



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT COUNTY CARLOW LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024 – 2026



USE ANY BAG
USE ANY BIN



Put the Brakes on
Roadside Littering



Contents

Introduction:	1
1. What is Litter	1
2. Current status of Litter in Co. Carlow.....	2
3. Legislative requirements for inclusion in the Litter Management Plan.....	3
4. Description of a Litter Conscious Citizen?	4
5. Objectives:.....	5
5.1: Education & Awareness	5
5.2: Community & Business Involvement	5
5.3: Services and Facilities provided by Carlow County Council.....	6
5.4: Monitoring & Enforcement.....	6
6. How to Make a Litter Complaint	7
Appendix 1: Review of Carlow County Council’s Litter Management Plan 2021-2023	8
Plan 2021-2023 Existing Objectives:	9
Community & Business Involvement	9
Community & Business Involvement	9
Services and Facilities provided by Carlow County Council.....	10
Enforcement	10

Introduction:

This Litter Management Plan has been produced by Carlow County Council in accordance with the *Litter Pollution Act 1997*, as amended, and replaces the “*Carlow County Council Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023*”.

A review of the latter Plan was carried out in the preparation of this draft plan and a summary is contained in Appendix 1.

The Draft County Carlow Litter Management Plan 2024 - 2026 is set out in six sections, as outlined below:

1. What is Litter?
2. Current status of Litter in Co. Carlow
3. Legislative requirements for inclusion in the Litter Management Plan
4. Description of a Litter Conscious Citizen
5. Objectives:
 - 5.1. Education & Awareness
 - 5.2. Community & Business Involvement
 - 5.3. Services and Facilities provided by Carlow County Council
 - 5.4. Monitoring & Enforcement
6. How to Make a Litter Complaint

1. What is Litter

The *Litter Pollution Act 1997*, as amended, identifies Litter as:

“a substance or object, whether or not intended as waste, that, when deposited in a place other than a litter receptacle or other place lawfully designated for the deposit, is or is likely to become unsightly, deleterious, nauseous or unsanitary, whether by itself or with any other such substance or object, and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit.”

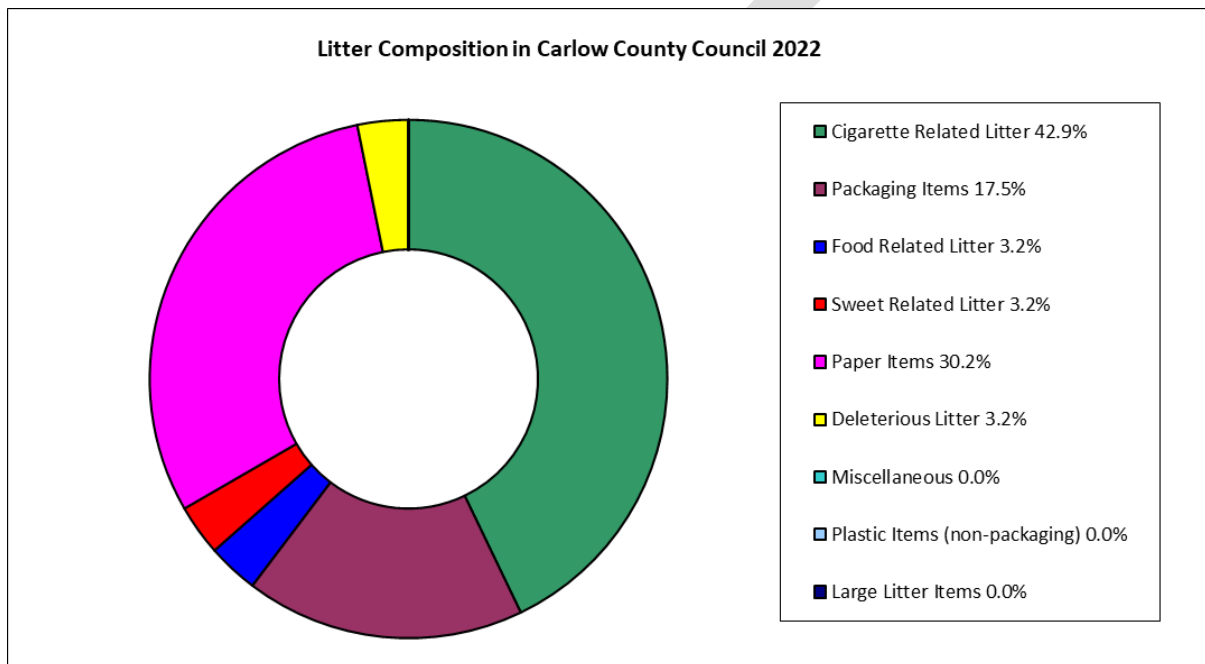
Some of the commonly misunderstood examples of litter in Co. Carlow include:

- Litter on top of, beside, or hanging from, a litter bin – if it’s full, find the next one, or bring it home.
- Cigarette butts – these contain plastic, as well as toxic chemicals which negatively impact the environment.
- Vapes – an emerging litter issue, that should be recycled in battery recycling bins.
- Dog foul – often unavoidable for wheelchair users, mobility scooters, and buggies, as well as being a health hazard to other dogs and children.
- Fly-posting (including temporary signs/posters without permits) – easy to put up, but also easy to forget to take back down.
- Graffiti – tagging of signs, sculptures, street furniture, buildings and walls.
- Food waste – attracts vermin and often does not have the appropriate composting conditions to breakdown e.g. a banana skin on a footpath.

2. Current status of Litter in Co. Carlow

Litter in County Carlow is monitored annually as part of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System. According to the most recent figures available (2022), over half of Co. Carlow (51%) is Litter-Free, with the remaining 49% classed as “Slightly Polluted”. This is an improvement since the last Plan, when only 40% was classed as “Litter-Free”, and 1% was classed as “Moderately Polluted.”

The breakdown of litter composition in Co. Carlow in 2022 can be seen below. This reflects a significant reduction in the proportion of “Cigarette Related Litter” since the last Plan, when it was almost 70%, and much higher than the national average.



3. Legislative requirements for inclusion in the Litter Management Plan

The *Litter Pollution Act 1997*, as amended, requires that every Litter Management Plan includes the following information:

- (a) such objectives as the local authority deems are appropriate to prevent and control litter in its functional area,
- (b) measures to encourage public awareness with a view to eliminating litter pollution, including educational and information measures directed at young persons,
- (c) measures or arrangements that are to be undertaken by the local authority in order to attain the objectives of the plan, and
- (d) information on, or formulated having regard to—
 - (i) an appraisal of all existing litter prevention and control programmes being operated by the local authority,
 - (ii) the policies and objectives of the local authority in relation to the prevention and control of litter,
 - (iii) the measures which, in so far as the local authority can determine, will or may be taken during the relevant period by persons other than the local authority for the purposes of preventing and controlling litter,
 - (iv) the facilities at which waste may be deposited by members of the public for recovery or disposal within the meaning of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended,
 - (v) the steps to be taken by the local authority to enforce the provisions of this Act in its functional area, and
 - (vi) any incidental and ancillary matters.

These legislative requirements have been incorporated into the foregoing and following Sections of this Litter Management Plan.

4. Description of a Litter Conscious Citizen?

Are you:

- Someone who knows what littering is and what constitutes litter – cigarette butts, vapes, food waste (e.g. banana skin on footpath), dog foul, fly-posting (including temporary signs/posters without permits), graffiti, etc.?
- Someone who actively avoids littering – uses public bins (not overflowing ones) or preferably brings litter home to recycle/dispose correctly, picks up after their dog?
- Someone who encourages/reprimands those in their immediate zone of influence, e.g. parents, grandparents, childminders, friends?
- Someone who reports littering to Carlow County Council correctly (not on social media), and supports them insofar as possible?
- Someone who actively litter picks themselves, or who contributes in any way to community clean-ups (from tea-making to transport)?

If Yes, thank you, and keep up the good work.

If No, please contact Carlow County Council's Environment Department, to help identify and address the barriers preventing same, noting that you have a **Personal Legal Responsibility** under Part II of the *Litter Pollution Act 1997* to prevent litter.



5. Objectives:

This Litter Management Plan contains 14 Objectives, under the headings of:

- Education and Awareness,
- Community and Business Involvement,
- Services and Facilities provided by Carlow County Council, and
- Monitoring and Enforcement.

These are set out below.

5.1: Education & Awareness

To use the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System to inform priorities for an annual education and awareness campaign, in addition to the “Litter Conscious Citizen” description outlined above.

To reinforce the core “Anti-Litter” message and actions of the Green Schools Litter & Waste Flag among all Carlow primary and secondary schools, colleges, and other educational centres, irrespective of current Green School status.

To work with all voluntary and business groups in their efforts to promote and deliver a litter-free Carlow, with increased emphasis on graffiti and flyposting.

To increase access of litter awareness information to all sections of society, i.e. that messaging is widely available in relevant languages and formats.

5.2: Community & Business Involvement

To encourage multi agency cooperation, shared learning and partnerships to positively impact on litter.

To assist community and business groups in their clean-up campaigns, i.e. through provision of equipment, coordination of disposal, promotion of campaigns, and acknowledgement of efforts (e.g. Carlow’s Pride of Place).

Ensure all businesses are aware of their legal responsibilities in relation to litter within the curtilage of their premises, and litter created by their customers.

Bring to the attention of, and provide relevant evidence to school principals, where secondary schools and colleges are identified as the source of lunch-time litter issues.

5.3: Services and Facilities provided by Carlow County Council

Maintain a regular cleansing service in Carlow's towns and villages, in line with the agreed annual service plans produced by the Municipal Districts.

Continue to improve recycling and waste disposal facilities (including upkeep of same), and upgrade to best practice models as resources allow.

5.4: Monitoring & Enforcement

Ensure all legislative measures available to the Local Authority, including new measures that arise during the lifetime of this Plan, are availed of in the provision of a committed litter enforcement service, and applied in their fullest extent to those found responsible for causing litter pollution.

Ensure that all litter complaints received by the council are investigated promptly and in a fair manner, and communicate clearly the steps involved in making a complaint, including the subsequent expectations of complainants.

Complete annual returns for the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System and RMCEI.

Monitor emerging litter issues (e.g. disposable vapes) and develop approaches to tackle same on an ongoing basis.



6. How to Make a Litter Complaint

Reporting a crime is the civic duty of every individual, and littering is a crime.

Carlow County Council provide numerous ways to report a litter pollution incident, including:

- Freephone our confidential litter pollution complaints line - 1800 308 208.
- Phone our Environment Team on 059-9136231 (office hours).
- Email environment@carlowcoco.ie
- Call into any of our public offices in Carlow, Tullow or Bagenalstown during opening hours

Please note that posting incidents on social media, or to a newspaper or radio station, does not constitute making a complaint.

You will be asked to provide your name and contact number, which will remain strictly confidential, as well as details regarding your environmental complaint. We need this information to clarify your query and obtain further information. It is not passed to any third party.

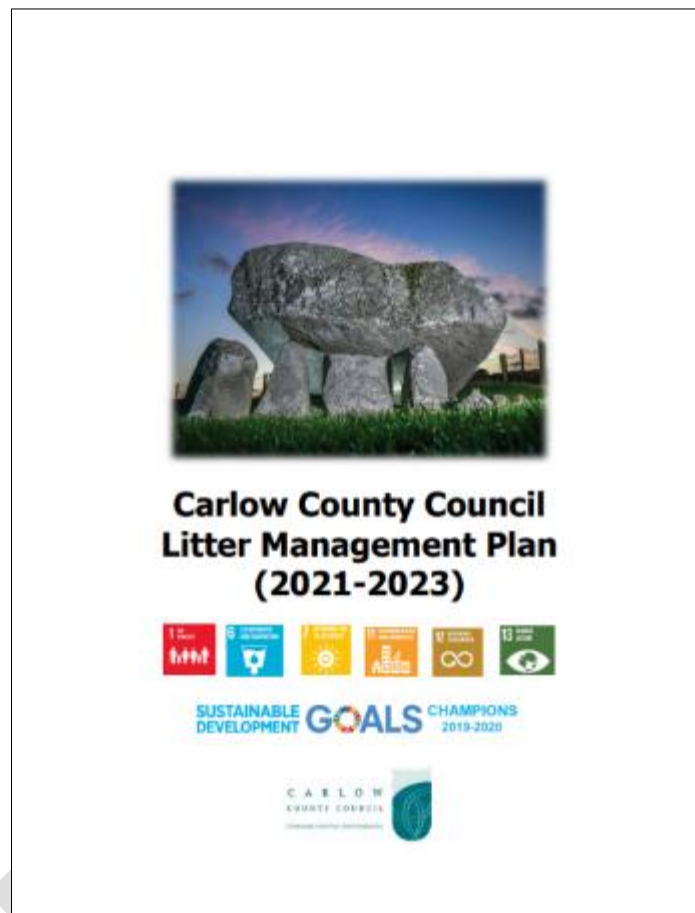
When we receive your complaint, we follow the following steps:

1. Log complaint onto the complaints database.
2. Assign it to the relevant personnel, depending on the nature of the complaint and location.
3. The complaint is investigated and a report including photographic evidence and recommendations is submitted to the Environment Department.
4. Fines may issue or a decision may be made for direct prosecution. (Dependant on evidence found or scale of materials found).

Note:

Carlow County Council will not automatically clean up reported litter incidents as we are bound by legislation to provide individuals, within a statutory timeframe, the opportunity to rectify the litter pollution incident that they have caused. To do otherwise would reward such behaviours.

Appendix 1: Review of Carlow County Council's Litter Management Plan 2021-2023



The first steps in preparing the new plan commenced with a review of the activities and objectives presented in the Litter Management Plan 2021-2023.

The existing plan was circulated to all the Elected members for their comments and feedback. Consultation Clinics were held in Carlow Town, Tullow & Bagenalstown Libraries for Tidy Towns & Community Groups. Consultation sessions were held with Carlow Chamber/Love Carlow.

The existing objectives and activities carried out under the 2021-2023 plan were discussed looking at successes and opportunities for improvement. Litter composition surveys, litter fines, waste enforcement and statistical returns on litter/waste were examined in detail to look at how litter has changed in County Carlow.

The feedback from these sessions was incorporated into the draft Plan 2024-2027. A summary of the material reviewed is appended herewith.

Plan 2021-2023 Existing Objectives:

Education & Awareness

To increase the awareness of all young persons in the functional area of Co Carlow of the damage that litter can cause through the promotion of the Anti-Litter message.

Ensure that all pupils in educational facilities around Co Carlow receive a litter awareness programme.

To provide a strong litter awareness campaign through school visits, print media, radio and social media.

To work with all voluntary groups and agencies who have litter awareness within their remit.

To continue to seek out new target audiences and engage directly to promote litter awareness and action.

To encourage multi agency cooperation, shared learning and partnerships to positively impact on litter.

Community & Business Involvement

Continue to provide incentives that assist communities in the work that they do i.e. Carlow's Pride of Place.

Provide financial assistance to communities to help in their clean-up campaigns i.e. Environmental Grants, National Spring Clean.

Maximise co-operation between all who live within the functional area of Carlow County Council and endeavour to engage them in the fight against litter.

Make Carlow's business community more aware of their responsibilities in relation to litter control.

Community & Business Involvement

Continue to provide incentives that assist communities in the work that they do i.e. Carlow's Pride of Place.

Provide financial assistance to communities to help in their clean-up campaigns i.e.

Environmental Grants, National Spring Clean.

Maximise co-operation between all who live within the functional area of Carlow County Council and endeavour to engage them in the fight against litter.

Make Carlow's business community more aware of their responsibilities in relation to litter control.

Services and Facilities provided by Carlow County Council

Continue to work towards keeping the streets of Carlow Town and County clean.

Support communities in their endeavour to recycle.

Provide environmental alternatives to households in terms of waste disposal.

Enforcement

Provide a committed litter enforcement service and enforce the Law pertinent to litter pollution to the fullest extent.

Ensure that all litter complaints received by the council are investigated promptly and in a fair manner

Ensure that Enforcement measures are applied to those found responsible causing litter pollution.

Tackle the problem of abandoned vehicles in Co Carlow

Monitor the levels of litter being generated throughout County Carlow and identify litter black spots that need extra monitoring and care.

**Carlow County Council Led Initiatives:
Street sweeping & Waste Facilities, incl. Powerstown Access for All**

Bring banks at Christmas



Christmas is a busy time for everyone

- Please place your recycling **INTO** the receptacles.
- If you arrive at one of our sites and find its full please **do not** leave any materials on the ground or in the vicinity.
- You can find an alternative bring bank site at www.carlow.ie or you can bring your materials home and try on another occasion.



Provision of Equipment to Community Groups





Anti-Cigarette Litter Campaign





Anti-Dumping Campaign



THIS IS CLONMELSH



BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE...
REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING
Freephone: 1800 308 208



THIS IS BURRIN RIVER RD



BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE...
REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING
Freephone: 1800 308 208

Dog Foul "Any Bag Any Bin" Campaign



carlow
wander off the track

INVITES

**DOG
WALKERS
& THEIR CANINE FRIENDS**

to a tour of the town taking in the sights and sounds of our urban(ish) wildlife.

SAT. JULY 8TH AT 12:30

MEETING POINT : TULLOW CIVIC OFFICES R96 WP86
THIS IS A FREE EVENT but booking is essential via the Carlow Tourism website <https://rb.gy/orhjh>
C Walk - Walk 5 - Biodiversity Walk for Dog Walkers

Roadside Litter Campaign



Pilot Mini-WEEE initiative

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Borris
Borris Mart
Tuesday, October 4, 2022
10am - 1pm

Bagnelstown
McGrath Park
Tuesday, October 4, 2022
4pm - 7pm

wEEE ireland

"MINI" WEEE DROP OFF EVENT

MYSHALL COMMUNITY HALL CAR PARK

TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 9-11AM

Myshall Muintir na Tire invite everyone in our community to bring in any small broken electronic toys or household items that contain a plug or a battery.

Carlow County Council will remove items collected and will send them to WEEEE Ireland for recycling

WE WILL ACCEPT

TOYS & TECHNOLOGY	IPADS	HAIR DRYERS
BATTERY OPERATED TOYS	IPOD & MP3 PLAYERS	HAIR CURLERS/STRAIGHTENERS
ELECTRONIC LEARNING TOYS	MOBILE PHONES	HAIR SHAVERS
DIGITAL VIDEO MONITORS	CAMERAS & CAMCORDERS	WEIGHING SCALES
GAME CONSOLES	DESKTOP PRINTERS	ELECTRIC RAZORS
LAPTOP & DESKTOP PCS	REMOTE CONTROLS	ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSHES
	LEADS & CONNECTORS	SMALL POWER TOOLS
	HEADPHONES	SPEAKERS
	CHARGERS	DVD PLAYERS

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

wEEE ireland

For queries please contact environment@carlowcoco.ie

National Spring Clean



Carlow County Council Supported Initiatives



Green Schools

For Child Protection reasons, and sheer volume, we haven't included photographs of the many exceptional Litter Prevention initiatives led by our teachers and students across primary and secondary schools in Co. Carlow.



Working Together



**County Carlow
Chamber**
Advancing business together



Carlow PPN

SuperValu 
Tidy Towns



