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A Litter Management Plan sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter, as well as measures to raise public awareness.



1 INTRODUCTION

County Monaghan has a land area of 500 square miles and a population of 60,483 persons. The countryside is characterised by rolling hills or drumlins, with no major mountain ranges or rivers. The county is almost unique in that it has five separate Town Councils in the 5 largest towns. The N2 one of the major road networks linking north and south traverses the County. The resultant large volume of traffic travelling through the County on a daily basis can give rise to a litter problem along this stretch of roadway.

Despite the best efforts of Monaghan County Council and others, litter is still a major environmental problem. Its presence devalues our living environment, generates a negative impression of our County and places a huge burden on Monaghan Local Authorities finances.

Litter Management Plan - obligation to make a plan, its purpose and its application

Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003 requires Local Authorities to make and implement a Litter Management Plan and review this plan every three years. Monaghan Local Authorities adopted their first Litter Management Plan in 2000 with the latest plan adopted in 2010.

The Litter Management Plan sets out the objectives to prevent and control litter, as well as measures to raise public awareness. The plan also sets out measures and arrangements by which to achieve these objectives.

This Litter Management Plan 2013-2016 includes the Town Councils of Monaghan, Castleblayney, Clones, Ballybay and Carrickmacross, together with Monaghan County Council. Once the local elections take place in 2014 and the Town Councils cease to exist this plan will remain as the plan for the whole County until 2016.

Litter related budgets

In 2012, Monaghan Local Authorities spent almost €1 million on litter related activities including street sweeping, materials, skip hire, maintenance, the employment of litter wardens, awareness and education etc. Expenditure for each of the Town Councils can be found in the Appendices.

Tidy Towns & Residents Association Network

The Tidy Towns and Residents Association Network is made up of approximately 80 groups from all around the county, which all have one common goal: to improve the physical environment in which we live. Membership is free and any group sharing the goal is welcome to join. The Network meets approximately 4 times per year.

A list of categories and 2012 participants from Monaghan can be found in appendix 10.7. A typical meeting includes:

- Presentations from Monaghan County Council staff on schemes/programmes of interest to groups;
- Talks by experts on subjects which may help the groups – Health & Safety, Wildlife, Lawn Maintenance, How to complete the application form for the National Tidy Towns Competition etc.

- Open forum for members to raise issues of concern which they would like the network to discuss or act on.

Apart from attending the meetings, many members of this network work tirelessly in the county day after day, week after week and year after year. All of the work undertaken is done by members on a voluntary basis and ensures that Monaghan is kept as litter free and well presented as possible. Tidy Town's volunteers take responsibility for many tasks within their localities – including the maintenance of public areas/ Bring Centres etc. keeping streets and approach roads litter free, planting & maintaining flowers, trees etc. dealing with dereliction and much more.

In many cases there are a limited number of people involved, making the tasks much more onerous and time consuming. This work saves Monaghan Local Authorities, and ultimately tax payers, money every year. For Monaghan Local Authorities, where there are limited funds from year to year, the support of voluntary groups is vital and ensures that the authorities can get best use of the funds available.

By way of supporting these groups, funding is available from the Environment Section of Monaghan County Council on an annual basis under the "Environment Fund". In 2013 this budget was €46,000.



2 CONSULTATION PROCESS

The process of preparing a Litter Management Plan for the County involves engagement in a broad spectrum consultation exercise to ensure that the plan produced is comprehensive but realistic in its objectives and will assist in improving litter management in the County over the following three years.

The process involves consultation with:

- **Council personnel in the Town and County Councils** especially those directly involved in service provision to help set and agree the objectives of the plan.
- **Members of Monaghan County Council and each of the Town Councils**
The draft plan is put before the Members of the Councils seeking their approval, in principle, to the proposals.
- **Environment & Roads SPC Committee**
As the key stakeholders in the development of Environmental Policy, The Environment & Roads SPC Committee is afforded an opportunity to discuss the plan in draft format, ensuring that the Plan meets with their objectives and are free to make such changes to the draft document as they see fit.
- **Tidy Towns & Residents Association Network and Community Forum**
Copies of the draft plan are circulated to this network and meeting(s) held with them to discuss the objectives of the plan, as managing litter is one of their primary concerns.

Monaghan Local Authorities will consult widely to ensure the plan is comprehensive and realistic in its objectives.



- **Public Consultation**

The public consultation process includes placing press releases on the local radio and in local papers advising the public that the draft plan is available for inspection. The Environmental Awareness Officer undertakes radio broadcasts to heighten public awareness that a new plan is being prepared. Members of the public are invited to make submissions during a specified period. The draft plan is sent to specifically targeted groups and is made available to download from the Councils website at www.monaghan.ie.

Any submissions received are considered at a meeting of each of the five Councils and the plan, when adopted, has application throughout the entire county of Monaghan. The making, reviewing and amendment of a litter management plan is a Reserved Function (S.13 Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003) exercised by the elected Councillors.

Litter is anything large or small which is or is likely to become unsightly.



3 LEGISLATION

THE LITTER POLLUTION ACT 1997 – 2003 GIVES EXTENSIVE POWERS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DEAL WITH LITTER.

Section 2 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003 defines litter as *‘any substance or object, whether or not intended as waste (other than waste within the meaning of the Waste Management Act, 1996 which is property 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’.*

The definition of litter

The definition of litter therefore is quite wide and includes graffiti, fly-tipping, domestic refuse placed in local authority litter receptacles, casual pieces of paper or cigarette ends and anything else large or small which is or is likely to become unsightly.

On the Spot Fine

Leaving or throwing litter in a public place or in any place that is visible from a public place is an offence which can be subject to an on-the-spot-fine of €150 or a maximum fine of €3,000 in court. A person convicted of a litter offence may also be required to pay the local authority’s costs and expenses in investigating the offence and bringing the prosecution to court.

Public place

Under Section 6 (1) of the Act, if you are the owner or the person responsible for a place to which the public has access you are obliged to keep the place litter free, regardless of how the litter got there. This applies to any public place which may include the precincts of a shopping centre, a school campus, a public park, or even a bus station.

Private property

Under Section 6 (2) of the Act, the owner or occupier of property which can be seen from a public place is obliged to keep it free of litter. Basically, any outdoor area on your property that is visible from a public place must be kept free of litter.

Dog owners must now remove their pets' waste from public places.



Litter black spots

Where litter has accumulated on property for whatever reason and the litter is visible from a public place, the local authority can issue a notice to the owner or occupier requiring the prompt removal of the litter. Such a notice can also set down precautionary measures to be put in place to prevent a re-occurrence.

Illegal dumping

The litter laws have increased the powers of local authorities to combat the problem of illegal dumping of refuse and rubbish. Where a local authority finds material that is illegally dumped and establishes the identity of the owner of the material, that person will have a case to answer without necessarily having to be caught in the act.

Major events

The promoters or organisers of major events are required to ensure that they have litter control measures in place at the venue and in the surrounding vicinity before, during and after the event. This applies to football matches and other social and sporting events at which large crowds attend. Section 17 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003 enables the Local Authority to serve a notice on an event organiser requiring that appropriate

measures are put in place to prevent the creation of litter.

Mobile food outlets

Under Section 15 of the Act, operators of mobile food outlets selling fast food or beverages, or other outlets such as those selling farm produce are obliged to provide suitable litter bins in the vicinity of their outlets. Also, they must clean up any litter arising from the operation of their outlets within a radius of 100 metres from their outlet.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is a litter offence under Section 22 (1) of the Act. Dog owners must now remove their pets' waste from public places and dispose of it in a proper manner. This obligation applies to the following places:

- Public roads and footpaths.
- Areas around shopping centres.
- School/sports grounds.
- Beaches.
- The immediate area surrounding another persons house.

Guide dogs and working dogs (herding of livestock, Garda and Custom and Excise dogs) are exempt.

Advertising Posters and signs

Under Section 19 (1) of the Act, it is forbidden to erect posters/signs on poles, grass verges, roadsides or other structures in public places without permission from the Local Authority. However, some exemptions for local events exist under the Planning Regulations.

Advertising flyers

Under Section 19 (2) the placing of advertising leaflets on car windscreens is prohibited. Anyone wishing to distribute advertising leaflets in the street should first check with the local authority to see if there are any local litter restrictions in place, which local authorities are entitled to introduce.

Business Owners

Business owners within the urban areas are legally obliged to keep the footpaths and pavements in front of their property free of litter. Failure to do so could result in a €150 on the spot fine being issued. A number of businesses have been identified nationally as potential litter generators. If you operate any of these businesses you should be extra vigilant.

Bars and pubs should ensure that no cigarette butts are left on the pavement outside the premises.

Banks should ensure that ATM receipts are not left on the pavement

Takeaways should ensure that the area outside their premises is kept free of litter. Sweet shops/convenience stores should ensure that no receipts, wrappers, lottery cards etc. are on the pavement outside the premises.

Bookmakers / Turf Accountants Betting slips or cigarette butts discarded outside your premises should be removed.

Presenting your refuse for Collection

Taking a few small precautions in the way refuse is presented for collection will help enormously in preventing the creation of litter. One of the most effective ways of doing this is to avail of a refuse collection service and use wheeled bins.

Under Section 3 (3) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 it is an offence to dispose of household refuse in street litter bins.

Monaghan County Council has also adopted the **County of Monaghan Bye-Laws for the collection, storage and presentation of waste and certain related waste management matters, 2008** (Copies of the bye-laws may be obtained from Monaghan County Council on payment of a fee of €5). The following is a summary of the relevant provisions in the Bye-Laws designed to reduce the potential for the creation of litter when waste is left out for collection:

- Householders should only leave their bins out at the time and place set out in their Contract with the service provider.
- All of the waste should be contained within wheeled bins.
- Householders should ensure that their bins are not used if damaged – lids should fit snugly and be fully closed.

The illegal dumping of household waste in our countryside is a major problem.



4 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following objectives have been achieved over the life of the previous Litter Management Plan.

4.1 The principal objective of Monaghan Local Authorities Litter Management Plan is to eliminate litter in Co. Monaghan

Monaghan County Council increased public awareness in relation to litter over the life of the plan using a number of communication channels to ensure that individuals understood that litter is both an environmental and economic problem. Relationships were built up over the life of the plan with organisations, businesses, statutory and voluntary bodies who share the aims of Monaghan Local Authorities in relation to litter. The litter enforcement service ensured that those who were in breach of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003 were fined and prosecuted where necessary.

4.2 Increase public awareness and consciousness of each individual's responsibility in relation to litter

Monaghan County Council employs an Environmental Awareness Officer. The role of

the Environmental Awareness Officer is to co-ordinate the Council's awareness and education programme, implement an awareness strategy in primary and secondary schools, act as a point of contact for statutory and voluntary bodies involved in environmental and litter control issues and promote the Council's anti-litter programmes through the media. During the lifetime of the 2010 -2102 plan the Environmental Awareness Officer visited on average 30 schools per annum, progress was made with the Tidy Towns & Residents Association Network and other voluntary bodies and awareness was raised throughout the county through various media campaigns on litter related issues.

4.3 Ensure that all organisations, businesses and individuals who have responsibility under the Act, carry out their obligations

Monaghan Local Authorities works in partnership with all sectors of society including businesses, commercial premises etc. to ensure that they fulfil their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act 1997- 2003.

The Environmental Patrol Warden is central to the enforcement of the Litter Act.



4.4 Develop Monaghan Local Authorities relationship with statutory and voluntary bodies who share an anti litter agenda.

Monaghan Local Authorities continue to support and liaise with voluntary bodies and groups such as Tidy Towns Committees etc. in organising litter control and awareness campaigns. Monaghan Local Authorities support Spring/Autumn clean ups, village clean ups and community projects that benefit the citizens of the County and improve the environment we live in.

4.5 Expand and develop the Council's litter enforcement service to ensure that those that breach the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003 or Waste Management Act 1996 as amended are fined and prosecuted.

Monaghan Local Authorities currently employ an Environmental Patrol Warden and five traffic/litter wardens to deal with litter related activities,.

Their duties include: -

- Patrolling selected areas of the County for the presence of litter or illegal dumping of waste.
- Issuing on the spot fines and representing the Council in Court in relation to offences committed under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997-2003 and the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.
- Undertaking street patrols in towns.
- Ensuring Bring Bank facilities are properly maintained.
- Reporting the existence of abandoned vehicles.
- Identification and pursuit of those engaged in fly-tipping.



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council



Litter Fines 2010/2011/2012	2010	2011	2012	Total
Number of fines issued	83	87	144	314
Number of prosecutions taken due to non- payment of fines	6	16	17	39
Number of prosecutions secured	1	7	6	14

Example of successful prosecutions	Fine	Legal costs
Defendant	€2,000	€614
Defendant	€1,000	€298
Defendant	€ 250	€254

4.6 Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's own litter control and street cleaning service

Monaghan County Council operates a street scavenging/cleaning programme in the larger villages, while Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Monaghan Town Councils operate their own programme. The annual cost of the street cleaning service and other litter related activities throughout the County is just over €670,000.

Monaghan County Council also provides financial assistance for a wheelie bin service to local communities who street clean and empty litter bins in their villages. The volume of litter from street cleansing in the county which is sent to landfill annually is 800 tonne.

Developing Environmental Awareness campaigns in schools will develop long term behavioural change.



5 EDUCATION & AWARENESS

The environmental awareness programme operates at all levels throughout the county targeting schools, businesses, community groups, sporting groups householders, Tidy Towns and residents associations. **SOME OF THE TYPICAL CAMPAIGNS ARE DESCRIBED BELOW:**

5.1 Schools

The Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) visits primary and secondary schools throughout the county during term time. There are 62 primary schools and 12 second levels schools in the county which cater for approximately 12,748 school children. Schools are encouraged to participate in the Green Schools programme, which is an international programme promoting responsible behaviour among school children and the wider community towards the environment. It is organised nationally by An Taisce, with local support provided by local authorities. Activities undertaken in the schools include; talk on litter and other environmental topics by EAO, visits by “Benjamin” to junior cycle classrooms, provision of expert workshops, and provision of free resources to encourage participation. In June 2013 there were 53 primary and 9 secondary schools registered with the Green Schools Programme with 44 and 3 respectively having obtained Green Flag Status.

During the lifetime of this plan Monaghan Local Authorities will:

- Continue working with registered schools and encourage new schools into the programme
- Examine the possibility of developing a mini Greenschools programme for preschools
- Encourage participation by Secondary Schools in specific projects such as ECOUnesco Young Environmentalist and Junk Kouture.

5.2 Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign

The Gum Litter Taskforce was established to tackle the issue of gum litter in an effective and sustainable way, by raising awareness of the issue and educating the minority of people who incorrectly dispose of their used chewing gum, to dispose of it responsibly in the bin. Monaghan Local Authorities were selected to participate in the campaign for 2013 and it is hoped to continue with the campaign over the lifetime of this plan.



The campaign involves outdoor advertising, in-store and around store advertising, point of sale materials and the promotion of greater awareness of litter law enforcement through higher visibility of litter fines for irresponsible disposal of gum in local authority areas throughout the country.

During the lifetime of this plan Monaghan Local Authorities will:

- Participate in Gum Litter Taskforce campaign which highlights the problems associated with Gum Litter.
- Utilise the Gum Buster Machine in all the towns in the County.

5.3 Tidy Villages Competition

This is an event for villages throughout the county that might not receive recognition from the National Tidy Towns competition. The competition is primarily based on Litter Control; however, prizes are also available for Environment and Wildlife, Best Floral Displays, Volunteering Effort, Tidiest Bring Bank etc.

During the life time of this plan:

- This competition will be held at least once during the lifetime of this plan.
- Liaise with housing to combine Tidy Area competition with Tidy Villages competition.

5.4 National Spring Clean and Autumn Clean

National Spring Clean Month occurs annually in April. It is organised nationally by An Taisce, is supported by Local Authorities and it has three main objectives;

- (i) To heighten awareness of litter and waste issues.
- (ii) To encourage clean-ups throughout the month of April.
- (iii) To promote sustained, practical involvement in looking after the environment.

Anybody wishing to do a cleanup locally should register their event with An Taisce (Telephone Hotline: **01 7077066** or online: **www.nationalspringclean.org**). They will then receive a Spring Clean Kit and be covered for insurance purposes.

Locally, Monaghan County Council organises cleanups of national routes with the area offices and supports An Taisce's efforts by providing skips, litter pickers and refuse bags to local voluntary groups.

The success of National Spring Clean depends on the help and support of all people who take part. Each event, no matter how small, will be a positive step towards a litter free environment. In addition, each of the town councils and areas offices support the campaign by providing resources for cleaning up local towns, villages and roadways.

Autumn Clean is an initiative that was proposed by the Tidy Towns Network to ensure a final clean up is done before the onset of winter.

During these campaign periods Monaghan County Council runs an advertising campaign highlighting litter issues.

Spring and Autumn Clean are the two major anti litter campaigns in this plan.



During the lifetime of this plan Monaghan Local Authorities will:

- Continue to provide a budget allocation for Spring and Autumn Clean .
- Encourage participation by all sectors of society in the campaigns.
- Run litter awareness advertising campaign during these periods to maximise impact.

5.5 Funding for Tidy Towns & Residents Association Network

In addition to resources allocation for skip hire, litter pickers etc, a sum of money is made available each year for the above network entitled “The Environment Fund”. The aim of this Fund is to support community groups in County Monaghan who wish to undertake environmental projects which will enhance the quality of life of local communities, enhance the appearance of an area and improve the quality of the environment in an area. Financial support in the sum of €46,000 is considered for a range of activities, including painting, purchase of bins, litter control, planting of flowers etc.

During the life time of this plan Monaghan Local Authorities will:

- Provide resources in the budget for the Environmental Fund .
- Assist new resident associations by providing them with support and guidance.

5.6 Other Environmental Awareness Campaigns

Many other campaigns with an anti-litter message will be delivered over the lifetime of this plan such as:

- Sponsorship of sports teams/ organisations/events.
- ECO Summer Camps.
- Participation in St Patrick’s Day Parade and other such parades.
- Provision of reusable coffee cups to eliminate disposable litter.
- Support for Junior Tidy Towns.
- Focus on take away waste.
- Provide support for Tidy Area competitions in the urban areas.

Passing motorists are a major source of litter in County Monaghan.



6 ISSUES OF CONCERN

Litter, as well as being unsightly, has many detrimental aspects which affect the ability of the County to develop to its full potential –

- The desire of the County to market itself better as a tourist destination will continue to be hampered by a careless attitude to litter.
- Money spent on cleaning up litter could be better spent on providing enhanced amenities in our towns and villages.

6.1 Passing motorists and Pedestrians

According to the National Litter Pollution Monitoring system results (based on 2012 figures), passing motorists and pedestrians continue to constitute the largest causative factors of litter. Passing pedestrians account for 39%, whilst passing motorists account for 19%. The type of litter found tends to be packaging-related and relate to people smoking, eating or drinking on the street or litter dropped by passing vehicles. Monaghan County Council has begun to use CCTV along the N2 to combat this particular problem.

6.2 Illegal dumping

Illegally dumped waste is the most visible and damaging type of litter. It occurs not just

in isolated rural areas but also in public open spaces. This type of litter results in the largest volume of complaints from the general public to Monaghan County Council and can range from a black bag to large scale illegal dumping. Whilst the Litter Warden will make every effort to search for evidence often no evidence can be found.

6.3 Convenience Food Outlets

With the growth of convenience food consumption, there has been a sharp increase in the volume of litter disposed along side of roads and footpaths within a one mile radius of towns and villages. This is not only unsightly but it is hazardous for our flora & fauna.

6.4 Dog Fouling

Dog Fouling throughout the County can be seen as a major source of litter. Dog owners are made aware that dog fouling is an offence when they are issued with licence reminders, as well as being advised that they are responsible for managing their dog's waste. To promote further awareness, Monaghan County Council has erected information signs throughout the County to highlight this issue.

Cigarette butts and chewing gum are the two most common items of litter on our streets and footpaths.



6.5 Abandoned Cars

Cars are often abandoned on roadsides and on public open spaces, including residential estates. Abandoning a vehicle is an offence under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. On the spot fines may be issued in respect of abandoned vehicles.

6.6 Major Events

Major events such as sporting events, concerts, festivals etc. can generate a substantial amount of litter. The nature of the litter is usually casual and packaging related.

6.7 Cigarette Litter

The results of the 2012 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System indicated that cigarette litter is one of the major causes of litter on our streets and footpaths at 53%. Under Section 6 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003, all occupiers of a public place shall keep their place free of litter, including cigarette butts. This includes owners of businesses, houses and public houses.

6.8 Gum Litter

Food related litter, at 19%, is the second

largest category of litter pollution recorded. Chewing gum is the single largest litter component in the food related litter category, and also the second largest component nationally, comprising 18% of all litter recorded in the litter quantification surveys carried out in 2012.

6.9 Illegal dumping in forests

Access to the forests is a considerable asset to the public, but exposes Coillte to indiscriminate dumping, a problem which appears to be increasing. It is felt that the problem of dealing with dumping in the forests is a significant issue, affecting the attractiveness of the forests and quality of public access and recreation.

6.10 Illegal and unauthorised signage

The proliferation of unauthorised signage along the public road whether that is for events, businesses, auctioneering signs, private messages or guerrilla marketing is a cause of concern. These signs and their fixings, which are often left behind once signs are removed, are a form of litter as well as a general safety concern for road users.

Monaghan Local Authorities will use CCTV to monitor illegal dumping at Bring Centres.



7 LITTER CONTROL & ENFORCEMENT

The Environment Section of Monaghan County Council has a dedicated team of staff who deal with all aspects of the enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003, the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended and associated waste regulations. and likewise, each of the town councils employs staff to enforce the Litter Pollution Acts.

The staff in question patrol selected areas in their respective districts checking for the presence of litter or illegally dumped waste, which is examined for evidence and on-the-spot fines issued, where possible. They also represent the Council in court in relation to offences committed.

In addition, the Environmental Patrol Warden has duties in relation to Anti-Litter Awareness raising initiatives.

7.1 Enforcement at Recycling Facilities

Monaghan County Council is committed, to the expansion of recycling facilities across the County. The Council currently has 29 Bring

Centre sites (formerly referred to as bottle banks). In order to ensure that these facilities are maintained to the highest standard, the Council work in partnership with community groups. The Environmental Patrol Warden also visits the Bring Centre network on a weekly basis.

He responds to calls from bring bank users where bring bank sites are in need of attention, seeks evidence and conviction where illegal dumping occurs and undertakes clean ups where necessary.

Monaghan County Council use CCTV at Bring Centre sites as an enforcement tool. During 2012, the Council issued over 68 litter fines in relation to offences committed at Bring Centres.

7.2 Street Cleaning

Street cleaning is undertaken by the Town Councils on a daily basis. Details are attached in appendices.

Meeting the objectives of the litter management plan requires cooperation with all sectors of the community.



8 OBJECTIVES OF LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013-2016

8.1 Eliminate litter in County Monaghan

- The Litter Management Plan sets out a number of strategies, objectives and actions to eliminate litter in the County.

8.2 Raise awareness of the Litter Management Plan, its contents and objectives

- Publish the Litter Management Plan through the Monaghan Local Authorities website www.monaghancoco.ie
- Promote the contents of the plan to all staff and seek their support to help implement the measures.
- Distribute the plan to various towns and villages through the Tidy Towns & Residents Association Networks, with a view to monitoring success in achieving objectives.
- Avail of the local radio station services to ensure that the availability of the plan and its contents are made known.
- Publish a promotional article on the Litter Management Plan in at least one newspaper in the county.
- Prepare an annual progress report on the plan and place on the agenda of Monaghan Local Authorities Council

Meetings for consideration and approval. Once approved this report will be published in a local Newspaper.

8.3 Develop and continue the current programme for street cleansing for towns and villages throughout the County

- Subject to the availability of finance, continue the current street cleansing programmes within the major towns as per attached appendices.
- Continue to use Council's own road sweeper in villages throughout the County Continue to liaise with Area Offices in relation to their role in litter management in towns and villages, to include the frequency of litter bin emptying and the clean-up of heavily littered areas.
- Provide resources, in annual budgets to cater for street cleansing operations.
- Where resources are available and where it is feasible from health and safety perspective, Monaghan Local Authorities will try and coordinate litter picking with verge trimming and road maintenance closures.

8.4 Continue the high level of enforcement that exists in the county under the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003.

- Continue the work of the Environmental Patrol Warden and Litter/Traffic Wardens employed in the County to enforce the terms of the legislation.
- Issue on the spot fines in respect of all offences detected.
- Where practicable, initiate legal proceedings in cases where payment of fine is not received in accordance with the Act.
- Use CCTV extensively to detect offences in black spot areas and at bring centres.

8.5 Develop new partnerships with various voluntary, public and commercial bodies with the view to creating joint anti-litter initiatives

- Create collaborative partnerships with businesses, residents associations, tidy towns groups and any other concerned parties with the view to creating a cleaner sustainable environment in County Monaghan.
- Subject to the availability of finance, provide assistance by way of a grant to Residents Associations and Tidy Towns Groups in respect of the environmental presentation of their local areas, a key component of which must be litter control.
- Work with communities throughout the County to ensure maximum participation in National Spring Clean and local Autumn Clean, and to achieve a partnership approach to dealing with improperly disposed of litter.
- Encourage each primary and secondary school in the county to participate in the Green Schools programme.
- Encourage Tidy Towns to look at the feasibility of using the probationary service to undertake litter picking activities.

8.6 Develop and implement a wide ranging public programme of anti-litter initiatives

- Distribute Anti-litter posters and leaflets as appropriate to shops, takeaways, schools, etc.
- Avail of the Anti-Litter Grant Scheme from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government which will be co-funded from the Council's own resources for the provision of anti-litter promotional material.
- Include litter management as a main judging criterion on the various environmental competitions organised by Monaghan County Council such as the Tidy Areas and Tidy Villages Competition.
- Use website and social media to promote litter related activities taking place in the County.

8.7 Implement a comprehensive primary and secondary school campaign

- Encourage participation and provide support for the International Green Schools programme which demands Litter Action Plans from successful participants.
- Provide support by the way of resources and workshops to schools that have demonstrated their commitment to good litter management procedures. Encourage schools to support their local Tidy Towns Groups and Residents Associations in environmental initiatives, including litter management.
- Organise regular Environmental Awareness Officer visits to schools to create and sustain awareness on litter.
- Examine the possibility of developing a mini Greenschools programme for preschools.

Monaghan Local Authorities will develop and implement a wide range of litter prevention initiatives.



8.8 Encourage the public to report litter incidences to Monaghan County Council.

Monaghan County Council will make it as easy as possible for the general public to report littering offences and locations of illegal dumping by offering a variety of ways to do so. The general public can :-

- **Phone** Litter Hotline 1800 200014 or environment section on 047 30592/30593,
- **Email** Environment Section litter@monaghancoco.ie
- Use **www.monaghan.ie** and follow fixyourstreet portal.
- Use **EPA** smart phone app "see it, say it".
- **Twitter** @MonaghanCoCo.
- **Facebook**, MonaghanCoCoEnvironment.

Monaghan County Council will ensure that:

- Advertisements are used in local media to sustain awareness of these methods.
- Ensure that the Hotline is checked by a designated official at regular intervals, so that all reports of littering can be followed up in a prompt and efficient manner.
- Revert to complainants as appropriate with an update on the status of their complaint.
- Encourage the public to report all littering offences.

8.9 Implement a programme for the selection, placement, maintenance and emptying of bins

- Agree with Area Offices and in consultation with the respective Tidy Towns Committees

a programme for the selection, placement, maintenance and emptying of bins.

- Provide resources in annual budgets to fund the provision of litter bins in towns and villages throughout the County as required.
- All new litter bins will be provided with cigarette ashtrays.

8.10 Work with businesses in the County to implement the Litter Pollution Act 1997-2003

- Implement litter awareness campaigns with local businesses such as Gum Litter, take away packaging, disposable coffee cups etc.
- Arrange for Litter Wardens to liaise with local business owners to help prevent litter such as ATM machine receipts, chewing gum, cigarette litter and take-away packaging.

8.11 Increase awareness of the dog fouling problem in the County

- Make available information on the legal requirement to clean up dog fouling with dog licence reminders.
- Erect dog fouling signs where necessary.
- The Dog Warden and Environmental Patrol Warden will enforce the litter act in relation to dog fouling.

8.12 Continue with the management of litter at Bring Bank centres throughout the county to ensure they are maintained to the highest standard for all users.

- Continue the regular spot checks of all bring banks centres by the Environmental Patrol Warden.
- Continue to liaise with the service contractor on a regular basis to ensure efficient servicing is undertaken in compliance with the service contract.
- Continue to use mobile CCTV cameras at sites deemed to have the more serious problems and issue fines for all detected offences.
- Issue press releases to the local media on a regular basis outlining the enforcement action being taken as a result of offences at bring centres.
- Develop linkages with local community groups to report any cases of littering at sites.

8.13 Identify major litter black spots in the county with a view to eliminating as many as possible over the timeframe of the Litter Plan

- Identify and record major litter black spots.
- Encourage community groups to report major litter black spots.
- Create a database of major illegal black spots with a timeframe agreed for dealing with each one on a priority basis.
- Use CCTV to monitor black spots.

8.14 Address the problem of chewing gum litter through a combination of awareness raising and enforcement subject to funding being available from the Gum Litter Task Force.

- Continue to be involved with the national chewing gum awareness initiative organised by the Gum Litter Task Force.

8.15 Maximise participation in National Spring Clean and Local Autumn Clean.

- Undertake an annual media campaign to advertise and promote National Spring Clean and Autumn Clean.

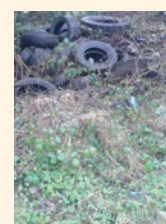
- Continue to support Tidy Towns & Residents Association Network and other voluntary organisations in undertaking community clean-ups during National Spring Clean and Autumn Clean.
- Focus on schools in the county to encourage participation in community clean-ups as part of their Day of Action for the Green Schools Programme.
- Support the efforts of the voluntary sector by providing skips, bags, gloves, litter-pickers etc. to assist in the efficient and safe clean-up of local communities.

8.16 Implement the National Litter Pollution Monitoring system and to use it to actively monitor the activities and performance of the local authorities in tackling litter

- Undertake annual surveys on the level and composition of litter within urban and rural areas as requested by the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System.

8.17: All events including those organised by Monaghan Local Authority will be arranged and conducted so as to not create any litter.

- No Monaghan Local Authority commemorative event or occasion will release balloons or sky lanterns as they are a cause of litter.
- Monaghan Local Authorities will discourage the release of balloons by community groups or other statutory agencies to commemorate or mark an occasion due to the detrimental effect of litter.
- Events subject to planning will be required to submit a litter management plan to the Local Authority.
- All events in the County will be organised in such a way as to minimise the amount of litter generated.



Litter black spots will be identified and eliminated.



9 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

To measure the success of this plan it is important to have a number of indicators in place. The following indicators will measure the 3 most important areas, namely, enforcement, awareness and scavenging. This information will be used annually in Litter Progress report.

9.1 Enforcement

- Number of litter complaints received.
- Number of fines issued.
- Number of fines paid.
- Number of prosecutions.

9.2 Awareness

- % of schools registered with Green Flag programme.
- % of schools with green flag.
- Participation in Spring Clean.
- Number of articles relating to litter in local media.
- Spend on awareness related activities.

9.3 Litter Scavenging

- Total Spend by Monaghan Local Authorities on litter scavenging.
- Amount of litter collected.

9.4 Litter Monitoring

- Results from National Litter Monitoring System.



10 APPENDICES

10.1 WASTE DISPOSAL RECOVERY FACILITIES BRING CENTRES

No.	Location	Area
1	Monaghan Town.	Town Council, Carpark
2	Monaghan Town.	Sam's Bridge Service station.
3	Monaghan Town.	Glaslough St, Carpark
4	Monaghan Town.	Cortolvin Resource Centre
5	Monaghan Town.	Sloan's Shop, Killygoan
6	Castleblayney.	Commons Carpark
7	Castleblayney.	Crescent Hill
8	Mullan Village.	Mullan Housing Development
9	Ballybay.	Town Park Entrance
10	Clones.	Rear of Apple Green
11	Carrickmacross.	Town Council Carpark
12	Newbliss.	New carpark
13	Lisdoonan.	Community Centre Carpark
14	Clontibret.	Community Centre Carpark
15	Glaslough.	Community Centre Carpark
16	Inniskeen.	Old Church Carpark
17	Latton	Community Centre Carpark
18	Aghabog.	Church carpark
19	Tydavnet.	Community Centre Carpark
20	Clones.	Town Council Carpark
21	Scotstown.	Carpark at Rear of Church
22	Emyvale.	Community Centre
23	Rockcorry.	Old mill Carpark
24	Carrickroe.	RC Church Carpark
25	Scotshouse.	Aghnahola Housing Estate
26	Broomfield	McCaughneys Filling Station
27	Castleblayney	Rear of Glencarn Hotel
28	Castleblayney	Castleblayney Mart
29	Emyvale	Emy Lake Amenity Car Park

Category	Tonnage of Waste Collected for recycling in County Monaghan 2012
Glass	1,183
Cans	59
Textiles	50
Batteries	7
Oils	4
Others	8,057

RECYCLING CENTRES

The county is serviced by two recycling centre, located in Scotch Corner and Carrickmacross Monaghan.

• SCOTCH CORNER

For further information:
Opening Hours:

Contact: (047) 80888
Monday to Friday
Saturday

OPENING HOURS

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

• CARRICKMACROSS

For further information:

Contact (042) 9661500
Monday to Friday
Saturday
Thursday

OPENING HOURS

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
(May to September)

• LANDFILL SITE, SCOTCH CORNER

The County operates one landfill facility for residual waste located at Scotch Corner, Monaghan.

For further information:

Contact: (047) 80930
Monday to Friday

OPENING HOURS

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Landfill site is not, however, open to the general public.

The waste collection service in the county is privatised with collectors permitted to provide the service in the County.

10.3 STREET SWEEPING PROGRAMME (TOWN COUNCILS)

DUTIES	MONAGHAN T.C. DAILY MONDAY - FRIDAY	CASTLEBLAYNEY T.C. DAILY MONDAY - FRIDAY	CARRICKMACROSS T.C. DAILY MONDAY - FRIDAY	CLONES T.C. DAILY MONDAY - FRIDAY
DAILY STREET CLEANING	Duties include: sweeping streets, litter picking. Litter picking in housing estates & playgrounds. Sweeping and litter picking at Peters Lake	Duties include: sweeping streets litter picking. Sweeping also done on Saturday /Sunday mornings - 2 hours each day	Duties include: sweeping streets, litter picking.	Duties include: sweeping streets, litter picking. Sweeping also done on Saturday morning for 3 hours.
EMPTYING LITTER BINS	Each bin emptied every morning. Town centre bins emptied twice daily Saturday evening	Bins emptied every morning. Bins emptied on Saturday/Sunday mornings - 1 hour each day	Bins emptied every morning	Bins emptied on outer part of town twice weekly. All other bins emptied daily.
MECHANICAL SWEEPING	Approach roads weekly. Urban roads Saturday and Sunday. Local Roads/ Housing Estate roads on a weekly basis. Removal of debris from road gullies on a rota.	Approach and estate roads daily	Summer months, Saturdays, Streets & Bath Avenue	Mechanical sweeping every fortnight, more often if football matches take place.
WEED KILLING	Killing of weeds 3 times annually within environs of town. Footpaths in town centre sprayed 3 times annually.	Spring through to Autumn	Monthly weedkilling & hedge trimming.	
CHEWING GUM	Periodically used on footpaths, depending on levels of litter.	Periodically as needed	Periodically as needed	
POWER WASHING	Power washing in front of Court House 4 times a year. Town centre & Footpaths washed annually.	Periodically as needed	Periodically as needed particularly festival time	
PERIODICAL CLEAN UPS	Litter flashpoints in certain areas cleaned approx. 10 times per year. Areas of illegal dumping cleaned on demand.	Litter flashpoints as notified. Illegal dumping where referred		Clean ups after football matches.

10 APPENDICES

10.4 TOTAL LITTER EXPENDITURE BY MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL 2012

Monaghan County Council	€358,088
Clones Town Council	€103,147
Carrickmacross Town Council	€112,026
Monaghan Town Council	€306,245
Castleblayney Town Council	€36,688
TOTAL	€916,194

10.4.1 EXPENDITURE ON LITTER PREVENTION, CONTROL AND MISCELLANEOUS 2012

Monaghan County Council	€210,074
Clones Town Council	€97,249
Carrickmacross Town Council	€95,914
Monaghan Town Council	€249,150
Castleblayney Town Council	€32,240
TOTAL	€684,627

10.4.2 EXPENDITURE ON LITTER WARDEN SERVICES 2012

Monaghan County Council	€76,014
Clones Town Council	€2,724
Carrickmacross Town Council	€8,592
Monaghan Town Council	€36,289
Castleblayney Town Council	€4,285
TOTAL	€127,904

10.5 TOTAL REVENUE ACCRUING FROM LITTER PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES 2012

Monaghan County Council	€24,626
Clones Town Council	€55,093
Carrickmacross Town Council	€77,930
Monaghan Town Council	€27,368
Castleblayney Town Council	€3,067
TOTAL	€188,084

10 APPENDICES

10.5.1 ON THE SPOT FINES

Monaghan County Council	€4,142
Clones Town Council	€3,321
Carrickmacross Town Council	€2,930
Monaghan Town Council	€1,150
Castleblayney Town Council	€650
TOTAL	€12,193

10.5.2 DEPARTMENT GRANTS, PAYMENTS BY THIRD PARTIES AND MISCELLANEOUS

Monaghan County Council	€20,484
Clones Town Council	€51,772
Carrickmacross Town Council	€75,000
Monaghan Town Council	€26,218
Castleblayney Town Council	€2,417
TOTAL	€175,891

10.6 NO. OF GROUPS TIDY TOWNS/RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS FUNDED IN 2012

In 2012 a total of 76 applications were received in total, an increase of 18% on 2011 and 29% on 2010.

AREA	NO. APPLIED	AMOUNT OF FUNDING €
North Monaghan	29	€17,600
Castleblayney	24	€ 9,550
Clones	12	€11,100
Carrickmacross	11	€ 5,950
Total	76	€44,200

10 APPENDICES

10.7 TIDY TOWN PARTICIPANTS 2012

CATEGORY A	CATEGORY B
Rockcorry Ardaghey Tydavnet Donaghmoyne Scotshouse Greenan's Cross	Glaslough Inniskeen Ballinode Scotstown
CATEGORY D	CATEGORY E
Carrickmacross Castleblayney Clones	Monaghan

10.8 LOCAL AGENDA FUNDING 2012

21 ASSOCIATIONS FUNDED IN 2012 IN THE SUM OF €20,250

10.9 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS AND ENFORCEMENT IN 2012.

No. of complaints concerning Litter/Illegal Dumping	185
No. of complaints investigated	185
No. of complaints resulting in on the spot fine being issued	38