

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

AIBREÁN 2021
APRIL 2021

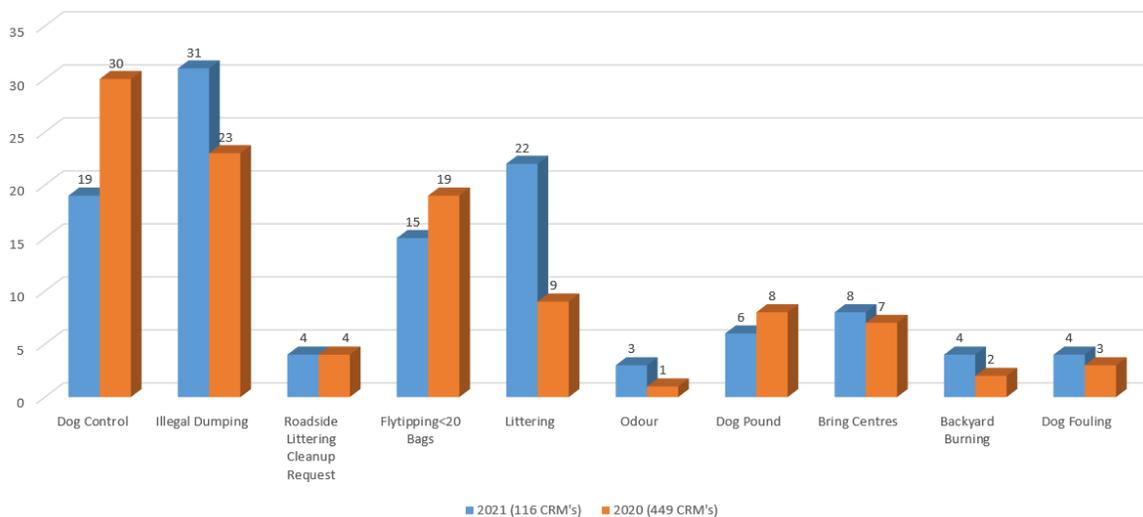
General Environment Enforcement

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.

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.

CRM Activity

The following graph shows a comparison of the top categories of CRM cases recorded by the Environment Dept. in the Comeragh area in the period from January to March for the years 2020 & 2021. Environmental Inspectors continue to investigate complaints received and monitor illegal waste issues, littering, fly-tipping and illegal signage and issued litter fines where offences are detected. The Waterford City & County Councils Dog Wardens continue to investigate all control of dogs issue throughout the City & County.



Climate Change

The recently announced [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Bill 2021](#) sets Ireland on the road to net zero emissions by 2050. The Climate Bill makes the Government legally accountable for this target. This means a huge step up in climate ambition – cutting emissions in half over the next decade on the path to net zero.

The 2021 Climate Action Plan will be a roadmap for getting to net zero. As part of the development of the 2021 Climate Action Plan the views of citizens and communities are invited on how Ireland can be transformed and support given to people who want to take their own climate actions. Further information can be obtained here: <https://climateconversations.citizenspace.com/decc/climateactionplan2021/>

The closing date for submissions is the 18th May 2021.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter prevention

Waterford City & County Council continues to offer assistance throughout the year to the general public, community groups and schools to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from their local environs e.g. approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. These clean ups are ongoing. There has been an increase in the number of individuals & individual households carrying out clean-ups within their 5km limit at present, when groups cannot meet to carry out larger scale clean-ups as usual.

Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign

The regional dog fouling campaign was launched on 22nd March in Dungarvan. A press release was issued to coincide with this, along with radio ads on WLR FM, social media posts and newspaper ads. This campaign will run throughout the remainder of 2021.

Tidy Towns

The national Tidy Towns competition will go ahead this year, with groups encouraged to include relevant photographs wherever possible with their entries in case judging cannot take place in person due to COVID-19. Groups have also been encouraged to focus on biodiversity, green spaces and sustainable living. With this in mind, a webinar on how to write an application was held for Tidy Towns groups on the 13th April. The webinar included a talk by Consultant Ecologist, Botanist and National Tidy Towns Adjudicator Fiona MacGowan, on how to write the application to gain marks when an adjudicator cannot visit as well as tips for how to include photographs as evidence of work completed.

Over fifty individuals from a wide spectrum of local communities participated in the webinar.

A webinar on Sustainability & Sustainable Development Goals was held on 22nd March, with excellent attendance. Tidy Towns Adjudicator Debbie Reynolds provided advice and examples on projects, as well as introducing the new Sustainable Development Goals element of the competition to groups.

Climate Change For Those Under 16

Waterford City & County Council have recently been working with members of Comhairle na nOg on local climate change conversations. As part of achieving the goals of a Carbon neutral society by 2050, the Government of Ireland has established a National dialogue on Climate action. As part of this dialogue, in 2021 a series of interlinked Climate conversations are being piloted to feed directly into the Climate Action Plan 2021 and the wider enduring National process. Young people can feed into the conversations in a number of ways- the broad online climate conversations which is about their own individual views on climate change or via the local Comhairle Conversations. The local Comhairle conversations are focused on local climate change issues, and how to encourage behaviour change to address these. We will meet (virtually) with members of Comhairle to discuss what they are doing in their own communities or homes and gather their suggestions on how to encourage new behaviours at a local level- focusing on areas where they can have an impact- travel, home, shopping and recycling, food and environment.

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