



**DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE  
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN 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 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 102020 .

**Presentation/Parks & Open Spaces**

**Waterford City**

- Tree Cutting works started earlier than usual this year and are ongoing. Two large estates in Gracedieu are now complete.
- Grass cutting season will be coming to an end soon.
- The soft surfacing at Manor St. John playground has been replaced with tarmacadam.
- Weekly vandalism and graffiti in People's Park and City in general continue to be an issue, but overall incidents of graffiti have reduced over the past two months.
- Peoples Park Fountain – Civil works started on 18 October 2023 and work is ongoing. The fountain installation is scheduled to be complete by January 2024.
- Tender for replacement playgrounds equipment in Farronshoneen is complete and awarded to contractor. Installation of new equipment is scheduled to be complete in Q1 2024.
- Cleansing crews are planning for the busy winter period with the clearing of leaves and the additional footfall in the city due to Winterval.
- Hedge Cutting contractor are currently working through their regular areas.
- Christmas Trees have now been installed.

**Playground in Kilcaragh Park**

- The design process is complete. We are now preparing a part 8 submission which will be brought to council in Q1 2024.

**Tramore**

- Summer bins have been removed.
- Sensory Garden – Contractor has commenced phase 1 which included the creation of paths and forming flower beds. This is on track for completion in December 2024.
- Winter bedding has been planted and summer baskets removed.
- Christmas Trees are scheduled to be installed on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**Carbally Outdoor Adult Gym**

- This work is now complete.

**Climate Action**

**Draft Climate Action Plan Consultation**

The Consultation period for the Council's Climate Action Plan opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November and closes on 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Reminders of the scheme were sent to all eligible in April and in August. Just under a third of eligible businesses completed the application.

### **Community Climate Action Fund**

The Community Climate Action Fund opened on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> 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. Applications will be accepted until mid-January. Project will be assessed 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class children but has classes participating from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.