

**The Chairperson and Members
North Central Joint Policing Committee**

Anti Dog Fouling Enforcement Initiative

Public Consultation for the Litter Management Plan took place in 2015 and the main issue that was highlighted was the issue of Dog Fouling in the City.

The role out of the Anti Dog Fouling Enforcement Initiative started in the North Central Area on the 12th June 2016. To date the patrols have been out every weekend targeting Parks, Open Green Spaces and areas that are popular for walking.

There are generally 6 staff members on patrol consisting of 2 Litter Wardens, Public Domain Officer, Environmental Liaison Officer and two Gardai. Clontarf Community Gardai have been working on this initiative with DCC staff and a strong working relationship has been established between staff and local Gardai.

To date 11 fines have been issued in the North Central Area, 10 in St. Anne's Park and 1 on Clontarf Promenade. Experiences of the staff involved in the initiative indicate that although there is evidence of Dog Fouling in the area, the actual compliance rate among dog owners is high. In the case of offences that have been recorded, all dogs have been off the lead. Another notable fact is that every individual who has been fined has had bags with them to clean up the dog foul but were not paying attention to the dog at the time of the incident.

The 8 fines that have been issued have had a positive effect on the behaviour of dog owners in the area. Individuals that have been fined are spreading the word that enforcement is taking place and in this case improving the behaviour of others who have to date not been compliant. Gardai who are working on this initiative have also informed us that during their day to day operations they are also more aware of this and are asking people to be compliant where they see an incident outside of DCC patrols.

Feedback from the public also brought attention to the fact that there are limited numbers of bins in the parks etc for the disposal of the waste. To counteract this issue four dog fouling bins are also being piloted in strategic positions currently in the NCA. It is envisaged that if they prove that this is also reducing the number of incidents that this number will increase gradually over the next few months to 40 of these bins in the NCA.

Talking Lamposts were also used over the past number of months in three separate locations in the NCA. These proved very successful in reducing the number of complaints received relating to dog fouling.

Catherine Brophy Walsh

Environmental Liaison Officer