



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

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**EANÁIR 2024
JANUARY 2024**

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 for Autumn/Winter ongoing and progressing well.
- Peoples Park Fountain works are progressing and are due to be completed in late January 2024.
- Six Acre Playground, Farronshoneen. Installation of main play tower due to be completed in January 2024.
- Cleansing crews continue to manage their areas well as reflected in the recent IBAL survey results.

Playground in Kilcaragh Park

- We now have a provisional design. A workshop will be arranged for members in 24th January 2024 in advance of a part 8 submission.

Tramore

- Phase 1 of Sensory Garden is now complete. Tramore Tidy Towns to develop a plan for planting area with Executive Parks & Landscape Officer.

Climate Action

Climate Action Plan

The consultation period for the Climate Action Plan closed on 15th December. 20 submissions were received online and 3 via email. These submissions are now being compiled into a report from the Chief Executive which it is intended to present to Elected Members by 13th January along with the updated SEA reports. Elected members will be asked to vote on 8th February on the adoption of the plan.

Community Climate Action Fund

The fund is open for applications and the deadline is **19th January 2024**. Communities can apply on the Submit Portal or via printed application form sent into the Council.

<https://waterford.submit.com/show/158>

All communities should speak to the Community Climate Action Officer in advance of submitting an application. Susan Lee can be contacted at climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie

Environmental Education & Awareness

Introduction of Deposit Return Scheme

In February, a new Deposit Return scheme will be introduced in Ireland. When you buy a plastic, aluminium or steel drinks container that features the return logo, you will pay a small deposit in addition to the price of the drink; you will then get this deposit refunded when you return your empty, undamaged container (to any shop). There will be advertisements, etc to make the general public aware of the introduction of the scheme in the coming weeks. For further information, visit <https://re-turn.ie/campaignassets/>



Tom Murphy Litter Competition

The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools has been completed and judged. 15 secondary schools across Waterford city and county entered the competition and received litter pickers, high visibility vests, gloves and bags to allow them to carry out litter picks of their designated area. Over a six week period, schools have been carrying out regular clean ups, with many schools embracing the competition fully, carrying out multiple clean ups each week with different classes. We have been in regular contact with each school and photos of these clean-ups were posted on social media. A prizegiving and presentation of certificates of participation took place in the Mayors Parlour in early December, with all schools being presented with certificates of participation.

Green Schools Visits

Green Schools visits are underway, with some schools requesting advice on their current theme in the programme or help with their work while others are availing of an early assessment visit to their school. All schools will be encouraged to book their visit in as the renewal application deadline is 15th March 2024.

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. The next step is for them to complete a brief action plan to tackle waste within their school. Staff and student training in each school has now begun.

Waterford once again ranked as Ireland's Cleanest City

Once again Waterford has emerged as Ireland's Cleanest City in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Anti-Litter League. The city ranked 13th out of 40 cities and towns and was classed as Clean to European norms.

Waterford City continues to score very well in the IBAL litter league, and this was very much helped along by seventeen out of the twenty-four sites surveyed getting the top litter grade and there no litter blackspots.

The report also cited, 'It's not just the litter situation which sets Waterford City and other high-ranking towns/cities apart but the overall presentation and maintenance of the sites e.g. The People's Park has typically been top ranking and yet there were continued works within to improve it.

'The Riverwalk along the Quays and Merchant's Quay Car Park have both been recently improved and enhanced.'

Some of the sites that were awarded Grade A include Lady Lane, John Robert's Square (Barronstrand St./Broad Street), Waterford Greenway at Bilberry, the People's Park, the Mall, the Medieval Quarter and SETU.

Ballybeg has again scored very well and was also classed as Clean to European norms, with six out of the ten sites getting the top litter grade, three just missing it, and only one seriously littered site.

Ella Ryan, Environmental Awareness Officer with Waterford City and County Council welcomed the IBAL league results, saying “Waterford is once again the cleanest city in Ireland, and that is testament to the work of the local authority, volunteer clean-up groups and the local communities.

“This collaborative approach by the Council with voluntary committees, schools and local business groups is working in keeping Waterford a clean, attractive place to live, work and invest in.

“There remains however, some privately owned sites than need to be addressed, as littering and discarded rubbish was noted in some areas. If every business got behind the movement and ensured their premises and grounds were maintained to a high standard, there is no reason for Waterford not to attain Cleaner than European norms classification in the next survey.”

Ella added, “Waterford City and County Council will continue to introduce new environmental awareness initiatives in addition to those that have generated a seismic shift in how we discard our rubbish, such as Cigarette Butt Ballot bins, Bring Banks Sensor Bins, the Schools Litter Challenge and the Bag It Bin It campaigns.”

Details of the most recent Irish Business against Litter Survey can be found at <https://ibal.ie/anti-litter-league/>



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.