

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

The period around the June bank holiday weekend is always a key period within our work programme. In the first weeks of June staff completed the summer seasonal planting at the Thomas Francis Meagher monument, planters at Reginald's Tower, John Roberts Square and the Folly roundabout. Hanging flower baskets have been put in place for the summer season along the Quays. Planters with summer seasonal planting have been located at the approaches to the city at Sallypark and Ferrybank.

Work has also been carried out on weed control within the commercial part of the city centre. In recent weeks staff have been involved in the making of preparations for the opening of two new museums – The Time Museum and The Silver Museum, the preparations included the placement of a number of new colourful planters at the entrances of these buildings.

Tramore:

In early July work was carried out on the presentation of town for the summer season with planters being positioned along the lower promenade. These have been deployed to create a natural divide between the outdoor dining areas. A number of summer seasonal planters have also been installed on the lower promenade to bring colour and vibrancy to this space; as with the planting of the "Welcome Signs" on the approach to the town. Hanging flower baskets have been erected around the centre of the town. This task had been delayed somewhat owing to the poor weather conditions in the early part of the month.

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. The motion activated audio reminder re dog fouling has also been in use on the Doneraile walk in Tramore to remind dog walkers to clean up after their dog.

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 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. 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.

Kilbarry Cemetery

Work on the Angels Plot in Kilbarry Cemetery has recently been completed.



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