



Kilrush Town Council

Comhairle Bhaile Cill Ruis

Litter Management Plan 2010 To 2013



Introduction

Kilrush is a heritage town located at the mouth of the Shannon estuary, in the South West of County Clare. It has a population of 2657. The town is located close to the ferry terminal linking Clare to Kerry and the south west region of Ireland. It is also the gateway to the wider tourism cluster of the West Clare peninsula and the rugged Atlantic coastline. The town itself has a wide range of amenities including its Historic Town Trail, Dolphin Watching, Vandeleur Garden and Visitor Centre, Cappa seaside resort and Kilrush Golf Club. This makes Kilrush an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.

Kilrush Town Council is committed to ensuring that the town and its environs are kept litter free. Not only does litter spoil the aesthetics of an area but it is also a form of pollution and can be of harm to the people and wildlife of the area.

The Litter Pollution Act, 1997 gives local authorities extensive powers to deal with litter and requires that each local authority shall prepare and implement a litter management plan in respect of its functional area. The Plan is effective for a period of three years. This Plan for Kilrush Town Council has been prepared in accordance with these requirements and will cover the period 2010 to 2013. It replaces the Litter Management Plan adopted by this Council in 2005. The plan provides information on litter prevention and control activities and the setting of appropriate objectives and targets for the period covered by this Plan.

In developing this plan, the local authority recognises that co-operation must come from the Council and all members of the community in order to achieve a litter free environment. Kilrush Town Council also acknowledges the tremendous contribution employees of the FAS Job Initiative Scheme continue to make to the environment of Kilrush.

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.”

Essentially the definition of litter not only refers to casual pieces of paper or cigarette ends but also to anything large or small that is, or is likely to become, unsightly.

Local authorities participate in litter surveys to determine litter generators/blackspots in the town. The information collected is collated by consultants at national level. The most recent report for Kilrush town is based

on data for the period March to December 2008. A breakdown of the main constituents of litter pollution in this survey is as follows:

Litter source - Percentage

- Cigarette related litter - 62.09%
- Food related litter - 21.33%
- Packaging items - 7.11%
- Sweet related litter - 6.64%
- Paper items - 0.00%
- Deleterious Litter - 2.84%
- Miscellaneous - 0.00%
- Large litter items - 0.00%
- Plastic items (Non-packaging) - 0.00%

Actions to deal with the specific sources of litter which are causing problems in the town are dealt with in Objective 2 overleaf – Litter Prevention and Control.

Objectives of the Litter Management Plan

Objective 1 – Raise awareness of litter through education and information

Supporting Strategies:

Appointment of a Community Warden who will liaise with schools, community groups, business representatives and the general public to raise litter awareness.

Promote litter education in schools to help raise awareness of litter and foster an anti-litter ethos in the younger generation.

Continue to act as a facilitator for schools that wish to become involved in the Green Schools programme.

Invite schools to take part in competitions such as art competition with a theme of 'Keep Kilrush Clean', which will highlight litter issues.

Distribute locally all environmental awareness publications produced by Clare County Council.

Advertise events such as National Spring Clean or Composting workshops on local radio stations.

Educate the general public and commercial sector to reuse and recycle where possible, thereby minimising the amount of waste going to landfill and the practice of illegal dumping.

Organise composting workshops for the public.

Present an Annual Report to Kilrush Town Council on the activities and achievements under the Litter Management Plan.

Objective 2 – Litter Prevention and Control

Supporting Strategies

Participate in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System.

Under this scheme, staff from Kilrush Town Council carries out weekly inspections of various areas in the town to identify litter generators. This data is then compiled on our behalf by a consulting company who produce a report annually on the level of litter pollution in the town. This report helps the local authority to prioritise the areas where litter is a problem.

The Council in conjunction with the FAS Jobs Initiative Scheme will continue its programme of manual sweeping and litter collection in Kilrush and its environs. The programme will be adjusted when necessary to cover areas identified in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System as being high litter generators.

Examine existing street litterbins located throughout the town and evaluate their effectiveness in terms of:

Suitability of site

Size

Prominence

Frequency of emptying

Liaise proactively with organisers of activities/events held in the town to ensure that a litter management provision is incorporated into the planning of events.

Provide Dog Waste Bins at appropriate locations in the town such as Cappa Pier, Marina area, Millenium Park and Kilrush Woods.

Continue to make Poop Scoops available at Kilrush Town Council.

Continue to monitor the Bring Bank facility at Place de Plouzane car park and to ensure that those persons who are caught illegally dumping materials at the facility are issued with fines under the terms of the Litter Pollution Act.

Organise an Annual Spring Clean in Kilrush to coincide with An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign

Objective 3 - Enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997

Supporting strategies

Litter legislation will continue to be enforced by the Litter Warden. Enforcement measures will include issuing on-the-spot fines where the Litter Warden sees an offence being committed. The Warden will also be responsible for issuing fines and prosecuting persons, if necessary, for other offences such as illegal dumping, having litter in the front garden of private property which is visible from the public road etc.

If necessary, the Council will enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act through prosecutions.

The Council will ensure that persons/companies will seek permission prior to putting up posters and signs on public and private property.

Permanent and temporary signage on private property is subject to planning law (except where it falls under one of the exempted categories).

Permanent signage on public property requires licence as set out in Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

Temporary signage for commercial purposes on public property will not be permitted.

Any unauthorised signage will be dealt with through the planning process or by the litter wardens, where appropriate.

Members of the public will continue to be encouraged to contact Clare County Council's 24 hour Litter Helpline (1800 606 706) to report any litter problems they may encounter. Staff in the environment department will pass on any complaints received to the Litter Warden for his/her investigation.

Review the operation of the CCTV system at the bring bank recycling facility at Place de Plouzane to ensure that the cameras will deter the dumping of litter in this area.

Objective 4 – Work in Partnership with Businesses and Community

Supporting strategies

Encourage the business community to keep the vicinity around their retail outlets litter free by promoting the anti litter message and informing them of their statutory obligations in relation to litter regulation.

The Town Council will work in Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to develop litter prevention initiatives.

Support resident associations and community groups who are involved in litter clean-up activities by providing litter pickers, recycling bags, gloves etc.

Liaise with Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee to identify specific areas in the town which can be developed as a scenic/amenity area.

Work with the newly established Joint Policing Committee to address the issues of litter and graffiti crime.

Co-ordinate town participation in the Pride of Place initiative.

Conclusion

The draft Litter Management Plan 2010 – 2013 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 10 of the Litter Management Act.

Kilrush has had considerable success in the national Tidy Towns competition, having achieved a Gold Medal for the past three years. We have also been received the Clare in Bloom Award for the past number of years. It is our aim to work in conjunction with the Tidy Towns Committee to help Kilrush become the tidiest town in Ireland.

Through the implementation of this plan and with the co-operation of local businesses, community groups, residents associations, schools, Gardai and individual citizens, Kilrush can be litter free and an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.