

Draft Litter Management Plan 2024-2026

Version 2 - Public Consultation



Vision Statement

Tipperary - A vibrant place where people can live, visit and work in a competitive and resilient economy, a sustainable environment and an inclusive and active community

Tipperary County Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Contents

1. Int	roduction	1
1.1	Requirement to have a Litter Management Plan	
2. Wł	nat is Litter	5
2.	Legislation	
2.3	2 Penalties for littering	
2.3	3 How to make a litter complaint	
2.4	4 Responsibilities assigned under the Litter Pollution Act	
3. Pla	ans, Initiatives and Measures Implemented1	1
3.	Review of Initiatives undertaken	
3.:	2 Communication, Education and Awareness	
3.3	3 Communities participation and partnership	
3.4	4 Litter Prevention and Enforcement	
3.	5 Recycling and Recovery 20	
4. Lit	ter Management Plan Indicators & Measurements2	1
4.1	National Litter Pollution Monitoring System	
4.	2 Irish Business Against Litter	
5. Ch	allenges and Future Solutions2	7
6. Ob	jective and Actions of the Litter Management Plan	1
7. Co	nclusion	5
8. Ap	pendices3	7
Δr	pendix 1 - Bring Bank Locations	
	opendix 2 - NLPMS Detailed Analysis of Litter Composition in Tipperary in 2021 39	



Introduction

1. Introduction

Litter pollution continues to be a significant environmental challenge both nationally and locally. This Litter Management Plan affirms Tipperary County Council's commitment to tackling this issue, by outlining measures to be taken to prevent and control litter in the period ahead. This Plan builds on the progress of the Council's previous Litter Management Plan and aims to encourage public awareness, participation and set targets and actions for the next three-year period.

The making and implementation of the Litter Management Plan is the statutory responsibility of the Local Authority. However, for the plan to be successful a core message of the plan must be that we are all responsible for litter management and prevention as we go about our business. There is a shared responsibility amongst all within the county; Tipperary County Council, business, visitors, industry and residents alike to prevent litter. Co-operation and joint working with communities is key to the objectives of this plan being achieved. Tipperary County Council has built many successful partnerships over the years and will continue to foster these relationships into the future. The invaluable contribution made by Voluntary and Community Groups, Schools, Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, Business, Statutory Agencies and proactive individuals who play a fundamental role in preserving our county's natural environment, must be acknowledged.



Launch of 2022 Spring Clean - Rona Sinelli, Refresh Thurles, Seamus Hanafin, then Cathaoirleach Thurles/Templemore MD, Joe MacGrath Chief Executive Tipperary County Council, Rachael Blackmore and Siobhan Ambrose then Leas Cathaoirleach, Tipperary County Council.

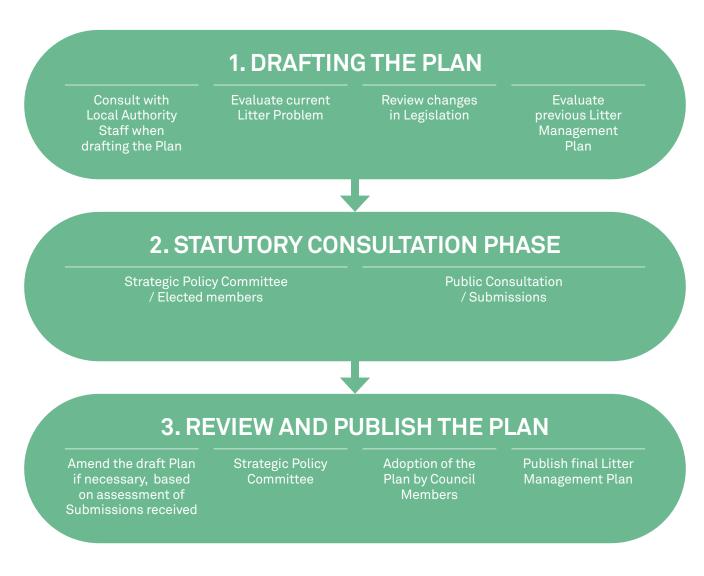
1.1 Requirement to have a Litter Management Plan

The Litter Pollution Act 1997 was introduced to address the issue of littering countrywide and gives local authorities powers to deal with litter. The main objectives of the Act are to define littering as an offence, to assign responsibility for litter control to producers, retailers and business owners, to facilitate the enforcement of litter offences, to define local authority's responsibilities regarding litter management planning, supervision and to define collection systems for litter.

As set out in Section 10 of the Act, local authorities are required to prepare and implement a Litter Management Plan for their functional area. The adoption of the Litter Management Plan is a reserved function of the Council.

Local Authorities are responsible for the prevention and control of litter and have the power to take enforcement action against people who break or ignore the law. Tipperary County Council is responsible for keeping public places under its control, clear of litter as far as is practicably possible, which includes the arrangement of cleansing programmes and the provision and servicing of litter bins. Following implementation, the Plan will be available to the general public and will be reviewed annually.

The Process for drafting the Litter Management Plan 2024 -2026 is as follows:









What is Litter?

2. What is Litter?

Section 2 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) defines litter as:

> "any substance or object, "hether or not intended as whether or not intended as in a place other than a litter receptacle or other place is, or likely to become is, or likely to become is, or likely to become in algently, deleterious, un sightly, and regardless or object, and regardless of its size and volume or the extent of the deposit"

This definition is quite broad and includes graffiti, flytipping, advertising, chewing gum, domestic refuse placed in a litter bin, casual littering from papers/ cigarette butts and dog fouling, as well as anything else which is, or is likely to become unsightly. It can range from a mattress or black sack discarded in a forest clearing, to a cigarette butt on the roadside.

Litter can exist in the environment for long periods of time before degrading. In addition to being unsightly, it detracts from our streets, housing estates, parks, bogs and hedgerows and very often ends up in our rivers and the world's oceans.

Litter can have a detrimental effect on wildlife, our enjoyment of amenities and on the quality of life of those living in the county. It can also have a negative impact on potential investment in to an area and tourism.

2.1 Legislation

Below lists the main legislation used by the Council in relation to litter / waste management;

- Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended
- · Waste Management Act 1996, as amended
- Circular Economy and Miscellaneous
 Provisions Act 2022

Note: the above is not intended to be an exhaustive list, other legislation / Regulations may be relevant, depending on individual cases.



2.2 Penalties for littering

Litter Fines

Dropping or leaving litter in a public place or in a place visible from a public place is an offence. Penalties under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) for a breach of the Act may incur an on the spot fine of \in 150.

Direct Prosecution

For more serious littering incidents, on the spot fines are not issued as the Council would consider that a fine of \in 150 would not be a sufficient penalty. Instead the Council will institute legal proceedings under the Act, with a view to being awarded the maximum fines possible.

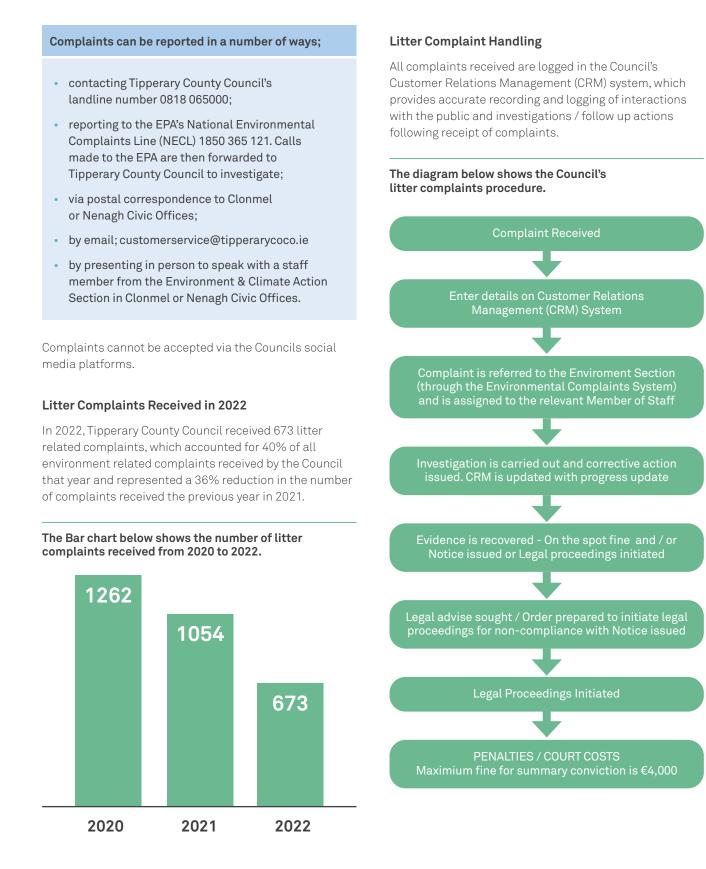
Non-payment of fines

The alleged offender has up to 21 days to pay an on the spot fine, failure to do so may result in the matter being referred to the local District Court, where a maximum court fine of \notin 4,000 may be imposed by a judge.

A person convicted of a litter offence may also be required to pay the local authority's cost and expenses in investigating the offence and bringing the prosecution to court, including legal and experts' fees. Tipperary County Council will actively pursue offenders for non-payment of fines and will refer to the courts in such circumstances.

2.3 How to make a complaint

Members of the public are invited to contact Tipperary County Council should they observe any illegal or suspicious litter or waste activities. This collaborative approach greatly assists the local authority to minimise littering and illegal waste activities.



2.4 Responsibilities assigned under the Litter Management Act 1997 (as amended)

Responsibilities of the Local Authority are (Part III)

In addition to responsibility for the preparation and implementation of a Litter Management Plan, Tipperary County Council is responsible for ensuring that public roads, Council owned green/open spaces, Council managed play spaces and rivers and streams flowing within council property, are all kept litter free in so far as it is practically possible.

The Council aims to prevent the creation of litter through the following measures;

- Through the collection and disposal of litter and the provision and maintenance of litter bins;
- The delivery of anti-littering communication, education and awareness programmes;
- Through routine and non-routine inspections;
- Enforcement and regulation Under Section 9
 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 as amended,
 the Council has the authority to issue Fixed
 Penalty Notices (Litter Fines) and Section
 Notices for offences in breach of the Act,
 which can require the removal of litter.

Responsibilities of the Public (Sections 3/4/5)

The Litter Pollution Act obligates individuals to control litter. The following are examples of offences under the Act:

- Failure to keep private property, which is visible from a public place, litter free.
- Dropping cigarette butts, chewing gum, paper, food, etc. on the ground.
- Placing household waste in a public litter bin.
- Littering from a vehicle or trailer.
- Leaving materials other than the specified recyclable material at a bring site.
- Giving your waste for disposal to an unauthorised waste collector.
- Dumping bags of household waste on the roadside.

Dog Related Offences (Section 22)

Dog owners are responsible for the removal of dog faeces from a public place and ensuring it is disposed of properly.

Due care should be taken when presenting your waste and recycling bins for collection to ensure they do not create a litter nuisance. Regulations in relation to presenting your bins can be found in Tipperary County Council's Waste Management Bye-Laws 2018.



2021 collaboration with Tipperary GAA – Keep Tipp Tidy Initiative - Cllr Michael Smyth, then Cathaoirleach, Joe MacGrath Chief Executive Tipperary County Council and Liam Sheedy, Former Tipperary Hurling Manager.

Responsibilities of Businesses (Section 16)

The Litter Pollution Act obligates businesses to control litter. The following are examples of offences under the Act:

- Failure to keep the footpaths and pavements, not exceeding 100 metres of the business premises, litter free;
- Failure to secure transported material on a trailer or truck;
- Dumping material (fly-tipping);
- Placing commercial waste in a public litter bin;
- Occupiers (business / land owners) of a public place

 not being a public road or a building, shall keep
 the place free of litter. Any occupier of land that is
 not a public place but is visible from a public place,
 is required to keep their premises litter free too.

Mobile Outlet Operators (Section 15)

Section 15 of the Act requires that operators of mobile units involved in the sale of produce, food or drink, must provide and maintain litter receptacles at, or in the vicinity of the outlet whilst it is in operation. They must also arrange for the removal of any litter within 100 metres of the outlet.

Major Events Promoters (Section 18)

Section 18 of the Act requires that the promoter of major events must take measures to ensure that litter is prevented or limited at the event and in the surrounding vicinity before, during and after the event. This applies to matches; other sporting events and festivals where large crowds gather.

A local authority may serve a notice on an event organiser requiring appropriate measures be put in place. Failure to do so, can result in the local authority acting to manage litter at the event and recovering costs from the event organiser.

Advertising Signage (Section 19)

Placement of any signage on public property must have the permission of the Local Authority (Planning Department). Signage on private property must also adhere to certain planning conditions as set out by the Local Authority. An exception exists in relation to presidential and local elections, referendums and public meetings.

The Act prohibits:

- Putting up posters or signs without authorisation;
- Placing advertising flyers on cars windscreens;
- Defacement of structures situated in the functional area of a Local Authority is also an offence.
- Section 20 empowers Local Authorities to issue a notice requesting the removal of any illegally placed signage, or advertising material on public property.

For further advice please contact Tipperary County Council's Planning Section or Municipal Districts.



Section 18 of the Act requires that the promoter of major events must take measures to ensure that litter is prevented or limited at the event and in the surrounding vicinity.



Plans, Initiatives & Measures Implemented



3. Plans, Initiatives & Measures Implemented

3.1 Review of Initiatives undertaken

Since the adoption of the previous Litter Management Plan in 2018, considerable resources have been spent by Tipperary County Council on implementing all aspects of litter management including; street cleaning, maintenance of litter bins, inspections / enforcement and education / awareness initiatives.

The previous plan identified objectives and actions to be achieved during the lifetime of the Plan through:

- Education and awareness initiatives,
- · Communities participation and Partnership,
- · Litter prevention and Enforcement,
- Recycling and Recovery.

The Council worked in partnership with different stakeholders on a number of initiatives to prevent and control littering.

3.2 Communication, Education and Awareness

Although there is a growing awareness of the importance of keeping Tipperary litter free, there is still a need to change attitudes and behaviours amongst some and to communicate the message that littering is antisocial behaviour and devalues our communities and environment. The Council is committed to enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, through the issuing of litter fines and prosecutions, as required. A combination of these measures is used to reinforce the anti-littering message.

Tipperary County Council works with all within the county to roll out campaigns that are informative and provide practical supports to promote an anti-litter ethos. Targeted measures are taken by the Council to engage with our younger members of society, through An Tasice Green Schools and more recently the Picker Pals Programme.

The Council is committed to supporting and encouraging the commercial sector to reduce, reuse and recycle, where possible and to minimise littering and dumping in the countryside and reduce levels of waste entering landfill.

Awareness and Education Initiatives undertaken:

Dog Litter Awareness

Dog fouling continues to be a challenge for the Council. Dog walkers are obliged to clean up after their dog and dispose of dog waste responsibly by placing it in the nearest litter bin, or taking it home and disposing of it in their own waste bin. Tipperary County Council places significant emphasis on developing awareness measures to deter dog fouling and to make dog owners aware of their responsibilities.



Actions taken to combat dog litter

- Social media campaigns in collaboration with neighbouring local authorities, to promote personal responsibility of dog owners.
- Working with the Municipal Districts to erect anti-fouling signage and mutt bag dispenser units along known dog walking routes.
- Anti-dog fouling painted messaging stencilled on footpaths in blackspots.
- Promotion of responsible dog ownership and circulation of information leaflets when engaging with the public in the awareness trailer.
- Distribution of high-vis vests to dog owners with anti-dog fouling messaging.
- Various anti-dog fouling campaigns throughout the county to highlight environmental and health hazards of dog faeces. Initiatives included awareness patrols and placing mobile pop up stands, promoting the prevention of dog fouling in areas of high footfall including; post offices, credit unions, supermarkets.





Media Campaigns

Media campaigns (in particular social media), radio advertisements, newspaper articles and billboard have been used by the Council to highlight litter and waste related issues, such as dog fouling, roadside littering, illegal dumping and to promote the services of our Civic Amenity Sites.

National Media campaigns on illegal dumping and littering have also been run by the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications and the Regional Waste Management Office. These are wide reaching campaigns that involve TV, radio or social media advertising.

Gum Litter Awareness Task Force

Tipperary County Council works with the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications in addressing gum litter and has been a regular participant in gum litter campaigns over the years.

The Gum Litter Campaign has made a significant contribution to changing younger peoples' attitude to gum litter. The latest research results from the National Litter Monitoring Surveys highlighted a significant increase in those who say they never drop gum. This points towards the success of the campaign since its inception and indicates younger people are taking the message home with them and into households across the county.



Gum Litter campaign – Sisters of Charity NS Clonmel

Tipperary County Council works with the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications in addressing gum litter and has been a regular participant in gum litter campaigns over the years.



Picker Pals Programme

In 2022, Tipperary County Council supported the roll out of the Picker Pals Programme in 20 primary school classrooms throughout the county. This innovative primary school programme, equips children to become the next generation of environmentalists, by leading their families on local litter-picking adventures. The litter packs provided to schools contain child-friendly litterpicking equipment and enable children and their families to make a real impact in their local areas.



Rathkeevin N.S. Picker Pals Programme 2022

Public Awareness Trailer

The Public awareness trailer visited a number of shows including the Bansha show, Dualla show, Cashel, A Taste of Cahir and Clonmel show, to raise public awareness and to provide information on a range of environmental issues. Advice is given to the public highlighting the detrimental effect of litter on the environment and fostering behavioural changes towards the disposal of litter.

Household Waste Management Information Sessions

The Council carries out pre-tenancy information sessions with new council tenants and provides information packs which includes information about reducing waste, recycling, proper disposal of rubbish and the services of the Council's Civic Amenity Sites.



During the period 2021 to 2023, information sessions took place with 205 new council tenants.

Anti-dumping Initiative

Each year the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications launches a call for community led, anti-dumping initiative projects aimed at restoring areas where there is persistent illegal dumping and provide funding to enhance enforcement surveillance.

Tipperary County Council secured €93,000 in 2023 for a number of different projects aimed at addressing illegal dumping, one such project received an allocation of €30,000 to target roadside dumping / littering and will involve a number of different measures, which will be rolled out in the coming months.

For the period 2020 to 2022, a total of €211,600 was received by Tipperary County Council for Anti-dumping Initiatives which funded a number of different projects to prevent and tackle littering and dumping including; household hazardous waste collection days at the Council's Civic Amenity Sites, mattress amnesty initiative, Bikes for Africa project, smart enforcement (purchase of drones) and clean up and abatement projects at dumping blackspots.

The Department also funded the installation of 32 solar powered compacting bins under a once off Anti-dumping Infrastructure Grant Scheme. These smart bins were installed in early 2022 throughout the county.

3.3 Community Participation and Partnership

Support from all in the community is essential to tackle litter. Tipperary County Council established and fostered many positive working relationships with schools, community groups, tidy towns groups, residents' associations, local businesses /commercial interest groups, Public Participation Network (PPN) and members of the public and will continue to work in partnership with these groups, to reduce litter in the county and achieve a litter free Tipperary.

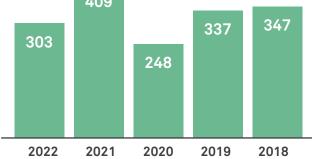
Tidy Towns

Tipperary County Council continued to support Tidy Towns Groups within the county, with €915,000 being provided for the period 2018 to 2022. In 2022, €182,550 was allocated to 122 Tidy Towns Committees, who volunteer their time and do valued work to enhance the appearance of their towns and villages and contribute to making Tipperary an attractive place to live, work and visit.

Medals are awarded to entrants that are within a certain range of the winning score. In 2022, Gold Medals were awarded to Terryglass, Kilsheelan and Clonmel, a Silver Medal for Emly, and Bronze Medals for Birdhill, Silvermines, Nenagh, Roscrea, Cahir and Cashel.

National Spring Clean 2019 - 2022

Number of Groups Registered for







Clogheen Tidy Towns

Tipperary entrants also secured a number of special awards categories in 2022;

- Cahir was named as the overall winner of the Young Persons in TidyTowns Award and also the overall winner of the SuperValu AsIAm Inclusive Communities Award.
- Kilsheelan won for sustainable development in village or small-town category.
- Clonmel won in the south east region of the pollinator award for large towns.
- Endeavour Awards were given to Ballysloe and Ballyporeen who were the Tipperary entrants that recorded the highest % improvement on their 2021 score.



Annual National Spring Clean Campaign

The Council continued to support the National Spring Clean, which is a litter initiative organised by An Taisce and takes place during the month of April each year.

This campaign encourages every sector of society to actively participate and be responsible for litter, by conducting clean-ups of their own local environment and has proven to be a growing success year on year.

The Council offers support by promoting the campaign, providing litter pickers, bags and gloves and by facilitating collection and disposal of collected waste. Volunteers who participate in National Spring clean, play a vital role in helping improve the local environment, whilst making Tipperary a better place to live, work and visit.

In 2023 Tipperary County Council supported 303 registered Groups, with 6,600 volunteers. In 2022, volunteers collected 8.8 tonnes of litter. Without the hard work of these dedicated groups, Tipperary County Council would not be able to aspire to becoming a litter free county.



New Inn Tidy Towns taking part in the 2023 National Spring Clean



Green Schools Programme

Tipperary County Council participated in the Green Schools Programme, in partnership with An Taisce. The theme for the first flag award is litter and waste, with subsequent environmental themes on a rolling two-year programme. On completion of this seven-step programme a Green School status is achieved. Tipperary County Council provides financial assistance and carries out assessments on behalf of An Taisce.

Green Flags awarded to Schools, 2021 - 2023

- In 2023, 28 Green Flags were awarded,
- 38 Green Flags were awarded in 2022 and
- 26 Green Flags were awarded in 2021.



St. Anne's Secondary School Tipperary Town - Biodiversity Flag



Scoil Chormaic Cashel – Green Schools Award Ceremony Global Citizen Water Flag

Tipperary County Council is delighted to support the Green Schools Programme. This is an excellent way for the Council to engage with students from an early age to encourage good environmental behaviours and attitudes.

Fiona Flynn (Staff Officer, Tipperary County Council)



Collaboration with Southern Regional Waste Management Office

Tipperary County Council continues to work with the Southern Regional Waste Management Office (SRWMO) to promoting anti-dumping and green initiatives. In 2022 the Council worked in collaboration with the SRWMO on the Brown bin/ Stop Food Waste Campaign, which promoted the reduction and segregation of food waste. As part of this initiative, 500 food caddies were distributed to members of the public free of charge throughout the county. The MyWaste website provides clear and helpful information for all in relation to managing waste at www.mywaste.ie. In addition to being an excellent source of information on preventing, reusing and disposing of waste, there is also a useful map for local waste recycling facilities.



3.4 Litter Prevention and Enforcement

Tipperary County Council will continue to undertake litter prevention and enforcement measures to combat the litter problem. This will be achieved through the work of our Enforcement Officers and Litter/Traffic Wardens who respond to complaints, issue litter fines and apply preventative measures in areas prone to littering.

Tipperary County Council is committed to carrying out effective enforcement and securing prosecutions to discourage polluters and to prevent and control litter.

On the spot fines of €150 are issued whenever adequate evidence is found and direct prosecution is instigated, when deemed appropriate. Those who fail to pay are prosecuted through the courts system, where a maximum penalty of €4,000 plus costs can be awarded.

The Council employs a team of Environmental Enforcement Officers, who carry out various duties under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and Waste Management Act 1996, including enforcement of the Council's Waste Management Bye-Laws and other producer responsibilities initiatives.

The table below shows the number of litter fines issued, litter related complaints received and successful cases brought in the period 2020 to 2022.

	2022	2021	2020
Number of litter fines issued	118	197	213
Number of complaints received in relation to litter	673*	1054*	1272*
No of successful enforcement cases brought:			
1. Under Litter Pollution Act	5	13	1
2. Waste Management Act	8	2	2

*Litter complaints are categorised as; Fly-Tipping, Signage, and Small-Scale Rubbish.



🌙 Tipperary County Council is committed to carrying out effective enforcement and securing prosecutions to discourage polluters and to prevent and control litter.

Use of Technologies

The Council uses technology including; mobile tablets, closed-circuit television (CCTV) and drones to assist with investigations in relation to litter and illegal dumping.

Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs)

The WERLAs assists local authorities with their waste management functions. The WERLA offices are responsible for the coordination of waste enforcement actions within regions, setting priorities and common objectives for waste enforcement and for ensuring consistent enforcement of legislation. Tipperary County Council sets out waste enforcement priorities annually in consultation with the Southern WERLA, which are aligned with National Priorities set by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA).





3.5 Recycling and Recovery

Prevention Projects and Initiatives

The Council carried out a number of reduce and recycling Initiatives in recent years in collaboration with community groups and schools. Examples of some of these projects include; Food waste recycling workshops, an upcycling challenge competition and fast fashion workshops to increase awareness around the prevention and reduction of waste. The Council has also engaged with Men's Shed Groups and made owl boxes and planters out of recycled wood.

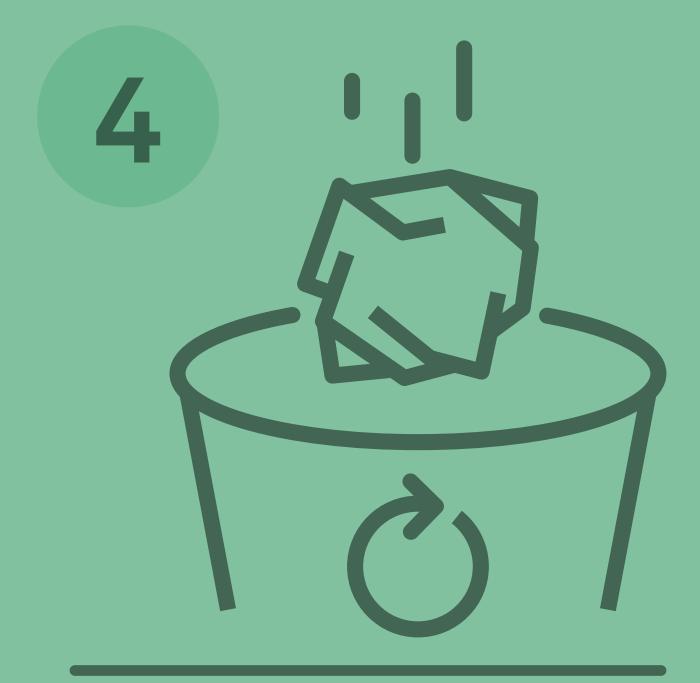
The Council carried out a number of reduce and recycling Initiatives in recent years in collaboration with community groups and schools.

Civic Amenity Sites/ Recycling Centres / Bring Banks

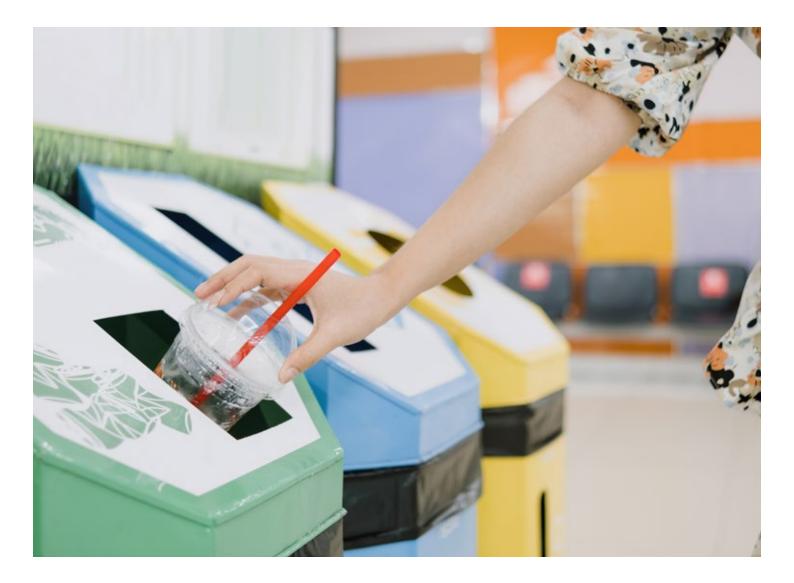
Tipperary County Council has five Civic Amenity Sites located at Donohill, Roscrea, Nenagh, Cashel and Clonmel.



There are also 135 Bring Banks (see Appendix 1) that cater for the free recycling of bottles and cans. Tipperary County Council monitors and maintains these facilities to ensure they are free from litter. The Council will continue to promote and organise recycling activities and workshops with target groups and resource centres.



Litter Plan Indicators & Measurements



4. Litter Plan Indicators & Measurements

This Section of the Plan sets out how litter is measured within the county.

Tipperary's current litter problem can be evaluated using the following methods:

- Litter complaints received and logged through the CRM system;
- Litter complaints received from voluntary representatives such as Tidy Towns Groups;
- Surveys carried out by the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (NLPMS), enforcement staff and Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL).

Details of litter complaints received can be found under Section 2.3 of this Plan.



4.1 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (NLPMS)

The NLPMS carries out surveys to determine the extent, composition and causes of litter pollution in an area. It is expected that the data obtained from the system will enable the Council to provide more effective litter management planning, to assess the effectiveness of litter management strategies and to ensure the optimum allocation of resources to tackle litter.

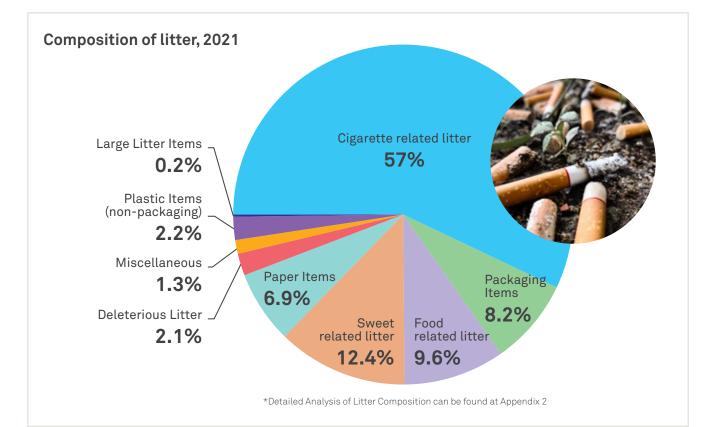
There are two types of surveys undertaken. The first type is the litter pollution survey to determine the extent and severity of litter pollution.

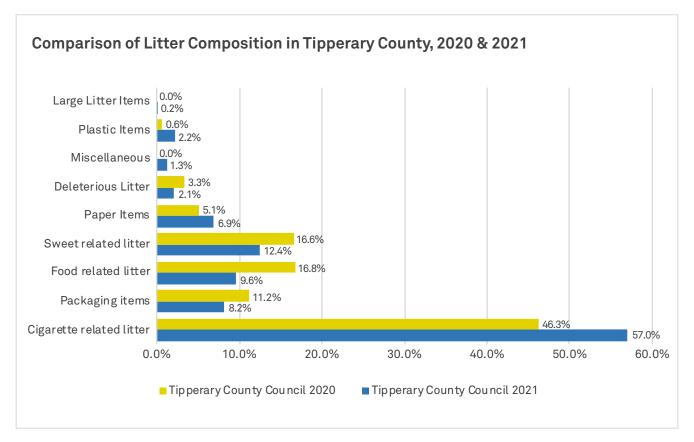
The survey results are expressed as a litter pollution index for the areas surveyed, ranging in value from 1 to 5, as follows:

Litter Pollution - Indicators Tipperary Results	2019	2020	2021
Percentage of area unpolluted by litter	13 %	7 %	63 %
Percentage of area slightly polluted by litter	72%	74%	19 %
Percentage of area moderately polluted by litter	13 %	20 %	16 %
Percentage of area significantly polluted by litter	3 %	0%	2 %
Percentage of area grossly polluted by litter	0 %	0%	0 %

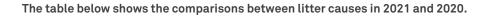
The second type of survey is the Litter Quantification survey to identify the composition (i.e. the type and origin) of litter pollution prevailing in an area. The pie chart below shows the composition of litter in 2021, with cigarette related litter accounting for 57% of litter.

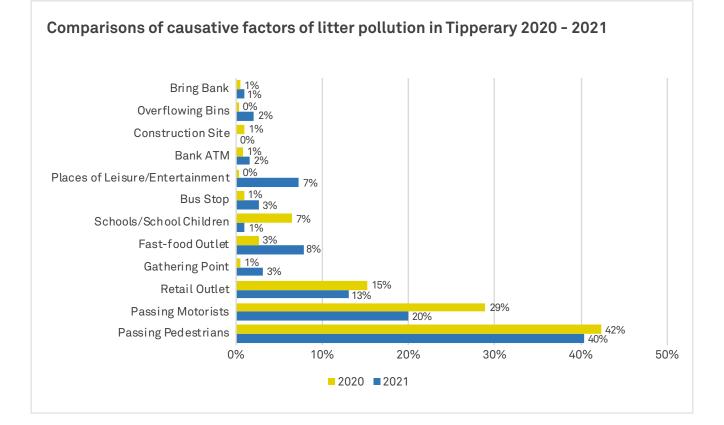






The litter quantification survey also revealed the causes of litter pollution, with 40% being attributed to passing pedestrians, 20% to passing motorists and 13% being retail outlets in 2021.





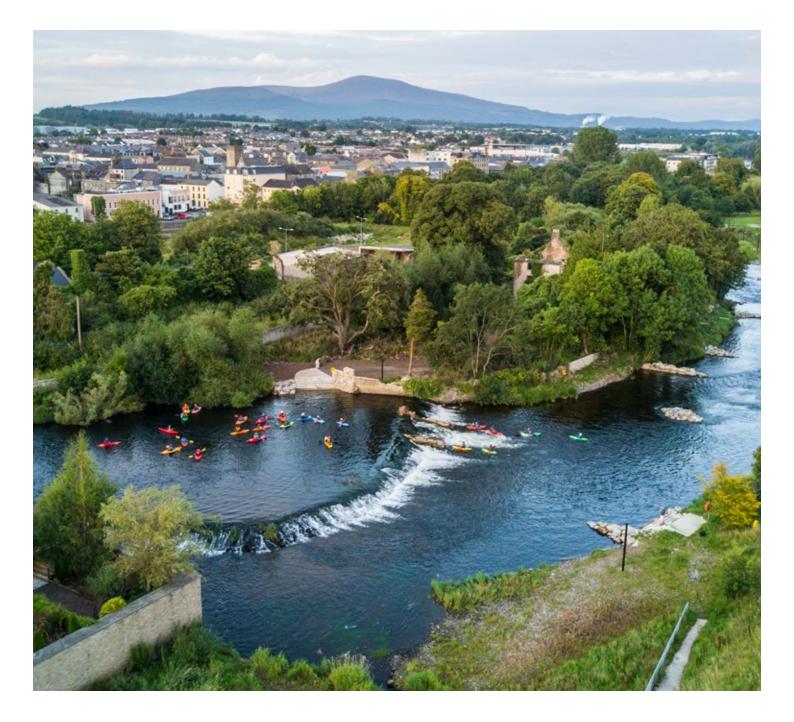
4.2 Irish Business Against Litter

Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) is an alliance of companies who believe that litter has a significant impact on our economic well-being. Each year An Taisce assesses litter levels in Ireland's largest towns and cities against European norms.

The 2023 nationwide survey by IBAL shows Clonmel ranked amongst the cleanest towns in the country. Out of 40 towns and cities surveyed, Clonmel ranked at 4th spot under the category of "Cleaner than European norms". This result is a great achievement for the Borough District and recognises the hard work by the Council and by all those who reside, work and visit Clonmel in tackling litter.

ibal Irish Business Against Litter

Out of 40 towns and cities surveyed, Clonmel ranked at 4th spot under the category of "Cleaner than European norms".







Challenges & Future Solutions

5. Challenges & Future Solutions

Litter is a persistent problem in Ireland. Whilst the majority of people dispose of their litter in a responsible manner, a key challenge for the Council is how to reach those responsible for littering and change behaviours. In this regard, the Litter Management Plan identifies appropriate awareness raising and enforcement measures and actions to be taken to reduce litter within the county.

Tipperary County Council will review the implementation of the Litter Management Plan to ensure the Council is meeting its obligations in relation to litter prevention, control and enforcement.

The following have been identified as being challenging issues, requiring further measures / actions under this Plan.

- Dog fouling,
- Roadside Litter / Scattered litter,
- Illegal dumping black spots,
- Keeping Bring Banks Litter Free,
- Unauthorised Temporary Signage,
- Urban Litter generation,
- Household Waste Disposal,
- Demand and Supply of Bins,
- Cigarette Litter.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling poses many challenges for the Council. Not only is it disgusting, but it is also a health risk particular to children and the visually impaired. It is anti-social and never acceptable for a dog owner to allow their dog to foul in a public place and not pick up and dispose of it correctly.

There are challenges in relation to issuing fines for this type of offence; many instances occur late at night, or very early in the morning and an authorised person needs to witness the dog fouling to issue the fine. Establishing the identity of the dog owner can also prove difficult.

To increase awareness of this issue, Tipperary County Council has undertaken a number of anti-dog fouling awareness campaigns to educate owners of their responsibilities. Mutt mitt dispensers were also installed in towns and villages where dogs are walked regularly, where bags are made available to the public.

It is the responsibility of the dog owner to clean up after their dog. It is important that any such waste is properly disposed of in a litter bin, or by bringing the bag home and disposing of it in the general waste bin.

Tipperary County Council will continue to roll out ongoing awareness campaigns throughout the lifetime of this plan to address this issue.



It is the responsibility of the dog owner to clean up after their dog. It is important that any such waste is properly disposed of in a litter bin, or by bringing the bag home and disposing of it in the general waste bin.

Roadside / Scattered Litter

Roadside and scattered litter continues to be challenging for the Council, in term of clean-up costs. Scattered litter is visually obtrusive, potentially harmful to wildlife and is often dangerous to remove due to its occurrence on the sides of busy roads, usually on approach roads to our towns and villages. According to the NLPMS, in 2021 passing motorists accounted for just under 20% of litter pollution in county Tipperary.

Depending on the nature of the litter, roadside litter can pose a risk to the safety of road users.

The Council is very proactive in investigating where roadside dumping has occurred and carries out investigations in order to fine and /or prosecute perpetrators. However, the challenge remains that in many circumstances evidence cannot be found and the cost of removal is borne by the Council.

Recent changes to legislation resulting from the introduction of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022, makes provision for environmental levies to be applied on single use items such as cups, containers, packaging etc. It is hoped this will deter their unnecessary use and the creation of this type of litter.

The National Deposit and Return Scheme is due to be introduced in early 2024. It is hoped that this will also have a positive effect on reducing roadside litter, as plastic bottles and cans will then have a monetary value, once this scheme is introduced.

Tipperary County Council will continue to roll out awareness campaigns, using social media platforms and other mediums as needed. The Council will continue to work with and support tidy towns committees and other groups in relation to organising litter picks and supporting the National Spring Clean.

A grant of €30,000 was secured by Tipperary County Council under the 2023 Anti-dumping Initiative to roll out an Anti-roadside litter campaign. This campaign will involve engaging with communities and organising a county-wide litter pick week in August. The project will include antilittering messaging, distribution of branded reusable cups and bottles and piloting the use of a tractor mounted vacuum cleaner to address litter on more dangerous approach roads.

Scattered litter is visually obtrusive, potentially harmful to wildlife and is often dangerous to remove due to its occurrence on the sides of busy road.



Illegal dumping Blackspots

Illegal dumping and littering continue to be a major challenge. The Council actively pursues offenders and is using technologies available to assist with enforcement. The Anti-Dumping Initiative Fund has allowed for the purchase of new technologies such as CCTV cameras and drones and has funded clean-up and abatement projects at illegal dumping black spots.

The Council will continue to bring enforcement proceedings, wherever possible against offenders of illegal dumping and ensure that households are disposing of their waste correctly.

Littering at Bring Banks

There are 135 bring bank centres throughout the county. While there is a service contract in place to ensure they do not reach capacity, there are occasions when demand will peak, for example at Christmas and Easter. At these times, Tipperary County Council works with the service provider to resolve issues as soon as practicable. If bring banks are full, bottles should not be left at the banks. Signage is erected at bring banks to advise this.

Often bring banks attract littering and dumping, the use of CCTV at these locations has improved the situation.

Tipperary County Council will continue to service and maintain bring banks and will issue fines when litter or waste is left on site.

Unauthorised Temporary Signage

Advertising is a vital component of business activity and a means of providing information to the general public. However, unauthorised advertising signs can detract from the appearance of an amenity or area. They can also be a distraction to road users as well as being a hindrance to pedestrians, particularly the less abled and those with buggies.

Urban Litter generation

According to the NLPMS 2021 report, passing pedestrians continue to be the largest group of offenders of litter pollution in Tipperary, accounting for 40.3%. Public places such as footpaths, streets, walkways and other public areas are extremely negatively affected by urban littering.

The NLPMS 2021 report findings include:

- Retail outlets were responsible for 13.1% of litter pollution;
- Fast-food outlets for 7.9% litter pollution;
- Litter at places of leisure and entertainment was 7.3%; and
- Gathering points accounted for 3.1%.

Collectively these four causation factors account for over 31% of litter pollution in the county.

The Litter Pollution Act places an onus on businesses to keep footpaths and public places within 100 meters of their business premises litter free.

Smoking, drinking and eating all result in litter items being dropped.

Cigarette butts (54.5%) and chewing gum (7.9%) are the most common items of litter found in urban areas.

Tipperary County Council will continue to engage with business owners to ensure that they are aware of their obligations in relation to controlling litter, as specified under the Litter Pollution Act. In this regard, a flyer has been produced by the Council for distribution to retailer, fast-food outlets, places of leisure and entertainment etc to educate on responsibilities and advise that failure to comply can result in penalties or prosecution.

Household Waste Disposal

Investigations in relation to how households dispose of their waste is allowed for under Tipperary County Council's Waste Management Bye Laws 2018. The Council has authority to request proof of how households are disposing of their waste. Failure to comply can lead to a fixed payment notice being issued. These checks ensure households are managing their waste appropriately and will assist in clamping down on unauthorised waste collectors.

Demand and Supply of Litter Bins

The Council receives requests from the public to install public litter bins, sometimes in quite remote locations. The real costs associated with bins is not the initial cost of purchasing or installing the bin, but the lifelong servicing and maintenance costs required once a litter bin is installed. Public litter bins can also be abused and used to illegally dump household waste.

Therefore, careful consideration is given to whether new litter bins are required and their proposed locations for servicing and maintenance.



Cigarette Litter

Cigarette litter is a particularly harmful form of litter. In addition to containing plastic, filters are comprised of thousands of chemical ingredients, including arsenic, lead and nicotine, which can leak into waterways and be toxic to fish and marine species. Vaping devices as a litter type has been recorded for the first time by IBAL. Disposable vapes are not only single-use plastics, but also include a lithium battery, which is an especially toxic form of litter.

The Council will continue to issue fines to those who litter, whenever possible and to enforce the provisions under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended). Targeted education and awareness initiatives will be rolled out by the Council to tackle litter.

Cigarette litter is a particularly harmful form of litter. In addition to containing plastic, filters are comprised of thousands of chemical ingredients, including arsenic, lead and nicotine, which can leak into waterways and be toxic to fish and marine species.

Objectives & Actions of the Litter Management Plan



6. Objectives & Actions of the Litter Management Plan

This Litter Management Plan sets out a number of objectives and actions required over the next three-year period to prevent and control litter through:

- Education & Awareness Measures,
- Community Participation Measures and
- Enforcement & Regulations Measures.

OBJECTIVE 1

To work with and support all throughout the county, including householders, Tidy Towns, Community Groups, schools and business to raise awareness of littering and to motivate behavioural change through education and awareness initiatives.

ACTIONS

1.1	Continued use of local media (newspapers and radio stations), Tipperary County Council webpage; social media (Facebook and Twitter) and free media to promote awareness of littering and waste prevention.
1.2	Support locally led initiatives through the provision of advice and funding. Such initiatives can include Plastic free initiatives; Zero waste Initiatives; To Go Cup campaign; Refill.ie campaign.
1.3	Provide educational and awareness campaigns to raise awareness amongst householders, communities and businesses on preventing and reducing waste and saving money. Tipperary County Council will proactively work collaboratively on a regional level and national level with the Southern Region Waste Management Office and the EPA Local Authority Prevention Network and on projects to promote awareness of preventing the generation of waste including single use items that is the source of littering.
1.4	 Tipperary County Council Staff to support at a regional level with the Southern Regional Waste Management Office, at national level with the EPA Local Authority Prevention Network and the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications: The National Deposit & Return Scheme at community level (to be introduced in 2024); Levy on single use items; Packaging prevention at industry /retail level and where required replacement to more environmentally friendly alternatives.
1.5	Promote the use of authorized collectors. Increased awareness is required to ensure that householders ask their waste collector for a waste collection permit, their waste collector permit number and appropriate identification.
1.6	 Promote awareness of the implications in terms of fines and other enforcement action taken by Tipperary County Council for: Dropping litter onto the ground (litter and gum); Illegally dumping bags of rubbish; Not cleaning up after your dog; Putting graffiti on walls.
1.7	Promote the use of Tipperary County Council's recycling facilities / Bring Banks and what can be recycled, and at what cost, at County Tipperary recycling centres and bring banks.
1.8	Continue to support and work in partnership with An Taisce on developing and promoting the Green Schools programme; National Spring Clean; and other An Taisce initiatives.
1.9	Promote anti-litter campaigns i.e. National Spring Clean; graffiti, gum and dog fouling campaigns.
1.10	Erect appropriate anti-litter signage including dog fouling signage at amenity sites and other public areas.
1.11	To support the efforts of Tipperary County Council's Housing Section to engage residents' associations in the management of litter on their estates.
1.12	For event coordinators to arrange prompt collection of materials following clean-ups of events.
1.13	Explore the installation of litter bins with segregation units for dry recyclables and food/ compostable waste in areas of street food vendors.

OBJECTIVE 2

To continue to work in partnership with residents' associations, estate management groups, the business and voluntary sectors to play their part in litter prevention.

ACTIONS

2.1	Continue to work with the various groups and encourage the development of local litter action plans in villages and towns.
2.2	Actively encourage participation of Tidy Towns Groups, resident's associations, estate management groups and other voluntary groups in litter awareness programmes.
2.3	Ensure that operators of businesses take responsibility for the correct recovery/disposal of packaging sold by them in the vicinity of their premises.
2.4	Continue to encourage community groups to avail of grants available.
2.5	Continue to operate and promote the use of bring banks.
2.6	To provide street cleaning services as appropriate in town centres.
2.7	To prevent a proliferation of unauthorised advertising signage in public areas.

OBJECTIVE 3

To continue to heighten awareness of public responsibilities towards litter / littering.

ACTIONS

3.1	Ensure that the various sectors are aware of their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended.
3.2	To use all relevant media including local papers, radio, social media, and the website to promote litter prevention and engagement.
3.3	To promote targeted litter prevention campaign on relevant issues including dog fouling, graffiti, gum litter and general litter.
3.4	To assist schools in delivering a litter prevention and control message to students, using Green Schools as the primary mechanism for delivery.
3.5	To provide educational materials and support for teachers on litter and associated themes.
3.6	To engage with schools and community groups through the Anti-litter Grant and encourage a better understanding of waste and the role of all in litter prevention and control.
3.7	To encourage best practice in different sectors of the community through awards recognizing groups engaging with litter prevent and control.
3.8	To promote awareness of programmes that tackle litter including the national Tidy Towns competition, National Spring Clean and Tidy Towns Grants.
3.9	Provide further litter awareness signs at entry points to the county. To tackle the issue of dog fouling with signage, where appropriate.
3.10	To monitor and ensure that litter prevention services are provided to an acceptable standard.
3.11	To operate an efficient and effective process of investigating illegal dumping.
3.12	To monitor and control litter in identified litter black spots.
3.13	To ensure adequate resources for litter control.
3.14	To encourage relevant businesses to provide bins for cigarette waste and packaging waste produced in association with their business activities.

To avoid the creation of litter through Tipperary County Council's own activities.

ACTIONS

0	4.1	Create awareness among staff of their responsibilities.
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4.2 Promote litter prevention measures in Council-owned premises.

4.3 To move away from the use of single-use plastic items at Council organised or supported events.

OBJECTIVE 5

To continue the implementation of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System.

ACTIONS

5.1	Continue to carry out surveys on the level and composition of litter pollution.
52	To ansure litter black spots are identified, and appropriate action is taken to prevent re-occu

5.2 To ensure litter black spots are identified, and appropriate action is taken to prevent re-occurrence, using a variety of powers and means available to the Council.

OBJECTIVE 6

To continue the strong enforcement of all laws relating to litter.

ACTIONS

6.1	Continue to enforce litter and waste management legislation and carry out enforcement campaigns against fly tipping.
6.2	Continue to use all appropriate means available to detect litter and illegal dumping.
6.3	Target household waste collection, including holiday homes and tourist areas, to ensure littering is minimized.
6.4	To ensure that the Council's Enforcement Officers maintain a visible presence in the towns and villages to deter littering.
6.5	To work closely with Housing Support Services, An Garda Siochana and other stakeholders in relation to litter and waste enforcement. Co-operation with An Garda Siochana will help with the tackling of unauthorised collectors through their assistance with operations and through the participation in multi-agency road checkpoints, which will help identify illegal waste operators.
6.6	To work with businesses and traders to ensure that areas outside their premises are kept free of litter.
6.7	To promote awareness of the implications, in terms of fines and other enforcement actions, of littering, illegally dumping bags of rubbish, not cleaning up after your dog, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, unsatisfactory presentation of waste.
6.8	To monitor and implement regulations relating to annual priorities identified by WELRA including tyres and illegal dumping.
6.9	To increase the use of CCTV and technology (in keeping with legislation) at bring banks / litter black spots in order to improve the success of enforcement action against offenders.
6.10	Complete checks on commercial operators regarding their management of commercial dry recyclables and back door packaging in line with the packaging regulations.
6.11	Continue to respond in an effective manner to complaints received.

OBJECTIVE 7

To promote best practice in relation to street cleaning and collection of litter.

ACTIONS

7.1	Require owners of premises to ensure that areas outside their premises are kept free of litter.

7.2 The Districts will continue to keep under review street cleaning practices and schedules.

7.3 Support local groups in organising clean ups of amenity areas.

^{5.3} To regularly review the findings of the National Litter Pollution Management System reports to inform Council policy in relation to street cleaning and to develop appropriate initiatives to address littering.



Conclusion



7. Conclusion

Littering detracts from the beauty of the county; its presence can have an adverse effect on individuals living in an area. Litter can affect tourism and the potential to attract inward investment to the county. In addition, littering can act as a pollutant and negatively affect our birds, wildlife and fish living in our rivers and streams.

The Tourism Sector is important to the economic success of the county and is particularly sensitive to the impacts of litter. Tipperary Tourism Company aims 'to promote market and develop Tipperary as Ireland's premier inland visitor destination in both the domestic and overseas markets." The ability to achieve this objective is largely dependent on Tipperary promoting and maintaining its natural assets and its reputation as being an unpolluted, desirable place to visit.

Notwithstanding recent positive results in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Report, litter remains a problem in both rural and urban areas throughout the county. The main challenge is to change public behaviour from a current situation where some feel that it is acceptable to dispose of litter onto our streets, towns and rural roadsides, to one where littering is viewed as completely unacceptable. A considerable amount of money is spent each year by Tipperary County Council on street cleaning, litter removal and disposal, anti-litter awareness campaigns and enforcement measures to tackle illegal littering and dumping. This money could be redirected and better spent on other services such as parks, amenities or environmental projects.

Solving the county's litter problem is not easy. The solution requires concerted action at local level. We must all take personal responsibility for our own role in the prevention of litter. There is a collective responsibility on all people living, working and visiting Tipperary to act responsibly to protect our environment for now and for future generations. Tipperary County Council will continue to work with all stakeholders in local communities with a common goal; to make Tipperary a litter free county.

Draft Litter Management Plan 2024-2026



Appendicies

Appendix 1 - Bring Bank Locations in Tipperary

Site NamesBottlesCarAnnacartyYesYesArdcroney (TN)YesYesArdfinnanYesYesBallina (TN)YesYesBallingarry - SouthYesYesBallingarry (TN)YesYesBallycahill (TN)YesYesBallyclerihanYesYesBallyporeenYesYesBallysloeYesYesBanshaYesYesBoherlahanYesYesBorrisokane (TN)YesYesBurncourtYesYesCahir - Castle StreetYesYesCahir - SupervaluYesYesCappawhiteYesYesCarrick On Suir - Library- The GreenYesYesCarrick On Suir - LibrYesYesCarrick On Suir - LibrYesYesC	
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Carrick On Suir - Pilltown Yes Yes Road	
Carrick On Suir - Yes Yes Supervalu	
Carrick On Suir - Town Yes Yes Hall Car Park	
Cashel - Amenity Centre Yes Yes	
Cashel - Friar Street Town Yes Yes Carpark	
Cashel - Tesco Yes Yes	
Clogheen Yes Yes	
Cloneen Yes Yes	
Clonmel - Carrigeen Civic Yes Yes Amenity Centre	
Clonmel - Davis Road Yes Yes	
Clonmel - Fair Oak / Yes Yes Irishtown/ St Stephens Grove	
Clonmel - GAA Western Yes Yes Road	

Site Names	Bottles	Cans
Clonmel - Oakville	Yes	Yes
Clonmel - Old Bridge Strand Carpark	Yes	Yes
Clonmel - Poppyfields Retail Park	Yes	Yes
Clonmel - Suir Side Carpark	Yes	Yes
Clonmel - Supervalu Kickham Street Carpark	Yes	Yes
Clonmel - Tesco	Yes	Yes
Clonmel - Westgate Carpark	Yes	Yes
Clonmore (TN)	Yes	Yes
Clonulty	Yes	Yes
Cloughjordan (TN)	Yes	Yes
Commons	Yes	Yes
Donaskeagh	Yes	Yes
Donohill	Yes	Yes
Drangan	Yes	Yes
Drombane (TN)	Yes	Yes
Dromineer (TN)	Yes	Yes
Dualla	Yes	Yes
Dundrum - Tipperary	Yes	Yes
Emly	Yes	Yes
Faugheen	Yes	Yes
Fethard - Council Carpark	Yes	Yes
Fethard - GAA Grounds	Yes	Yes
Garrykennedy (TN)	Yes	Yes
Glengoole	Yes	Yes
Goatenbridge	Yes	Yes
Golden Village	Yes	Yes
Gortnahoe	Yes	Yes
Grange - Tipperary	Yes	Yes
Grangemockler	Yes	Yes
Hollyford	Yes	Yes
Kilbarron (TN)	Yes	Yes
Kilcash	Yes	Yes
Kilcommon (TN)	Yes	Yes
Kilfeacle	Yes	Yes
Killenaule	Yes	Yes
Killusty	Yes	Yes
Kilsheelan	Yes	Yes
Lattin	Yes	Yes
Lisronagh	Yes	Yes

Site Names	Bottles	Cans
Lisvernane	Yes	Yes
Littleton (TN)	Yes	Yes
Lorrha (TN)	Yes	Yes
Marlfield	Yes	Yes
Moyglass	Yes	Yes
Moyne (TN)	Yes	Yes
Mullinahone	Yes	Yes
Nenagh - Civic Amenity (TN)	Yes	Yes
Nenagh - Kenyon St (TN)	Yes	Yes
Nenagh - Tesco (TN)	Yes	Yes
New Inn - Tipperary	Yes	Yes
Newcastle - Tipperary	Yes	Yes
Newport (TN)	Yes	Yes
Newtown (TN)	Yes	Yes
Portroe (TN)	Yes	Yes
Poulmucka	Yes	Yes
Puckane (TN)	Yes	Yes
Rathcabbin (TN)	Yes	Yes
Rearcross	Yes	Yes
Roscrea - Adj. Garda Station (TN)	Yes	Yes
Roscrea - Civic Amenity Centre (TN)	Yes	Yes
Roscrea - St Annes School (TN)	Yes	Yes
Rosegreen	Yes	Yes
Rossmore	Yes	Yes
Silvermines (TN)	Yes	Yes
Templederry (TN)	Yes	Yes
Templemore (TN)	Yes	Yes
Templetouhy (TN)	Yes	Yes
Terryglass (TN)	Yes	Yes
Thurles - Parnell St Car Park (TN)	Yes	Yes
Tipperary Town - Link Road Carpark	Yes	Yes
Tipperary Town - Post Office	Yes	Yes
Tipperary Town - Tesco	Yes	Yes
Toomevara (TN)	Yes	Yes
Two Mile Borris (TN)	Yes	Yes
Upper Church (TN)	Yes	Yes

Appendix 2 - Detailed Analysis of Litter Composition in Tipperary County Council, 2021 (as per NLPMS: System Results Report)

Cigarette Polotod Littor	Cigarette ends	54.5%
Related Litter	Cigarette boxes and wrappers	1.3%
	Matches	0.9%
	Matchboxes and lighters	0.3%
Food Related Litter	Chewing Gum	7.9%
	Remnants of confectionery food items	0.3%
	Other food items	0.2%
	Fast-food remnants	0.3%
	Bread/biscuits	0.5%
	Fruit/vegetables	0.5%
Packaging Items	Bottle Caps	2.5%
	Bottles	0.3%
	Drink cups	0.6%
	Drink Lids	0.9%
	Bags and wrappers	0.8%
	Beverage Cans - Non-alcoholic	0.8%
	Beverage Cans - Alcoholic	0.0%
	Beverage Bottles - Alcoholic	0.0%
	Other paper packaging	0.0%
	Beverage Bottles - Non-alcoholic	0.4%
	Drinks cartons	0.7%
	Plastic film	0.0%
	Other plastic packaging	0.1%
	Cardboard	0.1%
	Tin foil (not sweet wrappers)	0.2%
	Bags - shopping bags	0.1%
	Other metal litter items	0.2%
	Lids (e.g. from bottles, jars)	0.2%
	Food cans	0.0%
	Aeroboard	0.0%
	Jars and other containers	0.0%
	Metal drums	0.0%
	Bags	0.0%
	Boxes	0.1%
	Bags - other (e.g. fertiliser)	0.0%
	Plastic sheeting (e.g. silage)	0.1%
	Bubble-wrap	0.1%

Sweet Related	Sweet Wrappers (plastic/foil)	8.0%
Litter	Lollipop Sticks (wooden/plastics)	1.3%
	Straws	1.9%
	Crisp Bags	1.2%
Paper Items	Tissues	1.4%
	Receipts	0.7%
	Other paper items	2.3%
	Tickets (e.g. bus, lottery)	1.4%
	Bankslips	0.2%
	Newspapers	0.0%
	Flyers and posters	0.5%
	Letters, envelopes and cards	0.3%
	Magazines/ brochures	0.1%
Deleterious	Dog fouling	2.0%
Litter	Municipal Hazardous Waste (e.g. paint, solvents)	0.0%
	Other deleterious items	0.1%
	Feminine hygiene products	0.0%
	Nappies	0.0%
	Needles and syringes	0.0%
Large Litter Items	Other large items	0.0%
	Household refuse in bags	0.2%
	Appliances (e.g. fridge)	0.0%
	Furniture	0.0%
	Scrap cars	0.0%
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous Litter Items	1.3%
Plastic Items (Non-packaging)	Plastic items	2.2%
		100.0%





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