

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA  
LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL**

# **LITTER** **MANAGEMENT** **PLAN**



**2020 - 2023**

# CONTENTS

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1** Scope
- 1.2** Definition of Litter

## **2. Plans, Initiatives & Measures Implemented**

## **3. Objectives**

- 3.1** Litter Prevention & Control
- 3.2** Public Awareness & Advisory Measures
- 3.3** Youth Education Measures
- 3.4** Community & Voluntary Cooperative Measures
- 3.5** Enforcement Measures

## **4. Support for the Community**

- 3.1** Support Materials

## 1.0 Introduction

The quality of the local environment and in particular, its litter management is a visible barometer for the public in judging an area's attractiveness. Implementing best practice litter management is paramount to achieving Leitrim County Council's mission to make Leitrim a sustainable, creative, inclusive County where individuals, family and business can flourish.

The Litter Pollution Act 1997 requires that each Local Authority shall make and implement a Litter Management Plan in respect of its functional area for a three year period. A report on the review of the plan will be submitted annually to the Council for consideration.

### 1.1 Methodology

Leitrim County Council shall engage in a process of statutory consultation, including discussion at Strategic Policy Committee Meeting and invitation for public submissions/observations, prior to the replacement of the Litter Management Plan.

### 1.2 Scope

This plan shall set out the objectives of Leitrim County Council for the prevention and control of litter over the next three years and it will outline the strategies to be undertaken to attain the stated objectives.

The Litter Management Plan shall:

- (a) Specify such **objectives** as the Local Authority deems are appropriate to prevent and control litter in its functional area,
- (b) Specify the **measures to encourage public awareness** with a view to eliminating litter pollution, including educational and information measures directed at young persons,
- (c) Specify the **measures or arrangements that are to be undertaken by the Local Authority in order to attain the objectives of the plan** and Leitrim County Council shall include information on the following:
  - Existing litter prevention and control measures being operated by Leitrim County Council
  - Community involvement in the prevention and control of litter
  - Enforcement activities under the Litter Pollution Act 1997
  - Submissions received from Public Consultation

## 1.3 Definition of Litter

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

*“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 such substance or object and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit”.*

The definition is quite wide and includes graffiti, fly-tipping, casual littering from papers/packaging/chewing gum, advertising/poster materials, dog fouling, as well as any other substance or object which is likely to become unsightly.



## 1.4 Litter and the Law

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997, requires all local authorities to take practical measures for the prevention of the creation of litter in its functional area. Local authorities have responsibility for the collection and disposal of litter, promotion of the awareness of the polluting effects of litter and encouraging participation by local community groups, businesses and individuals in preventing and overcoming the effects of litter pollution.

Local Authorities and An Garda Síochana have the power to take enforcement action against those whom they believe to have committed an offence under the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Leaving or throwing litter in a public place is an offence which can be subject to an ‘on the spot’ fine of €150.

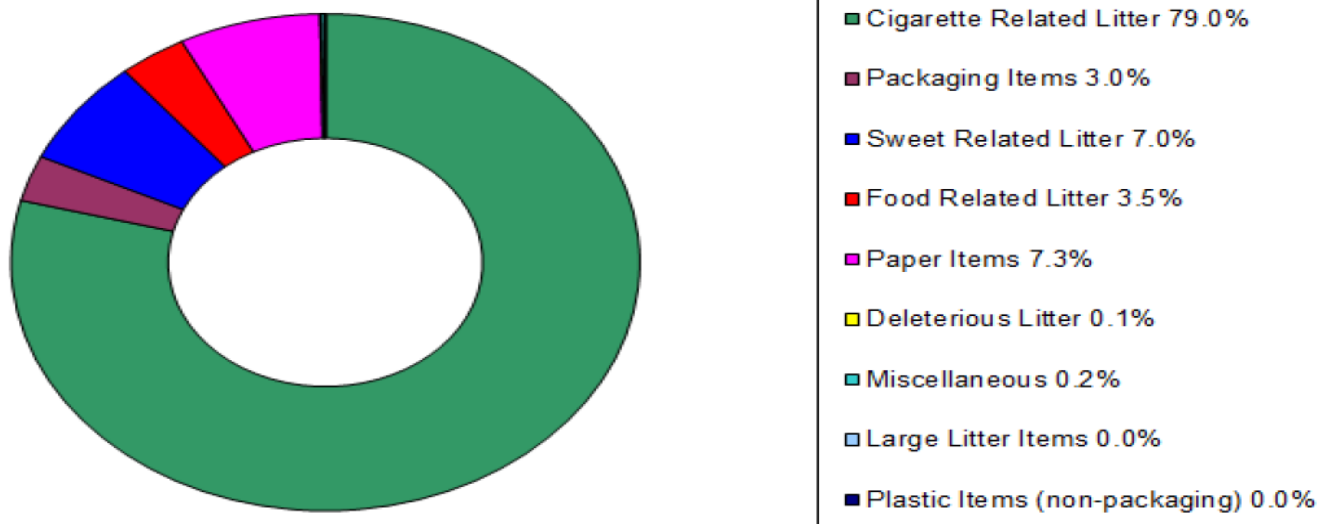
## 2.0 Initiatives & Measures Implemented

### 2.1 Litter Prevention and Control

- Under the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System, Leitrim County Council carried out surveys at identified locations in Manorhamilton, Glencar, Ballinamore and Carrick on Shannon between March and October 2019. The findings of the 2019 surveys have been compiled and submitted to Tobin Consulting Engineers. A System Results Report has not yet been received from Tobin in relation to 2019 surveys, however the following are the Leitrim results for period from 2011-2018;

Year	LP1 <i>Unpolluted</i>	LP2 <i>Slightly Polluted</i>	LP3 <i>Moderately Polluted</i>	LP4 <i>Significantly Polluted</i>	LP5 <i>Grossly Polluted</i>
2011	0%	72.9%	22.9%	4.2%	0%
2013	0%	32.6%	51.02%	14.29%	2.04%
2015	20.05%	68.42%	10.53%	0%	0%
2016	20%	80%	0%	0%	0%
2017	27.8%	72.2%	0%	0%	0%
2018	4%	90%	6%	0%	0%

**Litter Composition in Leitrim County Council, 2018**



- Leitrim County Council’s Community Wardens programme continued to provide a point of contact on the ground for the general public and provides advice and support to the local community. An additional Community Warden was recruited during 2018 which allows for a warden to be on duty within each municipal district on a rotation basis. The wardens continue to monitor and investigate incidents of litter pollution and illegal dumping. During 2019 a total of 398 complaints were received and investigated in respect of Litter and Waste Pollution across the county.

- Street Cleaning (mechanical and manual street cleaning) is operated on an ongoing basis by Leitrim County Council. The Mechanical Street Sweeper is in operation in the main towns (one day per week) and also in villages (at least once a month). At busier times in the year in towns e.g. Summer months in advance of festivals /events, and in the Autumn when leaves are falling, the street sweeper is in operation on a more frequent basis.
- In addition the Council provides amenity waste collection services to assist in the upkeep of our amenity areas.

## 2.2 Public Awareness and Advisory Measures

The following were carried out in the 2019 Anti Dumping Initiative:

- Bulky Household Waste Collection Days were held in Manorhamilton (Civic Amenity Site) and Mohill (Civic Amenity Site) during August 2019. A total of **77.64 Tonnes** of Bulky Household Waste was collected between Mohill (56.46T) and Manorhamilton (21.18T). The event ran efficiently with customers co-operating and being very appreciative of this worthwhile initiative.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days were held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 at its Civic Amenity Site in Manorhamilton (figure 3.8 A), and at Mohill Civic Amenity Site on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. A total of **9.56 tonnes** (5.44 Tonnes for Manorhamilton and 4.12 tonnes for Mohill) of hazardous waste was collected across both days.
- Locations for CCTV were identified at 9 bring banks sites around the county, 3 in each Municipal District. A private company carried out the covert CCTV surveillance on behalf of Leitrim County Council. CCTV equipment and signage was installed and ongoing monitoring of sites took place over a 4 week period. As a result of this footage 48 Litter fines were issued and a number of warning letters.
- A Waste Management Education day was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2019 in Mohill, Co. Leitrim. It was felt that it would be beneficial to hold this information day in improving awareness regarding waste management, tackling waste issues at the source and providing assistance and guidance to members of the public who typically find waste management difficult or expensive. On the day there was a number of Environmental Staff available for any queries and numerous handouts available with all information in relation to waste management.
- Local Media, through Radio, Newspapers, Social Networks, and Billboards continue to be an important information conduit to encourage the reduction of littering and to encourage people to dispose of their litter responsibly.
- The Dog Warden and Community Wardens continue to actively monitor all sensitive and problematic areas.

## 2.3 Public Awareness and Advisory Measures

- The Environment Admin Section worked with and supported primary and secondary schools in County Leitrim during 2019 in assisting them in achieving Green Flag status for waste and litter projects during the academic year. 9 Schools in Leitrim were assessed and awarded Green Flags in 2019.
- Details of the Leitrim County Council 2018 Anti-Litter Awareness Poster Competition were circulated to all primary schools in Leitrim. A total of 569 entries were received across the different age categories. A judging committee selected the winners in each category with the overall winning poster appearing on the Leitrim County Council anti-litter 'Billboard' Campaign in July 2018 and also winning a Samsung Galaxy Tablet for their school.

## 2.4 Community & Voluntary Group Cooperative Measures

- The Council continued to support the operation of the Adopt a Road (77 groups) and Adopt a Bring Bank Schemes (22 sites) during 2019. Leitrim County Council provides the groups with advice and support and supply cleaning materials, signage and a litter collection service.

## 2.5 Enforcement Measures

- Leitrim County Council continue to promote the Environmental Hotline service and the 'See it Say it' application devised by the EPA, to encourage the public to report incidents of litter pollution.

## 2.6 Support for the Community

- The Environment Admin Section co-ordinated with Tidy Town Groups & Community Groups regarding litter picks and provided materials such as refuse bags, litter pickers, and PPE such as reflective jackets, gloves, bin bags etc. In April 2019, Leitrim County Council provided support to Tidy Towns Groups for clean ups of their local areas during National Spring Clean Month April 2019 with Over 56 Groups in Leitrim registered for the event. Leitrim County Council collaborated with these community groups and assisted in the provision of a collection service for collected waste materials.
- In 2019, Leitrim County Council distributed a number of Leitrim 'Branded' Keep Cups to Tidy Towns Groups in the county as part of the ongoing Keep Cup Initiative. The initiative is aimed at encouraging individuals to switch to the reusable cup and to persuade coffee shops to accept the reusable cups and to offer a reward or incentive to those customers. 18 outlets across Leitrim, currently promote the Leitrim Branded Keep Cup, with many offering incentives to customers.
- A number of successful Community Clean Up Initiatives supported by the Leitrim County Council Anti-Dumping Initiative were held during 2019. The Council continues to encourage all community based initiatives and welcomes suggestions from all persons active in the community and voluntary sector of our county.

## 3.0 Litter Management Plan Objectives 2020-2023

This plan sets out the objectives and actions required to implement the plan over the next three years under the following headings;

1. Litter Prevention & Control
2. Public Awareness, Advisory Measures and Youth Education Measures
3. Community & Voluntary Cooperative Measures
4. Enforcement Measures

### Objective 1:

To undertake litter prevention and control measures to combat the litter problem

No.	Action	Department Responsible
1.	<p><b>Litter Management Plan Implementation</b> Oversee and manage the delivery and implementation of the Litter Management Plan 2020-2023</p> <p>Report annually on the Litter Management Plan to full Council.</p>	Environment Admin Section
2.	<p><b>Community Warden Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a point of contact on the ground for the general public</li> <li>• Monitor and investigate reports, incidents and customer complaints</li> <li>• Issue litter fines where appropriate</li> <li>• Provide advice and support to Community and Voluntary Sector.</li> </ul>	Community Wardens/Waste Enforcement
3.	<p><b>Street Cleaning</b> The following programme of street cleaning will continue to operate using both mechanical and manual street cleaning methods;</p> <p><i>South Leitrim</i> Street cleaning in Carrick on Shannon mechanically is 3 per week with ad-hoc during festivals. Street bins emptied 3 to 4 times/week.</p> <p>South Leitrim Roads Section are looking at purchasing a mini street cleaner for Carrick-on-Shannon which would allow more frequent mechanical cleaning.</p> <p><i>North Leitrim</i> Manorhamilton – sweeper weekly/bins weekly Dromahaire – Sweeper fortnightly/weekly during Autumn/bins as required Drumkeeran- Sweeper monthly/bins as required Glenfarne/Killyclogher – Sweeper monthly/bins as required Kinlough/ Tullaghan – Sweeper monthly/ bins as required</p> <p><b>Summer season from Easter to September inclusive.</b> The above will be carried out in partnership with local community groups and in conjunction with festival and other community events.</p>	Infrastructure
5	<b>Litter Surveys/Inspections</b>	Environment Admin



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the National Litter Pollution Monitoring system, Leitrim County Council will carry out Pollution and Quantification surveys in the following locations between March and October each year:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manorhamilton (3 identified locations)</li> <li>Ballinamore (4 identified locations)</li> <li>Carrick-on-Shannon (5 identified locations)</li> <li>Glencar (1 identified location)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct litter surveys with regard to the cleanliness of the street areas adjacent to and in front of commercial banks in the county's main towns.</li> </ul>	Environment Admin Section
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring Bank Inspections</li> </ul>	Environment Enforcement

**Objective 2:**

To increase public awareness, highlight advisory measures and engage in youth education measures regarding litter management issues

No.	Action	Department Responsible
1.	<b>CCTV</b> Conduct CCTV campaigns at Identified of litter blackspots around the county, issue of litter fines based on footage and follow up enforcement, where necessary	Waste Enforcement
2.	<b>Website/Social Media</b> Expand / supplement environment page on Leitrim County Council Website Use of social media campaigns to promote anti litter initiatives Topical items monthly on social media	Environment Admin Section/Customer Services
3.	<b>Local Newspapers, Billboard, Cinema and Radio</b> Seasonal radio campaigns Bi-monthly press releases to Leitrim Observer covering anti litter initiatives	Environment Admin Section
5	<b>Anti-Litter Signage</b> Develop an appropriate signage programme for major roads in the county to address litter black-spots within the county as part of a range of solutions.	Environment Admin Section/Waste Enforcement
6	<b>Anti-Litter Stencilling</b> Anti Litter Stencilling is available for Tidy Towns groups around the county to borrow for use, where transient litter problems occur.	Environment Admin Section
7	<b>National Gum Litter Campaign</b> Participate in National Gum Litter Campaign and distribute anti-gum litter materials	Environment Admin Section
8	<b>Green Schools Programme</b> Continue to support schools in achieving Green Flag status for waste and litter projects.	Environment Admin Section

**Objective 3:**

To co-operate and assist in the efforts of Community and Voluntary Groups in Litter Prevention

measures		
No.	Action	Department Responsible
1.	<b>Adopt A Road Programme</b> To provide the Adopt A Road groups with cleaning materials, signage, liaison service with the council for collection of litter.	Environment Admin Section/Environment Enforcement
2.	<b>National Spring Clean</b> To support community and voluntary groups involved An Taisce's National Spring Clean event by providing cleaning materials, litter pickers etc. and liaison service with the Council for collection of litter.	Environment Admin Section/Environment Enforcement
3.	<b>Adopt a Bring Bank</b> To support community and voluntary groups signed up to the 'Adopt a Bring Bank' programme	Environment Admin Section/Environment Enforcement
5	<b>Tidy Towns Committees</b> To support Tidy Towns Groups across the county in their initiative towards litter prevention and management	Environment Admin Section/Environment Enforcement
6	<b>Keep Cup Initiative</b> To distribute the Leitrim branded keep cups to the Tidy Towns Groups to raise Admin Section and funds generated will go directly to the Tidy Towns Groups.	Environment Admin Section

**Objective 4:****To promote enforcement measures**

No.	Action	Department Responsible
1.	<b>Enforcement of Litter Pollution Act 1997</b> Issue of Litter Fines and support the enforcement process	Environmental Enforcement
2.	<b>Environment Hotline</b> Ongoing promotion of the environmental hotline service Monthly monitoring of the number and nature of calls to the Hotline	Environmental Admin Section
3.	<b>Responsible Citizenship</b> Promote the idea of reporting incidents of litter pollution among the public which will result in the issue of litter fines. Encourage use of the 'See it/Say it' app devised by the EPA	Environmental Admin Section
5	<b>Litter Bye-Laws</b> Continue awareness and enforcement of litter byelaws to prevent the creation of and control litter in the county	

**4.0 Support for the Community**

The support of the wider community is vital if the litter problem is to be dealt with successfully and the Council gratefully acknowledges the ongoing dedicated efforts of the very many concerned individuals and groups working to tackle the litter problem at local level.

To this end, the Council operate a number of schemes designed to assist local communities with financial aid, materials and equipment or any other support possible.

The Council will continue to encourage all community based initiatives and welcomes suggestions from all persons active in this area.

## 4.1 Support Material

In order to assist schools and community groups with litter clean-up campaigns, the following items will be made available;

- Litter Pickers
- Gloves
- Bin Bags
- Environmental Literature
- Litter Collection Service



Adopted by  
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