



Date: 01/12/2023

To: The chairperson and members of
North Central Area Committee

**PUBLIC DOMAIN TEAM UPDATE FOR THE
DECEMBER MEETING OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE**

Autumn Leaf Fall

The Public Domain Team worked closely with All Hallows Residents Association and Waste Management teams to organise an “*Autumn leaf clearance week*” on Griffith Avenue from Saturday 11th November to Saturday 18th November. Over 3000 compostable leaf bags were provided to residents on Griffith Avenue & to 3 local schools, who very kindly assisted in keeping the footpaths safe for pedestrians. Equipment including bag stands, leaf grabbers, brushes, rakes, gloves & hi vis jackets, was supplied to help with the task. Waste Management crews were on hand to assist with the cleaning of the roadway, cycleway and footpaths. The filled bags were removed and taken to St. Anne's Park to make leaf mould compost. Once capacity was reached at St. Anne's, the remaining bags were taken to Thornton's recycling to make compost.

It was a huge success yet again, with special thanks to All Hallows Residents Association for their help with advertising the event, communicating with their residents via email and social media, erecting posters, delivering bags to residents on request and giving us daily updates on numbers of bags ready for collection at different locations.



Arrangements were made for leaf bags to be collected from a leaf gathering event on Kincora Road in Clontarf and transported to the Belmayne Allotments, to make leaf mould compost for use onsite. Every effort is made to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce waste by continuously focusing on sustainability & keeping as many leaves as possible in the area rather than transporting them away.



Compostable leaf bags were given to resident associations, tidy towns and environmental groups who expressed an interest in helping to keep the public domain clear of leaves. All of the groups managed

the distribution of bags in their own way locally. The groups were encouraged to request bag collections via Citizen Hub.

The “*Leaf Composting Workshops*” were a huge success in the North Central Area. All of the groups who took part in the programme enjoyed it and learned a lot from it. This programme prevented approx. 3000 bags of leaves from being disposed of this year. The Environmental Liaison Officer cleared the contamination from the baskets on Griffith Avenue and is trialling a wire lid on them in order to prevent further contamination by members of the public. The baskets were also assessed by a compost expert who confirmed that that the contents will be ready for harvesting in late Spring 2024. Once ready, it is intended to bag up both mulch and compost for local residents to avail of. As this is a community led initiative it has been agreed that if the local residents association does not take ownership of them they will be removed from the Avenue altogether in 2024 and baskets will then be offered to individual households instead, for use in their gardens.



Benches

6 new benches were installed at various locations across the area in November and it is our intention to install a further 6 benches over the coming weeks, once locations have been finalised.



Area Enhancements

Work with Public Lighting continues in order to get public lighting poles in the area painted. During November, poles in St. Brendan's Estate & the Ennel Drive/Park area were painted.



Sustainable Christmas Tree Trial

This year the Public Domain team decided to trial 3 Sustainable Christmas Trees in North Central. The sites chosen for the trial were areas that were on our waiting list for Christmas Trees. It will be exciting to see how these trees fare & progress over the next couple of years. This is a much more sustainable way to have Christmas trees in the community as it reduces the need to cut down trees and dispose of them after the festive season. If they do well, other locations will be assessed for possible tree planting in 2024.



We would like to wish everyone a very happy, peaceful Christmas & New Year.

Richard Cleary & Tommy Collins
Public Domain Officers

Joanne O'Sullivan
Environmental Liaison Officer