



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

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

AIBREÁN 2022
APRIL 2022

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: 0818 102020

Presentation / Parks & Open Spaces

Waterford City:

In recent weeks staff have been completed the planting of roses in the Peoples Park. 'David Austin' roses have been selected for the rose beds and they will bring a new vigour to the park by flowering throughout the summer season.

Mature pleached lime trees have be planted within the newly positioned planters in Cathedral Square; these pleached trees consist of a tall clear stem, upon which a mature screen is grown by spacing out the branches into parallel lines to create a focal point for this prominent square.

The three number flower beds within the millennium plaza are being updated and are due to be replanted with summer flowering perennials.

In advance of the visit to Waterford of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall on the 24th March, staff were tasked with maintaining the high standard of presentation of the streetscape around the Viking Triangle.

Tramore:

Staff are currently carrying out tree planting within the environs of Tramore using tree varieties proven to thrive in a seaside location. This work includes the replacement of a number of semi – mature trees in the area around the GAA roundabout. Tree planting is also to be carried out in An Carn; Cairn Dubh; Moonloun and Elm Park.

With weather and ground conditions improving grass cutting is becoming a large feature of our works programme as all areas now requiring regular grass cutting.

Environmental Education & Awareness

Community Clean-Ups

Waterford City & County Council facilitates community clean-ups throughout the year to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste from approach roads, local beauty spots, beaches and general public areas. National Spring Clean takes place throughout the month of April; registrations have commenced at www.nationalspringclean.org ; as part of this we supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

Green Flag Programme

School visits and assessments are well underway for green flag renewals and first time applicants. Fifty one schools are due to renew their Green Flag this year. The deadline for renewal applications was on Friday, April 1st 2022 for the 2021/2022 academic year. Green School visits can take place either in person or virtually, however most schools have chosen to have an in-person visit.

Biodiversity

The interactive “Growing Together” course ran during March and continues into April. Participants learn to grow their own vegetables and pollinator plants. It has proven to be of special interest to Tidy Towns groups and Green School coordinators. A once off “Wildflower Masterclass” took place in March and provided advice on how best to re-wild/plant a wildflower area to help pollinators and biodiversity.

National Tree Week took place 20 – 26th March. Waterford City & County Council distributed 300 free native saplings to schools across Co. Waterford. A tree planting event also took place on Friday 25th March to mark National Tree Week.

Tidy Towns

A series of short online talks for Tidy Towns groups will continue during April, on the topics of litter management, sustainability, special awards categories and planting for pollinators. Speakers taking part include a winning Tidy Towns groups from Clare, the Biodiversity Data Centre about the Pollinator Plan and the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of Rural & Community Development. All local Tidy Towns groups were contacted with details of these events and invited to attend.

Climate Change

In conjunction with the Europe Direct Centre at Central Library a number of online lunchtime events were held during March, entitled ‘Climate Action – what changes can I make?’. The events explored what action we can all take to contribute to the Waterford and National Climate Action Plans to create a better local and national environment for the present and the future. Events included talks on furniture upcycling demonstration using locally recycled paint from Renew Enterprises, a talk about wildflowers, how to grow your own vegetables active travel and how climate change is affecting our coastal heritage locally.

Waterford City & County Council has been working with the Waterford Teachers Centre to pilot a Climate Literacy programme with secondary schools this Spring. This involves a ten week Climate Literacy programme, focused on improving climate literacy and fostering behaviour change in schools. The course is developed to include teacher training, resources, and lesson plans. The teacher training is designed to equip teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and skills required to effectively and confidently deliver not only this course, but also across their curriculum subject as the course can complement any subject framework that has an environmental strand. There will be training sessions weekly online to support teachers to deliver the content of the class. Following training teachers will be able to deliver the course by themselves to groups of students.

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