



**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**

**BEALTAINE 2022**  
**MAY2022**

### **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:**

With the arrival of Spring plant growth the control of weeds becomes a task which requires to be tackled. Waterford City & Council is continuing to use a non-selective contact herbicide as part of its natural weed management solution for our parks. The herbicide used is based on natural substance extracted from plants common in nature. It has an innovative formulation and acts through contact, ensuring effectiveness by causing dehydration in the weed to which it is applied to. This is part of our sustainable management strategy with regards to weed control.

Grass cutting operations are now in full swing with a scheduled cut on a 10 day rotation. Again this year we have rolled out our 'Let Dandelions Bee' initiative where areas of interest are allowed flourish and let dandelions bloom for a short few weeks to help feed bees this spring; this is now most notable along the Outer Ring Road.

Alongside this Waterford City & County Council are a number encouraging biodiversity meadows develop within some of the larger residential green areas where they can actively grow while still providing the residents with maintained green areas to allow for all the other activities they need to offer. The following areas are part of this initiative: Williamstown Road; Ballybeg green leading to the Fire Station; Cherry Mount – Large green area at bottom of estate; Avondale – Large green area in middle of estate; Kilcohan – Large green area at the front of the estate; Ursuline Court – Large green area at back of estate; Grace Dieu – Large area on the hill and within Rockingham Ferrybank. Whilst these areas are allowed to continue to grow, it is still important to ensure a degree of maintenance and therefore the appointed contractor will, as part of the overall cycle, carry out regular cutting of the perimeter areas, around the base of any trees within and litter picks the entire area. As we go further into the summer these areas shall provide less and less in terms of biodiversity value and so they shall be cut and thereafter maintained in line with all other grass areas.

## **Tramore:**

As with the city Tramore has a similar programme of operations at present; with grass cutting in full operation. Similar to the city the 'Let Dandelions Bee' initiative where areas of interest are allowed flourish and let dandelions bloom for a short few weeks to help feed bees this Spring has been applied with appropriate signage identifying these areas again this is now most notable along the Somerville relief road.

In the coming weeks a number of the larger open green areas shall be left aside for Biodiversity meadows particularly around the boating lake and the Somerville road, with the aim to promote and flourish this important habitat. These areas shall be continually monitored and include regular cutting of the perimeter areas, around the base of any trees within and litter picks the entire area.

Tramore has been chosen as a representative into Ireland's Best Kept Town competition and staff are making a great effort in presenting the town to the highest standard for the upcoming judging in the month of May. On foot of this some early seasonal planting is taking place at the entry points to the town and within the main central part of the town.

## **Anti- Dumping Initiative 2022.**

The following projects in the area of the Metropolitan Council have been approved for funding under the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications sponsored Anti-Dumping Initiative 2022.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Total Amount Approved</b>
Bulky Waste Days	€25,000
Kilbarry Halting Site	€5,000
Penrose Court Clean-up	€3,000
Drone Purchase	€6,000
Lisduggan Memorial Park	€15,000
Bagbin for commercial waste	€5,000
ELV Mystery Shopper Project	€4,000
Gracedieu East Factory Site Clean-up	€3,000
Derelict Caravan Park Clean-up	€3,000
House Clean-up Knockboy	€2,000
House Clean-up Knockboy	€2,000
Ardmore Park Clean-up of Abandoned House	€2,000
Clean up House	€2,000
Rockenham Clean-up of house	€2,000
Tycor Clean-up of house	€2,000

## **Environmental Education & Awareness**

### **Tidy Towns**

A series of short online talks for Tidy Towns groups has been taking place during March and April, on the topics of litter management, sustainability, special awards categories and planting for pollinators. Speakers included winning Tidy Towns groups from Clare, the Biodiversity Data Centre about the Pollinator Plan and the Tidy Towns Unit itself. All local Tidy Towns groups were contacted with details of these events and invited to attend.

### **Waste prevention**

We are working to encourage the use of reusable cups at cafes in conjunction with 2GoCup. With 22,000 single use cups used every hour in Ireland, we are seeking to get cafes involved in a reuse campaign. The timing is good for a campaign of this nature, with the lifting of Covid restrictions and the recent announcement of the levy on single use cups. Waterford City & County Council will work with 2GoCups to engage 10 cafes in this campaign; 5 cafes along the Greenway and 5 in Waterford. Having identified local cafes for participation in this campaign, we will then organise an informal meeting of all 10 cafes, 2GoCup and WCCC to discuss details of how the scheme will work and have a questions and answers session. It is hoped that these 10 cafes will then become case studies to encourage other cafes to accept and move towards reusable cups.

### **Green Flag Programme**

School visits and assessments have taken place for green flag renewals and first time applications. There are 51 schools due to renew their Green Flag this 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 April. Participants learnt to grow their own vegetables and pollinator plants. It was of special interest to Tidy Towns groups and Green School coordinators.

### **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 took place throughout the month of April, In supporting this event Waterford City & County Council supplied bags, gloves and litter pickers to many of the groups taking part, as well as collecting the bags of litter afterwards.

### **Local grants**

Applications for two grants closed on 1<sup>st</sup> April and are now being assessed: The Local Anti-Graffiti and Anti -Litter Awareness Grant 2022 assists local communities to tackle litter and graffiti. The Local Waste Prevention Grant 2022 is designed for community groups who want to help to take steps on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities in their local area.

### **Irish Businesses Against Litter - IBAL 2022**

Irish Businesses Against Litter have advised Waterford City & County Council that the IBAL Litter League 2022 will commence shortly. Both Waterford City & Waterford City – Ballybeg have been selected for survey this year as part of the IBAL Litter League. There will be a strong emphasis on cigarette butts and smoking related litter along with Covid related litter e.g. face masks, gloves. As with 2020 & 2021 there will be a particular emphasis on outdoor sites e.g. public parks / riverwalks / promenades etc.

### **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)