

To the Lord Mayor, Chairperson and Members of
The North Central Area Committee

Meeting: 18/10/2021

Report on “Weeding” in the North Central Area

Dublin City Council Roads Maintenance Department is in charge of awarding contracts for weed spraying in the Dublin City Council area.

Weed spraying was not carried out for a number of years after it was voted on by Councillors to stop using weed killer that had Glyphosate contained in it.

After a lengthy tender process the contract was awarded in 2019 to Greentown Environmental Limited, who use a weed spray called “Foamstream”.

The spraying commenced in 2019 and as advised by Public Domain Team, the main thoroughfares and some estates were included for weeding. The new Foamstream system is much slower and labour intensive to administer and as it had not been used before, we had to await the results of the spray.

Shortly after the spraying commenced, the Covid 19 pandemic hit Ireland and work either ceased or was very slow. In 2020, on advice from the contractor, the same sites were revisited, as the seeds in the weeds had germinated and needed another spray.

Roads Department monitor the outcome of this and made some more funds available for spraying.

The North Central Area has an allocated budget to cover 92 km of the area on an annual basis and this 92 km is used up very quickly when estates and roads are measured up for weeding. Waste Management also remove weeds when staff become available on weekend overtime. However, this is an extremely labour intensive job, which takes a lot of time and manpower to get even one street weeded.

Finally, we also get requests from residents groups and private residents and elected reps to not remove weeds from outside their homes as they see weeds as a very important part of the eco system.

The vast majority of residents decide to remove weeds from in and around their property as they see fit and the Environmental Liaison officer supplies residents and community grounds with bags and equipment to do so.

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Date: 6th October, 2021.