



# Carlow County Council Litter Management Plan (2021-2023)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOALS** CHAMPIONS 2019-2020

C A R L O W  
C O U N T Y C O U N C I L  
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**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



The **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment have been assigned responsibility for preparing the SDG National Implementation Plan and the Voluntary National Review. The Plan was published in 2018 and as part of the implementation strategy Carlow County Council was appointed SDG Champion for the period 2019 -2020. Due to COVID 19, this period has been extended until Q2 2021. Carlow County Council will then undertake the role of SDG Ambassador which will involve supporting the new Champions in their endeavours.

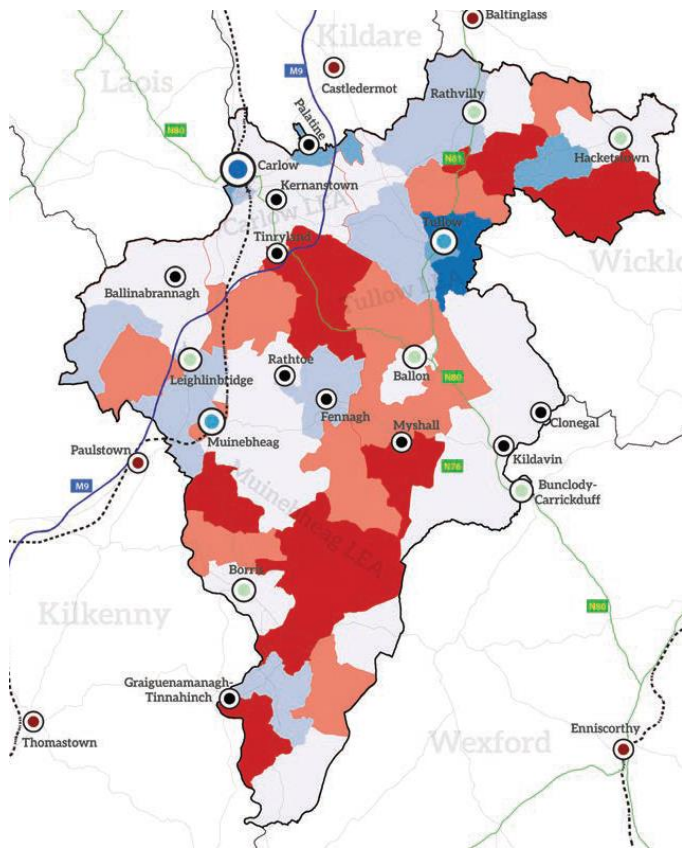
As SDG Champions, Carlow County Council have undertaken to

- Act as leaders through raising public awareness of our SDG’s.
- Translate the SDG’s into practical action at local level .
- Promote the chosen SDG’s through local, regional and national initiatives and events.
- Work in partnership with individuals and organisations both locally and nationally promoting the SDG’s.

<b>KP1. Policy Action: Promotion of UN Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
Target	Inclusion of relevant SDG’s in Litter Related Policies and programmes in a comprehensible way.
Expected Timeline	Lifetime of the Plan
Indicator	Annual Monitoring returns
Responsibility	Carlow County Council & Partners

Carlow County Council acknowledges that strong policy measures aligning to the targets set out in the Goals will ensure that County Carlow will progress allowing for protection of people, planet and prosperity as well as promoting peace and partnership in the advancement of our County.

## 1. INTRODUCTION



County Carlow is situated in the south-east of the island of Ireland. A small county with 56,932 inhabitants (CSO, 2016). It is mainly a rural County with a mix of Towns and Villages, with largely unspoiled countryside, rivers, and mountains. Carlow Town is the largest urban area with a population of 24,272 followed by Tullow 4,673 and Bagenalstown 2,837 (CSO 2016).

Carlow County Council's Draft Litter Management plan 2021-2023 affirms the Council's commitments to litter prevention in Co. Carlow, including the Municipal Districts of Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag.

We recognise that litter continues to be a challenge, locally and nationally, but acknowledge that the success of

this plan can only be achieved through a continued successful partnership between Carlow County Council and all of those who live, work or visit the Town and County of Carlow.

The Carlow County Council Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2023 will look at the following areas in detail:

- Education
- Community and Business Initiatives
- Services and Facilities provided by the County Council
- Enforcement
- UN Sustainable Development Goals

### 1.1 Requirements under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended to Prepare a Litter Management Plan.

The litter management plan is a written statement outlining the objectives to prevent and control litter within the functional area of Carlow County Council.

The Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended, requires local authorities to make and implement litter management plan, and to review this plan every 3 years. The adoption



of a litter management plan is a reserved function, thus giving the power to the Elected Members of Carlow County Council to adopt this plan.

The following must be contained within the Litter Management Plan:

1. Specify objectives deemed appropriate to prevent and control litter;
2. Specify measures to encourage public awareness with a view to eliminating litter pollution, including educational and information measures directed at young persons;
3. Specify the measures or arrangements that are to be undertaken by the Local Authority in order to attain the objectives of the plan, and include information on, or be formulated having regard to –
  - An appraisal of all existing litter prevention and control programmes being operated by the Local Authority;
  - The policies and objectives of the local authority in relation to the prevention and control of litter;
  - 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;
  - 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;
  - The steps to be taken by the Local Authority to enforce the provisions of this Act in its functional area and any incidental and ancillary matters;
  - A Litter Management Plan may specify objectives to be attained in litter prevention and cleanliness for designated areas within its function;
  - In making or reviewing a Litter Management Plan, the Local Authority shall have regard to the proper Planning & Development of its functional area;

- Where objectives referred to in *subsection (2)* are specified in a Litter Management Plan, the Local Authority shall take such steps as it deems appropriate and necessary to attain the objectives;
- Review of key Performance Indicators (KPI's)\_ identified in the Draft Litter Management Plan 2021-2023 for monitoring and reporting,



The Draft litter management plan includes information on, and was prepared having regard to-

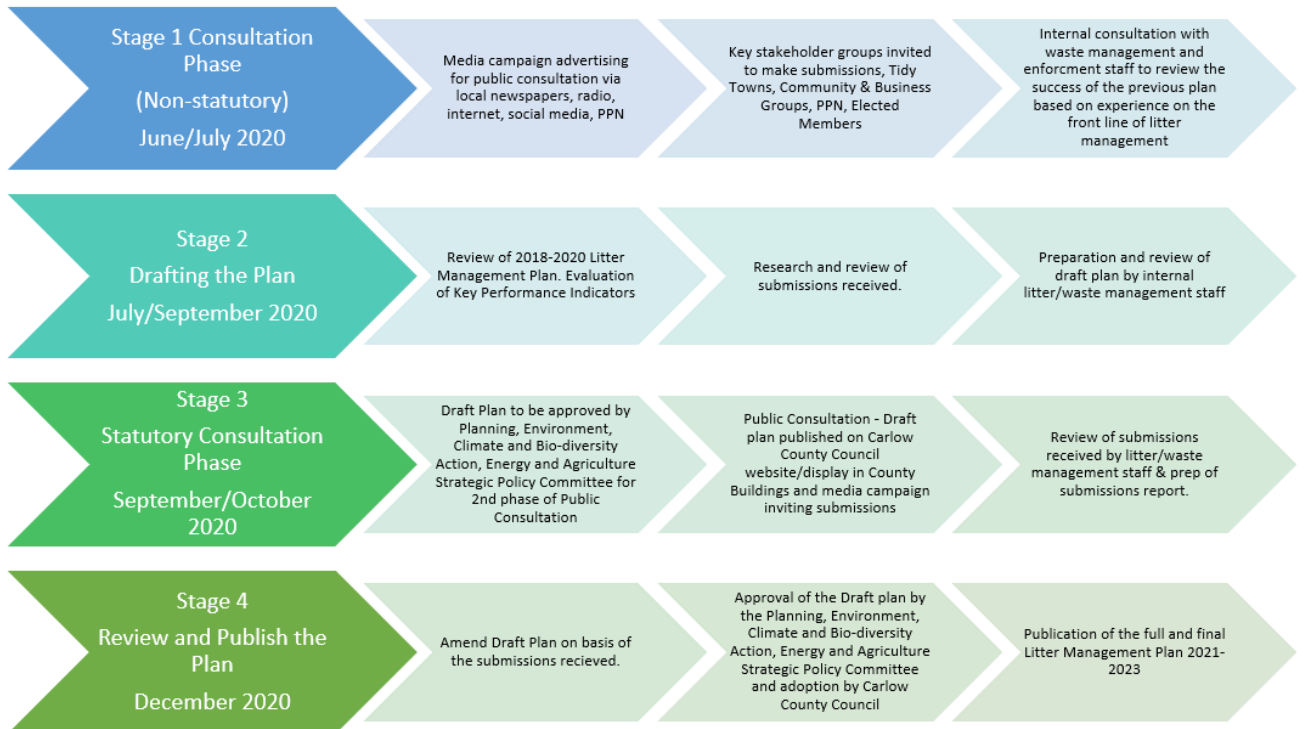
- Existing litter prevention and control measures being carried out by the County Council
- The policies and objectives of the County Council in relation to the prevention and control of litter
- Litter prevention and control activities being carried out by agencies other than the County Council
- Recycling and Recovery facilities provided for public use
- The County Council's enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended.

### **1.2 Litter Management Plan Process.**

The first steps in preparing the new plan commenced with a review of the activities and objectives presented in the Litter Management Plan 2018-2020.



The Draft litter management plan 2021-2023 has been prepared in compliance with stages 1 & 2 of the litter management review process presented in Figure 1.3. On recommendation of the Strategic Policy Committee, it will be presented to full Council in December 2020 for consideration to progress to Stage 3 which is the statutory consultation phase. The draft plan will be placed on public display for inspection and further recommendations in all public offices and libraries for a period of 4 weeks from date of approval from full council.



**Figure 1.3 Litter Plan Review Process**

Carlow County Council appreciates the invaluable contribution from the Statutory Agencies, Voluntary and Community Groups, Schools, Tidy Towns and Residents Associations, Businesses and proactive individuals who play a pivotal role in keeping their local areas free of litter and maintain the County’s natural environment and recognise the importance of their submissions in the preparation of the Litter Management Plan 2021-2023. A total of 11 public submissions were received during the non-statutory consultation period June / July 2020 and have been considered in the preparation of the draft plan. This litter management plan will build on the experiences and successes achieved since the adoption of previous plans. Implementation of the plan will be the responsibility of Carlow County Council. In order to ensure that this plan is a living document, it will include measurable KPI’s which will be traced and reported on throughout the lifetime of the plan.

## 2. Litter Pollution

### Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended.

In 1997 the Government passed the Litter Pollution Act which gives extensive powers to Local Authorities to deal with the problem of litter pollution. The procedures in relation to the issuing of Litter fines and the subsequent legal proceedings are explained and outlined in the Act, as amended.

### 2.1 Definition of Litter

In order to produce a comprehensive litter management plan, it is important that the definition of Litter and what constitutes a litter offence be depicted effectively.

What is Litter?

Under the Litter Pollution the Act of 1997 and 2001, the definition of litter is,



*"litter" is a substance or object, whether or not intended as waste (other than waste within the meaning of the Waste Management Act, 1996, which is properly consigned for disposal) 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'.*

### 2.2 Litter Monitoring

#### National Litter Monitoring System

In order to effectively manage litter in any area, it must first be measured and classified. The national Litter Monitoring System developed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and TOBIN Consulting Engineers, enables local authorities to manage litter pollution in a structured manner. The information is gathered by Environmental Patrol Officers annually and provides essential data to enable decision making in relation to litter management. The data produced by the system allows local authorities to measure:

- I. the extent and severity of litter pollution in their functional area;
- II. the types, most likely sources and causes of litter;
- III. the changes in litter levels from location to location and over time;
- IV. the location of litter blackspots;
- V. the impact of new anti-litter measures.

There are two types of surveys required –

- *Litter Pollution* surveys to determine the extent and severity of litter pollution.
- *Litter Quantification* surveys to identify the composition (i.e. the type and origin) of litter pollution in an area.

The litter quantification survey operates under eight components of litter across the Country. A comparison of the main litter components found by Carlow County Council in 2019 are displayed in Figure 2.1 Below.:

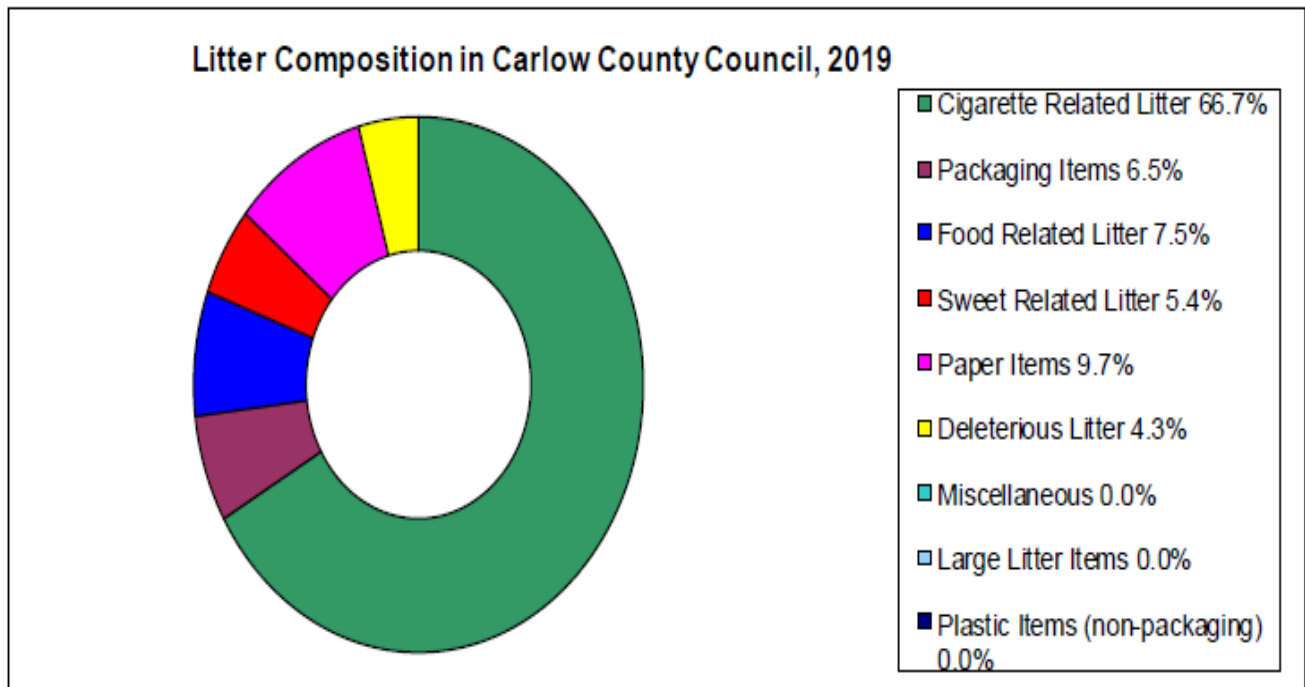


Figure 2.1 Main litter components found in Carlow in 2019

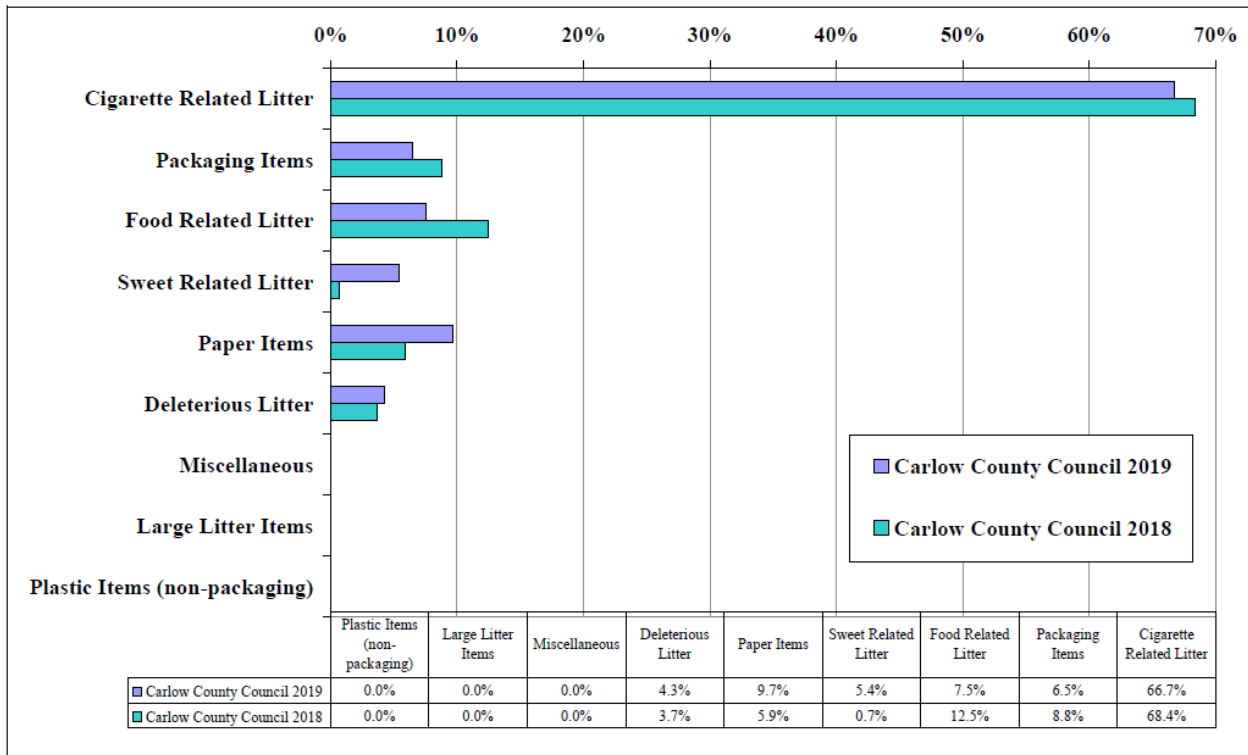


Figure 2.2 comparison of main litter components found in Carlow during 2018 and 2019.

While the decrease of cigarette related litter from 68.4% in 2018 to 66.7% in 2019 is positive, cigarette related litter in our County remains higher than the national average of 53.1% in 2019

Significance	Litter Category	Count
1	Cigarette-related Litter	62
2	Paper Litter	9
3	Food Litter	7
4	Packaging Litter	6
5	Sweet Related Litter	5
6	Deleterious Litter	4
7	Miscellaneous Litter Items	0
8	Bulky Litter	0
9	Plastic Litter	0

Paper related items have seen a substantial increase from 2018-2019 and 7.5% of the 9% paper litter found in Carlow refers to bank and other receipts discarded on our footpaths.

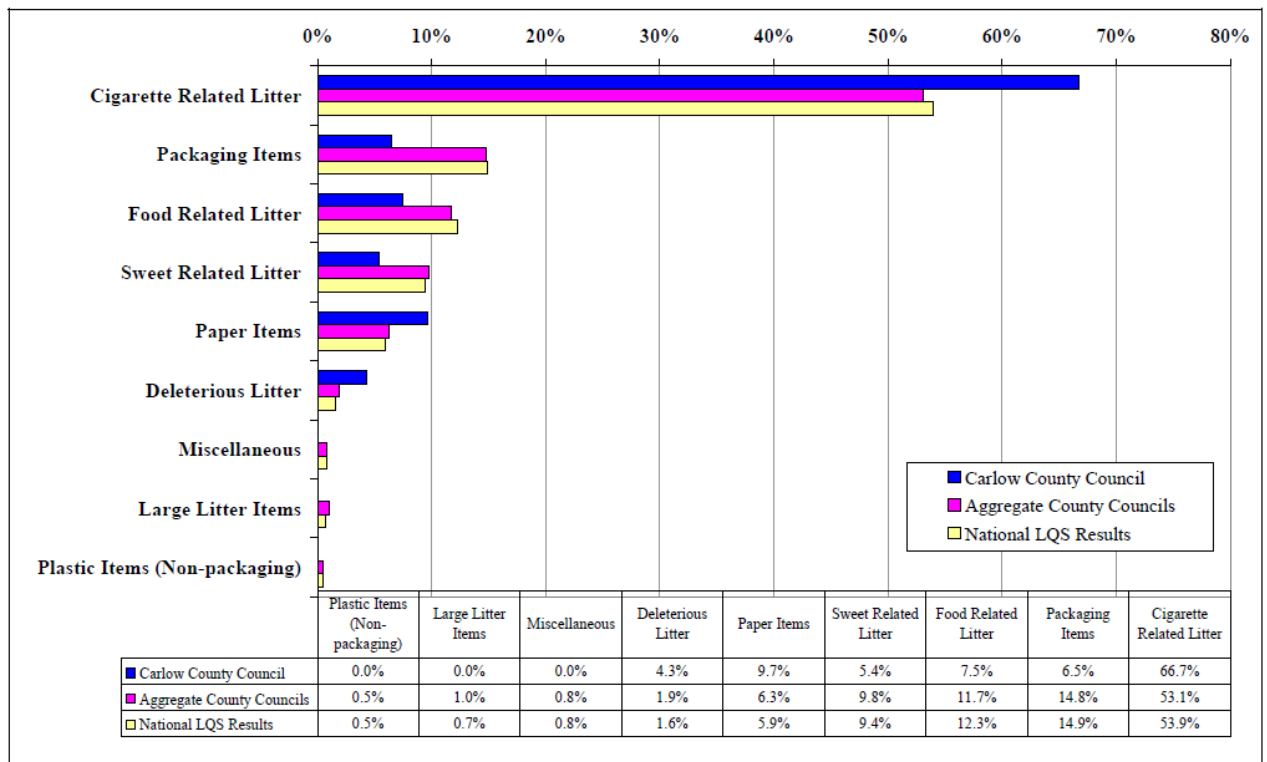
Food related litter is predominately food waste related including bread, biscuits and remnants of confectionary food items.

Packaging litter, which stands at 4.3%, can be attributed to an increase in inappropriately discarded single use coffee cups and lids as well as non-alcoholic beverage cans.

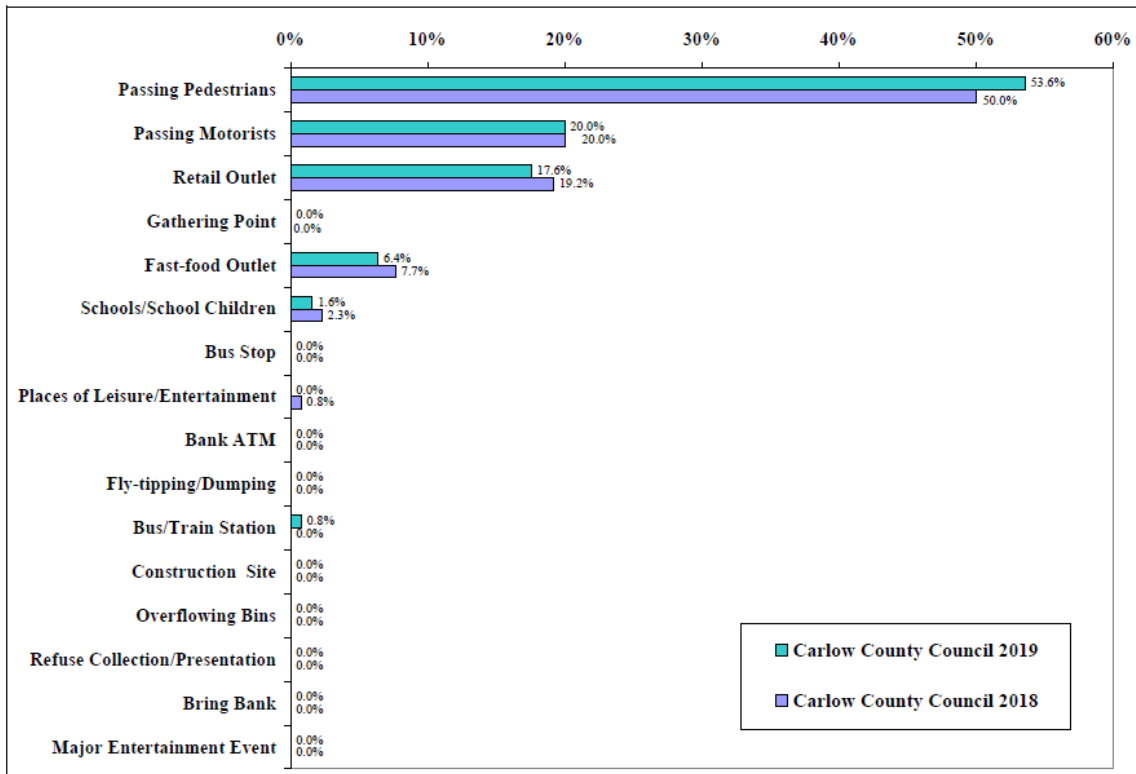
Sweet related litter has seen a significant increase from 0.7% to 5.4% between 2018 and 2019. This litter refers to crisp bags at 3.2% and sweet wrappers at 2.2% discarded inappropriately.

The increase in deleterious litter from 3.7% to 4.3% related to dog fouling only.

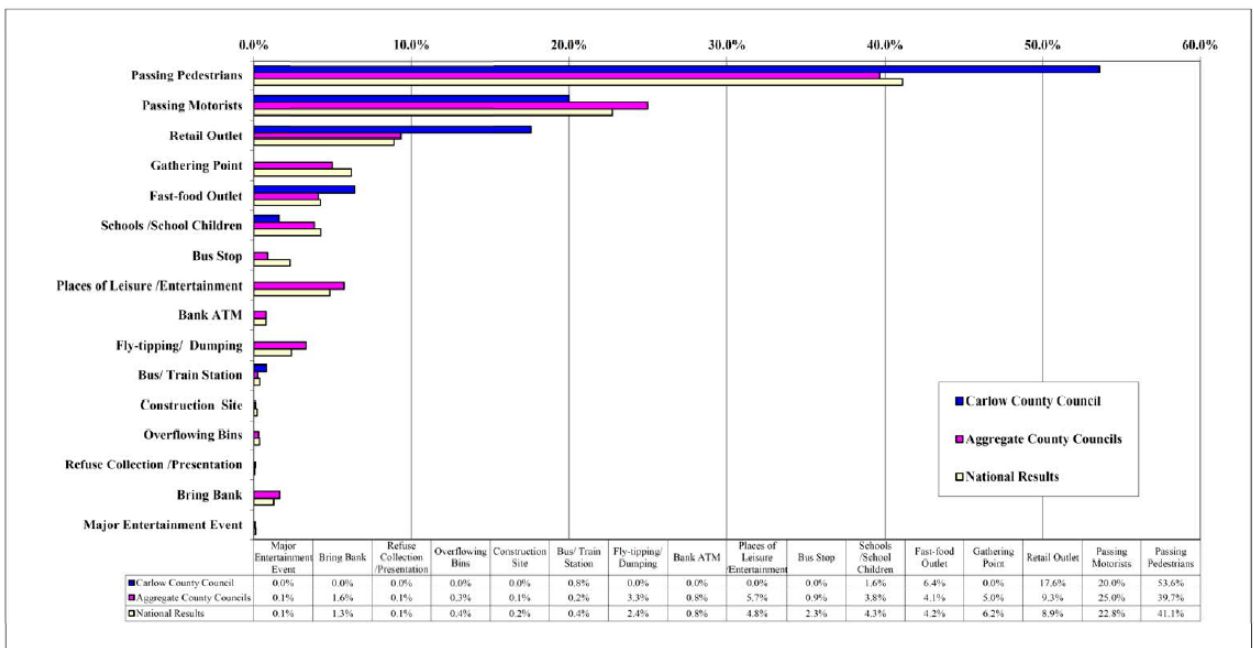
Figure 2.4 looks at the composition of litter in Carlow during 2019 and compares those findings to those of other Councils. This chart highlights the significant national issue that cigarette related litter is causing and the need for action in relation to same in Carlow.



**Figure 2.4 Comparison of Litter Composition in Carlow County Council with Aggregate Results for County Councils and National Results**




**Figure 2.5 Comparison of Causative Factors of Litter Pollution in Carlow County, 2018 - 2019**  
 Passing pedestrians continues to be the largest causative factor for littering, rising from 50% in 2018 to 53.6% in 2019. Places of leisure/entertainment and bus/train stations have become problematic for the first time.



**Figure 2.6 Comparison of Causative Factors in Carlow County Council with Aggregate Results for County Councils and National Results**

Carlow County Council also participates in an annual survey on ATM machines as part of an agreement with the banking sector and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. These are annual surveys, completed by Environmental Patrol Officers and submitted to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment for analysis.

Independent of the Litter Pollution Act requirements, all local authorities are required to produce and submit to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) an Environmental Inspection Plan in the form of the RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) each year.

<b>KP2. Policy Action: Participate in monitoring programmes with partner agencies.</b>	
Target	Conduct monitoring programmes in line with partner agency requirements
Expected Timeline	Annually as required
Indicator	Annual Monitoring returns
Responsibility	Carlow County Council & Partners
Sustainable Development Goals supported	6,11,12,13,15,17 

### 3. EDUCATION and AWARENESS



Education and Awareness continues to be an integral part of ongoing endeavours to tackle litter pollution and plays an essential role in the review of the litter management plan.

Carlow County Council has a dedicated Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) who continues to work with all in our diverse community to create, foster and promote, the anti-litter message by means of campaigns, educational activities and community support. This role is not exclusive to the EAO but is supported by the activities of all team members in the Environment Department of Carlow County Council.

### **Established initiatives**

Over many years, Carlow County Council have made significant progress in the battle against litter. However, it is still necessary to endeavour to change the attitudes and behaviour of those who fail to recognise that littering is antisocial, a significant source of pollution and causes an unnecessary burden on local authority services. It is also necessary to refresh and reinforce the “Anti-Litter” message in the minds of those in our community who endeavour to play their part in the efforts to keep our County litter free.

Carlow County Council continually work with existing internal and external support structures to deliver the Anti-Litter message

but will strive to source new support mechanisms to enhance current and future initiatives .As Sustainable Development Goal Champions, it is imperative that the Litter Management Plan 2021-2023 uses the objectives of the goals, particularly in the area of litter management and awareness, to include deliverables that are complementary to those of the SDGs.

Litter management and awareness is the foundation of many environmental projects and is one of the easiest actions, with immediate visible results, for any community or individual to implement.

### **Working with our youth.**

The Litter Pollution Act 1997 requires the Council to include details of its educational and information measures aimed specifically at young people.

The previous plan 2018 -2020 aimed to encourage active engagement in the promotion of the anti-litter message through facilitation of voluntary environmental groups involving youth. The following initiatives took place during the lifetime of the plan.







### 3.1 Carlow Youth Training

In 2019, a pilot environmental education programme involving Carlow County Council and Carlow Youth Training commenced. Monthly workshops are attended by students and staff who are working towards a new understanding of creating and maintaining a sustainable future for all. This project is ongoing.

### 3.2 Green Campus at IT Carlow.

The official signing and launch of IT Carlow Green Campus took place in January 2019. The committee comprised of faculty, staff and students who continue to work with Carlow County Council to deliver practical projects with achievable goals.





### 3.3 Carlow Regional Youth Services: Green Team

The Environment Department of Carlow County Council partnered with the Green Team from Carlow Regional Youth Services in 2019 to collect, assess and highlight the quantity and impact of litter in the river Barrow.

The young people, under the guidance of Tadhg Twohig, constructed a floating boom from everyday waste items. Following an environmental impact assessment, this device was placed across the river Barrow. The immediate impact of this project was highly visible and attracted local, Regional and National attention. The Green Team removed river litter over an 8-week period. They were awarded the Ogra (Youth Award) at the Carlow Pride of Place 2019 Awards evening and were announced the Senior Winners of the Eco Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards 2020 for Water. This proactive Group have commenced working with Carlow County Council on a Cigarette litter awareness Campaign.

### 3.4 IT Carlow Market Research Project 2018

Carlow County Council and IT Carlow Marketing Department partnered to undertake a research project profiling perception of littering and recycling behaviour in County Carlow.

Information was gathered via personal surveys and online. Deliverables included: written and oral reports. This project, funded under the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN), raised the issue of littering and appropriate recycling with students, staff and faculty on campus as well as gaining insightful information in relation to the causes of litter in Carlow Town.

It was interesting to note that much of the information collected was comparable to that of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring Survey. An overwhelming proportion of respondents perceived that the major cause of littering in Carlow Town was caused by a lack of respect for the area.





### 3.5 Green Bin Angels 2019

The National Ploughing Championships (NPC) were hosted in Carlow in 2019. Working with the National Ploughing Association and the Southern Regional Waste management Office (SRWMO), Carlow County Council piloted the implementation of a 3-bin waste segregation system. This project was assisted by a group of young volunteers from local secondary schools and scouting organisations. The young Green Bin Angels received training in the area of waste segregation which they passed on to the attendees at the national event.

### 3.6 Tours of Powerstown Recycling Centre



The Staff at Powerstown Recycling Facility give regular tours of Carlow County Council's main recycling centre. Schools and community groups are given the opportunity to see, first-hand, what happens to recycled products when deposited at the Council facility. This gives pupils a comprehensive knowledge of the types of materials that can be recycled and reused.

### 3.7 Green Schools



Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme that promotes whole school action towards a sustainable environment through the implementation of the seven-step methodology. The Green School Programme is greatly supported by the Local Authority, not only through financial assistance to An Taisce, but through direct school visits by the Environment staff. In 2020 93% of primary schools and 80% of secondary schools in County Carlow are registered for the Green Schools Programme.

### 3.8 School Visits

The Environmental Awareness Officer and Environmental Patrol Officers regularly visit primary and secondary schools throughout the county, whether or not they are participating in the Green Schools Programme.

They discuss pertinent issues with pupils and give presentations on a wide range of environmental issues e.g. chewing gum litter, bottle banks or general presentations on litter. Presentations to school children are prepared with the age of the target audience in mind and will usually consist of an informal talk followed by a question-and-answer session. Supports in the form of financial assistance or the financing of Environmental workshops are also provided to a wide range of primary and secondary schools throughout the town and county.

### **3.9 Support materials**

In order to support our education programmes Carlow County Council provides a wide range of materials such as litter-pickers, gloves, compost bins etc free of charge. There are also a wide range of posters, leaflets, books and small competition prizes available to schools and groups.



### **3.10 WEEE & Battery recycling**

Many schools in the area collect batteries as part of their Green Flag programme. Battery boxes are collected free-of-charge by WEEE Ireland on behalf of Carlow County Council once 50kg has been collected. It is now very common for schools around the County to organise WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) days throughout the year.

### **3.11 Proposed programme of work**

This Plan outlines how Carlow County Council uses education and information as a means of communicating with our young people around the issues arising and methods of combating the problem of litter.

We will continue to endeavour to make all young people in our county aware of their responsibilities in relation to litter, illegal dumping and the law. To ensure that this information is easily obtained and understood, Carlow County Council will continue to work with all educational facilities and youth groups towards adopting a strong anti-litter ethos.

Objectives	Method of Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Ensure that all pupils in educational facilities around Co Carlow receive a litter awareness programme.</li> <li>• To provide a strong litter awareness campaign through school visits, print media, radio and social media.</li> <li>• To work with all voluntary groups and agencies who have litter awareness within their remit.</li> <li>• To continue to seek out new target audiences and engage directly to promote litter awareness and action.</li> <li>• To encourage multi agency cooperation, shared learning and partnerships to positively impact on litter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to visit schools to highlight the problem of litter and encourage proactive response to schools (Not exclusive to schools participating in the Green Schools Programme.)</li> <li>• To engage with our 3<sup>rd</sup> level education facilities and include them in the promotion of anti-litter initiatives and practices.</li> <li>• Use the Council’s media platforms to highlight the issue and to promote local and national initiatives.</li> <li>• To encourage active engagement in the promotion of the Anti-Litter message through facilitation of voluntary environmental groups involving youth.</li> </ul>

<b>KP3. Policy Action: Participate in monitoring programmes with partner agencies.</b>	
Target	Work with the youth of Carlow to increase an understanding of the environmental impact of litter across the County
Expected Timeline	Annually as required
Indicator	Annual Report
Responsibility	Carlow County Council & Partners
Sustainable Development Goals supported	4,6,11,12,13,15,17.



## 4 COMMUNITY/BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT



Carlow County Council acknowledge the substantial proactive role that our community play in both litter control and promoting the anti-Litter message. These committed communities and their volunteers provide invaluable contributions and are actively engaged in the maintenance and development of our many towns and villages throughout the County. Carlow County Council endeavours to continue to support these efforts and encourages active participation in the wide range of supporting initiatives available throughout its various departments. Carlow County Council also acknowledge the support of local media in its endeavours to address

and highlight the issues, and solutions, in the promotion of litter management throughout the County. Information is also available on our County Council Website [www.carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie) or by emailing [environment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:environment@carlowcoco.ie)

### 4.1 Carlow's Pride of Place Initiative

This Local Authority initiative asks groups to take a holistic approach examining best environmental practices and the maintenance and creation of sustainable communities. The objective of this project is to encourage best practice, innovation and leadership in providing a vibrant sustainable community that improves the quality of life for all. This annual competition includes several litter related categories.



## 4.2 All island Cooperation Ireland Pride of Place



Carlow County Council continues to support the all-island Cooperation Ireland Pride of Place. The competition is an all-island competition which recognises improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The focus is on people coming together to shape, change, and enjoy all that is good about their area. Groups have the unique opportunity to showcase specific pride initiatives which will have long lasting and positive impacts on their society. An Gairdin Beo in

Carlow Town represented our County in the 2019 competition, with Clonegal receiving a special endeavour award in 2018

## 4.3 Tidy Towns



The National Tidy Towns Initiative continues to play a significant role in fostering a collaborative approach to maintenance and enhancement of our towns and villages throughout the County. Local dedicated volunteers in partnership with various departments of Carlow County Council and supporting agencies such as FAS and TUS, play



a pivotal role in not only maintaining their area and endeavouring to keep it litter free, but also in the raising of environmental awareness among communities. Tidy Towns are supported in the areas of litter management through the delivery of services such as provision and servicing of public litter bins and road /street sweeping across the County. Groups are supported financially by Carlow County Council as well as additional support in the form of seminars and training.

#### **4.4 County Carlow Tidy Towns Network.**



County Carlow Tidy Towns Network was established in 2016. Representatives from each Tidy Towns Group in the functional area of Carlow County Council were invited to become a member. The Group are facilitated by staff from both the Community & Environment Departments of Carlow County Council.

The Tidy Towns Network aims to:

- Encourage collaboration among the groups and to look at Tidy Towns efforts on a more strategic basis.
- Serve as a knowledge/ experience sharing body.
- Allow for Tidy Towns Groups to cluster fund for replicable projects.
- Identify common training needs and source same.

#### **4.5 National Spring Clean**

National Spring Clean is one of Ireland's most popular, well recognised and successful anti-litter initiatives. The campaign encourages every sector of society to actively participate and take responsibility for litter. Carlow County Council in partnership with local communities, schools, business and volunteers have a strong participation rate in this initiative which has three main objectives:

- To heighten awareness of litter pollution and waste issues;
- To encourage clean-up activities throughout the month of April;
- To promote sustained, practical involvement in taking care of our environment.



Carlow County Council encourage all within the community to be proactive during National Spring Clean and offers support in the following ways

- Provide clean up materials (Litter pickers, bags, gloves).
- Remove waste materials collected from Clean-up projects.
- Promote clean up events through our social media.

Over the period 2018-2020 over 27 tonnes of litter and waste have been collected by volunteers in Carlow as part of National Spring clean. All of this material was collected from these groups by Carlow County Council and deposited at Powerstown Landfill.

#### 4.6 National Tree Week

**FREE Workshop**

## The wonderful Willow Tree

**Thursday 4th April, 10am -12pm**  
St Mary's Community House, Haymarket, Carlow.

Carlow County Council invites you to celebrate National tree Week by joining Beth from Willow Wonder for a FREE 2 hour workshop offering practical tips and techniques for growing and using Willow in your garden.

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL  
For further details contact [jobrien@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:jobrien@carlowcoco.ie) or call 059-9136232

The Council of Ireland

This national campaign is organised by the Tree Council of Ireland in conjunction with Coillte and local authorities throughout the country. The campaign is aimed at promoting the benefits of trees and in particular Irish deciduous trees. In the years 2018 & 2019, County Councils distributed over 1000 native Irish saplings to schools, community groups and resident's associations around the county. National Tree Week encourages our local community and Voluntary groups to maintain their Litter Free community approach.

#### 4.7 Carlow County Council Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme

Each year the Community Department of Carlow County Council invite applications for financial assistance under the Environmental /Amenity Grant scheme from residents' associations, voluntary groups, committees, organisations, who are engaged in or intending to engage in community, environmental works or anti-litter initiatives in their localities.



This grant can be used for:

- Any works of a general nature which will enhance the overall appearance or reduce litter;
- Recycling, waste minimisation, water harvesting;
- Environmental protection and enhancement including promotion of biodiversity ;
- Landscaping and development of open spaces (trees, shrubs, flowerbeds, planters, paving, planting of shrubs, trees and wildflowers etc.);
- Maintenance of green areas to include grass cutting;
- Any other environmental initiatives which comply with above criteria.

The following funding was allocated over the lifetime of the Litter Management Plan 2018 – 2020

<b>Grants awarded per Municipal District</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>Number of Groups</b>
<b>2018</b>		
Carlow MD	€25,700	83
Muinebheag MD	€20,200	60
<b>2019</b>		
Carlow MD	€25,700	88
Muinebheag MD	€20,200	55

Grants awarded per Municipal District	Total Funding	Number of Groups
<b>2020</b>		
Carlow MD	€23,620	69
Muinebheag MD	€23,230	58
Tullow MD	€22,300	48

#### 4.8 Community Environment Action Fund ( Formerly Local Agenda 21)

The Community Environment Action Fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level. The fund is ideal for supporting the work of Tidy Towns, Village Improvement groups and Green Schools as it encourages the involvement of local communities in local action and decision-making and assists them in working towards the goal of sustainable development. The value of the scheme is enhanced by the voluntary effort that it facilitates. The partnership is between the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Carlow County Council who provide match funding. The following was allocated over the lifetime of the Litter Management Plan 2018– 2020:

- 2018: €19,550
- 2019: €19,550
- 2020: €19,550

#### 4.9 Dog Fouling

Dog Fouling is a national issue which represents a small percentage on the Litter monitoring system (just 4.3 % of overall litter in 2019) but presents a more significant problem in terms of public opinion and in public access areas. While technically enforceable under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, the issuing of litter fines throughout the Country proving to be very difficult. Following the #pickitup Anti Dog Fouling campaign in 2017 and subsequent surveying of popular walking routes, Carlow County Council have placed a number of Dog Waste Specific bins in Carlow Town. Monitoring carried out during the first 6 months of this project revealed that over 2 tonnes of dog waste had been collected, the equivalent to 200 bags of coal. We continue to remind dog walkers that dog waste, when placed in the appropriate bag, can be deposited in any of the public litter facilities provided by Carlow County Council.



#### 4.10 Greening Festivals / Litter & Waste



Carlow has seen an increase in numbers of festivals and events hosted throughout the County. While they provide major social, financial and cultural benefits to Carlow, they can also have significant negative environmental impacts. Funded under the Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN), the aim of Green Your Festival is to reduce negative environmental impact. During the lifetime of the previous plan 2018-2020 Carlow County Council partnered with the volunteers from County Carlow Environmental Network (CCEN) to commence Green Festival Training at the St. Patrick's Day parade and the Borris Festival of Writing and Ideas. The green festival training included ways to:

- reduce waste at source,
- ensure that correct segregation of waste practices are in place for the duration of the festivals.

#### 4.11 Working with our Business

Carlow County Council work with the Business Community across the County to take a proactive approach in creating awareness and taking measures to tackle the litter problem predominately created by local customers. It is crucial that both the public and Business Communities understand the negative impact that litter pollution has on tourism, local footfall, potential investment and employment for any area. Carlow County Council are committed to continue working towards a collaborative solution in order to present our County as a litter free area.

## #call out litter louts' anti-roadside campaign



In 2020 the #call out litter louts' anti-roadside campaign cleancarlow called on all of those in the company of those who were engaged in roadside littering to call them out. This regional campaign, a joined initiative by Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford County Councils, engaged with local business to show support and place posters in prominent positions to act as reminders to their customers.

## School Bikes for Africa 2020

Carlow County Council in partnership with Rotary Ireland and Carlow Rotary Club have launched the School Bikes for Africa programme. Funded under the National Anti-Dumping initiative 2020, unused bikes can be donated at Powerstown Civic Amenity Site, Kilkenny Road, Carlow. Circa 100 repairable bikes have been collected to date.



Business premises are also responsible for managing adjacent to their premises litter under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as follows:

Litter Pollution Act 1997 - Part 2 Section 6 provides as follows:

6.— (4) Every occupier of land adjoining a public road in respect of which a built-up area speed limit or special speed limit has been established in the functional area of a local authority shall keep free from litter—

(a) any footway adjoining the land and forming, or forming part of, a public road, and

(b) any area of land forming part of a public road between any such footway and the roadway.

#### 4.12 IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter)

##### Anti-Litter League

Commenced in 2002, the IBAL Anti-Litter League was developed to mobilise Local Authorities into action on the subject of litter.

2020 saw disappointing results for Carlow Town which ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 40 towns / cities surveyed and declared Carlow Town as moderately littered. The report saw a number of public and private sites identified as areas of concern. Carlow County Council continues to work with partners and the general public to improve the litter problem in Carlow Town.

#### ***Proposed programme of work***

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Method of Implementation</b>
<p>Continue to provide incentives that assist communities in the work that they do i.e. Carlow's Pride of Place</p> <p>Provide financial assistance to communities to help in their clean-up campaigns i.e. Environmental Grants, National Spring Clean</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide awareness raising and supportive initiatives.</li> <li>• Explore possibilities and opportunities for the expansion of existing or the introduction of new projects.</li> <li>• Work with increasing numbers of diverse communities, groups and individuals on educational and awareness raising projects.</li> <li>• Work across all functional areas of Carlow County Council to support Communities in their endeavours.</li> <li>• Assist, communities or voluntary organisations, through the provision of grants or equipment where possible.</li> </ul>

<p>Make Carlow’s business community more aware of their responsibilities in relation to litter control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and advise groups of funding streams external to those provided by Carlow County Council.</li> <li>• Coordinate litter pollution awareness and activities among local groups, agencies and statutory bodies, including, information briefings, workshops and litter prevention projects.</li> <li>• Advise and encourage all retail outlets to actively participate in keeping the area outside their premises litter free, as provided for in the Litter Pollution Act 1997 - Part 2 Section 6</li> <li>• Work with business and their support structures to strive to find a viable solution to the problematic litter pollution problem in larger urban areas.</li> </ul>
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<b>KP4. Policy Action: Provide supports to local Community Groups and Business to increase the anti-litter message across the County</b>	
<p>Target</p>	<p>Work with Local Community and Voluntary Groups and Local Business to engage in anti-litter programmes and awareness events.</p>
<p>Expected Timeline</p>	<p>Lifetime of the Plan</p>
<p>Indicator</p>	<p>Value of grants/ funding issued to organisations</p>
<p>Responsibility</p>	<p>Carlow County Council &amp; Partners</p>
<p>Sustainable Development Goals supported</p>	<p>11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17</p>





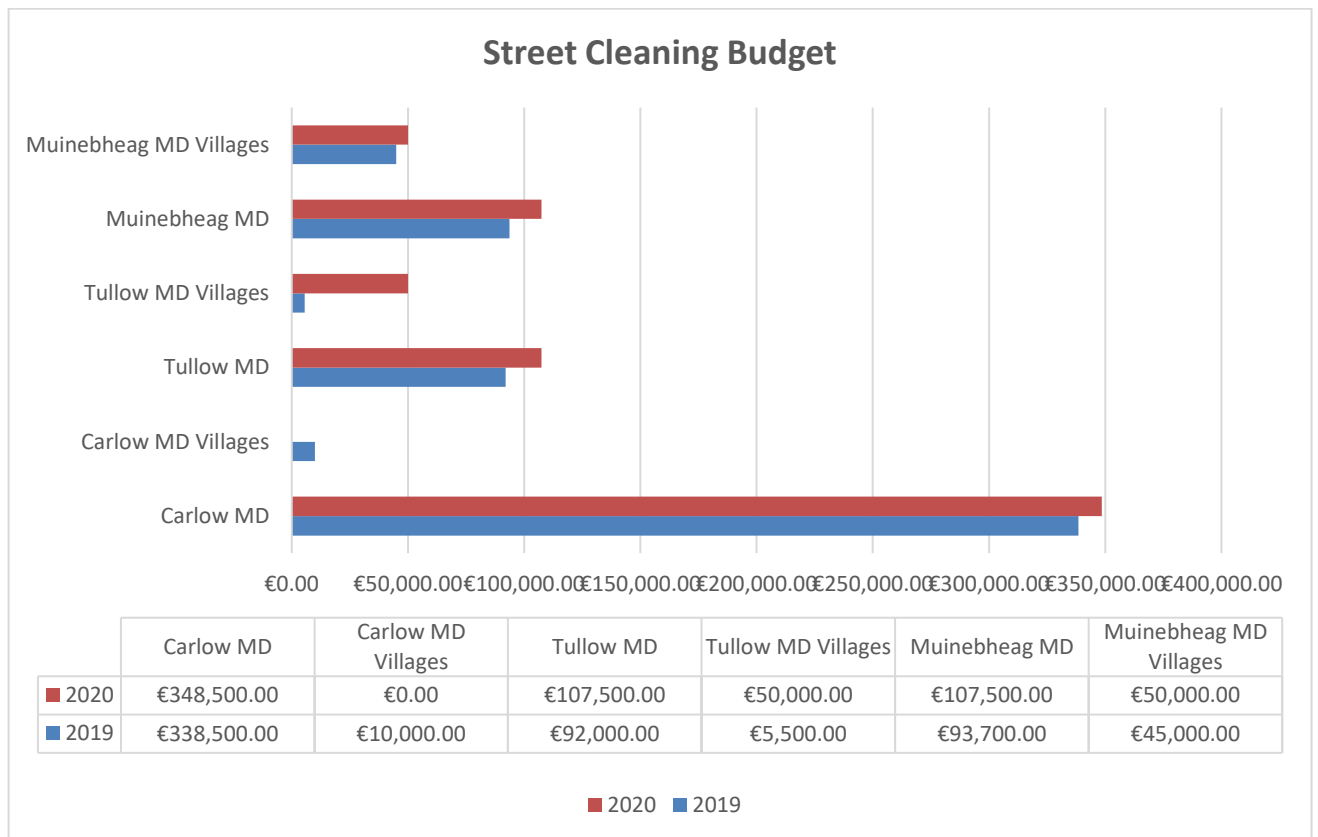
## 5. SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED BY CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Carlow County Council through its various departments invest significant resources on litter related services. This litter management plan reaffirms Carlow County Council's commitment to protecting the local environment and to eliminating litter.

### 5.1 Street cleaning

#### (a) Budgets

Substantial funds are dedicated annually to the cleaning of streets and emptying of litter bins in the main urban areas of County Carlow. The Council also operates a street cleaning service in larger towns and villages. A budget of €1,248,200 was provided by Carlow County Council for Street Cleaning in 2019 & 2020.



Cost of disposal of litter has escalated due to the loss of disposal facilities at Powerstown civic amenity site. These costs are now resourced through the annual budget of Carlow County Council.

### **(b) Street sweeping**

Driver operated sweeping machines and supports are used in all of the major urban areas in Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag Municipal districts and falls under the remit of the Area Engineer in each Municipal District. Larger urban areas such as Carlow Town operate sweeping 7 days per week, with particular emphases on weekends and Bank Holidays. Street sweeping is carried within the area of the speed limits that are now the boundaries for most towns and villages. It is not feasible for Carlow County Council to offer road sweeping to residential areas. Road sweeping is also carried out on a rota basis in smaller towns and villages around the County including but not exclusive to :

#### **Tullow MD –**

Rathvilly, Hacketstown, Clonmore, Ardattin, Clonegal, Kildavin, Carraigduff, Myshall, Ballon and Rathoe.

#### **Muinebheag MD**

Borris, Leighlinbridge, Fenagh, Newtown, Old Leighlin, Nurney, Ballnabrannagh, Raheendoran, Bilboa, Rathanna, Ballinkillen, Glynn, St Mullins, Drumin, Tinnahinch, Ballymurphy, Drumfea, Garyhill and Ballyellen.

### **(c) Litter picking**



A special mention must be given to the various groups and volunteers in County Carlow who work with Carlow County Council and its employees in endeavouring to keep the streets and estates of the county litter free. Community groups, resident's associations, community employment scheme participants, Tús participants, the Civic Amenity Trust, Delta Force and the probations services provide an invaluable litter picking service throughout the county on a daily basis.

## **5.2 LITTER BINS**

Carlow County Council install and service litter bins on the streets of towns and villages throughout the county. The provision of litter bins in any area is given careful consideration by the Municipal District Engineer in consultation with the Environment Department. All request for additional facilities should be directed in writing to the relevant Engineer.

Litter bins are placed in areas with a significant public need and footfall e.g. Shopping areas or areas of particular public interest. However, it should be noted that not all areas are suitable for locating litter bins, for example; isolated areas where people may use bins for disposing of their own domestic waste. All bins will be subject to a trial period to assess whether they are used for litter purposes only. Persistent depositing of household waste will result in the removal of bins from any location.

### 5.3 WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

All waste disposal sites are maintained to a high standard and are subject to rigorous monitoring and control. Powerstown Civic Amenity Site is currently the main waste disposal site in County Carlow. This facility is now closed to commercial users, but domestic users can still deposit their waste at this site.

#### (a) Waste Collectors.

Any person who collects or deals with waste is obliged by law to have a valid waste collection permit and all waste must be deposited at a licenced site. Offaly County Council has been appointed the National Waste Collection Permit Office and has been in operation from the 1st February 2012. Their role is to accept and process all new and review existing Waste Collection Permit applications for all waste management regions in the Republic of Ireland. They also carry out additions and amendments to existing waste collection permits. Carlow County Council enforcement staff validate returns made to the NWCPO by waste collectors operating in the County.

### Did YOUR binman do this?



### Is YOUR binman Legal???

OUR county #cleancarlow 

#### (b) illegal Waste collectors

Every householder or business is responsible for ensuring that they dispose of their waste in a legally compliant manner and ensuring that they use an appropriately authorised waste collector. Households who engage with illegal waste collectors can be prosecuted and receive fines of up to €3,000. If you are unsure about a waste collector you can email [environment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:environment@carlowcoco.ie) or the National Waste Collection permit Office at [contactus@nwcpo.ie](mailto:contactus@nwcpo.ie)

#### (c) Powerstown Civic Amenity Site

Powerstown Civic Amenity Site, adjacent to the M9 Junction 6 Interchange accepts general waste and a wide variety of recyclables from domestic users. Facilities at this EPA licenced site accepts a wider variety of recyclable materials than can be placed in a household recycling bin.

Contact details	Opening Hours	Materials accepted
Powerstown Kilkenny Rd. 059 9172406	Mon: Closed Tuesday – Friday: 8:30 – 16:00 Sat: 8:30 - 12:30	aluminium cans, batteries, bikes, cardboard, clothes, electrical goods, flat glass, glass bottles, light bulbs, light tubes, newsprint, mobile phones, paper, plastic, steel cans, timber, scrap iron, vehicle oil



Current charges at the Powerstown facility are as follows:

Recycling Centre Entry Fee	€4.00
Timber and Green Waste	€100/tonne
Gypsum	€150/tonne
Vehicle Weight	€10.00
Food Waste	€130.00 / tonne
All Mattresses	€15.00 each
Single black bag of waste (<15kg)	€6.00 for 1 bag
Flat Glass	€100/tonne

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and batteries are accepted free of charge. Further information is available on [www.carlow.ie/Environment](http://www.carlow.ie/Environment).

#### **(d) Bring centres/Bottle banks**

Carlow County Council provides a comprehensive network of 27 free bring centres hosting 198 receptacles around the county. The bring centres, which feature glass, cans and some paper banks, are well used by local communities and emptied regularly by the Council contractor. Increased usage has brought with it an increase in the incidence of dumping and litter at these sites. Increased monitoring by the local community, litter wardens and

other Council staff, as well as CCTV systems ensures that illegal dumping is minimised and removed as soon as practicable.

Members of the public are advised NOT to leave any materials in the vicinity of any bring centres. Should the facility be full upon arrival, it is advisable to take your materials to another bring centre or home until the banks have been emptied. Depositing of any materials, including recyclables will result in the issuing of a litter fine. If you notice any problems with the bring centre or wish to report a bank being full, please call 059-9136231 or email [environment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:environment@carlowcoco.ie)



Carlow County Council do not provide clothing recycling banks. These facilities are operated by private companies. Please contact the numbers provided on clothing banks in the event of any issues.

Table 5.1 below gives a full current (2020) list of locations and what is accepted at the various sites throughout County Carlow.

Location of Bring Bank	Accepting	QTY of Banks on site
Bagenalstown	Bottles & Cans	7
Ballinabranna	Bottles & Cans	5
Ballinkillen	Bottles & Cans	4
Ballon Shopping Centre	Bottles & Cans	7
Ballon Texaco	Bottles & Cans	4
Bilboa	Bottles & Cans	4

Borris	Bottles & Cans	5
Carlow Town - Askea Church	Bottles & Cans	14
Carlow Town - Bus Park	Bottles & Cans	7
Carlow Town - Green Road Junction	Bottles & Cans	14
Carlow Town - Kernanstown Civic Amenity	Bottles & Cans	22
Carlow Town Hall	Bottles & Cans	7
Clonegal - Carlow	Bottles & Cans	4
Hacketstown	Bottles & Cans	4
Kildavin	Bottles & Cans	4
Leighlinbridge	Bottles & Cans	4
Myshall	Bottles & Cans	4
Newtown - Carlow	Bottles & Cans	6
Nurney - Carlow	Bottles & Cans	4
Old Leighlin	Bottles & Cans	4
Powerstown Landfill	Bottles & Cans	27
Rathanna	Bottles & Cans	4
Rathoe	Bottles & Cans	4
Rathvilly	Bottles & Cans	7
Tinryland	Bottles & Cans	4
Tullow	Bottles & Cans	13
Tullow Tesco	Bottles & Cans	5

Several of our Bottle Bank facilities received upgrades during the life to the Plan 2018-2020 with new sites introduced at Haymarket, Carlow Town and Tesco Tullow. Facilities at several sites have also been increased in order to assist increasing demand from the general public.

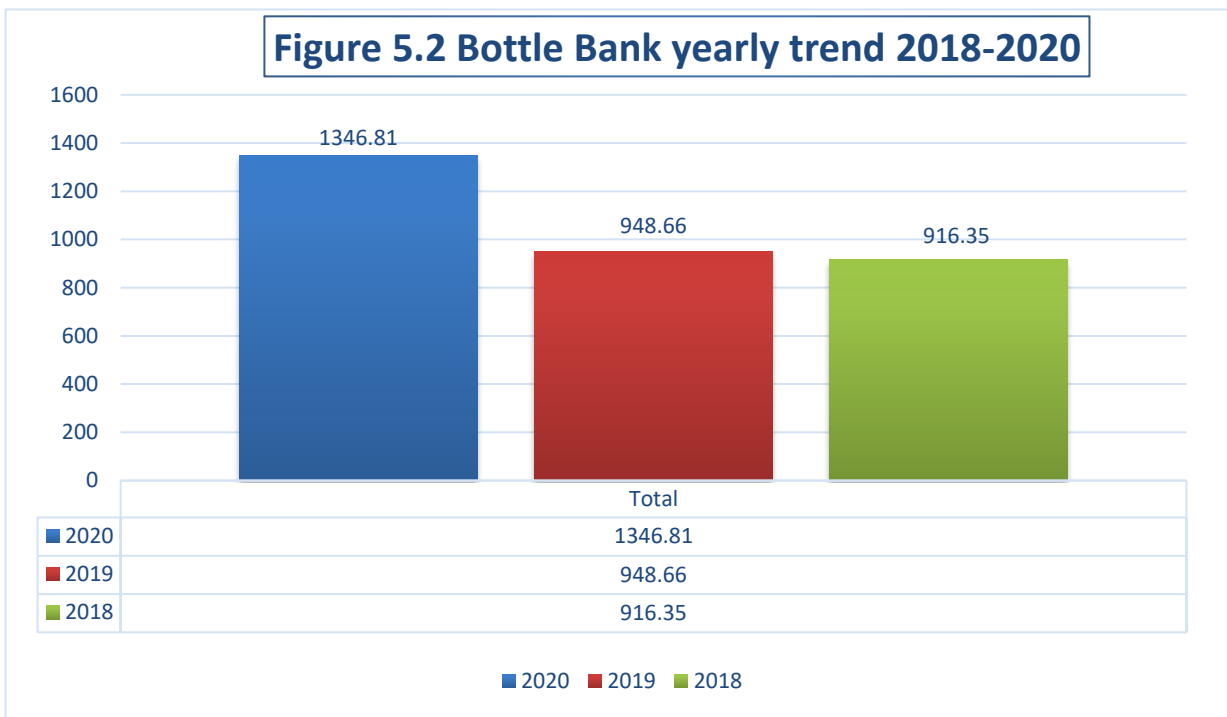
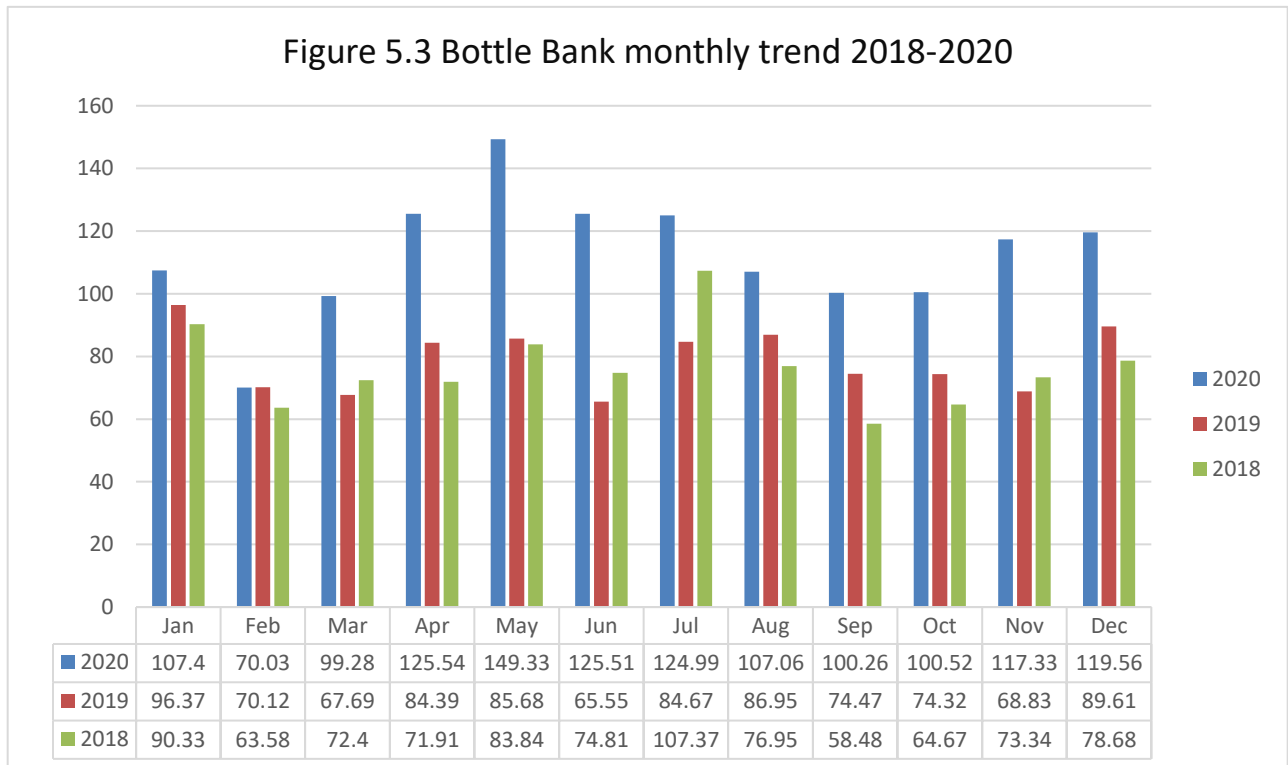


Figure 5.2 shows the increasing volumes collected at our free facilities for the past 3 years.

Increases in tonnages have been consistent over several years. 2020 saw a significant increase with almost 400 tonnes of materials collected. COVID 19 has had a significant impact on our Bottle Banks as is visible in figure 5.3 Other external factors, such as the weather or public holidays can have a substantial effect on tonnages deposited. Carlow County Council continue to promote responsible use of our Bring Banks across all media platforms.

#### 5.4 Home Composting



Carlow County Council continues to actively promote home composting to all households. We also organise regular composting workshops with support from the EPA & Local Authority Prevention Network to help and advise individuals and community groups embarking on composting for the first time. A successful Master Composting Programme was held in 2019 which included participants from a wide range of Voluntary Community Organisations. The programme was held at An Gairdin Beo in Carlow Town and included the physical building of a comprehensive communal composting area.



### **5.5 Christmas Trees**

Carlow County Council provides a free Christmas tree disposal service at Powerstown Recycling Centre. The trees are collected free of charge during the month of January.

Carlow County Council actively pursue opportunities to provide once off opportunities to the public to dispose of unusual household items.

### **5.6 Participation in National Initiative's and Schemes.**

Carlow County Council are committed to accessing funding and assistance through National incentives and schemes offered by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, WERLA or any other statutory body or Agency that can support our activities to combat Litter Pollution.



**(a) Hazardous Waste Collection**

The 2019 hazardous waste event was well received by the community of Carlow. Funded under the Governments National Anti-Dumping initiative, this 2-day event catered for Domestic Hazardous Waste collections at the Kernanstown & Powerstown Recycling Facilities.

Over 11 tonnes of Hazardous waste materials were collected and disposed of in a manner that supports the environment.

<b>WASTE COLLECTED</b>	<b>KG's</b>
Disposal of Paint	7620.00
Disposal of Adhesive	450.00
Disposal of Herbicides	507.00
Disposal of Pesticides	0.00
Disposal of Aerosols	353.00
Disposal of Anti-Freeze/Coolant	165.00
Disposal of Household Detergents	155.00
Disposal of Medicinal Waste (Human & animal)	510.00
Disposal of Mixed Fuels	77.00
Disposal of Oil (Cooking & Engine)	880.00
Disposal of Oil Filters	347.00
Disposal of Varnishes	0.00
Disposal of Empty Plastic Drums	354.00
Disposal of Empty Steel Drums	168.00
	11,586.00



### (b) Bulky Waste Amnesty



Funded under the National Anti-Dumping Initiative, Carlow County Council hosted bulky waste drop off events at Powerstown Civic Amenity Centre during 2019 and 2020.

The event was also used as an opportunity to inform the general public of a variety of litter and waste related environmental issues and solutions including:

- Advise on waste prevention. including the ethos of reuse and involvement in National Reuse Month;
- Advise directly of use of illegal waste collectors, including identification of same and consequence of use of same;
- Increase awareness and promote use of correct disposal at Licensed Civic Amenity Site.

Materials	2019	2020
Bulky Waste (including furniture items)	28 tonnes	39.5 tonnes
Timber	12 tonnes	20 tonnes
Scrap Metal	6 tonnes	10 tonnes
Total collected	46 tonnes	69.5 tonnes
Customers	263	802

### ( c ) Mattress Amnesty

Following the success of the 2018 initiative , Carlow County Council provided another mattress amnesty at our Civic Amenity Site in Powerstown in September 2020. The 2020 initiative saw 602 mattresses deposited at this site, diverted from landfill and sent for recycling. This project was funded under the National Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020.

#### **( d ) National Anti-Dumping Initiative**

Denis Naughten T.D. Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment launched the National Anti-Dumping Initiative in 2017 to work in partnership with local authorities and community organisations in identifying high risk or problem areas, developing appropriate enforcement responses and carrying out clean-up operations. The initiative is coordinated through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs).



Carlow County Council were successful in their yearly applications since 2017 and have been awarded the following funding.

- 2017: €41,843
- 2018: €57,000
- 2019: €63,666
- 2020: €99,378

This funding has been used to carried out a wide range of projects including:

- Covert Surveillances
- Large Scale clean-up operations
- Amnesty projects
- Waste investigations, including door to door investigations.

#### **( e ) Free Electrical Recycling Day with WEEE Ireland**



A successful free electrical recycling day was hosted in Carlow Town in August 2019. This partnership project involved Carlow county Council, WEEE Ireland and Toughers Restaurant Carlow. Over 25 tonnes of Waste Electrical goods were deposited over a 6-hour period.

Objectives	Method of Implementation
<p>Continue to work towards keeping the streets of Carlow Town and County clean.</p> <p>Support communities in their endeavour to recycle.</p> <p>Provide environmental alternatives to households in terms of waste disposal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the provision of a comprehensive street sweeping programme and the continued maintenance of public litter bins.</li> <li>• Promote and raise awareness as to the extensive facilities available at Powerstown Civic Amenity Site.</li> <li>• Continue to provide and maintain a comprehensive system of Bring centres throughout the County.</li> <li>• Work with communities to endeavour to increase the number of Bring Centres.</li> <li>• Provide information and raise awareness as to the correct and most efficient use of recycle facilities.</li> <li>• Continue to work with partners such as Southern Regional Waste Management Office (SRWMO), Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority(WERLA), Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN), or any such agencies and organisations to ensure the continuance of specialised collections, awareness projects or any opportunity to enhance the prevention of litter and dumping throughout the County.</li> </ul>

<b>KP5. Policy Action: Provision of appropriate litter management &amp; recycling Infrastructure</b>	
Target	Servicing of Litter Bins, Recycling facilities and Recycling Centers.
Expected Timeline	Lifetime of the Plan
Indicator	Number of Bottle banks / Civic amenity sites
Responsibility	Carlow County Council
Sustainable Development Goals supported	6,7,11,12,13,14,15,17



## 6. ENFORCEMENT

Carlow County Council is committed to enforcing the Litter Pollution Act to deter, detect and pursue littering, illegal dumping, and unauthorised waste disposal activities. We also monitor compliance with all litter legislation in a bid to ensure the environment of Carlow continues to be protected and enhanced.

### 6.1 Penalties



Littering is an act which is liable for a “*Fixed Penalty Notice*”, otherwise known as a “*Litter Fine*” and or an “*on the spot fine*”, of €150.00. This fine must be paid within 21 days from the date of issue. Failure to pay a “*litter fine*” within the timeframe may result in the Council initiating legal proceedings to the alleged offender. Upon a successful prosecution in

Court under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 by a Local Authority, a conviction may incur a fine of up to €3,000. A person convicted may also be required to pay the financial costs associated with the legal fees and other costs which the Local Authority incurred in undertaking legal proceeding. Upon receipt of a “*Litter Fine*”, the alleged offender can make an appeal in writing to be considered by the Local Authority.

In some cases, the Local Authority may decide not to issue a “*Litter Fine*” but to take the alleged offender to Court under a Direct Prosecution, depending on the extent of littering/illegal dumping and should the evidence be strong enough to do so.

### 6.2 Enforcement Staff

Carlow County Council employs two full-time environmental patrol officers. The Council has successfully prosecuted persons for both littering offences and for non-payment of fines. Environmental Enforcement Officer’s investigate all waste complaints received under the Waste Management Act.

### 6.3 Enforcement and The Law.

Litter Maintenance and Management is the responsibility of every member of the community of Carlow. We all have a civic responsibility to ensure that our areas are litter free and that any litter and waste created is dealt with in a legally compliant matter. However, for those that do not act in a responsible manner, enforcement of the law

regarding litter lies within the remit of the County Council. The following outlines legal responsibilities which can be enforced under

- Litter Pollution the Act of 1997 and 2001, as amended,
- Waste Management Act 1996, as amended,
- Carlow County Council Segregation & Presentation of waste bye laws 2018.
- Carlow County Council signage policy 2018

#### (a) Presentation of Waste Bye Laws

Carlow County Council adopted the Waste Presentation Bye Laws in 2018. Developed in conjunction with the Waste Enforcement Regional Local Authorities (WERLA), these new bye laws give legislative powers to any authorised Enforcement Officer to conduct household inspections in terms of disposal of their domestic waste. “Fixed penalty notices” can be issued for non-compliance. Carlow County Council has conducted circa 500 household waste investigations during the lifetime of the plan 2018-2020. Further investigations will take place over the lifetime of the plan 2021-2023



If you live in any of these areas  
you **MUST** segregate your food waste

**YOUR BINMAN  
MUST PROVIDE  
YOU WITH  
ONE OF THESE**

- Carlow Town
- Bagenalstown
- Rathvilly
- Tullow
- Leighlinbridge
- Hacketstown
- Ballon
- Borris

Under Presentation of waste bye Laws 2018, failure to segregate your food waste will result in a **FINE OF €75**

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL  
NWCPO  
southern waste region  
LAPN  
mywaste

#### (b) The General Public - Section 3/4/5 Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.

The following are examples of what creates a litter offence by a member of the public.

- Throwing Litter on the ground.
- Putting domestic waste into a public litter bin.
- Throwing materials, including cigarette butts, from a vehicle.
- Litter falling from your vehicle/ trailer.
- Leaving materials, other than those designated, inside a bring Bank.

**(c) Occupiers of a public Place - Section 6 Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.**

The following means that if you either own or are responsible for a place that is open to the public (for example a business, school campus, public park, train or bus station, or the area around a shopping centre) you have a legal duty to keep the place litter-free, regardless of how the litter got there.

- Any occupier of a public place (not being a public road/ building or other structure) shall keep the place free of litter
- Any occupier of land that is not a public place but is visible from a public place
- Any occupier of land appurtenant to a residence that is let in two or more dwelling units.

**(d) Local Authorities - Section 7/8/10 Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.**

Each Local Authority, must within its functional area, keep public roads clean and free from litter. They are responsible for the prevention of litter being created and for managing litter in public places. They are also responsible for preparing a Litter management plan.

Under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 as amended, the Local Authority has the authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (litter Fines) and Section Notices for offences in breach of the Act. In this case, a notice may be issued under Section 9 requiring the removal of Litter.

**(e) Mobile Outlets - Section 15 Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.**

Operators of Mobile outlets 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 arrange for removal of any litter within 100m of the operation of the outlet.

**(f) Organisers of Major events - Section 18 Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.**

The promoter or organisers of such events must take measures to ensure litter is prevented or limited at the venue and in the surrounding vicinity, before, during and after the event. This applies to any event whereby large crowds attend. A local authority may serve a Notice to the event organiser requiring that appropriate measures be put in place. Failure to do so can result in the local authority taking action to manage litter at the event and recover costs from the event organiser.

**(g) Public Advertising/ Flyers/Signage - Section 19 Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended**

Carlow County Council signage policy 2018 is a wide-ranging document which interprets national legislation and sets out local policy in Carlow outlining the legislative background and policies to effectively manage signage within Carlow to ensure that there is clarity for those intending to erect signage and ensure consistency of approach

Carlow County Council requests prior written permission of any temporary signage to be erected throughout the County. Temporary signage cannot be erected by commercial entities in Carlow.

- Permanent placement of any signage on public property must have the permission of the Planning Department. Signage on private property must also adhere to certain planning conditions as set out by the Planning Act 2000. Exceptions refer to presidential and Local Elections, Referendums and Public Meetings.
- Advertising flyers placed on car windscreens is prohibited
- Defacement of structures (Door, Gate, Window, Tree, pole or other place), situated in the functional area of the Local Authority is an offence.
- A Local Authority may issue a notice under Section 20 of the Act requesting the removal of any illegally placed signage or advertising material on public property.
- A Local Authority may also introduce by e – Laws under Section 21 to regulate the distribution of advertising material within their functional area.

A copy of Carlow County Council Signage Policy is available on [www.carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie) or by emailing [environment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:environment@carlowcoco.ie)

#### **(h) Dog Fouling - Section 22 Litter Pollution Act 1997**

Dog Fouling is a national issue which represents a small percentage on the Litter monitoring system (just 1.22% of overall litter in 2016) but presents a more significant problem in terms of public opinion and in public access areas. While enforceable under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, powers for Environmental Patrol Officers are extremely limited and difficulty in issuing Litter fines throughout the Country have been experienced.

Dog walkers beware, It is illegal to fail to remove dog fouling from a public place and failure to do so could result in a fine of €150.00. This obligation applies to the following places:

- Public roads and footpaths
- Areas surrounding shopping centres
- Schools/sports grounds
- The immediate area surrounding another person's house.

Carlow County Council remind dog walkers that dog waste can be placed in any of the public litter bins around the County. #anybaganybin



#### **6.4 Mobile/covert Cameras**

Carlow County Council now has a number of mobile covert cameras and drones which are regularly used in the fight against illegal dumping. The cameras, which are also infrared, are used to catch illegal dumpers in even the most rural of areas 24 hours a day. Procedures are in place for CCTV and drone use. A DPIA (Data protection Impact Assessment) is prepared in accordance with GDPR prior to use of any of these facilities. Evidence captured has been successfully submitted to the Courts to obtain prosecutions under both the Litter Pollution and Waste Management Acts, as amended.

#### **6.5 Bonfires - Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996 to 2005, as amended, and Section 4 of the Air Pollution Act 1987**

It is illegal to burn waste at any time of the year in Carlow. However, Halloween is a particularly busy time with bonfires which are often used as a method of illegally disposing of waste. Tyres, pallets and general household waste are often stockpiled to be burnt.

Unfortunately, as a result of not being in a position to identify the individuals responsible for the illegal depositing of the material, County Council are left with the responsibility of cleaning up these areas at considerable expense to the taxpayer. The Environmental Patrol Officers and local municipal district officers are responsible for cleaning up sites and removing this waste.

Carlow County Council runs an awareness campaign every year in partnership with Carlow County Fire Services and An Gardai, advising of the dangers associated with illegal bonfires.

#### **6.6 Abandoned Vehicles – Section 71 Waste Management Act 1996, as amended.**

Untaxed & Uninsured vehicles parked on public property for an extended period of time are considered abandoned. “Notices” are issued to the registered owner with a request that the vehicle is moved within 7 days. If the Council are required to remove & store the vehicle then the registered owner must pay the a fine and removal / storage fees. If the vehicle is not collected within 14 days, then it becomes the property of the Council.

#### **6.7 Illegal dumping – Waste Management Act 1996, as amended.**

It has been reported Nationally and Locally that Incidents of illegal dumping are increasing. Illegal dumping in Carlow has been successfully prosecuted under both the Litter Pollution and Waste Management Acts, as amended. Many cases of illegal dumping occur because a householder engages the services of an illegal waste collector. Members of the public are encouraged to report any instance of illegal dumping by emailing [environment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:environment@carlowcoco.ie)

## **6.8 Complaints Register**

The Environment Department of Carlow County Council operate and manage the Environmental Waste Complaints register. All complaints and actions are registered on the complaints log. Complainants must give their name when registering a complaint but can be assured that all information provided will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

This register ensures efficient and effective response to all complaints received. Carlow County Council actively encourages all members of the public to contact the Environment Section with reports of illegal dumping, abandoned cars, air/noise pollution.

## **6.9 Envirowatch – Free phone Litter Pollution Complaints Hotline**

Carlow County Council has a dedicated freephone litter pollution complaints line “*Envirowatch 1800 308 208*” which was set up in 2000 for members of the public to make confidential reports to the Local Authorities about litter pollution in their area. All calls are received in the Environment Department between 9.30a.m. and 5.00 p.m. and there is an answering service for after-hours calls. Envirowatch signs are erected on the approach roads into all towns and villages throughout County Carlow.

## **6.10 EPA supported campaigns**

### **National Environmental Complaints Line**

The EPA operates the National Environmental Complaints Line (NECL) 1850 365 121 Where members of the public can complain about environmental issues such as illegal dumping. Calls made to the EPA are then forwarded to Carlow County Council to investigate. The “See Something, Say Something” Campaign outlines what the public can do if they have an environmental complaint. It lists

- Who to contact?
- What to say and do
- Directory of the relevant agencies

### **“See it? Say it!” I-Phone app**

The *See It? Say It!* Phone application, developed by the EPA, helps to collect and direct your environmental concern to the correct local authority so that they can take action and address it.

### ***Proposed programme of work***

#### **Enforcement/Litter Prevention and Control**

Carlow County Council is committed to enforcing all aspects of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 and all subsequent legislation. The Council presents a comprehensive programme to deal with the problem of litter in the County in a manner that will require assistance and co-operation from our people and visitors. All sectors of society must realise that they have responsibility for the litter problems we encounter. While public participation is essential the local authority obviously has its part to play in enforcing the law.

**Litter Fines issued in 2019 under 1997 Litter Pollution Act**

Litter fines issued	107
Litter fines to court	11

The Council recognises that, despite the best efforts of all concerned in raising public awareness of the litter problem, there will always be a requirement to undertake litter prevention and control measures. The Council will continue to offer to provide these services, as resources allow, ensuring County Carlow is as litter free as possible.

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Method of Implementation</b>
<p>Provide a committed litter enforcement service and enforce the Law pertinent to litter pollution to the fullest extent.</p> <p>Ensure that all litter complaints received by the council are investigated promptly and in a fair manner</p> <p>Ensure that Enforcement measures are applied to those found responsible causing litter pollution.</p> <p>Tackle the problem of abandoned vehicles in Co Carlow</p> <p>Monitor the levels of litter being generated throughout County Carlow and identify litter black spots that need extra monitoring and care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enforce the litter Pollution Act 1997 aa amended.</li><li>• Enforce Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.</li><li>• Enforcement of the Presentation of Waste Bye Laws.</li><li>• To continue to follow the Complaints procedure and take action on all complaints within a timely manner.</li><li>• Ensure the litter fines procedure adheres to all legal requirements.</li><li>• Pursue fines, through the courts if necessary</li><li>• Continue to follow procedures to compel registered owners of abandoned vehicles to remove same and dispose of them in a manner compliant with the Law.</li><li>• In the case where registered owners fail to remove said vehicles, to ensure disposal of same in an environmentally compliant manner and endeavour to recover cost of same from those responsible.</li><li>• Continue participation in the TES National Litter Monitoring Survey</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use CCTV and drones where appropriate.</li> <li>• Monitor the bring centres throughout the County, in conjunction with local communities, to ensure all recyclables are deposited correctly and that no litter is left.</li> <li>• Work with all of the functional areas in Carlow County Council to endeavour to tackle the problems of litter pollution in a coordinated manner.</li> </ul>
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<b>KP6. Policy Action: To enforce breaches of litter legislation</b>	
Target	Efficient regulation of legislation through recording, monitoring and status update of complaints log
Expected Timeline	Annually as required
Indicator	Status of reports on complaints log
Responsibility	Carlow County Council
Sustainable Development Goals supported	6,7,11,12,13,14,15,17



## 7. Assessing Results

Key performance Indicators (KPIs) are the elements of a plan that express what we want to achieve by when. They are the quantifiable, outcome-based statements we use to measure if we are on track to meet our goals or objectives.

The following are the KPI's in place for the objectives of the Litter management Plan 2021-2023. These targets and objectives server to support the aims of many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



<b>KP1. Policy Action: Promotion of UN Sustainable Development Goals</b>	
Target	Inclusion of relevant SDG's in litter related policies and programmes in a comprehensible way.
Expected Timeline	Lifetime of the Plan
Indicator	Annual Monitoring returns
Responsibility	Carlow County Council & Partners

<b>KP2. Policy Action: Participate in monitoring programmes with partner agencies.</b>	
Target	Conduct monitoring programmes in line with partner agency requirements
Expected Timeline	Annually as required
Indicator	Annual Monitoring returns
Responsibility	Carlow County Council & Partners
Sustainable Development Goals supported	6,11,12,13,15,17

<b>KP3. Policy Action: Participate in monitoring programmes with partner agencies.</b>	
Target	Work with the youth of Carlow to increase an understanding of the environmental impact of litter across the County
Expected Timeline	Annually as required
Indicator	Annual Report
Responsibility	Carlow County Council & Partners
Sustainable Development Goals supported	4,6,11,12,13,15,17.

<b>KP4. Policy Action: Provide supports to local Community Groups and Business to increase the anti-litter message across the County</b>	
Target	Work with Local Community and Voluntary Groups and Local Business to engage in anti-litter programmes and awareness events.
Expected Timeline	Lifetime of the Plan
Indicator	Value of grants/ funding issued to organisations
Responsibility	Carlow County Council & Partners
Sustainable Development Goals supported	11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

<b>KP5. Policy Action: Provision of appropriate litter management &amp; recycling Infrastructure</b>	
Target	Servicing of litter bins, recycling facilities and recycling Centers.
Expected Timeline	Lifetime of the Plan
Indicator	Number of Bottle banks / Civic amenity sites
Responsibility	Carlow County Council
Sustainable Development Goals supported	6,7,11,12,13,14,15,17

<b>KP6. Policy Action: To enforce breaches of litter legislation</b>	
Target	Efficient regulation of legislation through recording, monitoring and status update of complaints log
Expected Timeline	Annually as required
Indicator	Status of reports on complaints log
Responsibility	Carlow County Council
Sustainable Development Goals supported	6,7,11,12,13,14,15,17

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Method of Implementation</b>
Monitor and report on KPI related activities	<p>KPI related activities will be monitored and reported through a number of channels:  Monthly Chief Executive Reports  Monthly Meetings of Carlow County Council  Carlow County Council Annual Report</p> <p>Litter management report to be issued to members in Q1 of 2022 &amp; 2023</p>

The Environment Department of Carlow County Council will prepare an Annual report outlining progress in relation to Key performance Indicators each January during the lifetime of the Litter Management Plan 2021-2023.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Staff in Carlow County Council with responsibilities for litter awareness, control, prevention & enforcement**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Contact Number</b>
Jannette O Brien	Environmental Awareness Officer	059 9136232
Catherine Buggy	Waste Enforcement Officer	059 9136240
James Lakes	Environmental Patrol Officer	059 9136222
Pat Kehoe	Environmental Patrol Officer	059 9172496

### **Envirowatch Freephone No. 1800 308 208**

**Address:** Environment Department, Carlow County Council, Athy Road, Carlow

**Telephone:** (059) 9136231

**Fax :** (059) 9164232

**Email:** [enviroment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:enviroment@carlowcoco.ie)

**Website:** [www.carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie)

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **How to report a complaint**

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

1. Freephone the confidential litter pollution complaints line “*Envirowatch 1800 308 208*”
2. Phone our main reception 059-9170300 (office hours) and ask to speak to a member of our Environment Team.
3. Email [environment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:environment@carlowcoco.ie)
4. Report it via our contact information on [www.carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie)
5. Call into any of our public offices in Carlow, Tullow or Bagenalstown during opening hours.

6. Log your complaint on [www.fixyourstreet.ie](http://www.fixyourstreet.ie)
7. Call the National Environmental Complaints Line (NECL) 1850 365 121

Please note that 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 obtain further information or to clarify your query. This information 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)

Statistics relating to litter pollution complaints are provided during progress reports to

- Carlow County Council Management Team Monthly Reports
- Transportation, Environmental & Planning SPC
- Elect Members of Carlow County Council
- Annual Progress reports
- RMCEI
- EPA

**APPENDIX 3 - Data Protection**

The Environment Section creates, collects and processes personal data in various formats on a daily basis. This data may be submitted by you through application forms, our website or through correspondence with you. We may also obtain information about you from other sources such as government departments or other statutory bodies and also from other third parties (including members of the public) and from public sources where required. Carlow County Council's commitment is that the personal data you may be required to supply to us is:

- Obtained lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Obtained for only specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for purpose for which it was obtained
- Recorded, stored accurately and securely and where necessary kept up to date



- Kept only for as long as is necessary for the purposes for which it was obtained
- Kept in a form which permits identification of the data subject
- Processed only in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing.

Occasionally we may be required to contact you. When you provide personal data to The Environment Section, it may be shared with other Directorates within the Council as long as such internal sharing is relevant, proportionate and reasonably necessary for the performance of our statutory functions.

Carlow County Council may also share your information with other organisations where necessary and permitted or required by applicable law, including other public authorities and bodies. Personal data may also be shared with third party data processors responsible for supporting the Council's operations.

The main legal basis for processing your personal data is that such processing is (i) necessary for us to comply with our legal obligations and/or (ii) necessary for us to carry out our tasks in the public interest and/or in the exercise of official authority vested in us. Additionally, we may process data to the extent it is necessary in the performance of a contract with you. In limited circumstances we may process personal data based on your consent.

We will retain your personal data only for as long as we require it for the performance of our functions, after which time it will be deleted by appropriate and secure methods. In the unlikely event that we are required to transfer your data outside of the European Economic Area ("EEA") we will only do so where we can secure the transfer with appropriate safeguards and where we have a legal right to do so.

For further details of the specific purposes for which we collect and process personal information (including any internal sharing of such data) and our legal basis for such collection and processing, please contact our Data Protection Officer, contact details are provided at the bottom of this Privacy Statement.

## **Your Rights**

You have the following rights, in certain circumstances and subject to applicable exemptions, in relation to your personal data:

- the right to access the personal data that we hold about you, together with other information about our processing of that personal data;
- the right to require us to rectify any inaccuracies in your personal data;
- the right to require us to erase your personal data;
- the right to request that we no longer process your personal data for particular purposes;
- the right to object to our use of your personal data or the way in which we process it;
- and

- the right to receive your personal data, which you provided to us, in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format or to require us to transmit that data to another controller.

Please note that to help protect your privacy, we take steps to verify your identity before granting access to personal data.

If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please submit a request to our Data Protection Officer outlining the specific details of the request:

Email: [dpo@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:dpo@carlowcoco.ie)

All valid requests will be processed without undue delay and in any event within one month of receipt of the request. This period may be extended by up to two further months where necessary, taking into account the complexity of the request or the number of other requests we may have received at the same time. If this is the case, we will inform you of any time extensions.

In circumstances where a request appears to be manifestly unfounded or excessive, we will inform you of this in which case we will either decide not to fulfil the request and the reasons why or we will propose administrative fees in accordance with the GDPR if you wish to progress the request.

### **Right of Complaint to the Data Protection Commission**

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the response you received from Carlow County Council in relation to your request, then you are entitled to make a complaint to the Data Protection Commission which may investigate the matter for you.

The Data Protection Commission's website is [www.dataprotection.ie](http://www.dataprotection.ie) or you can contact their Office at:

**Lo Call Number:** 1890 252 231

**E-mail:** [info@dataprotection.ie](mailto:info@dataprotection.ie)

### **Postal Address:**

Data Protection Commission  
Canal House  
Station Road  
Portarlinton, Co. Laois. R32 AP23.

### **How to contact us**

For any queries relating to the Carlow County Council privacy statement or Data Protection policies, please contact our designated Data Protection Officer.

**Data Protection Officer**

**Email:** [dpo@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:dpo@carlowcoco.ie)

**Address:**

Data Protection Officer

Carlow County Council

County Buildings

Athy Road

Carlow