



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Seirbhísí Pleanála agus Comhshaoil,
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh,
Tuar an Dail,
Luimneach

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16th July, 2018.

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

Litter Report 2017.

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

I attach herewith report of measures taken by Limerick City and County Council in 2017 in relation to the prevention and control of litter, as required by Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 – 2009.

Is mise le meas,

Kieran Lehane.
Director of Service.



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Report on Litter Activities 2017

Service Operations



Introduction

Limerick City and County Council commits considerable resources 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. A countryside and public realm that is clean and litter free increases civic pride and improves the quality of life for residents, visitors and investors.



During 2017, the Litter Management and Waste Enforcement Teams implemented the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, the Waste Management Acts together with the By-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
- Area Offices: removal of illegally deposited waste / large miscellaneous items in public areas.
- Community Support Services Team on a number of environmental awareness measures with Council tenants.
- Community / Tidy Towns Groups, Residents' Associations: clean-ups / litter picks, erection of signage, dog fouling awareness.

This report details the measures taken by the council in relation to the prevention and control of litter under the Litter Pollution Acts.



Litter Team

The Council employs five Environmental Inspectors who undertook the following tasks in 2017:

- Daily litter patrols in the city centre and its environs, towns and villages throughout Limerick.
- Regular checks of at risk areas e.g. estates with a high student density, approx. 3 per week.
- Investigated incidents of illegal dumping, backyard burning, fly tipping, etc. – 1,879 complaints and 3,500 inspections.
- 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 on a rota basis.
- 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 84 abandoned vehicles.
- Erected “No Dumping”, “No Dog Fouling”, etc. signs in urban and rural areas as requested/required.



Street Cleaning

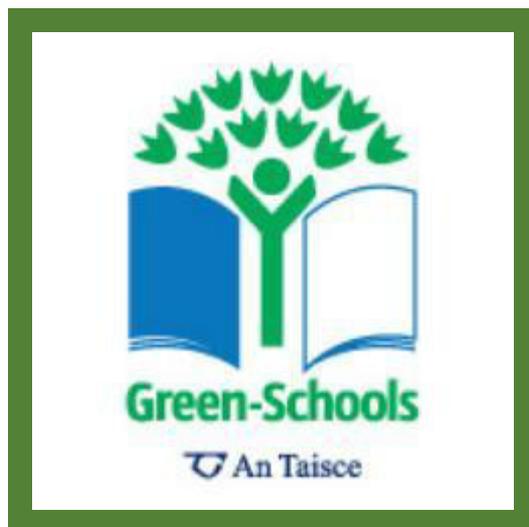


The Street Cleaning team carried out the following tasks:

- Provided a 365 day p.a. street sweeping and rubbish removal service in Limerick city.
- Serviced a network of litter bins, including 380 in the Metropolitan area
- Removed 16 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.



Environmental Awareness



- There are 168 schools registered for the An Taisce Green Schools programme. A total of 143 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.
 - Dog Litter Campaign with 95FM Shadows and Street Boy
 - Anti Dog Fouling Cinema advertisement
- Face book and twitter accounts were maintained.
- Anti-Graffiti Initiative aimed at young people in the city centre
- A Tidy Towns Seminar was hosted in February 2017 to assist Tidy Towns groups across the City and County.
- Twenty Environment Awareness talks were delivered to schools and community groups.
- Six 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 2017 was Adare Tidy Towns. Kiltelly Tidy Towns 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, 14th April, 2017 the third Team Limerick Clean-up ('TLC3') 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 17,000 volunteers participated in this one day clean up. 68 tonnes of waste were removed, which would equate to approximately 2,600 wheelie bins of household rubbish!

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Report



The 2017 IBAL Anti-Litter League Survey found that Limerick City was clean to European norms with many areas such as O’Connell Street, Thomas Street, the Peoples Park, Parnell Street and Howley’s Quay achieving a Grade A litter free status in the survey.



The IBAL survey identified a small number of locations where there was scope for improvement. The Council has directed resources and effort, including the use of CCTV cameras, towards addressing the problems of illegal dumping and littering in the areas which were identified in the survey.

Litter Enforcement

- A total of 1,879 complaints were received during 2017.
- Furthermore, 3,500 inspections were undertaken in 2017.
- A total of 476 on-the-spot fines were issued to offenders for litter related offences.
- 53 cases were referred for legal proceedings under the Litter Pollution & Waste Management Acts, 40 of which were successful.
- 224 Warning letters and 87 Directions under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act 1996 were served / issued to landowners, householders, commercial premises with regard to removal and proper disposal of litter and waste on their lands.
- Over 3,000 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, Statutory Notices were issued directing that this information be provided.

Anti – Dumping Initiative 2017

The Council received a grant of €50,100 under the Anti – Dumping Initiative 2017 to carry out clean up works at 8 sites and for the purchase of equipment. These sites included; Tournafulla, Carrickerry, Roche’s Road, Rathkeale, Donnellan’s Field, Ballynanty/Moyross area and Johnsgate. These works improved the visual appearance of these areas especially for local residents.



Challenges



- Casual littering and dumping of bags of household rubbish.
- In most cases, evidence is not found amongst the bags, items, etc. discarded.
- The long term use of CCTV units taking account of GDPR, associated costs.
- The continued operations of unpermitted waste collectors.
- 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.
- To increase public awareness of litter / illegal dumping and to promote greater personal responsibility in this area.

Handwritten signature of K. Lehane

Signed _____

K Lehane, Director of Service.