



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

EANÁIR 2024
JANUARY 2024

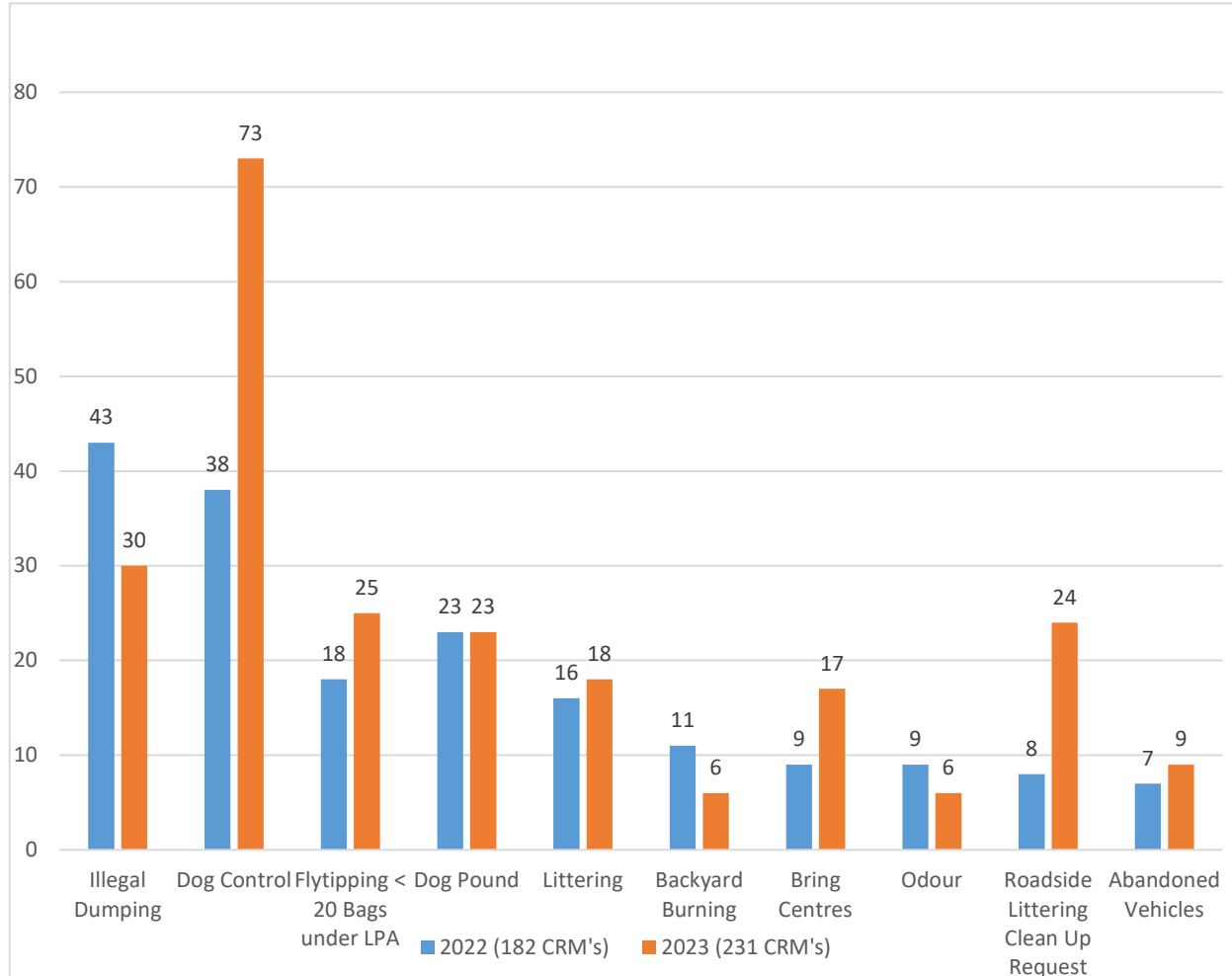
General Environment Enforcement

Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where 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 December in the years 2022 & 2023.



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.

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