



**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

MEITHEAMH 2021
JUNE 2021

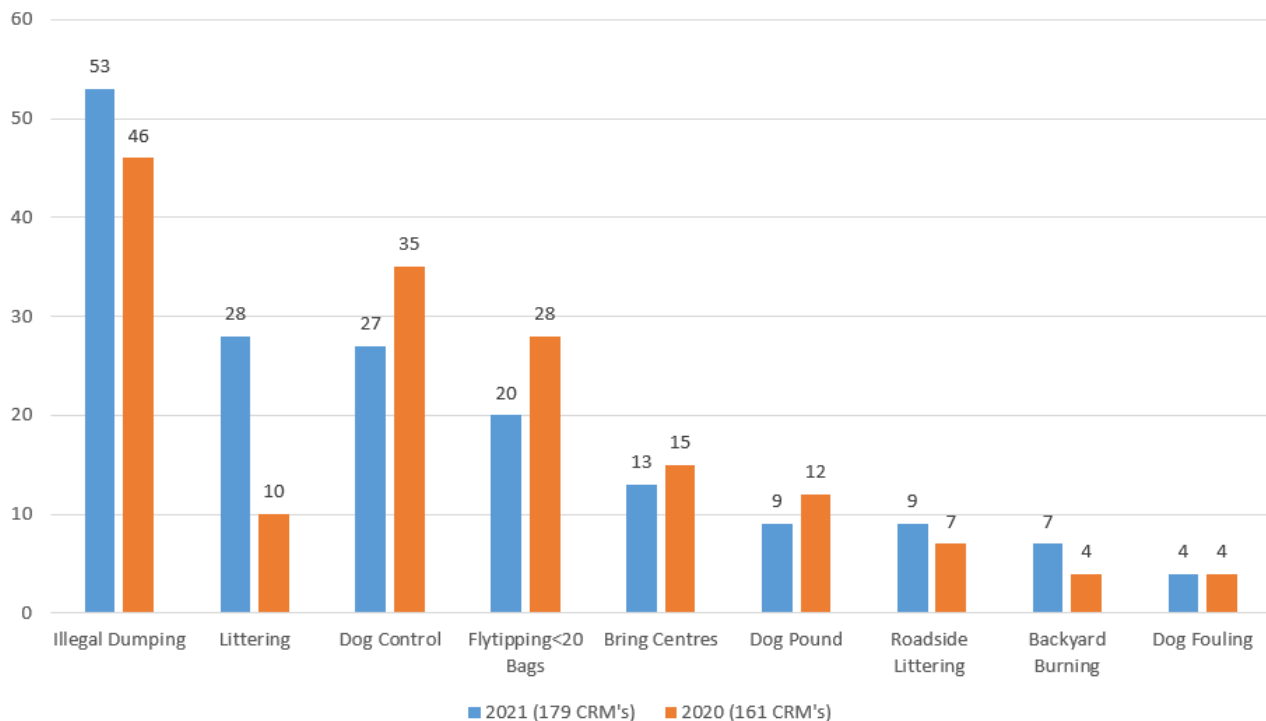
General Environment Enforcement

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 May 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

Single-use Plastic

At a recent meeting of the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities – Southern Region the matter of litter arising from fast food outlets was discussed. The possibility of requiring drive through fast food outlets to record number plate information on fast food wrappers was considered, however advice previously received from the data protection commissioner indicated that this along with naming & shaming etc. would not be possible under data regulations.

The Single-use Plastics Directive ([Directive \(EU\) 2019/904](#)) commits member states to introduce a range of measures to deal with the most common single use plastic items. Ireland will comply with the Directive by ensuring the following Single-use Plastic items will be banned from being placed on the Irish market from 3 July 2021:

- Cotton Bud Sticks
- Cutlery
- Plates
- Stirrers
- Chopsticks
- Straws
- Expanded polystyrene single use food and beverage containers
- All oxo-degradable plastic products

Beverage containers (bottles, cartons) up to 3 litres in size will be banned from the Irish market from 3 July 2024, unless its cap is attached to the main part of the container. Beverage producers will also be prohibited from placing any SUP polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottle up to 3 litres in size on the Irish market from January 2025 unless it contains a minimum of 25% recycled plastic. From January 2030 these bottles must contain a minimum of 30% recycled plastic.

By 5 January 2023, producers of packaging will be required to cover the costs of litter clean up, in addition to their existing [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\)](#) obligations associated with the following SUP items:

- food containers
- packets
- wrappers
- beverage containers
- cups
- light weight carrier bags

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 anti-dog fouling campaign continues to evolve. The first three social media posts have been launched on our social media channels and a webpage has been published on [waterfordcouncil.ie](#), along with three bilingual leaflets. The message has been produced in stencil format for marking of footpaths, magnetic signs have been printed for display on Dog Wardens and Environmental Inspectors vehicles 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. We will also use a mid-campaign boost to reward a small number of responsible dog owners

with a high visibility dog jacket; this will be used to maintain momentum for the campaign and restate the importance of picking up after dogs as the evenings begin to grow darker. A regional ad campaign will feature on Beat FM at this time also, along with additional social media content, etc.

Waste

A “Green Picnic” campaign will be run 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. A series of four online workshops have been arranged:
 - 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.

Tidy Towns

The national Tidy Towns competition has been launched and the entry form is now available online, along with tips and advice for making the entry electronically, at www.tidytowns.ie There is a new prize category to recognise the role played by volunteers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The closing date for entries is 2nd July 2021.

Biodiversity

Let Dandelions Bee – this campaign encouraged the public to leaving dandelions grow during March and April, instead of mowing them. This provides early pollinators such as bees with an early source of food. A photo competition to take a photo of dandelions in bloom was held during March and April and the winners were announced on Facebook in May.

Schools

This year, Green Schools assessments and visits are taking place online, in accordance with An Taisce’s recommendations. An Taisce has extended the assessment deadline until the end of the school year to reflect this nationwide trend. The number of renewals and assessments are considerably lower this year, with many schools choosing to defer until 2022.

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