



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

SAMHAIN 2023
NOVEMBER 2023

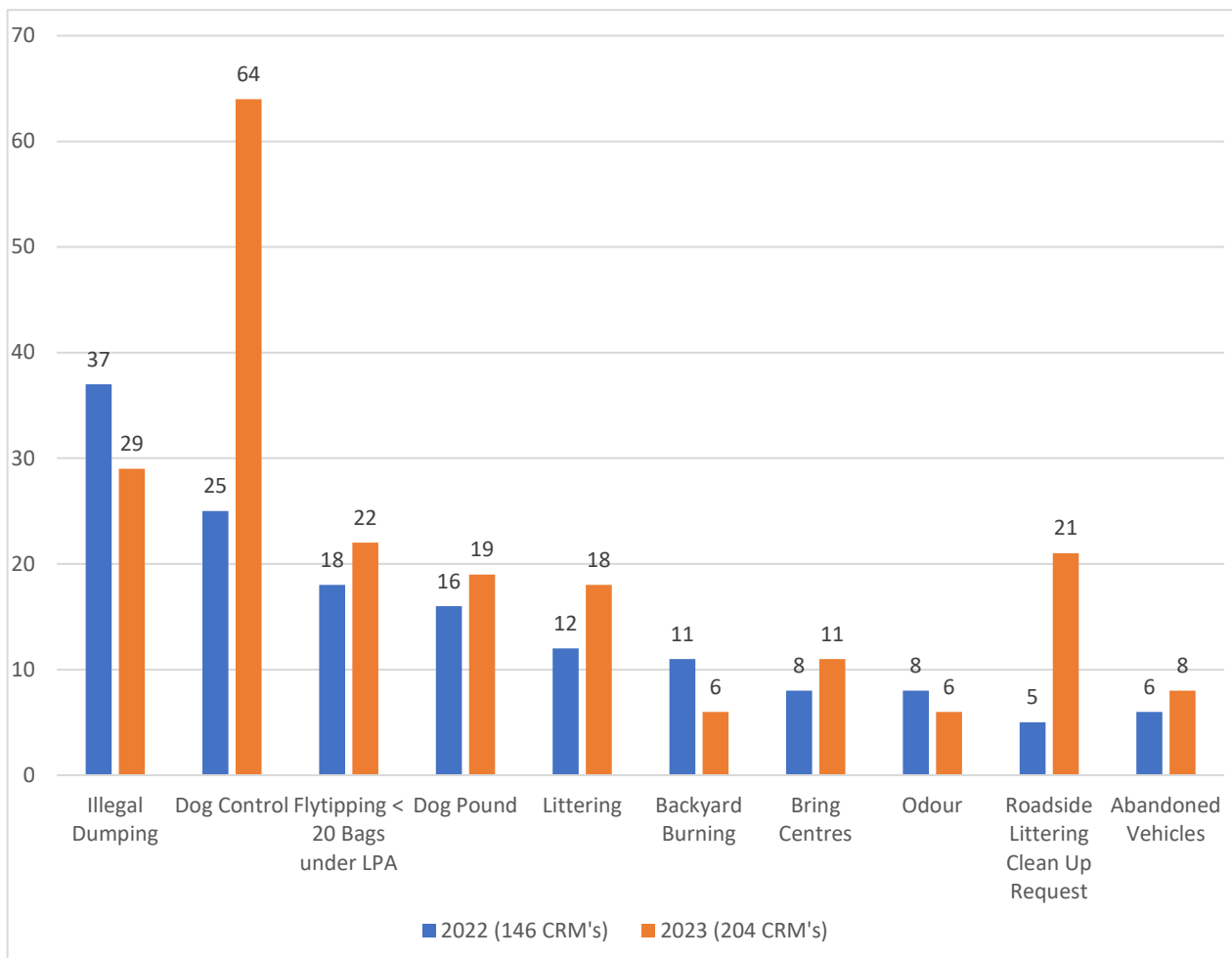
General Environment Enforcement

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 October in the years 2022 & 2023.



Climate Action

Draft Climate Action Plan Consultation

The Consultation period for the Council's Climate Action Plan opened on 1st November and closes on 15th December. The Draft Climate Action Plan is now available on the Council's Consult Portal

<https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/consultation/waterford-city-county-council-draft-climate-action-plan-2023-2029>

and in printed form in local libraries and in Council Customer Service areas. A PPN event will be hosted and a workshop for elected members. Events will also be held in Community Halls/Sports grounds across the County to discuss the Climate Action Plan and attendees will receive information on what supports are available for them in reducing their carbon emissions. Event details will be included in the parish notes of their local newspaper.

Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme

757 businesses in Waterford applied for the Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme and completed an Energy Assessment or an Energy Audit. All eligible businesses who have their rates fully paid and have completed the application will have an 8% rates discount applied to their accounts before the end of the year. All of these businesses have received information on how they can take the next step be that doing an audit or applying for funding or training their staff. All businesses who were eligible were contacted in April and in August reminding them that the Commercial Energy Rates Discount Scheme was available this year. Just under a third of eligible businesses completed the application.

Community Climate Action Fund

The Community Climate Action Fund will open on Thursday, 9th November. The Climate Team have been working with over 40 community groups across the County to develop their project ideas. A reminder will be sent to the PPN to encourage more communities to apply. Communities will have until mid-January to submit their application. An assessment of projects will be made by an independent committee of Council staff and the chosen projects will be sent to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications for final approval.

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/waterford/news/waterford-city-and-county-councils-call-for-community-climate-action-projects/a257986079.html>

Environmental Education & Awareness

Schools Programmes

The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools had 11 entrants this year. All participating schools received clean up materials to take part, including litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and bags as well as a social media toolkit to encourage them to post photos of their work on school social media channels. The winners of the 2022 competition were interviewed on WLR FM following the launch of this year's competition. Schools are now busy carrying out regular clean ups between now and the end of November, with some schools carrying out 3 clean ups a week with different classes. Judging will take in November. Tom Murphy Car Sales have sponsored the prize fund of €1,500 for the winning school. The prizegiving and presentation of certificates of participation will take place in the Mayor's Parlour in early December.

Green Schools Programme

Green Schools visits are underway, with some schools requesting advice and help with their work while others are availing of an early assessment visit to their school. The teacher seminars took place last month to ensure that teachers knew what to expect in the coming year for their current Green Schools theme.

Picker Pals Litter Programme

35 Waterford primary schools are participating in the Picker Pals litter programme once again this school year. This programme is most suitable for 1st and 2nd class children but has classes participating from 3rd, 4th and 5th class also. It teaches about litter and involves activity based learning to promote a keen sense of responsibility for the environment.

Composting for Schools Programme

The 8 Secondary Schools taking part in the Composting for Schools programme have received their initial visit. The main purpose of this visit was to carry out a waste audit to help schools to prevent, reduce and reuse their waste, with a strong focus on recycling food waste. Schools have also taken part in 5 online sessions to learn more about waste prevention, recycling and composting within a school.

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.

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