

# South Tipperary County Council Litter Management Plan 2011-2013



**Winner of Best Overall School in the County at the Environmental Awards 2010, Annacarty National School**

# Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	4
<b>2. Review of Previous Litter Management Plan</b>	6
<b>3. Issues of Concern</b>	17
<b>4. Objectives of the Litter Management Plan 2011-2013</b>	22
<b>5. Conclusion</b>	31
 <b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix 1 Location of Bring Sites in South Tipperary (73 no.)	32
Appendix 2 Contact Telephone Nos.	33

**South Tipperary County Council**  
Comhairle Contae Thiobrad Arann Theas

At a meeting of South Tipperary County Council held in The Council Chamber,  
County Hall, Emmet Street, Clonmel on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Fitzgerald

Seconded by Cllr. Pat English

And resolved that the Members of South Tipperary County Council adopt the Litter  
Management Plan 2011 – 2013, in accordance with Section 13 of the Litter Pollution  
Act 1997.

## **Introduction**

The quality of our environment is intrinsic to our quality of life. No one questions that we have a serious litter problem nationally and locally, which needs to be addressed urgently. Protection of the environment is a real concern and perhaps the biggest challenge facing South Tipperary County Council is how to motivate the public into action against litter. Litter pollution is a major threat to the quality of South Tipperary and Ireland's environment.

South Tipperary County Council acknowledges that the primary management and enforcement responses to the litter problem must come from the Council. However, responsible practices and actions by the business community and the general public are also necessary to end the blight of litter pollution in South Tipperary.

It is acknowledged that this challenge is best addressed by a partnership approach involving all key stakeholders in society (general public, businesses, etc.) in raising awareness of litter and its effects, as well as reviewing and enhancing, where necessary the local authority's own role in litter prevention and control.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1997, the Litter Pollution Act 1997 came into force. The Act made local authorities statutorily responsible for the abatement of litter within their functional area. Section 10(2) obliges the Council to review the Litter Management Plan at least once in each period of three years. Litter is defined in the Litter Pollution Act as

*“any substance or object, whether or not intended as waste 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 substance or object, and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit”.*

When deposited in a public place or within sight of a public place, litter has a detrimental effect on the visual amenities associated with a living or built environment. Litter damages not just the economic potential of South Tipperary's heritage, but the quality of life of South Tipperary residents. Indeed, litter has been identified as a major environmental issue in its own right by the National Anti-Litter Forum.

Whilst the causes of litter are many and varied, it has the effect of downgrading an environment for all those who use and enjoy it. With the limited cleansing resources available to the local authority, it is virtually impossible to eliminate.

This Plan recognises that the problem of litter will not be eradicated unless every sector of society takes responsibility for its share of the solution. We need to recognise as a society that litter is not the sole responsibility of the local authorities, and that cleansing alone is not the most cost-effective or sustainable, long-term solution. Undoubtedly there is a need for a major change in public attitudes, such that littering is viewed as an anti-social and uncivil act. This change of attitude needs to be complemented by a consistent and high-profile enforcement policy by the local authority so that fines and prosecutions are utilised to their full extent.

This Litter Management Plan 2011-2013, for the prevention and control of litter, sets out to achieve quantifiable improvements in the prevention of litter in South Tipperary. It is intended that all measures to be undertaken are realistic and measurable. It sets out specific objectives for the following:

- (a) Public awareness, participation and education.
- (b) Prevention; and
- (c) Enforcement and control of litter.

The Plan must lead to continual improvement in the eradication of litter pollution throughout the county. To this end South Tipperary County Council will monitor litter pollution levels through participation in the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System (NLPMS).

## **2. Review of Previous Litter Management Plan**

### **Litter Enforcement**

One of the objectives of the previous Plan was to increase enforcement against offenders under the Litter Pollution Act.

At present, two full-time Environmental Enforcement Officers are employed by South Tipperary County Council to deal with litter related activities, which include:-

- Dealing with dumping/littering incidents in the county
- Issuing on-the-spot fines and dealing with court cases under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended
- Liaising with local groups regarding clean-ups
- Carrying out street patrols in towns and villages
- Ensuring Recycling Centres and Bring Sites are properly maintained
- Contacting businesses regarding responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act and anti-litter measures.

In addition, the General Services Supervisors and Traffic Wardens are Authorised Persons under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Complaints are made by either telephoning the freephone hotline 1800 20 26 27 or contacting the Environment Section directly. All complaints are entered into a register for action and follow-up. The following table sets out the position regarding on-the-spot fines over the past 3 years.

<b>Litter Fines Issued</b>		
<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
155	119	87
Prosecutions initiated		
21	4	3

### **New hotline to help combat illegal dumping in South Tipperary**

A new round the clock environmental hotline -1850 365 121 - set up by the Environmental Protection Agency in co-operation with South Tipperary County Council was a six month pilot service operating between June and November 2010. During this period South Tipperary residents who wanted to report illegal dumping and environmental pollution incidents in the county could do so at any time of the day

thanks to a new 24 hour complaints phone line.

South Tipperary was one of just four local authorities operating the pilot hotline in the country, the others being Dublin and Cork cities and Donegal.

If the hotline is used widely enough, the EPA hopes to make it a permanent service and roll it out to every local authority area in the country.

This hot line is the latest initiative by the Environmental Enforcement Network which includes the EPA, all local authorities, the Gardaí and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

During normal business hours (9am-5pm), urgent complaints and information are passed on to the relevant local authority, the Gardaí or the EPA. All other complaints are forwarded to the local authority / EPA the following day.

Outside normal business hours, non-urgent complaints are logged and forwarded to the local authority or the EPA the following working day or the following Monday in the case of weekends. Urgent complaints reported out-of-hours are immediately passed to the Gardai, the local authority or EPA as appropriate.

It is possible to provide information confidentially but callers will be encouraged to provide their contact details so local authorities can, if necessary, follow-up with them in relation to the information supplied to assist them with any investigations.

### **Free Phone Hotline**

**1800 20 26 27**

This free phone litter hotline has been operational since 2004. It can provide a confidential service, i.e. members of the public can choose to report incidents without their personal details being disclosed.

### **National Litter Pollution Monitoring System**

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System was introduced in 1999 by the then Department of the Environment and Local Government to monitor the levels of litter pollution on a nationwide basis. This initiative is designed to enable local authorities to manage litter pollution in a more systematic and structured manner. South Tipperary County Council fully complies with its obligations under this system.



*Bring Bank Centre at Glengoole*

### **Recycling facilities and Disposal facilities**

South Tipperary County Council has invested heavily in recycling infrastructure. There are now 73 Bring Site facilities in the county. There is currently a recycling depot at Legaun, Clonmel, at Donohill Landfill site and a state of the art Recycling Centre and Transfer Station is operating at Waller's-Lot, Cashel.

Such items as glass, cans, newspapers, magazines, plastic bottles, textiles, timber, and metal may be recycled at these locations. Construction of a new Recycling Centre recently commenced at Carrigeen Business Park, Clonmel. This site will service the public by accepting a wide range of recyclable materials. The contract to carry out the construction of the facility is being undertaken by Wills Bros. Work began on the site on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 and completion is set for June 2011. The project is on schedule.

## **Litter Bins**

South Tipperary Local Authorities purchase, install and service litter bins at selective locations throughout the county. A total of 97 tonnes of litter in 2009 and 87 tonnes in 2010 were collected from litter bins by the Council.

## **Litter and You Leaflet**

Copies of South Tipperary County Council's Litter and You Leaflet have been distributed by the Environment Enforcement Officers and Public Awareness Officer to schools, Tidy Town Committees, the general public and other relevant groups.

## **Southtippcoco.ie**

The Environment Section publishes information and regular updates on the Council's website, which is [www.southtippcoco.ie](http://www.southtippcoco.ie). The Environment Section's portion of the website was revamped in 2010 and contains detailed information about all the services we provide. It will be further updated from time to time in the light of emerging developments.

## **Awareness Campaigns**

The Public Awareness Officer organised various campaigns using local media to promote environmental awareness.



*An example of regional cigarette butt campaign August 2010.*

### **Competitions to Promote Awareness**

The above larger than life character was used for the South East Region's Don't Rubbish Our Heritage Competition in 2010. This campaign focused on cigarette and chewing gum litter, raising awareness of their safe disposal. Members of the public received free personal ash trays and a competition was run to win a family heritage pass.

### **School Visits**

The Public Awareness Officer visits primary and secondary schools throughout the county to deliver environmental education programmes. To date the focus has been on raising awareness of litter and waste, and encouraging the students to become aware of how to reduce/re-use and recycle household waste.

## **The Green Schools Programme**

South Tipperary County Council actively promotes the participation by schools in the Green Schools Programme sponsored by An Taisce. The aim is to develop environmental awareness in both the school itself and the wider community. There is a strong emphasis on litter in the early stages of the seven stage modular programme. Schools that successfully complete the seven steps can apply for a Green Flag which must be renewed every two years. To date 71 schools have registered and 38 schools have received Green Flag status.



*Schools in South Tipperary receiving their green flags in May 2010.*

## **National Spring Clean**

The National Spring Clean campaign has proved very successful as a combined effort on litter control since its inception some years ago. The Council provides free litter pickers, bags and gloves and the refuse crews and area staff collect the bags of litter from local voluntary groups at an agreed time and location or the groups are provided with free passes to the landfill. The success of previous campaigns ensures the initiative remains part of the Council's cleansing operation.



*Newcastle Tidy Towns spring clean April 2010.*

### **Environmental Campaign**

More than 50 awards are presented each year, for tidy towns, villages, schools and burial grounds, with a total prize fund in excess of €20, 000. The awards are presented by An Cathaoirleach, at a ceremony in early December as a way of showing our appreciation of the value we place on the active communities of South Tipperary.



*Mohober National School, Mullinahone, receiving their prize from An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Dr. Sean McCarthy. Also included are Cllr Jimmy O'Brien and Cllr John Fahey.*

## Waller's - Lot Recycling Centre, Cashel



*Bird Control Ireland's Jeremy Nicholson showing Conor O'Brien how to handle a peregrine falcon at Waller's-Lot Family Fun Day 2009*

There were 10,473 visitors to Waller's-Lot Recycling Centre in 2010 and a Family Fun Day with a difference was held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Bird Control Ireland attended the Family Fun Day with their birds of prey. Members of the public were able to see and hold the birds and learn all about their use and diet from a specialised bird control professional. The Public Awareness Officer was present to give advice and free recycled pencils, pens, rulers and cotton bags to everyone in attendance.

Bird Control Ireland use a range of different methods to control the birds at Donohill Landfill including the use of a flair rifle, a distress caller, visual deterrents such as flying kites that look like hawks and most interestingly the use of falcons and hawks.

Furthermore, a number of groups have attended the Recycling Centre throughout 2009 and 2010 for recycling talks and guided tours of the Centre.

The centre also functions as a Waste Transfer Station where both recyclable and residual waste are “bulked up” before transportation to final destination, thus reducing overall transport and handling costs for the Council.

### **Repak Recycling Centre of the Year Award 2009**



*An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Liam Ahearn, with Mr. Bill Dolan, Repak, Members of Cashel Town Council and South Tipperary County Council, Oireachtas members and staff from the Environment Section at the Repak Recycling Centre of the Year Award Ceremony at Waller’s-Lot Recycling Centre in December 2009.*

South Tipperary County Council’s Recycling Centre at Waller’s-Lot, Cashel won the prestigious Recycling Centre of the Year Award 2009. The award was presented by Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government at an awards ceremony in the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin on Thursday 15th October 2009. The Council was also a finalist at the 2010 awards.

The Council is committed to the prevention of pollution and to managing and continually improving our environmental performance by implementing a certified Environmental Management System. The Council was awarded an International Organisation for Standardisation accreditation ISO 14001 in 2006 and achieved the international standard Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) accreditation in 2009. Waller’s-Lot Recycling Centre is the first recycling centre in Ireland to achieve these accreditations.

## **Litter Control / National Spring Clean**

The Council actively supports the National Spring Clean campaign each year. During April 2009 the Council and FAS engaged in a major initiative to collect litter along the road verges throughout the county. We are the only local authority in the country to work with FÁS on a clean up campaign that in 2008 and 2009 resulted in the collection of approximately 32 tonnes of rubbish from roadsides, the equivalent of 8,500 full bin bags. This campaign runs during March / April and focuses on cleaning the main roads throughout South Tipperary. In addition to the FÁS clean up, 140 community groups took part in the National Spring Clean in South Tipperary in 2010.

Our two Environment Enforcement Officers issued 87 on-the-spot fines against litter offenders in the county during 2010. There were 7 notices, pursuant to Section 55 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, issued in respect of illegal dumpsites.

The Public Awareness Officer continues to actively promote good practice in litter control, working closely with all involved groups, schools and businesses, including accessing



central government grants for anti litter initiatives. In 2010 South Tipperary County Council once again participated in the Anti Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign to highlight the problem of chewing gum on our streets.

## National Tidy Towns Award 2009



Emly Village

The beautiful and impeccably kept village of Emly was Ireland's Tidiest Town in 2009. South Tipperary Local Authorities are immensely proud of Emly's dedication and achievements over the last number of years that have culminated in the award of Emly as Ireland's Tidiest Town 2009 - the highest accolade that any Town or Village in Ireland could hope to achieve. Up against 720 entries from towns and villages all over the country, Emly scooped an impressive five awards including: National Award Winner, Ireland's Tidiest Village Award, a Gold Medal Award for Best in their Category, a South East Regional Award and a Best in County Award. In 2010, Emly was awarded a silver medal in the Entente Florale competition in Italy and in Chicago, it received "the most liveable community" award for populations of less than 20,000 . It also received a South East Regional Award.

Meanwhile there was success at the awards for other towns and villages in South Tipperary. Clonmel scooped a Gold Medal Award. Across South Tipperary scores in the competition improved in all 21 towns and villages that entered the competition.

### **3. Issues of Concern**

#### **(i) Passing Motorists and Passing Pedestrians**

According to the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System results, passing pedestrians continue to constitute the largest single factor of litter pollution in South Tipperary, accounting for over 56% in 2009. Gathering points fall into the next highest category accounting for over 16% in 2009. ( Note latest available statistics refer to 2009)

Composition of this type of litter tends to be package - related and refers to people smoking, eating or drinking on the street or litter dropped by passing vehicles. Cigarette butts represent the highest number of litter items reported, representing 55% in 2009.

The Council provides street cleaning and cleansing services in the towns and villages throughout the county. In 2009 and 2010 a total of 977 tonnes and 835 tonnes respectively of litter were collected from our streets and landfilled.

#### **(ii) Illegal dumping**

This type of littering is the most visible and damaging. It occurs not just in isolated rural areas but also in public open spaces. 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. Extra powers are also available to local authorities to require a householder or business operator to indicate how and where they are disposing of their waste. This is particularly relevant if the householder or business operator is not availing of a refuse collection service or not bringing their waste to an authorised disposal facility. A total of 518 tonnes and 719 tonnes for 2009 and 2010 respectively of illegally dumped material were collected and landfilled by the council

**(iii) Fast Food Outlets/Mobile Food Outlets**

Fast food outlets, including mobile food outlets, can represent a major source of litter. 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.

At present the Litter Wardens regularly inspect fast food outlets to remind them of their obligations to keep their premises and surrounding areas free of litter. Awareness-raising and enforcement activity including enforcement of the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2007 are being used to combat this problem.

**(iv) Dog Fouling**

Dog fouling is a litter offence under Section 22 (1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Dog owners must 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;
- schools/sports grounds; and
- the immediate area surrounding another person's house.

In an effort to highlight and encourage pet owners to clean up after their dogs, free disposable "Pooper Scoopers" are distributed from the Environment Section and are offered to dog owners with every renewal notice for a dog licence. Anti dog fouling signage is erected in various areas where there is a persistent problem.

**(v) Abandoned Cars**

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

#### **(vi) Major Events**

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

- As the organisers of such events are usually in contact with the local authority well in advance of the event in order to secure the appropriate licences/planning permissions, all opportunities will be utilised to require the event organisers to put in place measures to prevent and control litter as outlined in Section 17 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.
- It is possible that the local authority can undertake this task, but the promoter/organiser must bear the costs involved.

#### **(vii) Cigarette Litter**

Results of the 2009 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System indicated that cigarette litter accounts for more than 55% of all litter. Figures increased in urban areas with the introduction of the smoking ban which came into effect in March 2004. However the Environment Section has made a concerted effort to heighten awareness and ensure the use of specialised litter bins and outdoor cigarette bins. As part of the Don't Rubbish Our Heritage South East Region Awareness Campaign 2010, personal ashtrays for cigarette butts and chewing gum were distributed to the public to try to raise awareness of the problem of cigarette butt and chewing gum litter.

#### **(viii) Advertising and Signage**

Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, it is forbidden to erect posters/signs on poles, grass verges, roadsides or other structures in public places unless written permission has first been obtained from the owner of the structure. This also includes putting promotional literature on car windscreens.

**(ix) Presenting Refuse for Collection**

Taking a few small precautions in the way refuse is presented for collection helps enormously in preventing the creation of litter. South Tipperary Local Authorities' customers are reminded regularly that only domestic refuse presented in a wheelie bin will be collected. Recyclable waste should be presented in the appropriate bag complete with the necessary sticker. Refuse should be left out for collection on the morning of the collection and not on the day before. The longer it is left out for collection, the more likely it is to attract the unwanted attention of dogs, cats and birds. It is an offence to dispose of household refuse in street litter bins.

**(x) Illegal Dumping in Forests**

Access to forested areas is a considerable asset to the public and provides a very popular amenity to both tourists and locals alike. However, this open access exposes Coillte to indiscriminate dumping, a problem which is increasing. Dumping in forests is a significant issue, affecting the attractiveness of the forests and quality of public access and recreation. This matter is being tackled through co-operation with Coillte, and the local communities.



*Illegal dump at woodland beauty spot*

**(xi) Tourism**

South Tipperary is renowned for its many tourist attractions, the most notable of which are the Rock of Cashel, Cahir Castle, the Swiss Cottage, the Ormond Castle in Carrick-on-Suir and the Main Guard in Clonmel. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government allocated a small grant to the Council in 2010 to increase the cleansing programmes and litter patrols at these popular locations. It is hoped that this grant assistance will be available during the lifetime of this Litter Management Plan.

The presence of litter at popular tourist locations is very unsightly and can do untold damage to the tourist industry.

The Council will liaise with the tourism interests in South Tipperary to ensure that any complaints / feedback received from visitors are taken on board and acted upon where appropriate.

#### **4. Objectives of the Litter Management Plan 2011-2013**

##### **1. To maintain the existing staffing levels and resourcing of litter prevention and control measures by the local authority.**

South Tipperary County Council currently employs two full-time Environment Enforcement Officers who are responsible for the implementation of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 in South Tipperary.

The Environment Enforcement Officers continuously respond to reports of littering or dumping incidents received from members of the public and Council staff. They also conduct foot patrols in towns and villages. However both litter pollution, and the extent to which the public is now reporting litter/dumping incidents, have increased substantially. The Traffic Wardens are authorised persons under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

In terms of the background support available to the Environment Enforcement Officers, administrative back-up is available from the Environment Section.

South Tipperary County Council employs one full time Public Awareness Officer whose remit includes anti-litter awareness raising. The Public Awareness Officer is in regular contact with schools, community groups, the general public and other bodies in relation to awareness raising and litter control.

##### *Action:*

- *A dedicated Enforcement Team was set up in early 2006 coordinated by an Executive Engineer. This team includes the Environment Enforcement Officers and has responsibility for enforcing the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended.*
- *The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with South Tipperary County Council is currently operating a confidential telephone number (1850 365 121) to allow members of the public to report incidents of illegal dumping 24 / 7.*

- *South Tipperary County Council will continue to work with all schools in the county with a view to increasing their level of participation in the Green Schools Programme and in other anti-litter initiatives.*

**2. To provide additional and improved litter bins in strategic locations and to maintain, or to make arrangements for the maintenance of existing bins.**

South Tipperary County Council currently has approximately 250 litter bins within its functional area.

- *Each Area Office has been requested to survey the litter bins in its area with a view to improving maintenance and servicing requirements. The Council will review the results of the last litter bin replacement programme and recommend the allocation of additional resources where necessary.*

Not all locations are suitable for locating litter bins, for example, in isolated rural areas, outside of shops that should be providing their own bins, and inside housing estates. The County Council will continue to examine all locations in advance.

*Recommendations:*

- *In purchasing new bins, consultations will be undertaken with the Environment Enforcement Officers so that the bin design does not attract dumping of household refuse or scavengers. All new litter bins will incorporate ashtrays on top to discourage cigarette litter.*
- *The Council will use its powers under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, to ensure that retailers and other commercial premises are providing receptacles (such as mobile or wall-mounted bins) for litter and cigarette butts arising from their premises.*
- *In areas not serviced by either the County Council or by private refuse collectors, the Council will consider working in partnership with local communities that are active in litter control measures so that litter bins and / or clean-ups can be serviced regularly on a voluntary basis.*

**3. To continue implementing the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System and to use it to actively monitor the activities and performance of the local authority in tackling litter.**

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System was introduced by the then Department of the Environment and Local Government in 2001. It enables local authorities to assess the extent and composition of litter pollution in any given area. South Tipperary County Council has participated in this system since 2002. The Environment Section staff will continue to carry out surveys on the level and composition of litter pollution. The results will be compared to the initial surveys in order to assess the efficiency of the measures implemented the year before, to identify remaining issues and to help in determining remedial measures.

*Recommendations:*

- *South Tipperary County Council will implement the system during the lifetime of this Litter Management Plan.*

**4. To intensify the enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, and to review current policies regarding enforcement to ensure that maximum use is being made of the enforcement powers of local authorities under the Act.**

It is clear that the public demands more vigorous - and visible - enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act. In recent years the on-the-spot fine has been increased on a number of occasions to its current level of €150.

- *South Tipperary County Council's 'Enforcement Policy for Unauthorised Waste Activities 2009' was made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 and sets out the policy framework that the Council uses when enforcing environmental legislation in relation to unauthorised waste activities. The principal legislation is contained in the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended from time to time; other relevant legislation will be used where deemed appropriate. The purpose of the policy is to inform stakeholders of the factors that will be taken into account in determining appropriate enforcement responses to contraventions of*

*environmental legislation including whether prosecutions are likely to be pursued.*

- *Where littering offences are of a serious nature or are committed by persistent offenders they will be directly pursued through the courts rather than handled by issuing on-the-spot fines.*
- *A freephone “litter line” phone number 1800 20 26 27 facilitates reports of littering from the public. It will continue to be advertised on all signage at bring sites and on all relevant literature produced and distributed by South Tipperary County Council.*
- *A strategy to enforce the Act as it relates to litter offences committed by students of school-going age will be developed by the local authority. However, such a strategy will need greater support from the Gardaí, as well as the schools concerned if it is to be successful.*
- *The Gardaí have powers to issue on-the-spot fines and the local authority will arrange to meet with the Gardaí in the South Tipperary area to discuss improved enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.*
- *South Tipperary County Council will seek to recover all costs on the enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.*

##### **5. To mount public awareness campaigns against fly-tipping in rural areas.**

Identification of offenders who have dumped or fly-tipped large quantities of rubbish in rural areas can be very difficult. In addition, delays in removing material or difficulties in identifying owners of private property can give the impression that enforcement actions are not taking place. This type of offence is becoming increasingly common on Coillte properties and in remote rural areas where there may be no witnesses.

- *A Geographic Information System (GIS) based database of litter blackspots in the county will be developed to assist in monitoring key areas that have been prone to dumping.*
- *In certain cases it may be prudent to carry out surveillance work or provide cameras and signage to collect evidence and/or deter offences.*

- *The County Council will continue its publicity campaign highlighting all aspects of litter and the law but specifically highlighting the problem of fly-tipping in rural areas.*
- *Efforts will be made during the lifetime of the Plan to raise awareness of the obligations of, and waste disposal options available to, householders who do not have access to refuse collection services.*
- *Where necessary joint enforcement operations will be conducted with the Gardaí and /or the EPA in relation to serious offences.*
- *The Council has carried out and will continue, where deemed appropriate, to carry out closed-circuit (CCTV) monitoring of litter black spots and bring sites to increase detection and help secure enforcement.*

**6. To actively encourage increased public participation in anti-litter awareness activities by residents' associations, community groups, tidy towns committees, youth groups, Council tenants and the general public at a local level.**

The local authority recognises and appreciates the important role of community organisations in organising clean-ups, occasionally maintaining litter bins, organising grass cutting and landscaping, and generally keeping their towns and villages tidy and clean.

It is particularly encouraging to note the increased involvement of schools in organising clean-ups in their local areas and the increased interest in the Tidy Towns Competition in South Tipperary.

The County Council currently supports clean-ups by community and residents groups, whether on a once-off or continuous basis, through the provision of Council branded yellow bags, gloves, litter pickers and other materials when available. This support has proved popular, and has eased the difficulties many groups face in disposing of collected litter.

- *South Tipperary County Council will consider ways to increase participation in current environmental / litter awareness programmes.*

- *South Tipperary County Council will continue to support community clean-ups through the provision of yellow Council branded refuse bags, gloves, litter pickers and any other assistance that can be provided.*
- *South Tipperary County Council will continue to promote the annual Environmental Campaign, subject to the necessary financial resources being available, to encourage residents groups, tidy towns committees, burial ground committees and schools to increase environmental awareness in their areas. The Environmental Campaign will be reviewed annually to reflect the current national and local anti litter campaigns that are underway each year.*

**7. To tackle packaging-related litter linked to retail activities and fast food outlets as a priority.**

Research through the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System and anecdotal reports from community groups and the Environment Enforcement Officers have highlighted the problem of packaging-related litter from fast food and retail outlets, particularly late at night and at weekends.

- *The extent of this problem makes it necessary to act in co-ordination with retailers in order to identify ways to tackle the issue. South Tipperary County Council will continue talks with representatives of these outlets to determine how they and the local authority can act together to prevent this problem.*
- *Appropriate enforcement measures will be undertaken to ensure that fast-food outlets in particular are compliant with their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.*

**8. To heighten public awareness of both individual and commercial sectors' responsibilities towards litter and waste management in local and countywide environments by developing a wide-ranging and ongoing information and awareness programme.**

Surveys of public opinion and awareness carried out by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government indicate that there is a double-standard operating in the minds of many people; while there is an increasing intolerance of

litter pollution, many people themselves will admit to having littered. It is the objective of South Tipperary County Council to raise public awareness of the problem of litter pollution in all its forms, and to empower people to take positive action to combat this problem.

- *South Tipperary County Council operates an Amenity Grant scheme to assist Tidy Towns Groups in keeping their local area litter free.*
- *In the allocation of environmental grants, the Council will seek to coordinate its allocation of amenity, anti-litter and environmental partnership fund grants and take particular note of those groups and schools which actively participate in litter prevention and other environmental awareness programmes.*
- *Dog fouling is an offence that needs greater emphasis. Dog owners are made aware of the availability of pooper scoopers when they renew their dog licence.*
- *The Council will continue to develop environment educational materials for the public and for specific target audiences and continuously update the Environment Section of the Council's website with information relating to litter as well as waste management.*
- *The Council will continue to provide the public with information materials relating to the provision of recycling facilities and measures to reduce waste at home and at commercial premises.*
- *Other tools will be utilised to raise awareness of litter throughout the lifetime of this Plan, such as targeted campaigns, competitions, calendars, radio advertising, fliers targeting businesses and farmers, workshops for interested groups and teachers, games, newspaper advertisements and arts and crafts activities.*
- *The Council will continue to utilise the local print media to highlight incidents of illegal dumping and particularly to seek the co-operation of the public in identifying the origin / source of the offending material. This approach was utilised on a number of occasions during 2010 with photographs showing the material and the location where the illegal dumping had taken place. Any information received is treated in the strictest confidence.*

**9. To develop a comprehensive schools education programme in the county that focuses on anti-litter measures and waste reduction as an effective strategy for environmental protection.**

South Tipperary County Council actively promotes the participation of schools in the Green Schools Programme coordinated by An Taisce. This programme, aimed at both primary and secondary schools, aims to involve the whole school in developing an environmental education and awareness programme, initially focusing on litter and waste management. Schools that successfully complete their programme can apply for a Green Flag which must be renewed every 2 years.

Research conducted by An Taisce has found that participating schools have reduced their waste by on average 45% and litter problems, particularly in and near national schools, are virtually eliminated. Recent research on the economic value of the Green-Schools Programme to schools in Ireland has revealed that the programme has resulted in a minimum of 12 tonnes of waste diverted from landfills in Ireland every school day by schools undertaking the programme. Currently 67% of schools in South Tipperary are registered as participants in the Green Schools Programme, and 38 Green Flags have been awarded to date.

South Tipperary County Council's Public Awareness Officer visits close to 40 schools per year, with many repeat visits to particularly large primary schools and secondary schools. To date the focus has been on raising awareness of litter and waste, and encouraging the children to become aware of how they might reduce / re-use and recycle household waste. Audio visual presentations are used, as are interactive games and demonstrations. Other literature is distributed through the schools to householders in the area. Schools are encouraged to register for the Green Schools Programme and to participate in national spring clean events in April by organising a local clean-up.

It is necessary to continuously review aspects of the existing environmental programme in order to focus more attention on particular waste / litter problems as well as practical projects and activities that schools can undertake.

- *South Tipperary County Council will review its schools environment programme with a view to increasing participation in the Green Schools Programme.*

- *All schools will continue to be encouraged to participate in the national spring clean every April and to link with community groups who conduct regular clean-ups in their area.*
- *A particular emphasis will be placed on anti-litter awareness work with secondary schools. All transition year and CPSE coordinators will be invited to a seminar / workshop in relation to litter and waste to encourage these years (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>) to undertake projects that will help kick-start Green Schools activities. Examples include litter monitoring in and around the school premises, awareness campaigns, clean-ups and recycling projects and the Young Environmentalist Award from ECOUNESCO will be promoted.*
- *Green Schools seminars will continue to be organised once a year.*
- *Schools will be invited to avail of guided tours of waste management facilities, particularly the Council's recycling centre at Waller's-Lot, Cashel and the new site at Carrigeen, Clonmel when completed, with a view to raising awareness of the local authority's role, and how to use available waste and recycling infrastructure.*

## **5. Conclusion**

Perhaps the biggest challenge facing South Tipperary County Council is how to motivate more members of the public into action against litter. Litter is generated by all sectors of society and its elimination will only be achieved by shared action and encouraging all sectors to take responsibility. The measures outlined in this Plan will help to make litter an anti-social activity.

The new operational and enforcement measures outlined will address the demands of an ever growing and active population. South Tipperary County Council will endeavour to fund the required measures and will also actively pursue alternative sources of income including sponsorship to fund the implementation of this Plan.

Illegal dumping remains a blight on the county and the enforcement team will assist greatly in tracking down unauthorised collectors of waste as well as the origins of dumped material. However, the public has a vital role to play in assisting the Council's enforcement efforts, through the reporting of illegal dumping incidents using the new freephone number 1800 20 26 27. This line will pass relevant information onto the local authority and will provide another vehicle for the reporting of large scale illegal dumping.

This Litter Management Plan has been prepared for implementation between 2011 and 2013. It is a Plan the implementation and effectiveness of which will require constant monitoring and review if the targets are to be achieved.

Through the development of partnerships with representatives from individual groups and organisations combined with the efforts and vigilance of Council staff, South Tipperary County Council will strive to deliver a litter-free environment in South Tipperary.

## *Appendix 1*

### **Location of Bring Sites in South Tipperary (73 no.)**

<b>SITENAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>BOTTLES</b>	<b>CANS</b>
Annacarty	Beside GAA Pitch	Yes	Yes
Ardfinnan	Council Depot, Main Street	Yes	Yes
Ballingarry	Community Hall	Yes	Yes
Ballyclerihan	Council Car Park	Yes	Yes
Ballynunty	Main Street	Yes	Yes
Ballyporeen	Council Car Park, Main Street	Yes	Yes
Ballysloe	Main Street	Yes	Yes
Bansha	Lay By Tipperary Road	Yes	Yes
Boherlahan	Main Street	Yes	Yes
Burncourt	Community Hall	Yes	Yes
Cahir	Castle Car Park, Castle Street	Yes	Yes
Cahir	Dublin Road opposite the Mart	Yes	Yes
Cahir	Supervalu Car Park	Yes	Yes
Cappawhite	GAA Grounds	Yes	Yes
Carrick-on-Suir	Supervalu Car Park, Greystone Street	Yes	Yes
Carrick-on-Suir	Council Car Park, New Street	Yes	Yes
Carrick-on-Suir	The Green, Beside the Library	Yes	Yes
Carrick-on-Suir	Waterford Road	Yes	Yes
Cashel	Green at Hospital, Car Park, Main Street	Yes	Yes
Cashel	Council Car Park, Friar Street	Yes	Yes
Cashel	Waller's -Lot Recycling Centre,	Yes	Yes
Clogheen	Council Car Park, Main Street	Yes	Yes
Cloneen	Front of Community Hall	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	Superquinn Car Park, Kickham Street *	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	Mary Street. Car Park *	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	Oakville Car Park, Kickham Park *	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	Suirside Car Park, Waterford Road	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	West Gate Car Park	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	St. Stephen's Place, Irishtown	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	Rugby Club, Lawlesstown	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	GAA Car Park, Western Road, Clonmel	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	Dunnes Stores Car Park, Waterford rd	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	Poppyfield Retail Park *	Yes	Yes
Clonmel	The Strand, Old Bridge	Yes	Yes
Clonoulty	School	Yes	Yes
Commons	Centre of village	Yes	Yes
Donaskeigh	School	Yes	Yes
Donohill	Donohill Landfill Site	Yes	Yes
Drangan	Front of Community Hall	Yes	Yes
Dualla	Community Hall	Yes	Yes
Dundrum	Outside the Scouts' Hall	Yes	Yes
Emly	Main Street	Yes	Yes
Faugheen	Centre of village	Yes	Yes
Fethard	Council Car Park, Cashel Road	Yes	Yes
Fethard	Killenaule Road	Yes	Yes

Goatenbridge	Council Car Park	Yes	Yes
Golden	Council Car Park	Yes	Yes
Gorthnahoe	Main Street	Yes	Yes
Grange	Cemetery Car Park	Yes	Yes
Grangemockler	Main Street Car Park	Yes	Yes
Hollyford	Eircom Car Park	Yes	Yes
Kilcash	Woodview Heights, Kilcash	Yes	Yes
Killenaule	Council Car Park, Main Street	Yes	Yes
Kilfeacle	Outside tennis club	Yes	Yes
Killusty	Opposite Church	Yes	Yes
Kilsheelan	Beside Health Centre	Yes	Yes
Lattin	GAA Car Park	Yes	Yes
Legaun Depot	Rathkeevin, Cahir Road	Yes	Yes
Lisronagh	Opposite Church	Yes	Yes
Lisvernane	Beside pumping station on the Galbally Road	Yes	Yes
Marfield	Sandy Banks	Yes	Yes
Moyglass	Opposite Community Hall	Yes	Yes
Mullinahone	Council Car Park	Yes	Yes
New Birmingham	Beside Community Hall	Yes	Yes
New Inn	Convent Car Park	Yes	Yes
Newcastle	Council Car Park	Yes	Yes
Poulmucka	Cross Roads	Yes	Yes
Rosegreen	Council Car Park	Yes	Yes
Rossmore	Church Car Park	Yes	Yes
Tipperary	L and N Car Park, Link Road	Yes	Yes
Tipperary	Caulfields Supervalu Car Park	Yes	Yes
Tipperary	Post Office Car Park	Yes	Yes
Tipperary	Bank Place Car Park	Yes	Yes

## *APPENDIX 2*

### Contact Telephone Nos.

Freephone Hotline	- 1800 20 26 27
Environment Section	- (052) 6126149
Roads Section	- (052) 6134455
EPA Confidential Waste Hotline	- 1850 365 121
Public Awareness Officer	- (052) 6134398