

**Comhairle Bhaile Cill Ruis  
Kilrush Town Council**



**KILRUSH: LiFE**  
Litter Free Environment



**LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
2005-2008**

## **Introduction**

Litter pollution is a major threat to the quality of the environment of Kilrush. Kilrush Town Council believes that Kilrush can benefit greatly, both in environmental and economic terms, if we address this issue in a coherent and structured manner. We have achieved considerable success to date in our efforts to combat litter achieving Litter Free Status in 2003 and we must now build on that success.

Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, each local authority is required to adopt a litter management plan. The legislation prescribes the specific minimum components of a Litter Management Plan, requiring information on litter prevention and control activities and the setting of appropriate objectives and targets for the three-year period covered by the Plan. These statutory elements form the backbone of an effective Litter Management Plan.

Kilrush Town Council now presents this comprehensive plan to deal with the problem of litter in our town. This plan is underpinned by a partnership approach and is consistent with the principle of shared responsibility for the environment. This plan covers the period 2005-2008.

Kilrush Town Council is committed to working in co-operation with Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee, local businesses, local schools, residents associations, Gardaí and individual citizens in order to obtain a litter free environment. The employment since 1999 of a full time Traffic/Litter Warden further demonstrates the Town Council's commitment to maintaining and improving the environment of Kilrush. Kilrush Town Council also wishes to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that the FÁS Job Initiative Scheme continues to make to the environment of Kilrush.

## **Objectives**

The main objectives of the Kilrush Litter Management Plan are to;

1. Prevent & control litter in Kilrush Town
2. Raise awareness of litter as an urgent environmental & economic problem through a public awareness campaign to reduce and eliminate litter.
3. Encourage community participation to achieve a litter free town
4. Enforce the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act

## **Litter Prevention & Control**

**Objective 1-** *Prevent and control litter in Kilrush town.*

### **Supporting Strategies**

- Participate yearly in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System to identify litter black spots in the town and take any corrective actions necessary.
- Support the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Campaign
- Organise an Annual Spring Clean in Kilrush to coincide with An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign. Clean up kits including tabards, bags, gloves, litter pickers to be provided to all participating volunteers and community groups. All litter collected will be taken by Kilrush Town Council for disposal or recycling in Lisdeen.
- Carry out an annual review of street cleaning operations to ensure effectiveness and flexibility to adjust to changing needs.
- Allocate a budget each year for the purchase of equipment such as litter pickers, materials for use in connection with the Annual Spring Clean campaign and community clean-ups & promotions items.
- Implement a litterbin replacement programme for the three-year period covered by the plan, monitoring the type and condition of bins in the town and their location.
- 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 in a clearly defined manner and includes a clean up afterwards. Traffic/Warden Litter to be on duty at these events

- Traffic/Litter Warden to monitor bins to ensure domestic waste is not disposed of in public litterbins.
- Provision of special Dog Waste Bins with anti dog litter signage at appropriate locations such as along popular walking trails e.g. Slí na Slainte, Dolphin Trail and amenity spaces such as Millennium Park & Kilrush Woods.
- Support and respond to the litter monitoring surveys carried out by the Green Committee of Kilrush Community School.
- Be pro-active in availing of external grant aid for further enforcement activities.

## **Public Awareness**

**Objective 2** - *Raise awareness of litter as an urgent environmental & economic problem through a public awareness campaign to reduce and eliminate litter.*

### **Supporting Strategies**

- Support all national and county environmental awareness initiatives.
- Distribute locally all environmental awareness publications produced by Clare County Council.
- Encourage dog owners in the town to use Pooper-Scoopers and provide them free of charge through local shops & Town Council office.
- Increase awareness & encourage increased use of recycling facilities in Place de Plouzane.
- Run a 'design a car sticker' competition in local schools to incorporate an anti-litter message and distribute stickers to all households in Kilrush.
- Support Clare County Councils Environmental Awareness Officer in the administration of environmental education programmes in Kilrush Schools.
- Dedicate a section of the re-developed [www.kilrush.ie](http://www.kilrush.ie) site to litter management policies
- Present an annual report to Kilrush Town Council on the activities and achievements under the Litter Management Plan.

## **Community Participation**

**Objective 3**- *Encourage community participation to achieve a litter free town and an increased sense of civic pride.*

## Supporting Strategies

- Co-ordinate town participation in the Pride of Place initiative
- Introduce an 'adopt a road' scheme on all approach roads into the town. This scheme is based on a partnership approach between Kilrush Town Council and Kilrush Chamber of Commerce. This scheme will involve the provision of road signage advertising the company who have 'adopted' a particular stretch of road.
- Extend this scheme to include an 'Adopt a Green', 'Adopt a Grotto' scheme in co-operation with local resident associations, local schools and community groups.
- Provide assistance to local groups involved in clean-ups throughout the year with the provision of litter pickers, recycling bags, gloves etc
- Subsidise admission to landfill facilities (or free admission) for community groups participating in local clean-ups who have gathered non-recyclable waste.
- Support and co-operate with the local Green Committee in Kilrush Community School
- Prepare action plans for specific areas within the town in conjunction with community groups such as Kilrush Tidy Towns.
- Provide professional advice and support to projects identified by Kilrush Tidy Towns committee on landscaping, building, planning etc through the Tidy Towns Liaison structure.

## Enforcement Action Under The Act

**Objective 4-** *Enforce provisions of the Litter Pollution Act*

### Supporting Strategies

- Advise businesses on a yearly basis of their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act. Use the chamber liaison structure to communicate this message to the business community.
- Encourage members of the community to report instances of litter/illegal dumping through the provision of signage displaying Clare County Council's 24-hour confidential phone line.
- Issue advice notices to skip hire operators to inform them of their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, to maintain the area around the skip in a clean condition.
- Increase collection rate of on-the-spot litter fines issued.
- Enforcement through prosecution if necessary the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.
- Adopt a 'Name & Shame' policy publishing names of those who have been **convicted through the courts** of litter offences under the Litter Pollution Act.

### Conclusion

Kilrush Town Council recognises the importance of litter elimination for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment of Kilrush Town. Through the implementation of this plan and the co-operation and positive

action from local businesses, community groups, residents association, schools, gardaí and individual citizens we can tackle this problem and achieve a litter free town.