



**Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Phort Láirge**
Waterford
City & County Council

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

IÚIL 2021
JULY 2021

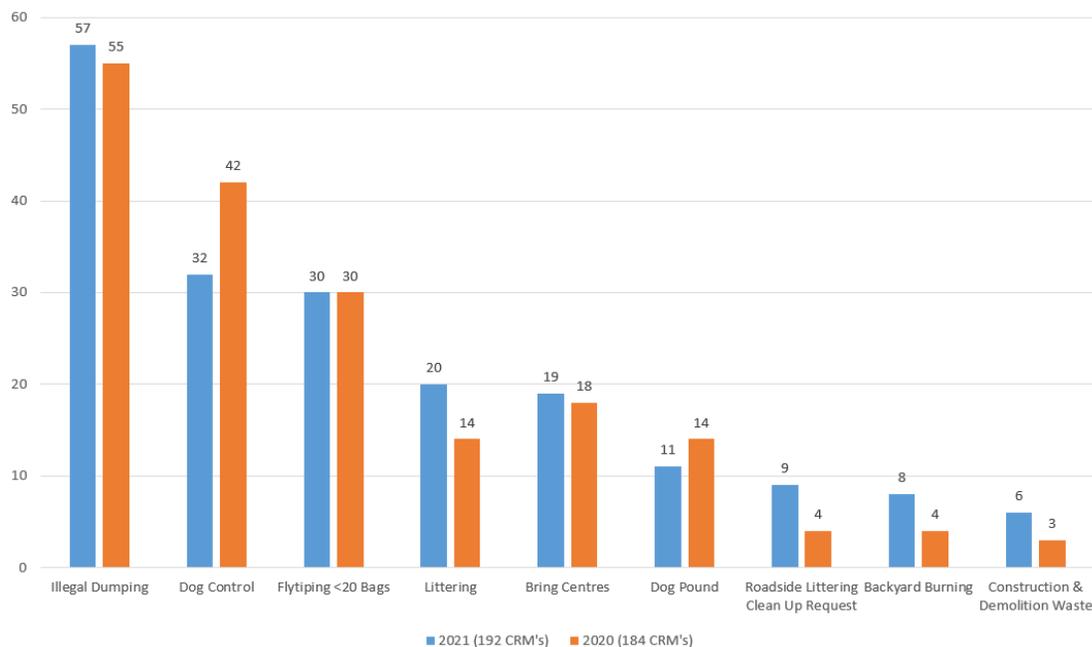
General Environment Enforcement

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 June 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.



Environmental Enforcement

Dumping in Forestry areas

At previous meetings Members have requested that an invitation be extended to representatives of Coillte to attend a Comeragh Municipal District meeting to discuss issues around dumping on Coillte lands and measures being taken to prevent dumping. Members have also raised issues around the use of quads and scramblers in Portlaw Woods. Unfortunately, Coillte representatives are not available to attend the July meeting but will attend the September meeting.

Clean up of illegally dumped tyres

A clean up of illegally dumped tyres was recently undertaken at two locations in the Comeragh area by Waterford City & County Council. In excess of 700 tyres which had been illegally dumped at Clondonnell / Lough Mohra and Sillaheens / Russelstown were removed from rural lands by a contractor engaged by Waterford City & County Council. An investigation by WCCC Environmental Enforcement Officers is currently being carried out to establish the person/s responsible for this illegal dumping.



Environmental Education & Awareness

Litter

Waterford City & County Council continues to offer assistance throughout the year to the general public 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 and extremely busy this year not just with group clean ups but with an increased number of individuals and families taking part.

The Bag it, Bin it regional dog fouling campaign continues to evolve. The social media posts have progressed to the effects of dog fouling on others. The message has been produced in stencils for footpaths, magnetic signs for the sides of the Dog Wardens and Environmental Inspectors and stickers for litter bins and bag dispensers in an effort to spread the Bag It, Bin it message to dog walkers. We have been working with community groups, residents associations, Tidy Towns groups, Foróige, Eco Groups, etc. to get this message out to local communities. These communities have received help in creating videos, social media content, stencils on footpaths, awareness days and dog litter counts, etc. Between the online and local activities over the summer months, there will be a lot of awareness activities covering dog fouling. An education pack is being prepared for release in September.

Waste

A “Green Picnic” campaign is running over the summer months in conjunction with Wexford County Council. The Summer months will see an increase number of people holidaying at home, taking day trips and visiting all public amenities in our county. As evidenced by staycations in Summer 2020, these ‘staycations’ will result in pressure on waste disposal facilities at these locations. On a busy weekend amenity areas struggle to accommodate litter and waste generated from the average picnic or trip to the beach. With this in mind the Green Picnic campaign will run June – September 2021 and will encourage people to bring reusable items wherever possible and to bring their litter home with them. We aim to promote positive participation in a campaign that will focus on the theme of reuse and encourage all to take responsibility for their actions and their waste. The main elements of this will be as follows:

1. Radio – positive message, reuse focus, and don’t forget to bring litter home.
2. Newspaper advertisement and press release
3. Social media content, including a competition to win a reusable picnic pack.
4. Poster for use in community notice boards at beaches and other amenity areas
5. Install an indoor bottle refill station at a location to be decided by competition with Refill Ireland
6. Website information
7. The following three online workshops have been delivered:
 - Tuesday 15th June - Green Your Picnic tips with a show and tell of different single use swaps that can be made from what people will often have around their, well as a speaker from Clean Coasts.
 - Wednesday 16th June – International Refill Day - speaker from Refill and speaker from Conscious Cup re impact of single use and how to use reusables safely e.g. contactless coffee
 - Thursday 17th June – speaker from Leave No Trace - eco friendly picnic message to reduce the impact of your litter on the area

There will also be one evening workshop with Elaine Butler from Living Lightly in Ireland about practical sustainability.

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