



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

FEABHRA 2024
FEBRUARY 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 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.

Recent Enforcement Case before Carrick-on-Suir District Court

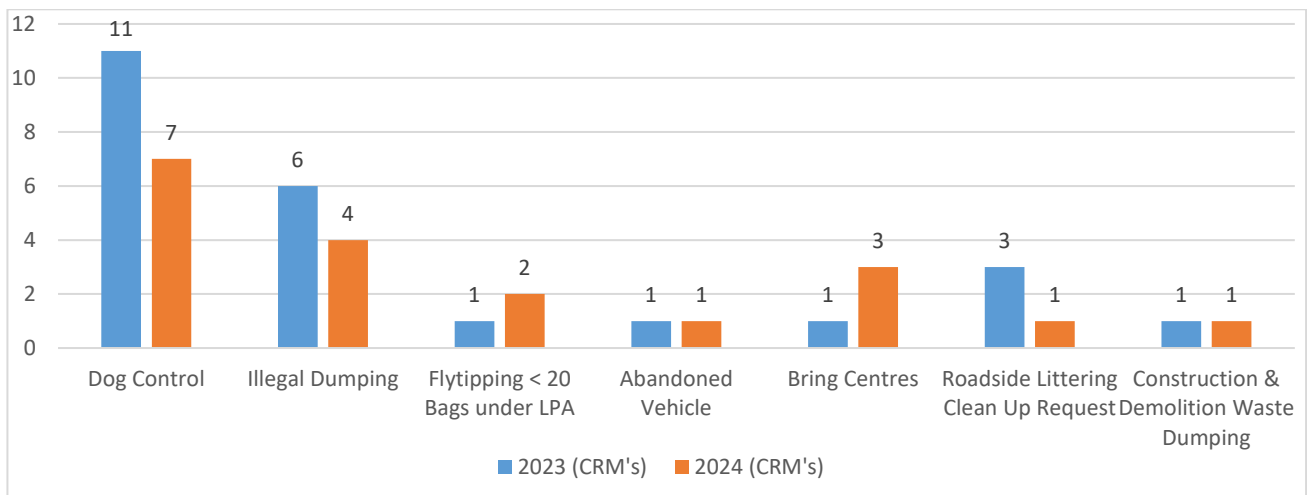
An elderly landowner was spared a waste management conviction on 17th January at Carrick-on-Suir District court on the provision he paid €3,000 towards the Councils clean up costs.

Waterford City and County Council took a prosecution against the landowner for facilitating the unauthorised management of construction and demolition waste and soil in a protected area adjacent to the River Suir near Carrick-on-Suir. WCCC found that construction and demolition waste had been dumped on the land which forms part of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation prior to July 2022. The landowner for the land in question could not be traced, and the land appeared to be abandoned, but in August 2022, an adjoining landowner paid a contractor to form an entrance ramp to the land with the waste material to provide an additional access to his adjoining land. Subsequent to this, WCCC undertook a cleanup, removing the C&D waste to restore the area to its previous condition.

The adjoining landowner pled guilty to the offence under section 32 of the Waste Management Act, but Judge O'Shea, noting that the defendant had not previously been before the courts, said he would apply the probation act to the landowner and spare him a conviction if he contributed €3,000 to the council's clean-up costs.

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 January in the years 2023 & 2024.



Climate Action

Climate Action Plan

The Chief Executive's Report and the Draft Climate Action Plan with changes noted on foot of suggestions made in the consultation and the Strategic Environmental Assessment documents are available on Decision Time. Elected members were asked to adopt the Climate Action Plan on 8th February and there was a workshop for elected members in advance of the Council meeting to discuss the Plan and the proposed changes. The plan was adopted.

Community Climate Action Fund

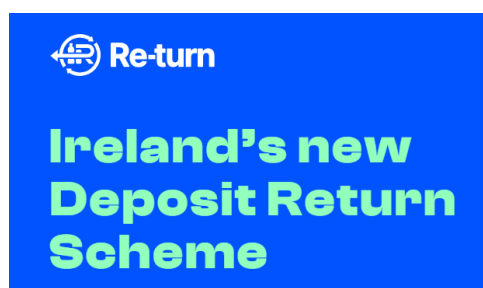
The deadline for applications for the Community Climate Action fund was 19th January. 25 communities submitted a completed application before the deadline. The projects will now be assessed by a team of independent assessors within the Council and the chosen projects will go forward to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications for final approval. Once approved communities will have 18 months to deliver their project. The total amount to be distributed in this programme is €564,000.

Energy Improvement Projects

<i>Comeragh Area</i>		
1	Portlaw Library	Oil Heating has been replaced with a heat pump installation. Cavity wall and attic insulation completed. Windows and door upgrades to be completed in 2024/2025.
2	PLEEP Progress	Survey of lights completed in Comeragh area. Design process has commenced. Retro fitting to proceed in 2024.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Introduction of Deposit Return Scheme



From 1st February, a new Deposit Return scheme was introduced in Ireland. When you buy a plastic, aluminium or sell 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 back when you return your empty, undamaged container (to any shop). We have been working with our Communications Section to post on social media and have also created a local case study to make the general public aware of this in the coming weeks.

Green Schools Programme

All Green Schools working on a flag for this current school year must receive a visit and submit an application by 15th March 2024. Green Schools visits are therefore well underway, with schools availing of an assessment visit to their school. Themes range from Litter & Waste to Water and Biodiversity.

Composting for Schools Programme

The 8 Secondary Schools taking part in the Composting for Schools programme are currently working on an action plan to tackle waste within their school and receiving student and staff training. visit. The initial visit was to carried out to conduct a waste audit, helping schools to prevent, reduce and reuse their waste, and putting 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.

Connecting Communities Roadshow

The Environment Department is taking part in a Connecting Communities Roadshow at 7 locations around the county this spring. Currently, other partners at the Roadshow include various WCCC departments, Waterford PPN, Waterford Sports Partnership, Waterford Leader, Waterford Area Partnership, Local Link. HSE Health Promotion, Waterford Volunteer Centre, Community Guards, Fire Service and WWETB, with the idea that the greater the collaboration, the better the

attendance at each roadshow. Environment's display will focus on food waste prevention, correct waste segregation and WEEEE.

The dates and locations for March are as follows: Kilmacthomas: 6th March and Ballymacarbry: 20th March.

Rubbish Schools Film Festival

The Environment Department is working with Createschool to offer 4 secondary schools in County Waterford the opportunity to participate in the Rubbish Film Festival. The Rubbish Film Festival is a really unique opportunity for Transition Year Students to showcase their creative talents, create awareness on Environmental Issues such as Climate Action and learn some new digital storytelling skills in the process. Each participating school will receive an intensive 2-day workshop on-site in their school from [Createschool](#) to help them gain and/or develop the skills to create their own short ONE MINUTE film or films that will create awareness among their peers on their selected environmental issue. Festival All costs are covered by the Environment Department of Waterford City & County Council.

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