

**The Chairman and Members of  
North West Area Committee.**

**Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Item No: 9**

**PUBLIC DOMAIN REPORT**

Public Domain Team Update

The Public Domain Team are all currently working remotely. The area is being inspected daily and all reports of actions needed are being logged with the relevant departments. All emails, calls etc. are being followed up on as much as possible under the current Covid-19 restrictions. An email was sent to all environmental groups on 4<sup>th</sup> January advising that the Public Domain Team are not endorsing any Community Clean Ups and are not distributing any clean up equipment for the foreseeable future. Follow up phone calls are being made to all groups to link in with them and to assess their needs/plans for 2021 so, when restrictions are lifted, the team will have a plan to assist the groups as much as possible this year.

Illegal Dumping

There were 250 reports of illegal dumping recorded for the month of December. This brings the total number of incidents for 2020 to 4,270. This volume of illegal dumping takes up a considerable amount of time and administration from the Public Domain Team in the Finglas and Ballymun Offices. The North West Area constitutes 30% of the illegal dumping citywide. However, this is down to the continuous and constant reporting and logging of all reports received: some of the other areas do not have the same reporting systems in place and, therefore, the figures can look skewed. On return to work in early January it has been noted that there was a vast improvement in the levels of dumping seen in previous years post-Christmas illegal dumping numbers. This is very positive. The levels of dumping that occurred in the first lockdown in March/April has not happened to date during the current restrictions. Waste Management services are working normally but there are reduced numbers of staff due to illness and directions to self-isolate. To date the service has been working well and we are receiving a good response.

Schools Zones

Three schools zones have been completed in the North West area - St. Finian's, St. Malachy's and Holy Spirit BNS. The Public Domain Officer has also referred St. Joseph's and St. Kevin's on Barry Avenue to be included in the scheme.

2021 Plans for the Public Domain Team

**Mattress and Electrical Waste Recycling Days:** Given the success of the 3 days in 2020 we are hoping to run up to 6 of these events over the year under the Anti Dumping Initiative Funding.

**Tidy Towns and City Neighbourhoods:** The Tidy Towns Competition did not run in 2020 however, we have been informed that it will be running in 2021. We will be working alongside both our committees to achieve as high as a result as possible. City Neighbourhoods did not take place in it's standard format in 2020 and if restrictions remain we will conduct the competition in a similar format to that of 2020.

**Enforcement:** The team will be working alongside the Housing and Parks Departments to reduce the levels of illegal dumping through use of the cameras, where possible, and through bin surveys. Unfortunately, this is not possible currently but as soon as restrictions are lifted we have a database of addresses which we will be targeting.

**Picker Pals:** The Picker Pals programme for Primary Schools will be rolled out again as soon as the schools are back in their classrooms.

**Weeding:** The process for weed control changed in 2020 and although the changed practices worked they were not as efficient as we would like in particular in areas of Ballymun where many pavements are cobblelock. We will be working with the Roads Team, who initiated the change of practice, to ensure a more practicable operation for weed control during 2021.

**Bulb Planting/Wildflowers:** We are reviewing the planting that took place in 2019 and 2020 and examining the visual impact and the public feedback. We will be nominating other areas that can benefit from further installations of this sort.

**Catherine Brophy Walsh**  
**Public Domain Officer**