

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

Meeting: 16th March 2021

Item No: 9

PUBLIC DOMAIN REPORT

Community Clean Ups/Environmental Groups

Level 5 restrictions have limited our ability to engage with Community and Environmental groups. We have not given out any equipment or endorsed any Community Clean Ups since January. We continue to have representation from groups looking for equipment and have therefore decided to re-commence the distribution of the equipment and to advise each group that this work has to be conducted within the boundaries of the Government restrictions. In line with An Taisce's National Spring Clean, groups will be advised to work only within their family bubble. The Public Domain Team will log each request for equipment and it will be delivered to the groups once a week. No equipment will be given out from the Area Offices and groups have been notified accordingly.

Illegal Dumping

Levels of illegal dumping have reduced over the last few weeks with notably less dumped material around. 366 incidents of dumping for February were recorded compared to 423 for January. We are seeing a definite reduction on the ground and are hopeful that this will be reflected in the March/April figures.

Laneway Clearance in Poppintree Courts

An initial pilot scheme to clear the laneways in the Courts in Poppintree was completed in Druid Court on 5th March. Feedback from the initiative has been very positive and we are in discussion with some residents with regard to them taking the space into their gardens on a rolling lease basis. This is dependent on services in the laneway and all neighbours being in agreement. In some cases we may work towards creating a community space/planting projects in these spaces whilst maintaining the gated areas. This is a joint initiative between Public Domain, Housing and Community.

Before



After



Weed Control 2021

The weed control contractors are due to commence again in the North West Area in early April. There will be two treatments in each administrative area this year. The contractor has adapted slightly their operations this year to tailor it to each area individually. The treatment of cobble locked areas in 2020 took significantly longer than planned and they have agreed different treatment methods for these areas for 2021 to include a higher concentrate of citric acid. No glyphosate based products will be used in this process. North West Area will have 32km of pavements/roadways treated and the Public Domain Team are in the process of compiling a list for the contractor. The agreed list will be forwarded to all Councillors prior to the commencement of the work.

Sustainable Gardening Course

Given the success of the course that has been run over the last number of weeks, a further course, 'Growing Together' is being rolled out for March and April. The feedback from the first course was positive and demand for the follow on course has been high with places allocated to 37 participants.

Liam Mellowes Memorial Statue

The Public Domain Officer is currently working on plans to complete works surrounding the Statue. The proposal is to lay a hard stone finish in resin the same colour/shade as the granite plinth and to surround the resin with an Irish granite kerbing.

The 1916 Memorial on Seamus Ennis Road has the same resin finish which is in place since 2016 and has proven to be hard wearing. It does need to be power washed on an annual basis and the Public Domain Officer will ensure that this is included on a schedule for power washing.

Catherine Brophy Walsh
Public Domain Officer