

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

**TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOL**  
**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 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:**

In recent weeks staff have been making preparations for the summer season. This work has included the planting of the planters and barrier baskets for installation along the entrance to the city at Ferrybank and Sallypark. These planters have been planted with summer seasonal planting and are currently being grown on and will be positioned on site in the early part of June. The main focus for the latter part of May has been the presentation of the city centre where the flower beds at the Millennium Plaza and at Thomas Francis Meagher have been replanted for the summer season. Summer planting has also taken place at the planters along by the Cathedral and Reginald's Tower in advance of the June weekend. Alongside this the re-landscaping of the roundabout on the inner Ring Road at the entrance to Ursuline Court has taken place which has brought new life to this roundabout. Staff are in the process of preparing for the planting of the Folly roundabout and Ballybricken Green with seasonal flowers. Hanging baskets will be installed along the Quays by the middle of June.

**Tramore:**

Current work centres on the presentation of the town for the beginnings of the summer season. Work has taken place recently on the re-landscaping of the Copper Coast Roundabout where this has been re-seeded with wildflowers to support biodiversity. Planting of summer seasonal planting at the 'Welcome Signs' on entering the town from Orchardstown and Waterford City have been completed. Planters which were introduced last year along the lower promenade are being prepared for the summer season in advance of the June bank holiday weekend and are being deployed to create a natural divide between the outdoor dining areas.

**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](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie)