

DO: GACH BALL DE CEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

IÚIL 2020
JULY 2020

General Environment Enforcement

Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected.

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: 0761 10 20 20

Proposed extension of low smoke zone for Tramore

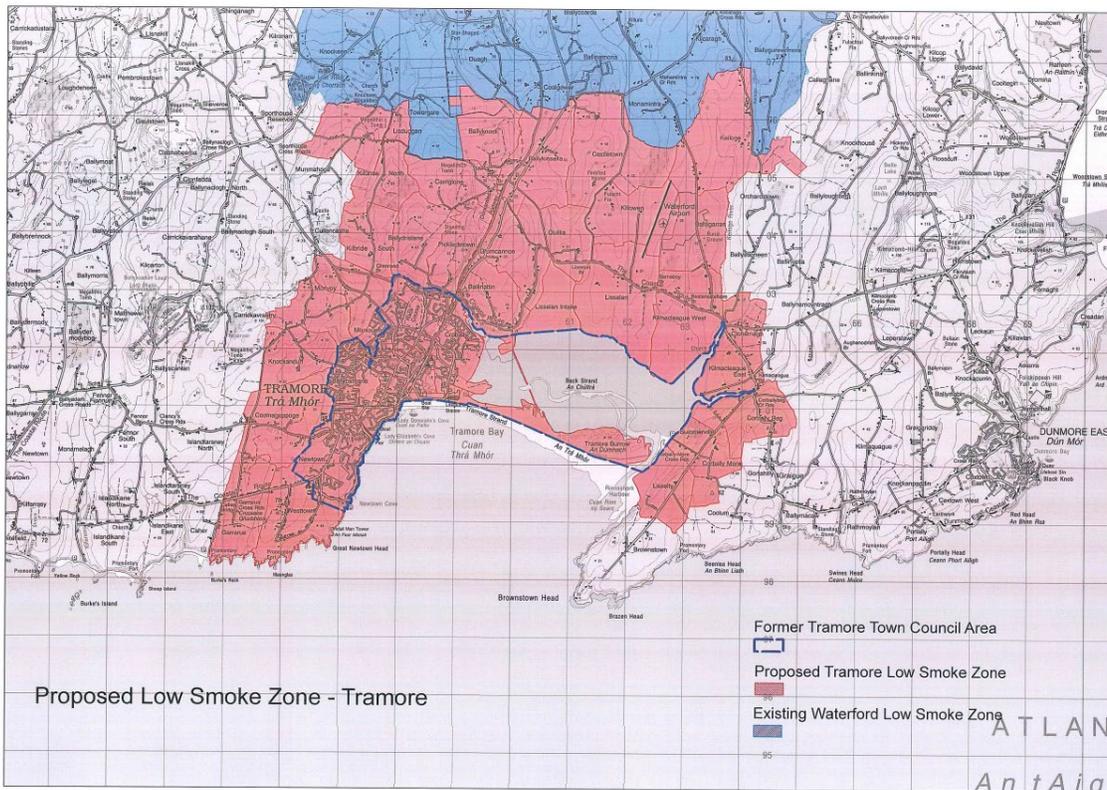
The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment have indicated that the new regulations introducing a low smoke zone will be signed in the next couple of weeks, with a commencement date of 1 September 2020. The intention to extend the smoky coal ban to towns over 10,000 populations was announced by the Minister on December 17th 2019.

These regulations will prohibit the marketing, sale and distribution of smoky coal within this area. It also prohibits the burning of smoky coal within the area (see map below).

The areas selected to be part of the low smoke zone include areas outside but close to the immediate town from where fuel may be supplied to customers within the town.

Waterford City & County Council are primarily responsible for the enforcement of the smoky coal ban within its functional area. The enforcement powers available to the council are extensive. For example:

1. i. local authority staff may undertake inspections of premises and vehicles being used for the sale and distribution of solid fuel as well as collect samples;
2. ii. a local authority may bring a prosecution under the Air Pollution Act for breaches of the Regulations
iii a Local Authority may issue a Fixed Payment Notice (or 'on the spot fine') for alleged offences relating to the marketing, sale and distribution of prohibited fuels in Low Smoke Zones (LSZs), with a penalty range of €250 to €1000.



Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City:

Traditionally July is seen as being our summer season and the key focus over this period is the presentation of the city centre areas, Bishops Palace; John Roberts Square, Barronstrand street planter; Arundel Square and Reginald’s Tower, with staff paying particular attention to these areas. Seasonal summer bedding planted at a number of locations throughout the city which will bring colour during the summer season. In recent weeks staff have attended to a number of roundabouts which we maintain, those being the Tramore Road roundabout; Maypark roundabout and Matties Hill roundabout; equally they have attended to the planted areas within our car parks of Bolton Street; Millars’s Marsh and Waterside as we now again have more and more usage of these areas. The children’s playground at Railway Square is scheduled to be relocated as resulted damage to the playground equipment due to ongoing anti-social activities and vandalism, furthermore becoming a hotspot for litter including drug related litter. The train themed playground will be relocated to a more suitable location within the Metropolitan area. Currently a proposal to have the playground relocated to an area near the Greenway is being investigated. The site of the playground shall be repurposed into a pocket park.

Pocket parks, are urban open space at a smaller scale; these parks tend to act as a scaled-down neighbourhood parks, but still meet a variety of needs. Functions can include spaces for relaxing or meeting friends, taking lunch breaks. etc. where one can take refuge from the bustle of surrounding urban life. The redesigning of the space here has the opportunity to ignite Railway Square and give it a new purpose into the future.

Tramore:

The works programme for Tramore Presentation Staff in recent weeks was focused on the preparation of the Town in advance of the June bank holiday. Emphasis was put on the installation of planters throughout the main areas of the town from the Holy Cross RC Church down along the main street down to the lower promenade. Another key feature of the town are the ‘Welcome Signs’ entering the town which again this year have been

planted with a planting palette of plants which are more attractive to bees and insects, this type of planting is more varied and uses a number of different plants rather than the traditional mono species summer bedding. Again building on the success of last year, we have continued with our grass maintenance regime for many of the grassed areas around the town with the primary focus on biodiversity. Grassed areas which have been identified as species rich have been allowed to grow to create a meadow effect; these have been carefully chosen so as they do not conflict with their other intended uses therefore these areas primarily found on more of the outlying areas of the town. These areas will become more prominent in the coming weeks and will be noticeable on the embankment of the Ring Road; the lower part of the Somerville road onto the Back Strand and the entire area of the Doneraile, where again this year no herbicides have been used to control weed growth within this park. These managed meadows including the areas around the boating lake and inclusion park will be left uncut for a number of weeks; when appropriate they will be cut back with the arising grass removed in order to maintain a healthy sward going into the winter. This should provide an array of colour and wavy grass meadows over the coming weeks with the intention of making a positive contribution to biodiversity.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Anti-Litter Campaign

A regional litter campaign commenced on 20th June to highlight the effects of litter on our roadsides and to ask road users to bring their litter home with them. This campaign is taking place on social media and on local radio. It is hoped that this will help to reduce the amount of litter on our roadsides.

National Spring Clean

National Spring Clean is taking place at the moment instead of its usual time of the month of April. Community groups, youth groups, schools, Tidy Towns groups, etc are not holding their cleanup of their local area. Waterford City & County Council continue to offer assistance to the general public to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas, in line with advice from the National Spring Clean office regarding COVID-19.

Clean Coast Programme

Coastal communities are being engaged with and supported in conjunction with An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme. Waterford City & County Council support groups by providing the clean up materials and collecting the bags of litter for disposal.

Climate Change

Climate change training workshops for community groups funded through the Local Environment Action Fund Local Agenda 21 are now taking place as online training courses with smaller groups of people over the autumn months and will be offered to any community group interested in learning how to take action about climate change at a local level.

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