

Recorders Residents Association. Whitehall Road and Environs.

The following are the views of our Residents Association based on many years of experience in dealing with diverse issues in relation to litter, waste collection and clean-ups. With the exception of one or two transgressors in the area we are extremely lucky to have a caring population in regard to the general up-keep of the area.

We should add here that dealing with bins, litter and graffiti take a most frustrating amount of time, mainly because the systems currently in place in SDCC are extremely unwieldy and results slow.

Household Waste and Waste Collection:

We strongly feel that waste collection should be taken back into the control of the Councils.

This would minimise/deal with many of the issues in relations to waste.

1.0 Cost – Private companies are obliged to deliver profits for their directors.

Councils could keep waste collection costs more under control.

The epidemic of fly-tipping would be brought under control, and council remedial costs reduced.

2.0 Number of collectors/collections:

2.1 Every day of the week one or other of the Bin Companies are collecting.

- Some bins are on the pavements most days of the week.
- Our experience: When there are issues with un-emptied bins (contents rejected by collecting company) it can take not just days, but weeks to resolve these issue – Identify which collector - Identify the owner – find contact details and interact with the various bodies - arrange for bin to be emptied – ie another week of looking at the eyesore – bin finally emptied but not taken away – by the time the owner is located the bin has been refilled by fly-tipping – saga begins once more. If this was a matter of dealing with the Council's collection system, as in the past, this issue would not be so difficult.

2.2 Local Amenities Areas within Residential surroundings:

Once more the copious number of collectors means that the disruption to residents living beside local area shops, pubs etc are subject to the following experiences on many days of the week -

- Early morning noise – or daytime noise on many days of the week.
- Heavy trucks negotiating narrow roads- traffic delays as a result, access to homes blocked.
- Inability of *shared* bin area to be kept behind locked gates/screening because of varied days/very early collections.
- Unsocial behaviour resulting in these collective bin areas.

3.0 Graffiti:- Our experience:

Our Residents Association has nurtured a good relationship with our Local Amenity providers down the years.

- Many pay the annual sub.
- They co-operate to try to keep their frontages swept.
- They try to battle the never-ending problem of Graffiti on their frontages.

- It is Anti-Social behaviour that is the cause of this abuse of shop fronts – not derogation of duty on the part of the owner/tenant.
- Since many of the outlets are small businesses the cost of graffiti removal can be considerable and is often a physical problem for them to deal with.

3.1. This latter issue of Graffiti is an issue that we feel could be better handled by the Council by having a graffiti removal squad, on call, to remove graffiti when a spate of it occurs and not as currently exists – a system of threats of fines to the shop owners – which only serves to break down relationships between residents and shop owners/tenants.

3.2 A service by the Council would also be of great assistance to Residents Associations.

- It would alleviate the need to identify the ownership of particular utility boxes, who then inform us they do not wish to have their 'box' interfered with but *yet only have a painting programme every two years or so!* Nor do they appear to have an 'in-between' programme of maintaining these boxes free of graffiti.
- A Council Service would be preferable to having a member of the Resident committee handling chemical removers
- Chemical Remover is costly to buy and is generally in large quantities – which 'go-off' if left for long periods of time. Storage of same can also cause problems.

4.0 Dog-Fouling:

Awareness campaigns have made a big impact with dog owners over the past years. By and large they do their duty and clean up.

We cannot say the same for the Council in terms of playing their part, there are **NO BINS** anywhere!

4.1 Dog-Fouling Bins are needed, particularly on and near our open space – which we call 'The Green'

5.0 Litter Bins:

Green School Campaigns work very well within the school campus. More needs to be done to encourage proper disposal of drink and fast-food containers beyond the school perimeter. Hedges all along Whitehall Road are used as '*bins*'. Not all are attributable to young adults however the schools could do more work within the green school remit to build an awareness around this practice building better habits for their futures.

- More Litter Bins along Whitehall Road are needed.
- More frequent emptying of our 1/2 existing bin/s is needed.

5.1 We have found it notoriously difficult to get litter bins replaced by South Dublin County Council.

- Litter bins have been removed from outside the shops on Whitehall Road.
- Waiting for a consignment of bins for the County has been one excuse.
- It took over 2 years to have the bin reinstated following a car demolishing it.
- This was then removed by the Council approx. 2 years later – cause? Covid?
- Efforts have failed to have this reinstated to date.

5.2 The bin outside the shops at the top of Whitehall Road needs to be replaced a.s.a.p.

6.0 Clean-up/Leaf Collection/Council *only* bags. V.I.P Issue.

- We have great concerns regarding this request, as it is our experience that branded biodegradable bags have not been readily available to us from the Council in recent years. We have managed to get some, courtesy of Cllr. Pamela Kearns.

6.1 *Recent notification from SDCC:*

“Social Credits Scheme clean-up application and collection procedure.

To all Residents' Associations / Community Groups/ Social Credit Scheme participants,

· Only South Dublin County Council branded clear biodegradable bags should be used for community clean ups. No other bags of waste will be collected e.g., black bags.”

Leaf Collection mid-Oct to early December.

- In Nov 2016 we trialled a leaf-collection for a week – it was a huge success. No more slippery footpaths. Happy Residents who worked hard to keep this leafy green area tidy. We used Branded bags.
- In 2017 we ran this again, this time for 4 weeks. See page 5 for a copy of this notice hand-delivered to 365 homes.
- In 2018 we were told to use our own bags because *the Council could not afford the branded bags.*

6.2 A search for non-black bags, strong enough to withstand the weight and handling, proved very difficult. Against our better judgement, some black bags were used with the agreement of the council.

As we originally predicted, the use of black bags that year *has left us with a legacy of black bag dumping*, long after our ‘closing date’ which we have found extremely difficult to eradicate since.

- Because of this abuse of our efforts we had decided that last year, 2022, would be our last! Black bags dumped on the Green for months – even under the official council ‘No Dumping’ signs that we erected. Perhaps fly tipping is on the rise everywhere.
- However, we will give it ‘a go’ this year and see what happens.
- Hopefully we will have a good supply of branded biodegradable bags from the Council – and no slippery footpaths. And no residual dumping after the 1st week of December!!!

6.3 Oxigen Leaf Collection/SDCC organised.

Our Experience:

This system did not work well as we were required to phone in to request a collection when enough bags were ‘out’ and be put on a Council/Oxigen list for a ‘possible day’.

- Whitehall Road is a very long road, approx. 1 mile in length.
- ‘Seeing’ if there were sufficient bags out necessitated: - physically going out - making lists of where the bags were - phoning the council to request a collection date All very time consuming.
- The result was bags everywhere throughout the entire 5 weeks!

6.4 May we respectfully ask that a particular day of the week be allocated for leaf collection from Whitehall Road? (Leeway of a day entirely acceptable). The Residents Association would inform residents.

7.0 Cleansing Schedules - Street Sweeping:

We would like to see **side roads** off Whitehall Road receive more attention in this regard. They are only swept about twice a year. As a result debris/soil builds up in the gutters and at the base of garden walls. This then provides a ‘growing medium’ for weeds with the resultant shabby appearance. This is a

particular problem in a street where many elderly people live or where properties are rented rather than owner/dweller.

8.0 CC Counter – Communication – Cleansing Depots

Our Experience:

For many years we had a very good 'system' working in tandem with the cleansing department.

We had a named person in the depot and his phone number. If we had an issue with a dumped bag for example, we would phone him. He would ask the location and reply "that will be picked up later today....or tomorrow" as the case would be. He knew us by name. By all accounts ours was not the only residents association who used this. He retired. Our wonderful, easy system went with him.

This also worked wonderfully for us on Clean-Up days. Pick up locations were known by him. Suggestions often being made to us to facilitate the 'lift' in a better way.

It is far more troublesome and time consuming to have to write emails to the CC Counter. There is the assumption that everyone is IT literate. Not so, since it is generally the older population who do these jobs in the Community. It must be more labour intensive, albeit a bit more accountable, but it is also a slower process ultimately.

9.0 Parks:

We find it particularly difficult to communicate with the Parks Department.

- Many seasonal jobs have in the past, been done by a group of people who are now 'past' doing heavy jobs.

More than 20 years ago this group of residents planted Ivy along the wall dividing the Green/Kimmage Manor. It was wired in along its entire length, and has been fully maintained since then by the residents. It has provided a pleasant 'green' backdrop to the Green as well as providing a barrier to graffiti. It also does the job of trapping litter, which is then easier to pick up.

- Recent requests to SDCC for assistance with the trimming of this has fallen on deaf ears.

It is our view that where Residents put in unpaid effort, virtually doing the work of the Council, then it should be incumbent on the Council to *meet them half-way* and offer back up help.

- We feel that this is an issue that could be assessed/addressed within this Draft Litter Management Plan.

10.0 Waterways:

We look forward to the commencement of the much campaigned for Poddle FAS Scheme and the opportunity to work with the OPW and SDCC in improving the planting/landscaping of the banks of the Poddle within our area.

Solar Camera: We were instrumental in the installation of a solar camera on the bridge at Kimmage Manor (and elsewhere) to monitor the flood risk.

- May we suggest that viewing the footage of this camera should not be confined to the Drainage Division but could be instrumental in identifying the culprits of the recently dumped a lawn mower and bicycle in the body of the river and a supermarket trolley on the bank, all within the range of the camera.

- Solar cameras may be a worthwhile consideration in other remote/inaccessible dumping 'hotspots'.

We hope this contribution to the Draft Litter Plan will be of assistance to those of you in the Council who make decisions. Our many years of local participation have taught us a lot. We hope you will also learn from this contribution.

Sincerely,

Pauline Foster
Chairman
Recorders Residents Association.

RECORDER'S RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.

ROAD-SIDE TREES - LEAF COLLECTIONS

Dear Resident,

The autumn is well and truly with us now and the leaves have started to fall. The Residents Association did a one week trial last year and residents were pleased with it. Arrangements have now been made to have a leaf collection made on either a Monday or Tuesday for the next 4/5 weeks.

How will it work?

- **It will commence on 10th October 2017.**
- **NB. Only South Dublin County Council clear plastic bags will be collected so do not use black bags etc.**
- **Fill the bag with leaves from the road-side or front garden trees.**
- **Place your 'tied off' bags in groups, with three or four of your neighbours, on the grass verge. Please ensure they do not block the pavement.**
- **If there is no grass verge near you - stack the bags under one of the trees - again make sure not to block the pavement.**
- **Put the bags out for collection on the Sundays.**
- **If you need more bags you can collect from your Committee Members who live close by, house numbers below.**

Whitehall Road: Pauline: 39. John: 53. Dympna 67. Margaret: 83. or Ailbhe: 109.

Priory Walk: Dermot: 29. **Priory Way:** Yvonne: 19. **Glendale Park:** Rita 19

Note: This is a Residents Association initiative - it is not being run by the Council but it will be with their assistance.

This will only work if you row in behind us, so we will need your assistance please. Also let us have any ideas you have that might make it work better for next year.

N.B. - LEAVES ONLY!!

Pauline Foster
Chairman.
1st October 2017.

PS. If your subscription (€10) envelope was not collected/has not been paid, you could take this opportunity to drop it in to one of the Committee Members.