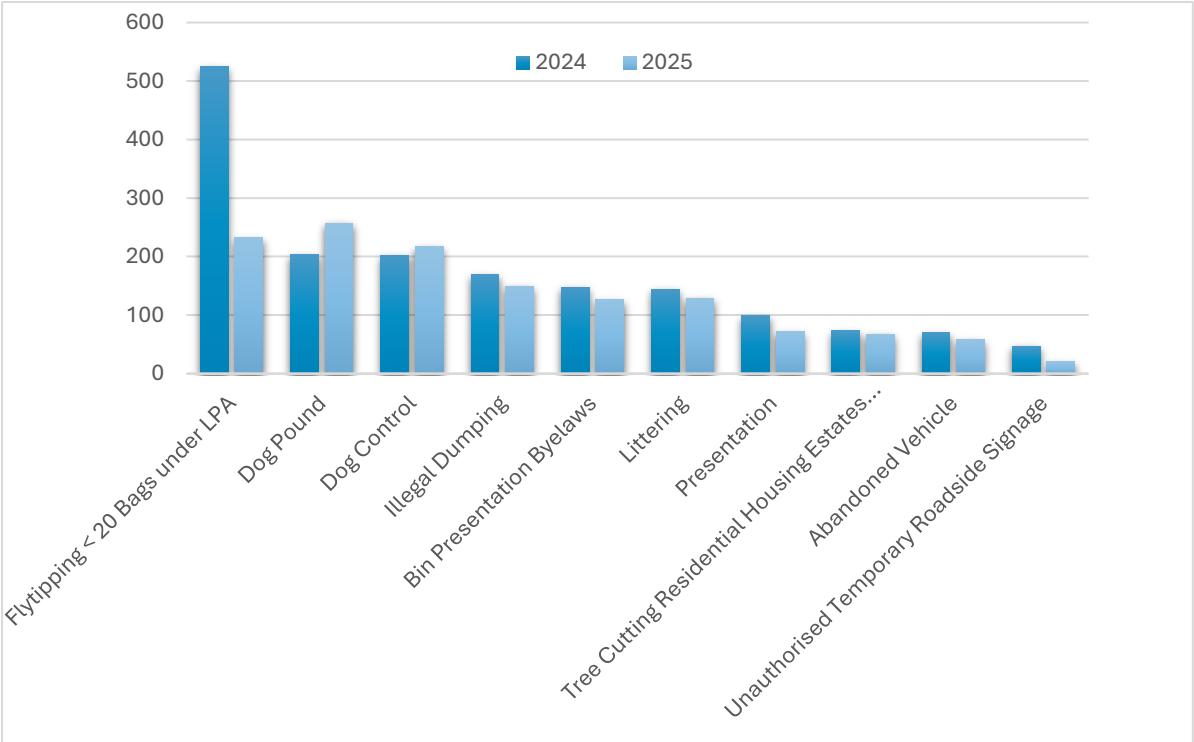


DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASA MHÓIR  
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL  
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

IÚIL 2025  
JULY 2025

CRM Activity



The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded in the Metropolitan area during the periods from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 and from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025.

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.

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.

### Dog Waste Bag Provision Trial – River Walk Area



We have initiated a trial in response to the significant expense associated with the provision of free dog waste bags to the public, which currently exceeds €70,000 annually. Additionally, it has been established that the provision of bags has not reduced the amount of litter. As part of this trial, from 11th July 2025, dog waste bags will no longer be provided at The River Walk (from Powerscourt to Glenville). A comprehensive public awareness campaign is accompanying the trial, including social media advertising in both Irish and English and signage around the area informing the public of the importance of bringing their own bags. Under the Control of Dogs

Byelaws 2015, all dog owners are legally required to carry their own waste bags and to clean up after their dogs. Failure to do so can result in a €150 fine. We will be increasing foot patrols by Waste Enforcement Officers and Dog Wardens in the affected area to support enforcement and encourage responsible dog ownership.

### CCTV

We are undertaking public consultation on the provision of CCTV Cameras in public areas within County Waterford. for the sole primary purpose of preventing litter and illegal dumping and enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, and the Waste Management Act 1996. The consultation will run until 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. The areas have been selected based on intelligence from complaints logged on CRM and information from Waste Enforcement Officers and other outdoor staff.

### IBAL Results:

Once again Waterford has emerged as Ireland's Cleanest City in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Anti-Litter League. The city ranked 8th out of 40 cities and towns and was classed as Cleaner than European norms. Waterford City continues to score very well in the IBAL litter league, and according to the latest IBAL survey, "Waterford City has retained its high-ranking position and was again Ireland's cleanest city. With so many top-ranking sites, it's not possible to mention them all, but some stand out for various reasons." Most of the sites surveyed received a Grade A ranking and these, amongst others, included the Greenway Car Park, The Quays Riverwalk from The Tower Hotel to the Bridge, The Mall, Waterford Retail Park, Plunkett Train Station, Waterford Courthouse, the Tramore Approach Road and City Square Shopping Centre.

Ballybeg once again recorded a solid result, and despite a slight dip on previous years was classed as Clean to European norms. The report stated "There were no litter blackspots. The residential area of Ardmore Terrace and Ballybeg Stores & Environs were much improved compared to previous IBAL surveys, just missing the top litter grade this time around." However, it was noted that the Ballybeg Bring Bank was not just littered but "dumped upon."

### Gum Litter

On Thursday, June 19th, the Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) took to the streets of Waterford to promote positive gum litter disposal. As part of its Summer Roadshow campaign, the GLT collaborated with Waterford City and County Council to promote the importance of proper litter disposal through fun education and awareness initiatives highlighting the negative environmental impacts of gum litter and drawing awareness to the €150 gum litter fine. GLT has seen gum litter reduce by almost 70% since 2007, via a sustained public engagement and education campaign. The findings highlight the continued impact of the GLT, a joint initiative of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Food Drink Ireland, and the chewing gum industry, which has played a key role in promoting proper gum litter disposal, since its launch in 2007



## **Education & Awareness:**

### **Green Hubs**

We have been working with Waterford Chamber and local businesses in Waterford on a Green Hubs project. This is part of a nationwide initiative to promote sustainable waste management practices. These hubs provide resources and support to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint, improve recycling rates, and adopt more environmentally friendly practices. Green Hubs also act as a network for businesses to learn from each other and share best practices.

### **KIMO**

Waterford has now joined KIMO and a launch event will be held in Villierstown in early July to mark the fact that Waterford has signed up to become a member of KIMO. KIMO is a network that works together for healthy seas and rivers, clean beaches, and thriving coastal communities. There are over 80 member municipalities in nine countries around the North-East Atlantic and Baltic regions.

Members work to find, implement and share positive solutions. KIMO stands for Kommunernes International Miljøorganisation (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation). You can find more information about KIMO at this link <https://www.kimointernational.org/about-us/mission/>. Waterford City and County Council will be represented by Cllr Niam O'Donovan.

### **Climate Action**

**The Business Pledge for a Cleaner, Greener Waterford reopens at the end of July—offering eligible businesses the opportunity to receive a rates discount in recognition of their commitment to sustainability.**

Now entering its fourth year, the scheme has already supported over 1,000 businesses in making more environmentally responsible choices. In 2023, participating businesses were asked to outline specific sustainability actions they intended to undertake. This year, businesses that have successfully completed those actions will receive a 9% discount on their commercial rates bill. In addition, they will be asked to commit to a new sustainability action for completion in 2026, thereby supporting ongoing environmental improvement.

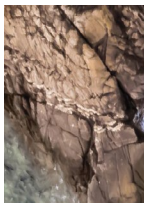
The scheme remains open to new applicants, including hospitality businesses and any business with a commercial rates bill of €10,000 or less. All eligible businesses will be contacted directly by email or letter with full application details. The application window will run from late July to mid-September.

This initiative remains unique in Ireland as the only scheme where businesses receive a financial incentive in return for implementing sustainable practices. It continues to position Waterford as a leader in climate action and local economic innovation.



### **Training the Future Climate Leaders in Waterford – spaces still available**

Trinity College Dublin and Munster Technological University are bringing their Community Climate Innovation Programme to Waterford City. This programme is for Community and Business Leaders who would like to learn how about how Climate Action can benefit their Community or Business and how systems thinking can be applied in their own work. This is an excellent opportunity for those in the city who are community minded. The training, which will take place in October and November, will mostly be online with 2 in person sessions. Interested persons should contact [climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:climateaction@waterfordcouncil.ie) by July 20<sup>th</sup>.



### **Community Climate Innovation Programme**

Empowering communities in Waterford

### **Ballybricken to Host Waterford's First Sustainable Transport Hub**

Waterford City and County Council, are working in partnership [with ESB Innovation and Trinity College Dublin to deliver a transport hub in Ballybricken](#) . The hub will provide members of the public with access to shared electric vehicles, including two electric cars and five electric bikes, one of which will be a cargo bike. The initiative aims to promote low-emission transport options and support the transition to more sustainable urban mobility.

ESB Innovation has developed five transport hubs nationally as part of a pilot programme. Over the course of two years, the performance and usage of the Ballybricken hub will be closely monitored and evaluated by Trinity College Dublin to inform future transport policy and infrastructure development. This project reflects Waterford's continued leadership in sustainable transport and innovation and marks a significant step forward in providing accessible, low-carbon travel alternatives for the residents



### **Consultation on EV charging strategy completed.**

A total of 218 individuals, along with multiple agencies across the County, recently took part in a public consultation to help shape the County's Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy. Arup, the consultancy firm leading the development of the strategy, will now analyse the consultation feedback alongside data on car parking, charging demand, grid capacity, and other relevant factors.

The final strategy, expected to be published in the autumn, will guide the future rollout of EV charging infrastructure across the County. Under this plan, the Council will take responsibility for installing neighbourhood chargers, while Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will oversee charging infrastructure along major roads.

### **The Community Climate Action Fund – Expression of Interest Open**

The second round of funding under the Community Climate Action Fund is scheduled for release before the end of the year. In preparation, the Climate Action Team is inviting expressions of interest from communities interested in submitting applications. Communities are encouraged to complete the [Expression of Interest form](#), which will assist in planning and support for the forthcoming funding round.

During the first round, 17 community-led projects were successfully funded across Waterford. These projects reflected a broad range of climate action initiatives, including the planting of fruit trees in Larchville.

Photographs of the participating communities are included below.



### **Biodiversity:**

#### **Waterford Biodiversity Action Plan Development**

The first meeting of the Biodiversity Working Group was held in June. Over the coming months, a series of further meetings will take place, incorporating input from expert advisors, community conversations, and public consultations. This collaborative process will form the foundation for the development of the draft Waterford Biodiversity Action Plan. All stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute throughout the

process. Members are encouraged to monitor the WCCC Consult platform for updates on the pre-draft public consultation phase, as well as details of scheduled library drop-in events within each Municipal District.

### **Community Biodiversity Training Days**

In June, the Biodiversity Officer supported two successful biodiversity training events. On 21st June, volunteer training with Seal Rescue Ireland was held aimed at equipping local volunteers with the skills to assist in marine wildlife rescue. This was followed by a fully subscribed Dragonfly and Damselfly identification workshop on 28th June in Dunhill which was supported by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Both events are part of ongoing efforts to build volunteer capacity, enhance community knowledge, and improve biodiversity literacy across the County. Further biodiversity training events are scheduled for July, including: Native Plants Workshop in Lismore on 18th July, in collaboration with the Environmental Awareness Officer.

### **National Sand Dunes Forum**

Marina Mulligan, Biodiversity Officer represents Waterford City and County Council on the National Sand Dunes Forum. This forum plays a key role in promoting knowledge sharing, community engagement, and the development of collaborative projects related to sand dune restoration. Within the Metropolitan District, Tramore sand dunes have secured funding for the development of Sand Dune Management Plans, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). These plans aim to guide the sustainable conservation and restoration of these important coastal habitats.

The National Sand Dunes Forum aims to raise the profile of sand dune restoration at a national level and to connect projects and researchers in order to ensure the application of best practice methodologies on the ground. Waterford's active involvement in this forum helps to position Waterford City & County Council as a leader in coastal habitat protection and nature-based climate resilience.

### **Control of Dogs**

Upgrade works at the County Pound in Bilberry are ongoing, with drainage work scheduled to commence in September as part of continued improvements to the facility.

In a recent enforcement matter, one of the Council's Dog Wardens appeared as a witness on behalf of An Garda Síochána at the District Court. The court imposed a €600 fine on the defendant for failure to hold a valid dog licence, reinforcing the importance of compliance with dog ownership regulations.