

22 June 2017

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Litter Report 2016

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

I attach herewith report of measures taken by Limerick City and County Council in 2016 in relation to the prevention and control of litter, as required by Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009.

Is mise le meas,

Stephane Duclot,

A/Senior Planner

LITTER REPORT 2016.

EIRCODE V94 WV78

t: +353 (0) 61 496 000

f: +353 (0) 61 496 001

INTRODUCTION

Limerick City and County Council commits considerable resources (financial, staff, etc) to its litter management, prevention / control each year to ensure that the economic, social and environmental benefits of reduced litter volumes in public areas are realised.

During 2016, the Litter Management and Waste Enforcement Teams implemented the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, the Waste Management Acts together with the Bye-Laws for the Presentation, Storage & Segregation of Household and Commercial Waste through a combination of both enforcement and awareness measures.

The Litter Management Team also works closely with the following Council teams and stakeholders with regard to specific operations:

- Street Cleaning: collection of bags of waste / casual litter.
- Area Offices: removal of illegally deposited waste / large miscellaneous items in public areas.
- Community Support Services Team on a number of environmental awareness measures and to address environmental issues with Council tenants.
- Community / Tidy Towns Groups, Residents' Associations: clean-ups / litter picks, erection of signage, dog fouling awareness.

Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009 requires each local authority to prepare a report on the operation of this Act in its functional area for consideration by the Council.

Section 10 provides that the report should indicate the measures taken by the Council in the previous calendar year in relation to the prevention and control of litter. This report has been prepared to outline the Litter Management Programme implemented by Limerick City & County Council in 2016.

OPERATIONS

Litter Team

The Council employs 5 Environmental Inspectors and they undertook the following tasks in 2016:

- Litter patrols in the city centre and its environs, towns and villages throughout Limerick.
- Regular checks of flashpoint areas e.g. estates with a high student density.
- Patrol public parks in Limerick.
- Investigated incidents of illegal dumping, backyard burning, fly tipping, etc.
- Visited householders/commercial premises to establish if there is a refuse collection service in place and, in cases, where there is no such service direct the occupiers to put a service in place.
- Liaised with landowners where waste is being stored illegally or whose lands are littered.
- Carried out regular checks on roads / sites prone to littering and arranged for the installation of CCTV technology, as resources allow.
- Took enforcement action for breaches of the Presentation of Waste Bye-Laws i.e. where waste is presented incorrectly, wheeled bins are overflowing.
- Removed illegal signage.
- Investigated and arranged for the removal of abandoned vehicles.
- Erected "No Dumping", "No Dog Fouling", etc. signs.

In addition, the Environmental Inspectors based in County Limerick arranged for the removal of illegally dumped waste.

Street Cleaning

The Street Cleaning team has 33 staff and they carried out the following tasks;

- Provided a 365 day p.a. street sweeping and rubbish removal service in Limerick city.
- Serviced a network of litter bins.
- Removed dead animals.
- Provided extensive assistance to Tidy Towns, Team Limerick Clean-up and National Spring Clean events.
- Assisted the St. Patrick's Day parade, Great Limerick Run, Riverfest, Commemoration Sunday, Thomond Park rugby matches and GAA matches.

Area Offices

The Council's area offices carried out the following tasks;

- Street cleaning in towns/villages throughout County Limerick
- Arranged pick-up of large incidences of illegally dumped rubbish

Community Support Services

The Litter Team co-ordinated on a regular basis with Community Support Services to address environmental issues with Council tenants as follows;

- Requirement to have a refuse collection service in place and to address illegal dumping issues.
- Ensure that waste is presented correctly for collection.
- Requirement to remove illegally stored waste.

Community Groups, Tidy Towns Groups, Residents' Associations

The Council worked with more than 80 groups that arrange regular clean ups, litter picks in their own areas and assisted these groups as follows;

- Provided gloves, bags and litter pickers.
- Collected the bagged litter.
- Erected signage.
- Assisted with dog fouling awareness.

A number of Community clean ups were also undertaken throughout the year which were also supported by the Council.

Environmental Awareness

- There are 168 schools registered for the An Taisce Green Schools programme. A total of 43 Schools have Green flags.
- An awareness day was held in Limerick city centre to promote the Gum Litter Taskforce initiative.
- Dog Litter Awareness campaigns took place as follows:
 - Local radio advertisement on Live 95FM and West Limerick 102.
 - Supply of pooper scoopers for promotional use / dispensers in public parks.
- Face book and twitter accounts were maintained.
- The Awareness unit had an information stand at Mary Immaculate College as part of the Lifelong Learning Week and facilitated tours of Mongrel Recycling Centre during this week...
- A Tidy Towns Seminar was hosted in February 2016 to assist Tidy Towns groups across the City and County.
- Various Environment Awareness talks were delivered to schools and community groups.

- Various educational initiatives took place at Mungret recycling centre.
- Limerick Going for Gold campaign was run in conjunction with the JP McManus Charitable Foundation. The campaign aims to make Limerick a brighter, better and cleaner place to live and work. The overall winner of Going for Gold 2016 was Glin. Ardpatrick won the Limerick in Bloom Category.



National Spring Clean.

Limerick City and County Council once again participated in the National Spring Clean (NSC) campaign which took place throughout the month of April. Over 3,000 volunteers participated in clean ups throughout Limerick. An estimated 700 tonnes of litter was collected and approximately 35% of the total amount of waste collected was recycled. The Council supported the campaign organised by An Taisce and provided bags, gloves, litter pickers to Residents Groups, Community Councils, Tidy Towns Groups, Schools, etc.



Team Limerick Clean Up.

On Good Friday, 25th March, 2016 the second Team Limerick Clean-up ('TLC2') day, sponsored by the JP McManus Benevolent Fund, was held in Limerick City and in towns and villages throughout County Limerick. The event was co-ordinated by Limerick City and County Council with the support of Mr. Binman, the Limerick Leader and Live 95FM. Over 13,000 volunteers participated in this one day clean up; a total of 98 tonnes of litter were collected which equates to 4,000 household wheeled bins of waste; there were 220 designated TLC collection points and the average number of hours spent litter picking across the city and county was 22,000.

LITTER ENFORCEMENT.

- A total of 3,262 complaints related to litter were recorded during 2016.
- A total of 474 on-the-spot fines were issued to offenders for litter related offences.
- The total amount of income from spot fines was in excess of €22,875.
- 35 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution & Waste Management Acts.
- Household Waste Disposal surveys were sent to properties in urban / rural areas in order to ascertain that households had proper refuse collection arrangements in place and in cases of non return. 58 statutory Notices were issued directing that this information be provided.
- 63 Notices were issued to the registered owners of vehicles which were deemed to be "abandoned" in public areas.
- 184 Warning letters were issued to landowners, householders, commercial premises, etc. during the year requesting that specific actions be taken to address litter matters on their properties.

NATIONAL LITTER POLLUTION MONITORING SYSTEM (NLPMS)/ NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH THE BANKING SECTOR.

The Litter team participated in the 2016 NLPMS , co-ordinated by Patrick J. Tobin & Co., and conducted 235 Litter Pollution and 60 Litter Quantification surveys during the year.

The Environmental Inspectors also carried out inspections at 10 ATM sites as part of the operation of the Negotiated Agreement with the Banking Sector.

CONCLUSION.

- The number of illegal dumping incidents continues to be a challenge.
- In most cases, evidence is not found amongst the bags, items, etc. discarded.
- The placement of CCTV units at selected locations detects offenders (car registration nos.) and the Council will continue to use this technology.
- The continued operations of unpermitted waste collectors results in illegal dumping on private / public lands.

- It is estimated that approx. 35% of households in Limerick do not have a refuse collection service with a permitted collector. The Council continues to liaise with individual householders/commercial premises re this issue.
- The Council will continue to raise public awareness regarding litter and illegal dumping of waste and to promote greater public responsibility in this area.