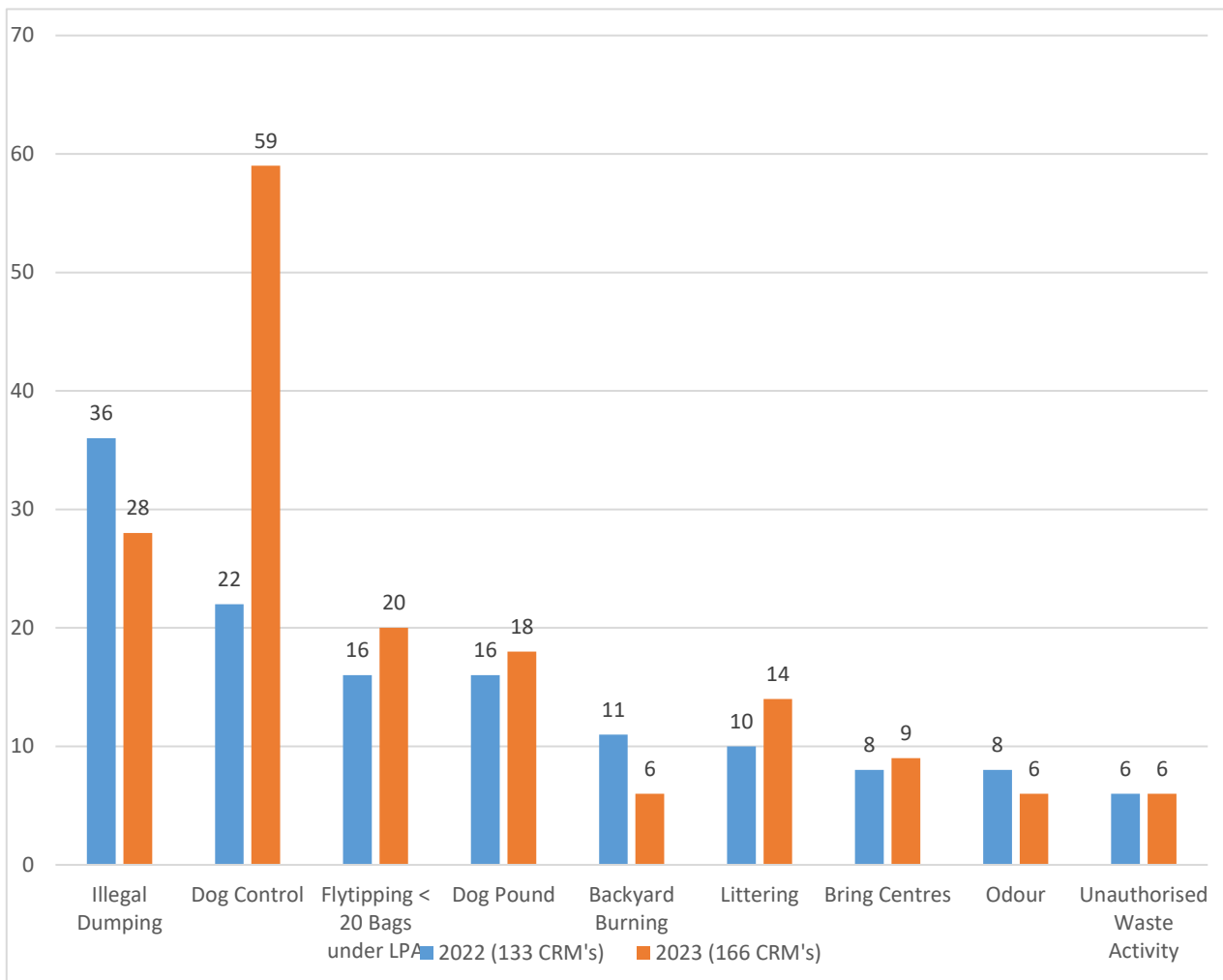
General Environment Enforcement

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 period to the end of September in the years 2022 & 2023.



Climate Action

Climate Action Plan

The pre-draft consultation for the Climate Action Plan closed on 23rd June. 19 submissions were received online and 4 written submissions were received by the Climate Action office. The Climate Action team has completed a set of draft actions for the County and for the City (Waterford's Decarbonising Zone). The Climate Action team will be looking for involvement from elected members throughout this process and will present at District Council meetings in the next few weeks with the proposed actions that have been formulated from the consultation with the public and from consultations within the Council. The draft plan consultation will go live on 23rd October.

Rates Energy Discount Scheme

The Rates Energy Discount Scheme was open for applications until 29th September. Businesses with rates of less than €10,000 per annum or hospitality businesses were eligible to apply through our Submit Portal: <https://waterford.submit.com/show/151> Businesses who complete the application and have their rates paid in full will have the discount applied to their account.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Tidy Towns

The Environment Department has been working with Tidy Towns groups to further their work towards the 2023 competition. The national Super Valu Tidy Towns competition is an annual contest organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The competition involves participating areas being rated on all aspects of their local environment and prizes awarded to the best under many different categories, from Litter to Sustainability. The overall winner is "Ireland's Tidiest Town" which was announced at a national ceremony on Friday, 6th October. Below is a summary of results achieved by Tidy Towns groups in the Tidy Towns Competition 2023 in the Comeragh area (marks awarded out of a total of 550).

Comeragh Area

Town	Marks awarded 2022	Marks awarded 2023	Medal	Special award	
Ballymacarbry	356	366	Silver medal		"Ballymacarbry is to be congratulated on what you, as a community, have achieved to date. The village has so much on offer for residents & visitors alike. Once all the refurbishments have taken place at the commercial properties it will add greatly to the village streetscape. Your plans for biodiversity are reaping significant rewards & as you plan to add more fruit trees & perennials you will be able to provide significant pointers for other communities."
Bunmahon	No entry	265			
Clonea Power	246	256			
Dunhill	No entry	231			
Kill	No entry	240			
Kilmacthomas	308	319			
Stradbally	361	373	Gold Medal	County First	"There is no doubting the fact that you would not be where you are today in the Tidy Towns Waterford League table without the wholehearted support of the community. You are to be congratulated on recognizing the demands on community members' time & establishing a database, Power Hour, where they could pledge a single hour of their time. This is definitely a strategy that could be adopted by many resource strapped communities It was a delight to visit Stradbally & your community spirit & achievements are inspiring. Through your

					combined efforts you have achieved a significant amount in the past 12 months”.
Portlaw	292	295			

Schools

We have launched the Tom Murphy Litter Challenge for Secondary Schools in Waterford City and County. All secondary schools were invited to enter the competition and entrants will receive litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and bags to enable them to carry out litter picks of their designated area. These clean ups will take place during October and November. The prizegiving and presentation of certificates of participation will take place in the Mayors Parlour in early December. Tom Murphy Car Sales have sponsored the prize fund of €1,500 for the winning school.

8 Secondary Schools are also taking part in Composting for Schools programme, which involves 2 visits to the schools to carry out a waste audit to help schools to prevent, reduce and reuse their waste. There is a strong focus on food waste. Schools can also take part in 5 online sessions to learn more about waste prevention, recycling and composting within a school.

The Green Schools programme for the new school year is well under way now. Along with schools visits, there have been webinars for Primary Schools and Secondary schools in Waterford City and County. These were held for each theme of the programme e.g. waste, litter, water, biodiversity, travel, etc and took place on line in the evening. These webinars are designed to support secondary school teachers and students as they work through their current theme. The majority of teachers found online seminars to be a convenient way to learn about their current Green Schools theme as it eliminates travel time to and from the seminar. I will be available to visit schools or answer any questions that they might have.

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. The Environment Department continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers from both Dungarvan and Waterford offices to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter for all clean ups.

Ministers agree a further 7-day extension to the slurry spreading period

Darragh O’Brien T.D, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in consultation with Charlie McConalogue T.D, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, has agreed to further extend the slurry spreading period by 7 days.

Based on the evidence which has been assessed against the published criteria, the closed period will now commence on the 15th October 2023.

Announcing the decision, Minister McConalogue stated:

“I recognise that unseasonable weather conditions experienced this summer and during September, have impacted trafficability and provided limited opportunities for slurry applications by farmers and contractors. I am conscious that last week’s significant rainfall diminished the opportunity to avail of the limited extension already announced. It is important to recognise also that the published criteria do not provide for a prolonged extension period. The decision today to provide an additional week is justified and will facilitate prudent application by farmers.”

Minister McConalogue also stated:

“Given the need to deliver on our commitments to improving water quality, it is fundamental that slurry is applied under the right conditions and at the right time of year. It is critical that farm practices deliver on water quality. As part of this, nutrient application must align with crop uptake”.

This decision has been made in accordance with the provisions set out in Article 19 (1) of SI No. 113 of 2022 (as amended).

Farmers are reminded to observe the Buffer Zones that apply at this time of the year. In addition, farmers should also be aware that there is no provision in the Regulations (SI No 113 of 2022, as amended) to extend the slurry spreading period beyond 14th October.

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