

Minutes of the Litter Management Subcommittee Meeting held on 19th May 2017, Assistant Chief Executive's Office, Block 1, Floor 6 at 2.00pm

In attendance: Cllr Noaise Ó'Muirí (Chair), Robert Moss (SPC Sectoral Member PPN), Councillor Andrew Keegan, Dick Brady (Assistant Chief Executive), Vincent Norton (Executive Manager), Simon Brock (Administrative Officer), Ciaran McGoldrick (A/Senior Staff Officer), Tony Gorman (Staff Officer)

The Chair welcomed those in attendance to the inaugural meeting of the Subcommittee and identified 4 key Litter focussed areas requiring attention as set out below.

1. Over flowing litter bins

Members of the group discussed the problems of overflowing litter bins, particularly at weekends in the suburbs.

The issue of some householders disposing domestic waste in litter bins was also discussed

Simon Brock advised the group that it is intended to introduce measures to address this problem. Such measures include

- Adjusting the current shift working patterns
- Introduction of "Big Belly Bins"
- Retrofitting Litter Bins with sensors to indicate when they are approaching capacity
- Litter bins being tagged with a clearly identifiable number and unique QR code
- It is intended that over flowing bins can be reported via a QR code / app / Smartphone.

It was agreed that Simon will prepare a report on new bin technology for consideration by the committee at the next meeting to be held in July. A site visit to be arranged to view the bin monitoring technology.

2. Multi Occupancy dwellings - Landlords

The group discussed the matter and it was generally accepted that this is a serious problem and needs to be addressed. The issue around who exactly was responsible for the waste, "the holder" and who in fact is the holder of waste.

It was generally accepted that the best way forward would be for the Landlord to be responsible for the waste until such that it is collected by a waste operator. Owners of Multi – Occupancy dwellings should be seen in the same light as management companies in apartments who put waste collection arrangement in place.

Mr. Brady cautioned that this could have implications for DCC in our capacity as a Landlord.

It was agreed that legal opinion be sought in relation to Landlords obligations waste arising from multi-occupancy dwellings

3. Cigarette Butts – Commercial Premises

A discussion was held around the issue of cigarette litter outside commercial premises, in particular, pubs, bookmakers and restaurants.

It was noted that many establishments do clean outside premises however the litter is swept on to the roadway and not managed by the establishments concerned.

It was suggested that through local community activism that establishments could be “shamed” into taking action.

Reference was made to the Anti- Chewing Gum Litter campaigns nationally and that Cigarette Litter should be give the same focus. It was agreed that the possibility of a Hard Hitting Campaign should be explored and involve business representative organisations.

Simon advised the group that according to the provisions of the Litter Pollution Acts, Commercial Establishments are obliged to keep outside premises litter free. It was agreed that engagement with Commercial Establishments should be progressed initially and in the absence of improvement, Enforcement

4. Street Cleaning

It was generally accepted by the group that the standard of street cleaning is not what it should be and must be improved.

The following points / concerns were raised.

- Difficulties in arranging a proper street sweeping service when cars are parked and the street sweeper cannot gain access
- The possibility of extending the Naming and Shaming Campaign that was conducted in the North East Inner City.
- Different areas have different requirements, some areas rarely require the streets to be swept where others require more attention
- Community groups should be notified when we intend to sweep a street so parked cars can be removed. This must be specific, i.e. the sweeper must turn up on schedule.
- The introduction of An Taisce’s “Two Minute Street clean” to be explored
- Extension of adopt a street.
- Issuing advisory calendars to householders on street cleaning schedules
- Size / suitability of road sweepers to be examined.
- It is vital that we support Community groups in their endeavours.

Simon advised the group that there are ongoing negotiations with the workforce and unions in relation to changes in work practices. It is hoped that these changes will be in place by the Autumn, at the latest.

It is intended that the Depot Supervisors will be responsible for a specific area (Raheny, Clontarf, Phibsborough etc.) instead of a specific route. This will give ownership of an area to staff and moreover it will be assist in identifying deficiencies in the service.

Simon explained that the bulk of street cleaning in the suburbs is attended to between 6am and 2pm with the public domain crews looking after the balance.

It was agreed that an area be identified to roll out the actions identified by the group above. Any such area must be adequately resourced with bins, cleaning schedules etc.

Actions

1. Simon will prepare a report on litter bin technology for consideration by the committee at the next meeting to be held in July.
2. A site visit to be arranged to view the bin monitoring technology.
3. Legal opinion be sought in relation to Landlords obligations waste arisings from multi-occupancy dwellings
4. Hard Hitting Anti Cigarette Litter Campaign should be explored and involve business representative organisations
5. Engagement with Commercial Establishments should be progressed initially and in the absence of improvement, Enforcement to be taken
6. An area be identified to roll out the following street cleaning / sweeping initiatives
 - Extending a Naming and Shaming Campaign through community engagement
 - The introduction of An Taisce's "Two Minute Street clean" to be explored
 - Engagement with community groups to enhance cleaning and explore how area based cleaning can be developed in conjunction with communities
 - Extension of adopt a street.

Next meeting July 2017, date to be confirmed.

Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí
Chairperson, 22nd May 2017.