

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

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL**  
**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT**

**EANÁIR 2021**  
**JANUARY 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 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

**Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces**

**Waterford City:**

Work on the Tree Works Programme will be carried out by our staff until the end of March. To date elements of tree works have been completed in Ursuline Court, Island View and Ferndale much of the work for December took place within Earls court.

Preparation and planting of our winter bedding was also completed and will create both winter and early spring colour in key locations around our city. During December a clean-up of our parks, including the Peoples' Park and the Bishop's Palace took place. This work included the removal of the past years growth and a general tidy-up of the open spaces. In January tree works will be carried out at Viewmount and Cherrymount.

**Tramore:**

Presentation Staff, in Tramore, have been engaged in works largely associated with the winter season. This work has largely entailed the planting of winter bedding with the planting scheme being used to create both winter and early spring colour in key locations.

In January the initial focus will be the completion of tree pruning within Fieldstone and following that the replacement tree planting of some failed trees along the Ring road from the GAA roundabout in the direction of the Golf Course.

## **Environmental Education & Awareness**

### **Schools**

January, February and March are usually busy months for our work with Green Schools. This year, Green Schools assessments and meetings are taking place online, in accordance with An Taisce's recommendations. Green School Committees will continue engage with schools via Zoom.

School workshops have moved online for now and schools are taking up the opportunity to receive workshops and talks online now, particularly waste prevention and recycling workshops. Schools have taken part in virtual workshops about recycling and waste prevention to date.

### **Waste prevention**

LAPN funding was recently granted by the EPA for two associated projects:

The first of these is a joint project with Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council (with Waterford City & County Council as the lead authority in this project) to prevent paint waste by raising awareness about top tips to purchase, store and dispose of paint to create least waste. The over-purchasing of paint has been an ongoing issue in Ireland and has particularly escalated during COVID 19. In previous hazardous waste collection days at our Civic Amenity Sites, we have noticed a significant collection of non-hazardous paints. In order to prevent wasted paint, we are raising awareness of how to calculate paint required, store paint, dispose of paint, etc. These tips are being shared online through social media posts and videos, on radio and at point of sale in hardware and paint shops. <https://vimeo.com/481622966/6a89c369dc> The final set of these radio advertisements will take place in January on Beat FM.

The second project receiving funding from the EPA is a feasibility study to assess the viability of establishing a paint reuse social enterprise in Co. Waterford working through one of our Civic Amenity Sites. We are currently exploring this with a social enterprise based in Waterford and hope to begin the paint reuse in February.

### **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 continue throughout the winter months.

Waterford is taking part in the Picker Pals educational programme for primary schools. The programme engages children through a story world, with programme specific readers and activity books given to every child in the class. A "Picker Pack" is also provided which contains a child and adult litter-picking tool to be taken home by a different student every week. The family then go on a litter picking adventure in their local area with the child reporting their activity back to their classmates. When they return the pack, they are asked to talk about what they found, fill out worksheets on how they can prevent the littering of these items and come up with solutions. It aims to get children and their families looking at litter in their local environment and talking to classmates, family and neighbours about the issue.

We are beginning work with Kilkenny and Wexford County Councils on a dog fouling litter awareness campaign in January for the Spring.

## **Waterford Energy Bureau**

### **SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme.**

WCCC are open to partner with community groups to include buildings within the 2021 "SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme". Funding of between 30% is available for businesses and 50% for community projects. Community building upgrades can include insulation, heating system, renewable energy technologies etc. WCCC also require fuel poor /private houses to be included within the funding application, where 35% funding is available for private houses and 80% for fuel poor housing for a range of energy efficiency upgrades including insulation measures, windows / doors, heat pump installations etc. There is a minimum requirement to bring each house up to a "B2" energy rating.

### **Climate Action Fund - Retro fitting of public lighting**

A tender for the retro fitting of 15,000 public lights within Waterford is currently being assessed. This tender is part of a larger Southern region tender process and funding has been received for to complete the retro fitting from the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment under the Climate Action Fund. Retro fit works are due to begin in Waterford in late 2021 following the completion of the tender process.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

The WCCC "Climate Change Adaptation Plan" is being implemented. The plan details the how Waterford City and County Council will implement Climate Change Adaptation measures to reduce the impact of Climate Change. The first meeting of the WCCC "Climate Action Team", took place in December.

### **Covenant of Mayors Initiative**

WCCC have joined the "Covenant of Mayors Initiative", which is the world's largest movement for local climate and energy actions. Signatories have endorsed a share vision for 2050, accelerating the decarbonisation of their territories, strengthening their capacity to adapt to the unavoidable climate change impacts and allowing their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy. WCCC have pledged action to support implementation of the EU 40% greenhouse gas-reduction target by 2030 and the adoption of a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

### **Support Scheme for Renewable Heat**

The "Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment", has launched a "Support Scheme for Renewable Heat" (SSRH). This scheme includes grant funding for air-source heat pumps for businesses and farmers and tariff payment for biomass boilers, biomass / anaerobic digestion CHP's and anaerobic digestion boilers. The SSRH scheme is operated by SEAI and open to applications.

### **Electrical Vehicle Charging Points**

WCCC have prepared an initial strategy for electrical vehicles charging points. A funding application to SEAI for the installation of electrical vehicle charging points in Waterford is being prepared. EV charging points will be located at strategic locations throughout Waterford and be installed on a phased basis.

### **Sustainable Energy Communities**

WCCC are supporting communities in joining the "Sustainable Energy Communities" initiative, where funding is available through SEAI, for the development of "SEC Master Plans" and funding is available for energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy installations. To date Clashmore / Kinsalebeg SEC have developed a master plan. A group within the Blackwater Valley are currently developing a master plan.

### **Other Works**

LED lighting upgrades and electrical services installation at Greyfriars Clock Museum currently in progress all works to be completed in early 2021.

External lighting upgrades at "Crystal Museum" has been completed. External lights also provide lighting of disabled access to this area.

Tenders are being prepared for the upgrade to 16-18 Barker Place, where the building is being converted into an arts venue. The building will be heated via air-water heat pumps and have led lighting technologies installed.

The new Tramore Depot building in Riverstown is currently under design and will be WCCC first building that will comply with the "Near Zero Energy Building Standards", (NZEB) design standards.

### **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](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie)

