

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

**Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Item No: 13**

**PUBLIC DOMAIN REPORT**

Overview

The year to date has been an incredibly busy one and, despite Covid-19 and the changes it has brought to both our personal and professional lives, the Public Domain Team has performed exceptionally well over the last 11 months. We had a lengthy period of working from home in the early stage of the year in which the team adapted to carrying out their duties in a different way and yet, still deliver a consistent service to the public. This came with challenges which were overcome by the dedication and the ability of the team to adapt to different circumstances. They drove projects ahead whilst having to find alternative means of operating.

This report is a synopsis of the fantastic work that the team have undertaken over the past 11 months.

Sustainable Gardening Course

The Public Domain Team teamed up with Aoife Munn, Horticulturalist and ran 3 online Sustainable Gardening Courses for local residents. This Course was based on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Topics covered included reducing your waste, growing your own fruit and vegetables, taking cuttings, planting for biodiversity in your area and much, much more. The course also has a very practical side to it with participants getting to take cuttings, make biodegradable pots and many other activities during the course. In total 120 local residents took part in the three courses and the feedback was overall very positive.

Picker Pals

Prior to Covid 19 restrictions the Picker Pals programme was up and running in many of the Primary Schools in the North West Area. This was adapted in April of 2021 to run as an online programme. The Public Domain Team arranged for this initiative to be rolled out in the schools below:

- Finglas Parochial National School , 1st Class
- Gaelscoil Bhaile Munna, Ballymun, 2nd Class
- Gaelscoil Uí Earcáin , Fionnghlas, 1st Class
- Gaelscoil Uí Earcáin , Fionnghlas, Senior Infants
- Our Lady of Victories Infant School, 1st Class
- Our Lady of Victories Infant School , Ballymun, 1st Class
- Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch , Bhaile Muna, 1st Class
- Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch , Bhaile Muna, 2nd Class

- St. Canice's Girls National School , Finglas, 1st Class
- St. Fergal's Boys National School , Finglas, 2nd Class
- St. Joseph's Junior School , Ballymun, 1st Class
- St. Joseph's Junior School , Ballymun, 1st Class
- St. Malachy's Mixed National School , Finglas, 4th Class
- Virgin Mary Boys National School , Ballymun, 2nd Class
- Virgin Mary Girls National School , Ballymun, 1st Class

#### Anti-Dog Fouling Poster Competition

The Team ran a local Anti-Dog Fouling Poster competition with local groups and the winners were announced weekending 6<sup>th</sup> June. Each winning entry was printed and the posters were given to local residents groups to erect in their own locality.

#### Graffiti

There was an increase in the level of Graffiti this year in comparison to 2020. There were sizeable incidence of Anti Vax graffiti that was removed as quickly as possible. We endeavour to remove offensive graffiti within 24 hours of it being reported. From January to the end of October 1596 sq.m. removed.



#### Laneway Project Poppintree

This project started early in the year and the feedback received from residents was all positive. Although some of the laneways have issues with weed growth since the original clearance this is something that we will be addressing early next year and will endeavour to come up with some innovative ways to reduce the weeds and to enhance the spaces further. The Pilot Project in Druid Court that was funded through the Public Service Innovation Fund was slow to progress. However, it has been a complete success.

The residents of Druid Court worked alongside a local horticulturalist who has guided the residents through the process of creating this space which includes:

- 3 raised beds in the space some with flowers, shrubs and others which are currently being used to grow onions and garlic which is both sustainable use of space and educational in particular for the children in the area.
- A greenhouse which has been completed from disused plastic bottles emphasizing the recycling element of the project.

- Potting benches installed that are also wheelchair accessible which promotes inclusivity for the area.
- A picnic bench has also been added whereby those working in the garden can sit and rest and chat with others.

The Team met with the residents on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November on site to take a tour of the space and they are extremely positive of the impact that it has had for the area. Children coming in to the space asking can they help and they are mentoring them in the process.

Input from the residents has grown community spirit in the area and the process of working together on the project has given them a real sense of ownership of a space that was overgrown and neglected for years.

People passing by are interested in what is going on in the space, admiring the garden and are keen to try something similar. We will engage and work with any residents interested in trying to create a similar community space.

The residents would like to have a launch of the space in spring time so they can show the space in top condition. The team will work on this with the residents.



### City Neighbourhoods Competition

The City Neighbourhood's Competition for 2021 is now complete. A very high standard was achieved by the 91 entrants into the competition this year. We are very proud to work

alongside these groups who are instrumental in improving the North West Area and we will continue to give as much support as possible to these groups. Winners were announced through Social Media Channels throughout the last two weeks in November.

**North West Area  
City Neighbourhood Awards 2021**

Category	Winner
<b>RESIDENTIAL COMPETITION</b>	
1- 150 Dwellings	1 <sup>st</sup> – Beneavin Residents Association  Joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Oakwood Sycamore Residents Association - Coultrey Way Tidy Road Committee  Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Beneavin Court Residents Association - Eastwood EWG
151-300 Dwellings	1 <sup>st</sup> – Lakeglen Residents Association  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Griffith Area Environmental Group
300 Dwellings and Over	1 <sup>st</sup> – Willow Park and Pinewood Residents Association
Senior Citizen Complex	Joint 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fold Ireland (Ballygall Senior Citizens) - Sandyhill Gardens Senior Citizens  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Griffith Crescent Senior Citizens Complex
Front Garden	1 <sup>st</sup> – 45 Doon Court (Tina & Terry)  Joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 125 Hillcrest Park - 48 Doon Court - 26 Druid Court  3 <sup>rd</sup> – 52 Shangan Avenue
Open Green Space	1 <sup>st</sup> – Carton Gardeners  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Doon in Bloom  3 <sup>rd</sup> – Belclare Park Residents Association
Community Environment Initiative	1 <sup>st</sup> – Trinity Sports Scholarship Garden  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Finglas Tidy Towns

	3 <sup>rd</sup> – Willow Park and Pinewood Residents Association
--	--

Community Garden	Joint 1 <sup>st</sup> – Glas Community Garden (GAP) - Muck & Magic Garden  2 <sup>nd</sup> - The Waltons  3 <sup>rd</sup> - Fairy Garden
------------------	---

Urban Village	1 <sup>st</sup> - Finglas Tidy Towns
---------------	--------------------------------------

Mixed Use Street	1 <sup>st</sup> – Ballymun Tidy Towns
------------------	---------------------------------------

**SPECIAL CATEGORIES**

Individual Contribution	1 <sup>st</sup> – Rodney McCreery  Joint 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Susan Clarke (Wadelai Hillcrest) - Adam Lawton & Sarah Farrell (Trinity Comp)  3 <sup>rd</sup> – John Mason 3 Coultry Avenue
-------------------------	--

Best New Entry	1 <sup>st</sup> – Belclare Lawns Community Garden  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Eastwood EWG  3 <sup>rd</sup> – Mellows Crescent Residents Association
----------------	---

Endeavour Award(Most Improved Entry)	1 <sup>st</sup> – Simon Byrne 87 Belclare Park  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Wadelai Hillcrest (Plant Sale)  Joint 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Wadelai Hillcrest (Clean ups) - Wellmount Crescent Residents Association
--------------------------------------	---

Apartment Complex	1 <sup>st</sup> – St. Canice’s Court Apartment Complex
-------------------	--

Allotments	1 <sup>st</sup> – Finglas Tidy Towns  2 <sup>nd</sup> – Meakstown Allotments
------------	--

<b>BUSINESS COMPETITION</b>	
Best Shopfront	Joint 1 <sup>st</sup> – Print Ready - Burgess Galvin  2 <sup>nd</sup> - The Willows Pub
<b>SCHOOLS COMPETITION</b>	
	1 <sup>st</sup> – Trinity Comprehensive

Mattress and WEEE Amnesty Days

During the Summer Months we carried out a Mattress, Paint and WEEE amnesty in Ballymun and Finglas.

This project was undertaken to highlight the issues that our department deals with regarding the level of mattresses and dumped electrical materials in the North West Area and to assist local residents who have no transport to access our Bring Centres.

This was advertised through our Social Media Channels. The events were held over 4 hours each day. RecycleIT attended the event in Ballymun and to tie into the event in Finglas we also worked with the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun and took in old paint which was recycled in the Rediscovery Centre.

374 Mattresses taken out of the waste stream. This is a significant amount of mattresses that could be otherwise dumped/burned in the area. They are all recycled by Eco Mattress Company along with best practice.

RecycleIT recorded 454 Items at 4040 Tonnes.



### Plant Distribution

Plant distribution, in conjunction with Community Development Team, took place in June where circa 130 groups - who are all involved in community planting - were facilitated with a good selection of plants.

This was replicated again in October with the distribution of bulbs to the same number of groups.

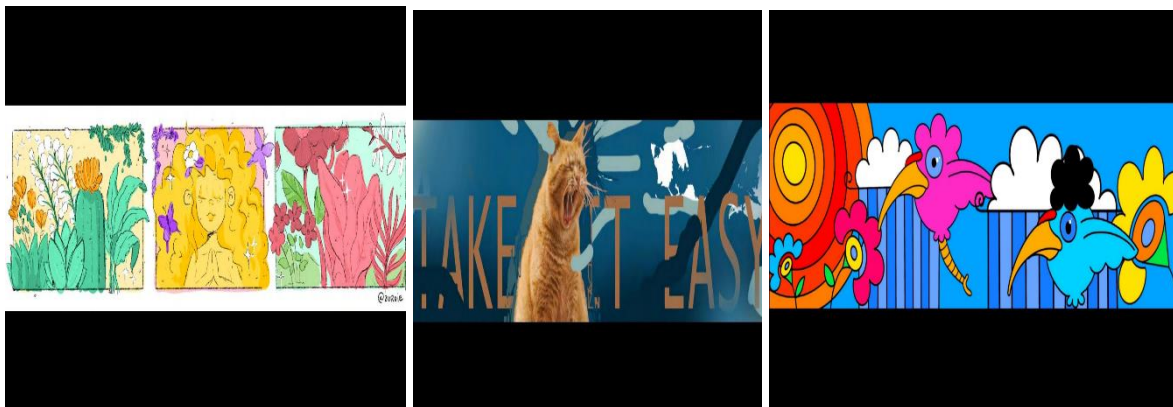
### Community Art Initiative

Today Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December between 10am – 12pm, an Art Jam is taking place on St. Margaret's Road, along the blank wall close to Ikea (opposite side).

A collaboration of artists will be working for 3 days to create a collection of street art at this space. The artists will be interacting with local young people through Trinity Comprehensive School and Ballymun Health and Fitness group.

Please note that due to Covid 19 restrictions, numbers are limited but if you are passing, keep an eye out.

These are a small sample of the pieces that will be painted.



### Statistics for the Year to date

The Public Domain Team generic email address deals with approximately 180-200 emails per month.

• <b>Illegal Dumping:</b>	2559 incidents recorded.
• <b>Leaflet Drops:</b>	11 Leaflet Drops to Households (625 Leaflets).
• <b>Enforcement:</b>	Businesses all called to prior to Halloween and all Takeaways in the NWA called to throughout the year to remind them of their responsibility under the Litter Bye Laws.
• <b>Community Clean Ups:</b>	2340 carried out in 2021 to date.

**Catherine Brophy Walsh**  
Public Domain Officer