



**DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR BARDASACH AN CHOMARAIGH**

**TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE COMERAGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

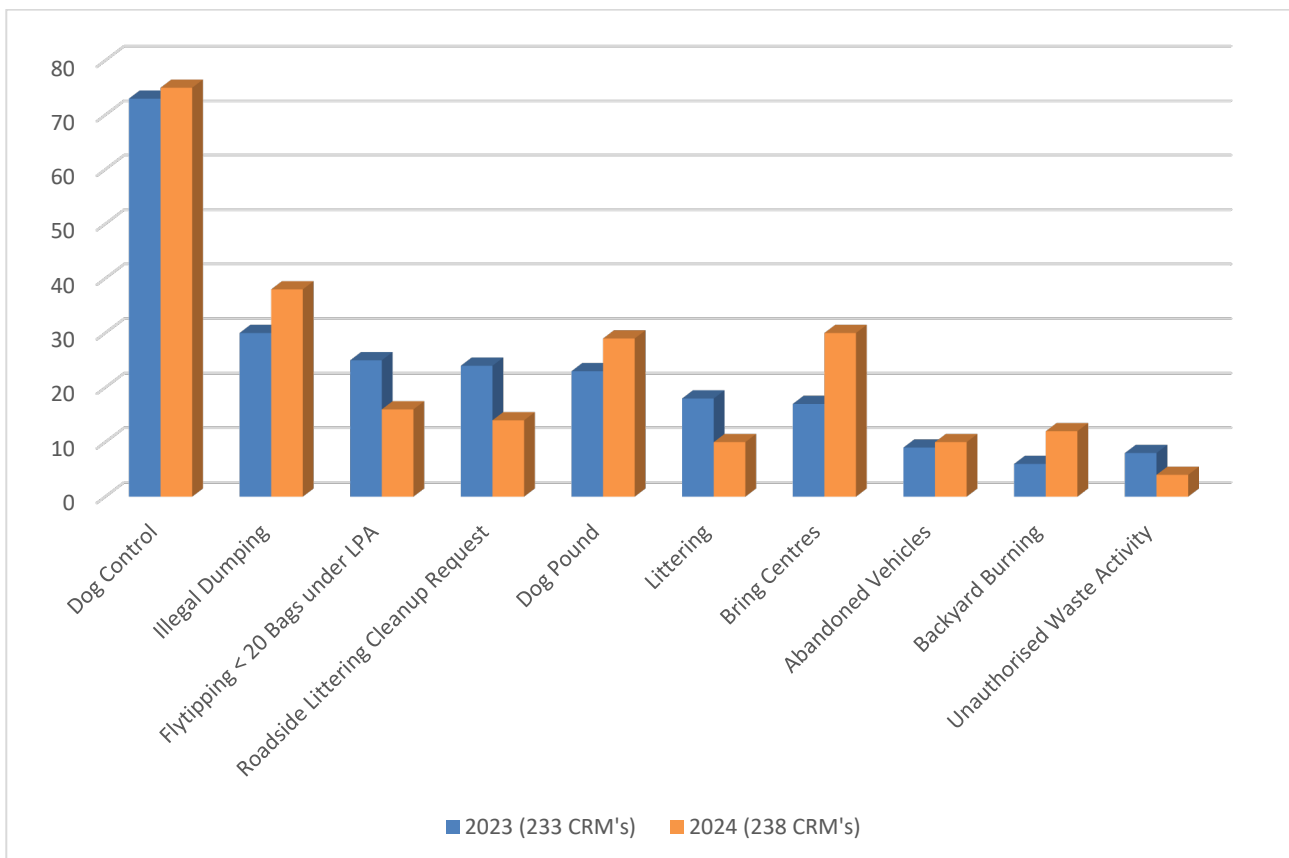
**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**EANAIR 2025**

**JANUARY 2025**

**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 2023 & 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.

## Environmental Education & Awareness

### **Blue Flag Beach Status**

Five Blue Flag applications were submitted to An Taisce's Blue Flag Beach Unit for Ardmore, Clonea, Counsellors Strand, Dunmore Strand and Tramore beach for the 2025 bathing season. The Blue Flag season for beaches in Ireland coincides with the bathing season which runs from June 1st to September 15th. Blue Flag sites are only awarded for one season at a time. These Blue Flag sites have been awarded due to their adherence to a strict number of criteria covering Environmental Information and Education, Water Quality, Safety and Services and Environmental Management. During the season inspectors will assess each Blue Flag beach and marina to ensure compliance with the criteria.

### **The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools**

The Tom Murphy Litter Competition for Secondary Schools has been judged with prize giving taking place in January. Ten secondary schools across Co. Waterford 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 carried 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 prize-giving and presentation of certificates of participation will take place in the Mayors Parlour in early January, with a prize of €1500 sponsored by Tom Murphy Car Sales.



## Green School 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 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025. We ran a day's workshop for Green School Committees in Waterford for primary schools to teach students and teachers alike about the circular economy. This introduced the idea of the circular economy and encouraged them to think about how to design items with that in mind.



Schools have also been taking part in workshops and education programmes such as Picker Pals, Leave no Trace, Composting in Schools, Fast Fashion and Circular Economy workshops. A series of nature themed webinars are also being held for schools, with the most recent theme being climate action and nature. These will all be continued into 2025.

## PICKER PALS in County Waterford



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge



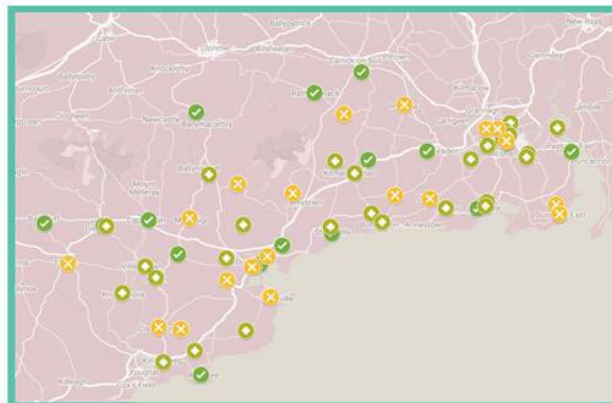
Since 2020, 149 classrooms from 58 different schools in Waterford have taken part in Picker Pals.

This represents 74% of all primary schools in the county.

26% of the schools in Waterford have yet to try the programme.

In the 2024-25 school year, 34 classrooms from 24 schools are taking part.

10 of these classrooms are generously sponsored by Waterford City and County Council, and 24 by DECC



## 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 from both Dungarvan and Waterford offices to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.



We have scheduled a further 3 sets of our very popular sewing repair workshops to teach participants sewing repair for clothes, with an emphasis on repair and reuse of textiles. These will take place in Waterford and Tramore libraries during January and February.

### **WEEE Ireland Christmas**

We have worked with WEEE Ireland Christmas to remind anyone shopping for new appliances or devices, decorating the house or clearing out for Santa that all end-of-life products with a plug, battery or cable can be recycled for free at their [nearest free recycling drop off point](#) and that used batteries can be recycled for free in WEEE Ireland Blue Battery Boxes in newsagents, supermarkets, civic amenity sites and wherever batteries are bought.

### **The Control of Dogs (XL Bully Type Dog) Regulations 2024**

The Control of Dogs (XL Bully Type Dog) Regulations 2024 prohibit the importing, breeding, selling and re-homing of XL Bully type dogs from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024. From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 it will be illegal to own an XL Bully type dog without a 'Certificate of Exemption' issued by the local authority in which the dog resides.

XL Bully owners have between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to apply for a Certificate of Exemption. A Certificate of Exemption is issued by the Local Authority and authorises the owner of an XL Bully type dog to keep that dog at a particular premises until the natural end of the dog's life.

This certificate is unique to each XL Bully type dog and owner, and specifies the dog's licence details, microchip details, neutering details, age and description. It also specifies the dog owner's name, address, date of birth and contact number.

To date the Dog Control Unit has received four valid applications for a Certificate of Exemption. All four of these applications have been approved and issued with a Certificate of Exemption.

After 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 all XL Bully type dog owners should either be in possession of a Certificate of Exemption or have proof that they applied for a Certificate of Exemption. Owners may be required to present their Certificate of Exemption to a Dog Warden or a member of An Garda Síochána within 10 Days of a request to do so.

Owners can apply, free of charge, to Waterford City & County Council from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 for a Certificate of Exemption through our website, through email or by post. Further details are available on our website or at [www.gov.ie/xlbully](http://www.gov.ie/xlbully)

A further social media and advertising campaign is currently underway to encourage owners of such breeds to meet their obligations under the regulations.