



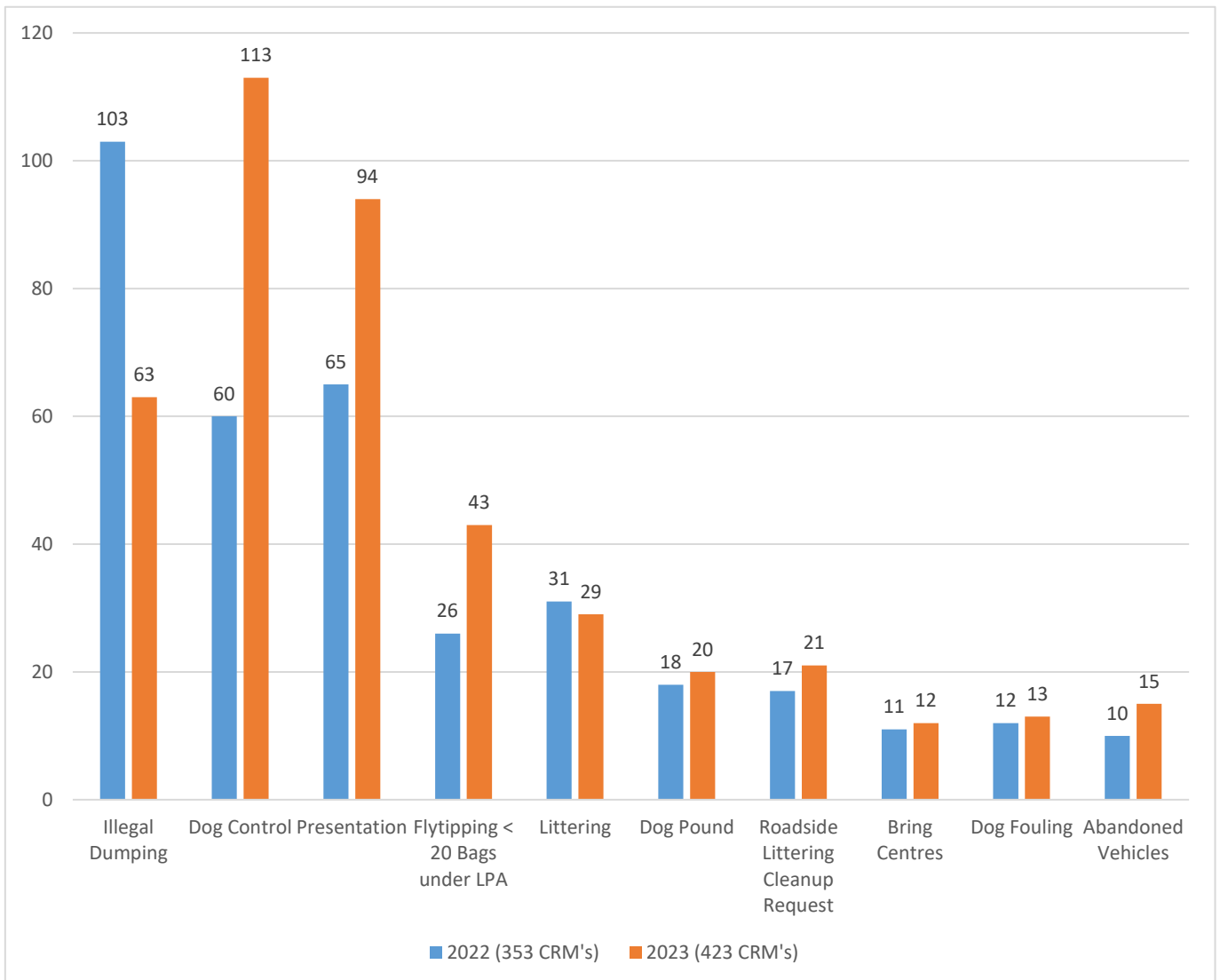
DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR  
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNGARVAN/LISMORE

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 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: 0818 10 20 20.

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded in the Dungarvan/Lismore area during the period to the 28<sup>th</sup> September in the years 2022 & 2023.

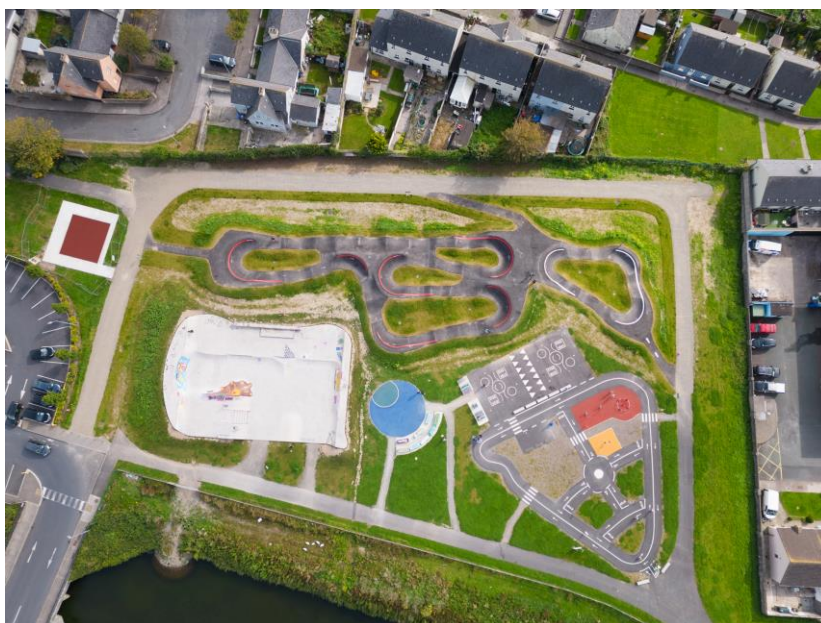


## Presentation & Cleansing

### Dungarvan:

- The Adult Exercise Equipment contractor has completed the installation of equipment in Fairlane Park.
- Presentation Crew are working to cut all grass that had been left uncut for the summer, to encourage pollinator flowers.
- Hedge Cutting contractor has been working in Dungarvan throughout September.
- Presentation Crew will be working towards replacing summer flowering plants with winter ones over the coming weeks.

### BMX Pump Track latest addition to Dungarvan's Linear Park



Waterford City and County Council recently completed the latest addition to the Linear Park at Fairlane in Dungarvan.

The BMX Pump track comprises of a 120-metre-long beginners track and a 420-metre advanced track and is the ideal amenity for BMXers to test their ability to 'pump' speed from the track using the rollers and beams.

As part of the project, Waterford City and County Council consulted with BMX Ireland and Cycling Ireland for advice on the specification for a BMX Pump Track and to ensure the most authentic 'pump' experience for its users.

Cathaoirleach of the Dungarvan/Lismore District Cllr. Pat Nugent was delighted to officially open the track on 7<sup>th</sup> September last and said "It's wonderful to see the addition of such an accessible, high calibre track to the park. The feedback from Cycle Ireland, BMX Ireland and the local visitors to the park has been so positive.

"The amenities in this park have flourished and the Learn to Cycle track, performance area, skatepark, BMX Pump track and the imminent completion of an adult exercise area are all fantastic additions to the community landscape and will encourage people of all ages to get out and about and try something new in a safe, family-friendly outdoor area."

Waterford City and County Council secured funding of €195,000 under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Sports Capital Programme.

The Pump track was constructed in a sustainable manner, applying the principles of the circular economy in terms of reuse of materials and life cycle costing. Recycled aggregates were used in the build-up of all slopes, banks and ramps and these were provided by quarries in the Dungarvan area.

Works were completed earlier this month by contractors Trailbreaker, along with VeloSolutions which developed the plan for the track.

## **Climate Action**

### **Climate Action Plan Draft to launch on 25<sup>th</sup> October**

The consultation period for the Draft Climate Action Plan will open on 25<sup>th</sup> October and will stay open for 6 weeks. The Climate Action Team will host a number of events in the city as part of the Imagine Festival to encourage the public to contribute to the Plan. The Climate Action Team will also hold events in libraries and in GAA grounds across the County to meet people where they are.

### **Bioenergy opportunities for Waterford – Biobus to visit**

The Biobus is a Science Foundation Ireland project, a bus with exhibitions around bioenergy (energy from derived from natural material such as grass and husks). Members of the public are welcome to visit the bus in John Robert's Square on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and in An Rinn on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Rates Energy Discount Scheme**

The Deadline for submissions for the Commercial Energy Rates Discount is 29<sup>th</sup> September. As of today, 550 businesses have availed of the discount in exchange for energy saving actions.

## **Environmental Education & Awareness**

### **Waste Prevention**

During October there is a focus on Circular Economy living. An emphasis will be placed on repair and reuse during this month, including the launch of a basic DIY toolkit that can be borrowed from the libraries. In addition to this, we will be holding a clothes swap event and a textile exhibition in Central Library.

### **Schools**

The Tom Murphy Litter Challenge for Secondary Schools has been launched 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.

### **Composting for Schools Programme**

8 Secondary Schools are also taking part in the 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.

### **Green Schools Programme**

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 Co. Waterford. 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. The Environmental Awareness Officer 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 afterwards.

### **7-day extension to the Slurry Spreading Period**

In light of the recent wet period of weather and considering the scientific criteria to determine whether the period for slurry spreading can be extended beyond the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 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 extend the slurry spreading period by 7 days. This is in line with the maximum period that can be granted at present based on the published criteria.

The closed period for slurry spreading will therefore commence on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Announcing the decision, Minister McConalogue stated: "I recognise that unseasonable weather conditions experienced this summer and within

the last week, have impacted trafficability and provided limited opportunities for possible slurry applications by farmers and contractors.”

Minister McConalogue pointed out: “Slurry is a valuable source of nutrients and is best utilised using low emission slurry spreading and especially in spring when growth and weather conditions are typically favourable for utilising nutrients and limit run-off and emissions to the environment.”

The Minister added, “The majority of slurry has been spread well in advance of the closed period and this must be acknowledged and indeed commended. This limited extension will allow farmers spread any remaining slurry in the best conditions available to them.”

Given the need to deliver on our commitments to improving water quality, it is fundamental slurry is applied under the right conditions and at the right time of year. It is critical that farm practices deliver on water quality. Farmers are reminded to observe Buffer Zones that apply at this time of the year.

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

**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)