



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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2024
SEPTEMBER 2024

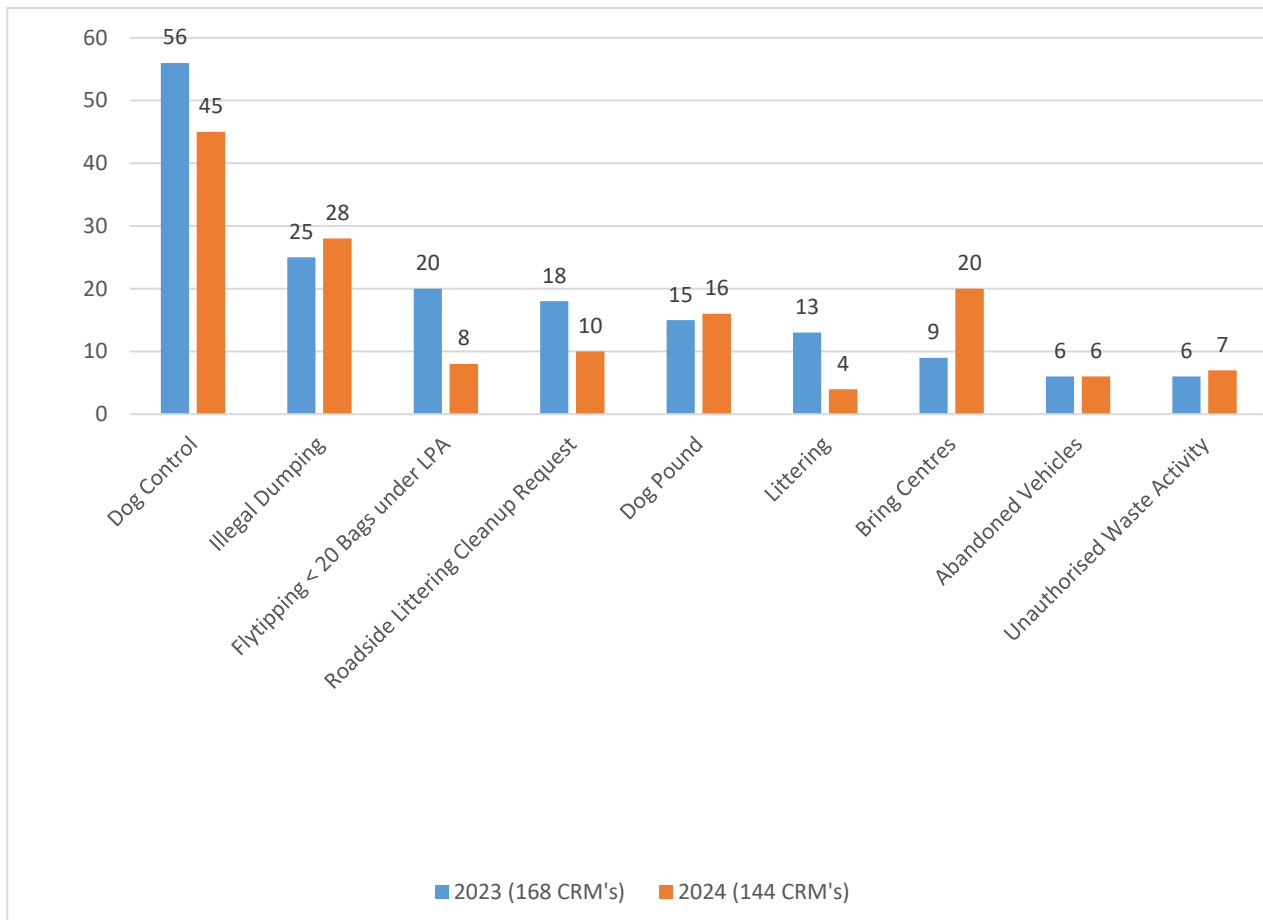
General Environment Enforcement

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 June in the years 2023 & 2024.



Climate Action

Shared Island Funding for Cappoquin GAA

Cappoquin, Affane, Turanore GAA club has partnered with Sigersons GAA club in Tyrone to secure funding for sustainable energy and biodiversity projects. The clubs will learn from each other and deliver all projects in the next 18 months.

Energy efficient streetlight replacements

Crews have begun to replace street lighting with LED equivalents that will reduce energy consumption by 70%. These lights will also have a longer life than the lights we currently have. All of our streetlights will be replaced by 2026.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste prevention

Circular Living month - globally more textiles are consumed than ever before and Ireland is no exception. An EPA study carried out by researchers at MTU in 2019 found that the per capita consumption of new textiles in Ireland is 53 kg per person per year – that's almost 1 kg/week of new textiles purchased by every citizen. During October there is a national focus on the circular economy for Circular Living month. We be placing an emphasis on repair and reuse during this month. There will be a series of 4 weekly workshops to teach participants sewing repair for clothes in Portlaw Family Resource Centre, Carrickphierish Library and Central Library on Lady Lane. There will also be a sewing repair demonstration in Ardkeen and Dungarvan libraries. In addition to this, there will be a clothes swap event in Central Library.

Greening food festivals: the two rinse stations are to be used again at this year's Harvest Festival and Vitamin Sea Festival to encourage the use of reusable cups, cutlery, plates, etc this September. This was particularly useful at the food trail and picnic elements of the festivals. Harvest festival also had water refills available using Refill Ireland's hydration station and a bin collecting plastic drinks bottles and cans for charity in conjunction with Re-turn.

Reuse at Waterford Walls – Renew Enterprises repurpose paint from our two civic amenity sites to create good quality paint to prevent it being sent for disposal. Thanks to their partnership with the [Paint Reuse Network](#), they are able to reduce waste and provide our communities with high quality, low impact and affordable paint, as well as preventing waste. This paint will feature on one of the murals in the Waterford Walls festival this year. In this first year of reusing and recycling paint, Waterford Walls reused and recycled approximately 125 litres of paint.



Litter

The **Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT)** took to the streets of Waterford on 2nd August. The interactive roadshow carried out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal and raise awareness of the environmental and fiscal impacts of gum litter. The campaign is a collaboration between Food Drink Ireland, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the chewing gum industry, and local authorities. This campaign was launched by the Deputy Mayor of Waterford City and County Council Cllr. Adam Wyse. 87% of people now report proper gum disposal, versus 49% when the campaign began in 2007– an increase of 77.5%, demonstrating the positive impact the campaign has had on attitudes towards gum litter. Peer pressure was found to be the key contributor to this shift in attitudes, followed by knowledge of the €150 fine. However, work remains to be done to further reduce this figure, as still only 46% of people can claim to have never dropped gum on the ground, demonstrating the continued importance of the awareness and behavioural change campaign.



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. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, distributing them from both our Dungarvan and Waterford offices. Collection of any bags of litter is then organised for after the clean-up takes place.

Leave No Trace – a Leave No Trace workshop will be held in Dungarvan library on 21st September for community groups and individuals. This hands-on session is aimed at educating participants on the principles of responsible outdoor ethics. During the workshop, attendees learn about the seven Leave No Trace principles, focusing on practical techniques to minimise their environmental impact while enjoying nature. The workshop includes discussions, demonstrations, and activities that cover topics like proper waste disposal, respecting wildlife, and sustainable camping practices. The workshop equips participants with the knowledge and skills to promote environmental stewardship and preserve Ireland's natural landscapes.

Schools

The **Green Schools programme** for the new school year is under way once again. Approximately 61 schools are due to renew a Green Flag during this school year across Co. Waterford. Along with school visits, there will be webinars for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools in early October. These will be held for each theme of the programme e.g. waste, litter, water, biodiversity, travel, etc and take place online in the evening. These webinars are designed to support secondary school teachers and students as they work through their current theme. The majority of teachers find online seminars to be a convenient way to learn about their current Green Schools theme as it eliminates travel time to and from the seminar. The Environmental Awareness Officer will be available to visit schools or answer any questions which they might have.

Composting in Schools programme – a further 8 secondary schools throughout Co. Waterford will receive a food waste prevention and recycling programme designed to identify ways for the school to reduce the amount of waste being produced and increase recycling and composting. This involves 2 visits to the schools to carry out a waste audit to help schools to prevent, reduce and reuse their waste. There is a strong focus on food waste. Schools can also take part in 5 online sessions to learn more about waste prevention, recycling and composting within a school. During the last school

year, this resulted in 7 of the 8 schools reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill, 5 of the 8 signed up for a brown bin collection to compost food waste, 3 leaf cages were installed to compost leaves on school grounds and staff and students learned about the importance of waste prevention and recycling.

Picker Pals – this is a litter programme for 6-9 year old focussed on their local environment. It engages with classrooms to create litter picking adventures at home and encourages children to share that experience with their classmates. We fund 10 of the schools taking part in this programme in Co. Waterford.

Circular Economy - 8 secondary schools across Co. Waterford will receive circular economy workshops with a focus on fast fashion this term. These workshops will develop practical repair abilities amongst the students to enable them to prolong the lifespan of everyday items and will empower the students to carry out peer education with the rest of the students.

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