



LITTER ACTION PLAN 2021



Introduction

In accordance with the Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council adopts an anti-litter/environmental protection campaign each year with the following objectives:

- Prevent and control litter pollution in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area
- Eliminate litter black-spots
- Develop education and awareness programmes in association with schools/ communities
- Support any initiatives, new legislation and actions that will arise from the recently published Waste Plan for a Circular Economy
- Ensure rigorous enforcement mechanisms of the Act and Bye-Laws are effective

The Plan has a multi-faceted approach to the problems of litter pollution incorporating initiatives in relation to local authority services, such as waste minimisation, recycling, road sweeping, litter enforcement, anti-litter and environmental awareness, as well as covering a number of other litter-related areas. These approaches can be grouped under three main categories; Litter Management, Awareness & Education, and Enforcement. Based on the proposals and policies promoted in the Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023.

Litter Management

Complaint Management (CRM System)

Actions:

- Continual improvement of the recording & processing of complaints received. This data can be used as a tool to measure our performance & demonstrate the outcomes of all actions on litter & cleansing.
 - Complaints can be reported at the Council's Hub by contacting the following number 01 2054700, or by email on info@dlrcoco.ie or via www.fixyourstreet.ie

Timeline: Ongoing

Litter/Illegal Dumping

Actions:

- Once dumping has been investigated by litter wardens, the waste is removed from public areas as quickly as possible
- Provision of 6 Litter Warden posts.
- Continual enforcement of Litter legislation.
- 426 litter fines issued & 102 prosecutions initiated in 2021.
- Continue to work with PURE to catch offenders who dump waste in the uplands.
- Blackspots monitored by C.C.T.V.
- Continue to conduct Litter Pollution and Litter Quantification Surveys.

Timeline: Ongoing

Road Sweeping

Actions:

- DLR's Cleansing Fleet includes – Road Sweepers, Mini-Sweepers, CityCats, Side Loaders, Pick-Ups, a Green Machine, High Pressure Jet Vac Trucks, Bin Truck and a fleet of vehicles for beach cleaning.
- Road Sweeping is carried out in accordance with dlr's online schedules with the aim to sweep villages daily, cycle lanes once per week, main traffic routes fortnightly and estate roads once per month.
- Encourage residents to avail of advance warning signage, advertising the scheduled visit by the Road Sweeper.

Timeline: Ongoing

Litter Bins

Actions:

- Solar Powered Big Belly bins are installed across the County. The locations and quantities of such bins is reviewed on an on-going basis to ensure maximum efficiency.
- A telemetry system is used to identify when a Big Belly bin is to be emptied. This enables bins to be emptied on a priority basis and adds to the overall efficiency.
- Household dumping in the Big Belly bins is an ongoing problem and the Cleansing Sections work closely with the dlr Litter & Waste Enforcement Section to address this issue.
- A small quantity of Recycling Bins have been installed across the County as part of ongoing trial.

Timeline: Annually

Bring Banks

Actions:

- The Council currently provides 36 Bring Centres for glass, cans, and textile recycling throughout the County.
- Signage advising public of offences & improved hard-stand areas.

Timeline: Ongoing

Dog Fouling

Actions:

- Signage erected in problem areas.
- Ongoing patrols by Dog Warden & Litter Wardens.
- Blackspot areas being monitored.
- Green Dog Walkers programme will promote dog owners to clean up after their dog and encourage others to do so too.
- "Dog waste bins" are provided in areas where there is a persistent problem of dog fouling and where the provision of the solar powered compactor litter bins is not possible.

Timeline: Ongoing

Plastics

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is committed to reducing the volume of single-use plastics and to prevent litter reaching the rivers or sea. In the recently adopted DLR Litter Management Plan 2021 - 2023, the Council included the following objective; *"This Council aims to make DLR Ireland's first single use plastic free county."*

The Council will seek to achieve this by encouraging behaviour change in business and communities. DLR will lead by example on initiatives and by incorporating the reduce plastics message into our current programmes.

DLR is currently carrying out the following actions:

- By facilitating community clean-ups through the availability of clean-up kits and the availability of a free litter collection service the Council help to reduce the amount of litter/plastics finding its way into our oceans.
- Our bio diversity events will include the theme of plastic free in its messaging and advertising.
- Within the Council our canteen has replaced plastic cups with biodegradable alternatives, whilst the Parks department are looking to replace single use coffee cups in its various coffee shops.
- A reusable cup initiative has been run for staff. Reusable cups were sold to staff to encourage them to act as ambassadors for the responsible use of plastic. 1,000 DLR County Council branded biodegradable reusable water bottles were offered to staff free of charge to encourage the elimination of single use plastic water bottles.
- Drinking water fountains continue to be used in the People's Park, Dun Laoghaire, Cabinteely Park and Marlay Park to reduce the amount of plastic bottles

deposited in the park and to provide awareness of the need to eliminate plastic litter.

- The CoCo Markets have informed all our market traders that they will no longer be allowed to use single use plastics and that all the food containers, cups, lids, utensils, napkins and bags must be either compostable or reusable. CoCo Markets will be providing compostable and reusable cups with lids as well as cloth bags free of charge to our customers. A similar initiative will be considered for other council supported events.
- Efforts are continuing to look for new and innovative solutions to help raise awareness of the harm caused by plastics and litter.

Beaches

Actions:

- Litter bins on the beaches are serviced daily, with extra litter bins put in place in the summer months.
- Clean up of beaches is carried out on a daily basis all year round and extra resources are deployed during periods of high usage.

Timeline: Ongoing

Graffiti

Actions:

- Remove offensive graffiti/prominent graffiti as soon as possible.
- Paint is provided to residents & Tidy Towns.
- Ensure that owners of premises keep their premises graffiti free.
- Liaise with the Gardaí to catch offenders.
- Education provided to Schools, Residents Groups & Tidy Towns.

Timeline: Ongoing

Abandoned Cars

Actions:

- Remove dangerous/burnt out and unwanted abandoned cars.
- 10 dangerous / burnt out cars removed in 2021.
- 39 customer requests for old/unwanted cars to be removed in 2021.

Timeline: Ongoing

Halloween

Actions:

- Remove reported stockpiles from areas as quickly as possible.
- Litter Wardens/Enforcement staff to visit businesses, including industrial estates throughout the county to target externally stored waste that could end up on bonfires if not secured.
- Ensure Tyre Companies store waste tyres securely.
- Issue fines to people who hand waste over for bonfires or who dump waste for bonfires.
- Ongoing liaising with the Gardaí to catch offenders.
- Media Campaign outlining dangers of bonfires, fines & giving help line numbers for the public to report stockpiling of bonfire materials.

- Circulate newsletters to schools, residents associations & estate management areas.

Timeline: October 2021

Concerts / Events / Festivals

Actions:

- Due to Covid 19 there were no major concerts, events or festivals in 2021.

Timeline: N/A

Compliance / Licensing

Actions:

- Continue to enforce environmental legislation in relation to plastic bags, waste tyres, WEEE, ELVs, hazardous waste, waste batteries and packaging waste.
- Continue to enforce the street signage advertising scheme.

Timeline: Ongoing

Litter Byelaws

Actions:

- Continue to use the litter byelaws to ensure that property owner/occupiers keep their area clean & free from litter.
- Ongoing inspections under byelaws to be implemented.
- Issue fines where appropriate.
- Litter Byelaws tackle cigarette related litter.
- 222 Litter Bye Law fines issued in 2021

Timeline: Ongoing

Waste Byelaws

Actions:

- Continue to use the waste byelaws to ensure that individuals/businesses are presenting & disposing of their waste correctly.
- Issue fines where appropriate, 36 fines issued in 2021.

Timeline: Ongoing

Intoxicating Liquor Byelaws

Actions:

- Intoxicating Liquor Byelaws compliments litter legislation.
- Ongoing co-operation with the Gardai to enforce the bye-laws.

Timeline: Ongoing

Beach Byelaws

Actions:

- Beach Byelaws support the Litter Pollutions Acts.
- Regular inspection and cleaning of beaches.
- Continual monitoring & enforcement of the bye-laws.

Timeline: Ongoing

Casual Trading

Actions:

- Unlicensed casual trading is not permitted.
- Ensure casual traders keep their allocated trading space litter free.
- In the case of non-compliance, the Council will prosecute accordingly.

Timeline: Ongoing

Christmas Tree Recycling

Actions:

- Continue to provide a Christmas Tree recycling service.

Timeline: Jan 2022

Grants

Actions:

- Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme (ALAGS) is co-funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) & the Council. This grant supports environmental awareness & education campaigns at a community level targeting litter, dog fouling and graffiti.
- The Community Environment Action Fund is co-funded by DECC and the Council. This grant supports projects that promote environmental awareness.
- The Environment and Climate Action Grant is funded by the Council and supports community groups looking to enhance their natural surroundings, to facilitate local to global actions and raise awareness of environmental concerns.

Timeline: Ongoing

Campaign / Education / Awareness

Actions:

- Continue to organise workshops on litter awareness.
- Tidy Districts 2021 successfully operated as a non-competitive supportive consultation with 41 groups.
- Continue to run the Green-Schools Programme. 117 schools were registered on the programme in 2021.
- Due to Covid 19 restrictions, Tidy Schools was unable to run in 2021. Environmental Awareness successfully introduced an anti-litter/dog fouling poster competition for primary schools within dlr.