

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

TUAIRISC ÓN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT COMHSHAOIL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE REPORT

IÚIL 2022
JULY 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:

The June bank holiday weekend is always a key date within our work programme with the objective to have the city presented in the best possible light and this year has been no different.

Staff completed the summer seasonal planting at the Thomas Francis Meagher monument, John Roberts Square and the Folly roundabout in advance of the June bank holiday. From here the hanging baskets have been put in place for the summer season along the Quays along with the planters with summer seasonal planting at the approaches to the city at Sallypark and Ferrybank.

Work on weed control has been carried out within the commercial part of the city centre. The control of weed growth for the remaining part of the city is scheduled to be completed before the end of June.

In recent weeks staff have replanted several planters to the entrances of The Time Museum and The Silver Museum, and are currently working on installing new planters around Reginald's Tower similar to those positioned within the Apple market.

Update on current projects:

Railway Square

Works on the development of Pocket Garden have commenced. The works are expected to be completed by August Bank Holiday weekend.

Ballybricken Green

Works to upgrade Ballybricken green footpaths and associated works is currently out for tender and due back on July 15th. The appointed contractor will commence works by late August with contracted works to be completed by November.

Peoples Park Fountain

Currently finalising contractor clarifications on tender submission. Tender evaluation report to be completed Monday July 11th.

John Roberts Square Fountain

Awaiting contractor to survey existing infrastructure to determine what is required to restore the fountain to working order.

6 acres Faronshoneen Park

New goalposts have been ordered for the pitch and are expected to be installed in the coming weeks.

Wyse Park

Replacement litter bins and upgraded seating benches are due to be installed by the August Bank Holiday.

Peoples Park

Synthetic grass upgrades to the pitch goalmouths have been completed. The work involved excavation, stone up, drainage and lining of both goalmouths with synthetic grass. In the past the goalmouths suffered from wear & tear, this solution ensures that the pitch remains an attractive amenity for all park users.

Tramore:

The focus of our work in the last few weeks has been the presentation of the town for the summer season. This work included the positioning of planters along the lower promenade designed specifically to create a natural divide between the outdoor dining areas. The planters in this area have been planted with summer seasonal planting to bring colour and vibrancy to this space; as with the planting of the approaches to the town particularly known as the Welcome Signs. The positioning of the hanging baskets around the centre of the town which had been delayed somewhat owing to the poor weather conditions has now been completed.

Most of the meadow areas retained for biodiversity earlier this spring are now beginning to flourish and become more noticeable where their growth and colour are standing out with marked insect activity within some proving their success.

Update on current projects:

Wheelchair swing tender complete, on order with an expected installation date in late Autumn.

An order has been placed for the installation of two Big Belly bins on Strand Road

A new compact tractor and mower which will speed up grass cutting activities has been procured and is now operational.

Keep Tramore clean signage added to Bin Truck and Sweeper

Environmental Education & Awareness

Waste prevention

Waterford City County Council are currently working with 2GoCup to encourage the use of reusable cups at cafes. With the removal of Covid restrictions and the recent announcement of the levy on single use cups, the time seems right for this campaign. We have received commitment from 10 cafes to take part in this initiative (5 cafes along the Greenway and 5 in Waterford) and will launch the initiative with Minister Smyth on 15th July. It is hoped that these 10 cafes will then encourage other cafes to accept and move towards reusable cups.

Climate Change

We are working with a further four schools and the Waterford Teachers Centre to continue the Climate Literacy programme with secondary schools this autumn. This is a 10- 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. After the training the teachers will then be able to deliver the course by his/herself with as many groups of students as they wish. An in-person teacher training day will be held on 22nd August, with further online sessions taking place during September.

Litter Awareness

The Love This Place national public awareness campaign from Leave No Trace Ireland is taking place over the summer months, from the beginning of June to the end of August. It calls on the public to play their part by acting responsibly when using outdoor spaces and aims to change behaviours outdoors by raising awareness of our impacts and what we can all do to make a difference. The campaign began by prompting people to take a pledge to follow the Leave No Trace principles. This year, it focuses on critical pressure points which have become increasingly evident as greater numbers of people use outdoor public spaces for recreation, including littering, responsible dog ownership and fires. Waterford City & County Council has been using some of these messages across its social media to highlight local issues, adding local images and text where necessary.

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. We continue to supply bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

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