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**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS  
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monday, June 12, 2017**

**QUESTION NO.24**

**QUESTION: Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask what measures are being made to combat continuous black litter spots and graffiti spots throughout our county and to ask what is proposed to combat these two anti-social issues given the huge work of local Tidy Towns Groups

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council is responsible for ensuring that public roads are kept litter free, in so far as it is practically possible, and the prevention of the creation of litter through the following measures:

* Enforcement and Regulation
* Public Realm operations programmes, including the collection and disposal of litter and the provision and maintenance of litter receptacles
* delivery of Communication, Education & Awareness programmes
* development of protocols for response to service requests

The following is an outline of part of the Council's strategy to deliver an integrated approach to achieving high quality maintenance and improvement of our public realm

**Graffiti:**

Reports of graffiti are sent to our Litter Warden for the area to inspect with a view to establishing whether the graffiti is on (a) utility box (b) private property or (c) public property.

A)    If graffiti is on a utility box the Litter Warden Service identifies the owner (ESB, Eircom, Bord Gais, etc.) and the location is then referred to the relevant utility company requesting removal in line with MOU which are in place and which are the subject of regular review.

B)    If graffiti is on private property a notice issues to the owner requesting removal.  The Protocol published with the Litter Management Plan 2015-2019 provided for the potential to engage with private property owners to assist with removal of graffiti subject to agreement on costs and insurance indemnity.  However, to date there has been no take up on this proposal.

C)    If graffiti is on public (Council) property the Council arranges for removal.

In the course of delivery of the Public Realm service plan, arrangements are made for litter picks in conjunction with grass cuts to ensure litter is kept to a minimum, where possible. Similarly, areas prone to repetitive littering / dumping are cleaned on a weekly basis at a minimum, and bring banks are serviced and maintained.

Assistance in the form of materials is provided through the Social Credit Scheme, and arrangements are made in conjunction with Public Realm to collect the debris / waste following these clean-up events.

The Council continues a high level of enforcement in order to prevent and control litter (including illegal dumping) through the following:

* Targeted focus on known litter generators, particularly around time of known occurrences
* Investigation of all complaints and enforce regulation and legislation as appropriate
* Continued examination of options for surveillance to reduce incidences of littering and dog fouling (CCTV? Audio devices / drones etc.)

The Council recently applied for and was successful in being approved for grant aid to tackle three areas which are known for repetitive incidents of littering and illegal dumping through Phase 1 of Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Anti-Dumping Initiative.

The areas are Sean Walsh Park (Bottle Bank area), Rossfield Estate and Piperstown Road and work will commence on these initiatives shortly.

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