

**Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas**

**South Dublin  
County Council**

## **DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2026-2029**

# DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

## **Introduction**

This Draft Litter Management Plan 2026 - 2029 is a statutory plan prepared as prescribed in Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

The Plan is action-based and focuses on a four-pillar approach with the overarching objective of a consistently cleaner environment, to improve the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of residents living within the South Dublin County Council administrative area.

The plan proposes to address the negative impacts of litter on our county and to enhance our environmental, commercial and tourism potential through effective and efficient:

- **Litter Prevention and Control**
- **Community Engagement, Education and Environmental Awareness**
- **Public Realm Operations**
- **Litter and Waste Enforcement**

It is the goal of SDCC to protect and enhance the natural and built environment through effective education, awareness, monitoring and enforcement of this Litter Management Plan, in line with national legislation and relevant policies.

Annual Implementation Plans shall have regard to the mission statement and objectives of the Corporate Plan. Plans shall also have regard to the proper planning and development of the county and the provisions of the County Development Plan.

## **For Your Information**

### ***What is litter?***

Section 2 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, (the Act) defines litter as:

*.....a substance or object, whether or not intended as waste (other than waste within the meaning of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended, which is properly consigned for disposal) that, when deposited in a place other than a litter receptacle or other place lawfully designated for the deposit, is or is likely to become unsightly, deleterious, nauseous or unsanitary, whether by itself or with any other such substance or object, and regardless of its size or volume or the extent of the deposit;*

In short, the definition of litter is broad and means that any item or material which is not disposed of properly, or is likely to become unsightly, is litter. This ranges from a coffee cup or cigarette end discarded on the street or thrown from a car window, to graffiti, disposal of household waste in public litter receptacles, unauthorised signage, dog fouling and the dumping of larger volumes of litter or waste.

### ***The governing legislation***

The following is an outline of the main legislation:

Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 and 2003

Waste Management Act 1996, as amended.

Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.

Air Pollution Act 1987

Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977

Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act 1990

Protection of the Environment Act 2003

Household & Commercial Waste Byelaws

Parks & Open Spaces Byelaws

Circular Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2022

National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030

The following is intended as a practical guide to these laws.

The Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, provides for penalties for people who litter. It also sets out the responsibilities of Local Authorities and businesses under the Act.

## ***Responsibilities: Who is Responsible for what?***

### **General Public**

Residents and visitors to SDCC administrative area have responsibilities when it comes to litter prevention. These are penalties in place for parties that fail to meet their responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act.

Members of the public are required to take measures to prevent the creation of litter.

The public are responsible for:

- Keeping private property that is visible from a public place litter free (including graffiti)
- Pick up after yourself – do not drop cigarette butts/chewing gum/paper/food etc on the ground
- Cleaning up after your dog in a public place and disposing of your dog's litter in a proper manner – remember *Any Bag, Any Public Bin*
- Ensuring that waste of any kind is presented for collection in an appropriate waste receptacle and is given only to an authorised waste collector.
- Returning takeaway packaging to the business it came from if consuming food/drinks in a public place
- Refraining from putting household waste in a public bin
- Ensuring that no litter blows out or is thrown from your vehicle and becomes litter
- Do not place household rubbish in a public bin
- Submitting a witness statement to SDCC should you witness a litter offence, so a fine can be issued under the Litter Pollution Act

### **Business Community**

The owner or person responsible for a place to which the public has access is required to keep the area adjoining their premises litter free, regardless of how the litter got there. This places an obligation on business people to:

- Keep footpaths, pavements, and gutters within a 100m radius of their premises litter free.
- Ensure that transporting goods or materials does not cause litter and that the material is sufficiently secured to prevent the creation of litter.
- Engage with SDCC on managing litter/waste from your premises, in particular take-away packaging/litter

- Remove graffiti from their property
- Not to erect posters or signage without prior authorisation or place advertising leaflets on the windscreens of vehicles
- Not to place commercial waste in a public bin
- Not to dispose/dump material in an area other than an appropriate waste receptacle or an authorised waste facility

Owners or persons in charge of mobile outlets are obliged to:

- provide an adequate number of litter receptacles
- ensure that all litter associated with the operation of the mobile outlet is removed within a 100m radius.

Operators of mobile outlets are also required by South Dublin County Council to hold a valid Casual Trading Licence.

The organisers or promoters of major events are required to ensure that they have litter control measures in place at and in the vicinity of the venue before, during and after events. This applies to sporting events, social events, festivals and shows at which large crowds are expected to attend.

### **South Dublin County Council**

South Dublin County Council is responsible for ensuring that:

- Public roads
- Council Owned Green/Open Spaces
- Council managed Play spaces
- Community Gardens
- Rivers, streams flowing within Council property.

are kept litter free, in so far as it is practicably possible,

SDCC is also responsible for the following:

- Preparation and adoption of a Litter Management Plan.
- Taking all practical measures to allow for the prevention, control and correct disposal of litter.
- Taking steps to promote awareness of litter pollution and its effect on the environment.

- Encouraging participation from the public and businesses in preventing and overcoming litter pollution through coordinated awareness campaigns.
- Providing access to appropriate facilities/receptacles and waste bins for our citizens and arranging for regular emptying and cleaning.
- Enforcement and Regulation
- Routine and non-routine inspections
- 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
- Promotion of Customer Care Contact System as point of customer contact
- Ensuring the Litter Warden service engages with the business community on a regular basis to remind them of their responsibilities in keeping the areas outside their premises litter free.
- Engaging with businesses who sell take away food to reduce waste and eliminate litter from their premises, including the issuing of Notices where necessary, under the Litter Pollution Act.

### ***Penalties for Littering***

Dropping or leaving litter in a public place or in a place that is visible from a public place is an offence, which is subject to a fixed penalty notice of €150 or to a fine not exceeding €4000 through the Courts. A person convicted of a litter offence may also be required by the Court to pay the costs incurred by the Council in investigating the offence and in bringing the prosecution to Court.

Large scale dumping may be prosecuted under the Waste Management Act, with penalties on conviction or indictment of up to €15million and/or a 10-year prison term.

## **Litter Prevention and Control**

### **Background**

Litter Prevention and Control is central to the SDCC Litter Management Plan 2026 – 2029.

### **Strategy**

SDCC will take all practical measures to allow for the prevention, control, and correct disposal of litter to include promotional/awareness campaigns, community engagement/ participation in new initiatives, provision of appropriate facilities/receptacles and waste bins for the public to dispose of their waste and enforcement of the law where necessary.

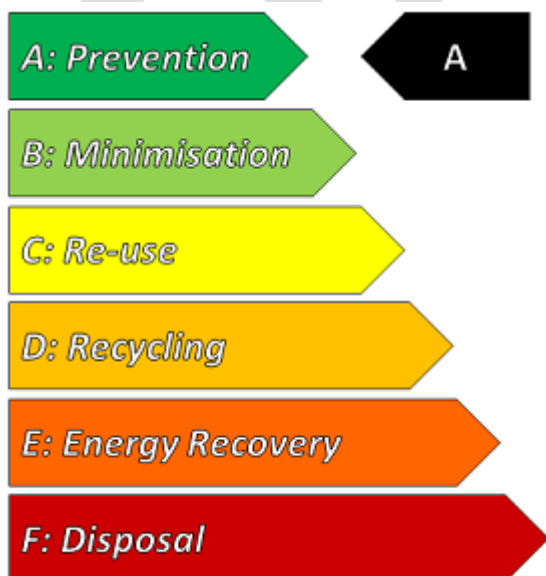
### **Objectives**

- Ensuring that there are a sufficient number of bins throughout the county and monitoring the provision of same
- Provision of solar compactor bins in areas of high footfall such as town/village/district centres and busy park entrances
- Ensuring the presence of a high visibility Litter Warden service to deter littering throughout the county
- Ensuring that the locations of recycling facilities throughout the county are regular updated and promoted through SDCC channels
- Ensuring the responsible use of CCTV schemes, in line with the Circular Economy, Codes of Practice, to prevent littering/illegal dumping in targeted locations
- Reviewing and responding to all requests for anti-littering signage throughout the county

## Community Engagement, Education and Environmental Awareness

### Background

Communication, education, and awareness are components through which residents of the County can become more conscious of the impact of littering, dumping and heedless activity on the environment in which we live. Residents must also understand the need to prioritise litter/ waste prevention as the most important action on the waste hierarchy.



### Strategy



To promote the anti-litter and litter prevention message throughout the South Dublin County Council administrative area.

### **Objectives**

- To promote targeted anti-litter and litter prevention campaigns, including graffiti, dog and general litter, highlighting existing collaborations
- To provide regular information on how the public can engage in litter prevention within communities across the county
- To encourage and support active participation in Local, National and Regional litter prevention and awareness programmes
- To engage with, support and provide initiatives for young people that promote litter prevention including delivery of the Green Schools Programme
- To support community groups in litter prevention, litter awareness and community clean ups
- To create awareness amongst and support householders and businesses of the litter prevention message, and of their responsibilities and obligations
- To use social media, our website, and all available channels to promote and report on the litter prevention programmes and campaigns to encourage engagement with our citizens
- To provide support to new and existing Community links encouraging Community involvement in maintaining a clean county.
- To promote and celebrate successful local litter prevention initiatives in communities throughout the county
- To promote successful engagement with businesses throughout the county to reinforce the positive impact businesses can have in preventing litter pollution
- To promote the Circular Economy and sustainable alternatives to litter disposal (upcycling, composting, reuse and repurpose)

## Public Realm Operations

### Background

The Public Realm Section was established in 2013 following the merging of the Parks, Burial Grounds, Operations and Cleansing Sections. The works undertaken by the Public Realm section includes all those individual tasks previously undertaken by the 4 sections listed above, for example, litter bin servicing, grass cutting, park maintenance, removal of illegal dumping, village cleansing, pitch maintenance etc.

In addition to the services provided by direct labour the Council has a road sweeping and associated services contract in place with Oxigen Environmental Ltd. Under this contract, dual carriageways, main roads, housing estates and industrial estates are provided with a road sweeping and litter picking service at a set frequency<sup>1</sup>. The associated services provided under this contract are weed control (from April to September inclusive), gully cleaning and leaf removal during winter months.

### Strategy

To deliver an integrated approach to achieving high quality maintenance and improvement of our public realm.

### Objectives:

- To undertake street (town/village) cleaning programme including daily litter bin inspections and servicing as appropriate
- To provide litter picking in conjunction with grass cutting
- To ensure that all cleansing services are always adequately resourced.
- To monitor and ensure that cleansing services are always provided to an acceptable standard.
- To ensure a speedy response for the removal of graffiti on public property
- To ensure that areas subjected to on-going litter and dumping are cleaned on a weekly basis at a minimum.
- To continue to expand the litter bin stock around the County as deemed to be necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> Current Frequency as follows:

- Housing Estates @ four times per year (13 weeks) – some every 6 weeks
- Main Roads @ twelve times per year (4 weeks) – some every 2 weeks
- Industrial Estates @ twice per year (26 weeks)
- Dual Carriageways @ quarterly (13 weeks)

- To continue to support the tidy towns and residents' group clean ups through the social credits scheme.
- To ensure that Bring Banks are serviced and maintained to a high standard.
- To endeavour to respond to reports of illegal dumping within a 24-to-48-hour timeframe.

## **Enforcement & Regulation**

### **Background**

South Dublin County Council is committed to improving the aesthetic appearance of our County, making it an attractive place in which to live and do business. The Council is committed to fully enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, and associated regulations to tackle individuals and/or businesses that are responsible for littering and illegal dumping.

Currently, the Council employs a team of 6 Anti-Litter Wardens who patrol the County daily investigating incidences of littering and illegal dumping. All reports of litter and illegal dumping are recorded on the Environmental Complaints System, where they are tracked from original complaint through investigation to enforcement.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued whenever adequate evidence is found or provided and direct prosecution is initiated when deemed appropriate. Those who fail or refuse to pay Fixed Penalty Notices are prosecuted through the Courts.

The Councils Waste Enforcement & Licensing Section's Waste Enforcement Officers are authorised to carry out many functions under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. This includes enforcement of the Councils Household & Commercial Waste Byelaws, 2018, and various Waste Management Regulations covering waste collection, storage, and disposal. They work in tandem with the Councils Anti-Litter Wardens to ensure a thorough investigative regime is in place to tackle issues of illegal dumping and waste disposal to identify those responsible, secure successful legal and remedial actions.

The Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 (the Circular Economy Act) was signed into law on the 21st of July 2022. The Circular

Economy Act provides for amendments to the Waste Management Act and the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (The Acts). The proposed amendments include provisions for the approval of CCTV schemes by local authorities, subject to conditions, for the purposes of deterring environmental pollution and facilitating the deterrence, prevention, detection, and prosecution of offences under the Acts.

### **Strategy**

To continue a high level of enforcement to prevent and control litter (including illegal dumping).

### **Objectives**

- To continue to improve the visibility of the Warden Service
- To provide a targeted focus on known litter generators, particularly around time of known occurrences
- To investigate all complaints and enforce regulation and legislation as appropriate.
- To continue to operate Customer Relations Management Systems
- To continually examine options for surveillance to reduce incidences of littering and dog fouling.
- To continue to provide and promote the Council's Litter Warden Hotline on 014149220 and the Environmental Protection Agency's anti-dumping hotline 1850 365 123.
- To use technology as a tool to combat littering and illegal dumping, in locations where less intrusive measures have not had a tangible impact on reducing littering and illegal dumping.

## **Annual Action Plans**

SDCC is required to report on the operation of the Litter Management Plan indicating the measures which we are/ have taken in relation to the prevention and control of litter across the administrative area.

A comprehensive Action Plan will be developed by Climate Action for each year of the plan through which monitoring, and evaluation will be made and reported annually to Council in accordance with Section 10(3) of the Litter Pollution Acts.

Annual Action Plans will include, but will not be limited to the Actions set out in Appendix I.

The report to Council will include an assessment of:

- All litter prevention and control measures undertaken
- Extent of promotion of public awareness, education, and information measures
- Level of co-operation and assistance provided by the Council for the purpose of preventing and controlling litter.
- Extent of enforcement action taken

Annual Action Plans will have regard to:

- Learning from previous year
- RMCEI Plan (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections)
- NLPMS (National Litter Pollution Monitoring System)
- IBAL Surveys (Irish Business Against Litter)
- Climate Action Plan
- Mission Statement and Objectives of the SDCC Corporate Plan

- The proper planning and development of the county and the provisions of the County Development Plan.

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# Appendix I

## Communication and Awareness

- Promote Anti-Litter & Anti-graffiti promotional/media awareness schedule (dog fouling, anti-litter, illegal dumping, anti-graffiti radio and cinema advertisement campaigns)
- Provision of South Dublin Canvas project to combat graffiti on traffic light boxes
- Administer Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant
- Promote environmental school poster and slogan competition
- Promote responsible dog ownership
- Promote National Gum Litter Task Force
- Promote and support National Spring Clean
- Promote and support Tidy Towns Initiative
- Promote and provide support to Social Credit Scheme
- Provide support and administer the Green Schools Programme
- Promote Seasonal Campaigns.

## Public Realm

- Operation of village cleaning programme including weekend and bank holiday services
- Continued provision of the road sweeping services contract and expansion to newly developed areas as required
- Planned and scheduled clean-ups of identified litter blackspots in the county
- Servicing and maintenance of Bring Banks to ensure that they are litter free
- Continually review litter bin provision in the Public Realm having regard to Litter Bin Placement Protocol

- Review bin provision in villages and identify suitable bin type to be used
- Work with Sporting Clubs to ensure litter control measures are in place in accordance with the Allocation of Pitch / Sporting Facilities – Policy and Conditions document
- Use of internal systems to track and manage the removal of graffiti from public property
- Targeted programme to remove bonfire material from public places in advance of Halloween
- Mapping of Halloween bonfires to identify trends and inform planned interventions
- Clean up and removal of Halloween bonfire material in a timely manner
- Operate Laneway Maintenance programme at identified locations across the county and continue to seek solutions to issue.

### **Litter Enforcement**

- Continue to operate the Customer Relations Management Systems (Members Reps, Customer Contact System, Environmental Complaints System) to track complaints/reports from initial contact to resolution
- Maintain high profile targeted warden service with foot and drive by patrols as appropriate in towns, villages, cemeteries, and allotments
- Issue Fixed Penalty Notices for breaches of environmental legislation, regulation, and byelaws, including littering, illegal dumping, dog fouling and unauthorised signage, where adequate evidence is available



- Initiate legal proceedings for non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notices, where appropriate
- Initiate direct prosecutions, where appropriate
- Use overt and covert CCTV cameras and other technologies including drones and audio devices to monitor areas prone to illegal dumping and to support enforcement action
- Promote and support the PURE Initiative.

### **Waste Enforcement**

- Enforcement of Household & Commercial Waste Byelaws 2018, including storage, management and disposal of waste, household surveys
- Enforcement of Producer Responsibility Legislation (Tyres, Packaging, WEEE, Batteries)
- Combat unauthorised waste collectors, e.g., Man in a van, scrap collections
- Targeted inspections of unauthorised waste sites
- Initiate legal proceedings for offences under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended
- Manage and promote annual Anti-Dumping Initiative schemes.

## Appendix II: BONFIRE MANAGEMENT

The Air Pollution Act, 1987, was introduced to counter air pollution in Ireland, particularly in urban areas by means of Special Control Area Orders. The burning of a range of materials in an urban area is prohibited in areas covered by a Special Control Areas and these would include the materials/waste typically used for Halloween bonfires.

The main objective of Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, is to prevent environmental pollution and the creation of nuisance emissions.

The Council's Byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces 2011, under Section 5.2. Consideration for other Parks users, state: *No person shall Make any bonfire, fire, barbecue, possess or light any firework save with the prior permission of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission.*

The Council's response to Halloween over the period of this Plan will continue to involve the following:

- Awareness measures to highlight the dangers associated with bonfires and the harm done to the environment,
- Action by the Council's Environmental Enforcement & Licencing Section to deal with commercial premises and their obligations to store their waste properly, including aerial surveys as required,
- The Public Realm response to remove stockpiles of bonfire materials will commence as soon as necessary in September of each year,
- Liaison with An Garda Síochána regarding actions being taken by them and by the Council in relation to this matter,
- Liaison with local resident groups who can help to identify the locations of material stockpiles,
- The Bulbs not Bonfires campaign will run to encourage residents not to allow bonfires to take place in their areas.
- The social credits scheme will continue to facilitate groups who have registered on the scheme with the disposal of materials at the Council's civic amenity site in Ballymount, and this will help to reduce the volume of materials being handed over for bonfires.

The Council's frontline response to counter the accumulation of materials for use in bonfires in public places in advance of Halloween, is the removal of materials placed in public places for the purposes of constructing a

bonfire on Halloween and thereafter the removal of waste arising from bonfires.

The Council has in recent years succeeded in driving down the number of illegal bonfires in the county through a combination of public awareness, reward schemes, alternative community activities, enforcement, and targeted clean ups.

As most of the bonfires take place in parks, open spaces and other public areas, the Council is tasked with the removal of bonfire material before, during and after Halloween. This activity carries a high risk and appropriate Risk Assessments are in place as part of the Council's Safety Management System.

Where bonfire material in a public place is reported to the Council, removal will continue to be prioritised having regard to the following:

- Under power lines
- Against or immediately adjacent to housing or other property
- On main roads where there is likely to be a threat to public transport
- Locations as identified by An Garda Síochána as likely to present a threat to public safety.

The Health and Safety of the Council staff involved will be assessed and removal of material will be undertaken during normal working hours. Locations will be checked and prioritised for removal in accordance with the above. The location will be risk assessed by supervisory staff, and Garda support will be sought as appropriate.

In managing this service, the Council is mindful of minimising damage to property and essential services and will prioritise the resources available to ensure best use. It is not physically possible to remove all bonfire material from every reported location at Halloween.

The Council will not remove bonfire material from:

- Private property
- Gated developments
- Gated laneways in housing estates.

## **Appendix III: CCTV & ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES**

The Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 (the Circular Economy Act) was signed into law on the 21st of July 2022.

The Circular Economy Act provides for amendments to:

- The Waste Management Act 1996 (the Act of 1996) [Part 3 of the Act] and
- The Litter Pollution Act 1997 (the Act of 1997) [Part 4 of the Act]

The amendments to the Act of 1996 and the Act of 1997 include provisions for the approval of CCTV schemes by local authorities, subject to conditions, for the purposes of deterring environmental pollution and facilitating the deterrence, prevention, detection, and prosecution of offences under the Act of 1996 or the Act of 1997.

The Act includes a requirement that The Local Government Management Agency shall prepare and submit to the Minister for approval draft codes of practice for the purposes of setting standards for the operation of CCTV schemes by Local Authorities. It is also provided in the Act that the codes of practice must be in place prior to Parts 3 and 4 of the Act being commenced and any CCTV schemes being proposed for approval.

SDCC is committed to availing of CCTV and Mobile Recording Devices (MRD) in its efforts to deter, detect and prosecute litter and illegal dumping offences in accordance with the Codes of Practice. A small number of CCTV schemes have been implemented to tackle littering and illegal dumping. The further introduction of CCTV will be implemented on a phased basis, subject to the approval of the CCTV oversight board. Areas with the highest recorded levels of littering and illegal dumping will be prioritised initially, if less intrusive measures are demonstrably unsuccessful. SDCC will pursue enforcement actions against any identifiable person who unlawfully deposits waste in our County.

## **Appendix IV: CLEANSING**

The Council engages multitasking crews in litter picking, cleansing, and the removal of illegally dumped material.

Street/ road cleaning, litter picking and servicing litter bins is undertaken on a scheduled basis and approximately 17,000 tonnes of litter, illegal dumping, litter bin arisings and road sweeping waste is collected and disposed of each year (This figure is based on the average figure from the 3-year period 2020 to 2022).

### **Road Sweeping:**

The Council has a road sweeping and associated services contract in place with an external provider. All roads, housing estates and industrial estates are provided with a road sweeping and litter picking service at agreed frequencies. The associated services provided under this contract are weed control, gully cleaning and leaf collection.

### **Bring Banks:**

There are 71 recycling/ bring centres in the county. These receive textiles and glass.

Three (3) service providers engaging with the Council in relation to the provision of textile recycling facilities. There is a contract in place for the servicing (emptying) of the glass recycling banks; this is a regional contract in collaboration between the four Dublin local authorities.

The service (emptying) at glass recycling banks varies in accordance with the level of need. Most frequently used facilities are emptied every 2-4 days, others on a less regular basis, depending on usage. The operator is responsible for tidying up the surrounding area of the facilities. All litter/ broken glass in the surrounding area (up to 5m away from bottle bank) is collected.

To provide evidence of the cleaning, a picture is taken by the operator before and after each cleaning event. This information is provided to the Council via an online reporting tool

If the litter left at the bottle bank is glass packaging, it is deposited into the bottle bank and when the contractor lifts the receptacles, they are put back on clean ground – i.e., ensure that no litter or cardboard boxes get stuck underneath the bring bank.

If the litter is unrelated to the bottle bank the contractor notifies the Council, where there is high activity of inappropriate use/ dumping at these

facilities the council provides a cleaning service at these locations as deemed necessary.

**Litter Bins:**

There are currently circa 800 litter bins throughout the county in on street and public park locations. All these bins are inspected daily and emptied as appropriate.

**Community Clean Ups:**

Community Clean Ups are managed through the Social Credit Scheme where community groups and schools can apply for assistance with community clean ups.

Applicants for assistance must provide the Council with the following detail:

- date and location of clean up
- contact details of organiser
- location where waste materials will be stored for removal.

Waste collected through community clean ups is collected by the Council from the location agreed with the group prior to the clean-up.

## **Appendix V: DOG FOULING MANAGEMENT**

Dog fouling is dealt with under Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, as amended. Under this Act the person in charge of the dog is subject to a fine or prosecution if they do not immediately remove any faeces deposited by their dog in certain places, and/ or if that person fails to ensure that their dog litter is properly disposed of in a suitable sanitary manner.

The difficulty with enforcement of this section of the Act is the requirement for witness testimony, to report that the offence happened and that an identified person is the person in charge of the dog. The Council continues to encourage residents' groups and/ or individuals to assist the Warden Service in this regard.

While a substantial number of dog owners take responsibility for their dog and cleaning up after it, it is the case that there is a considerable minority who do not, and will not, clean up after their dog.

The council continues to raise awareness on the issue of Dog fouling and has mounted several campaigns on radio, newspapers and on social media in that regard. To encourage responsible dog ownership and ensure a cleaner environment for everybody, a new Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign - Help Scally be a good boy! was launched in 2022. The campaign features the adorable "Scally" the dog in a series of videos which highlight the consequences of not picking up the poop. Whether under the cover of darkness, in a field or on the beach remember "Your dog's poop could end up anywhere! Always Pick it up!"

Dog litter, if properly bagged can be disposed of in a standard litter bin. The Council provides standard type litter bins in its main parks and at the dog runs which have been provided in those parks. In total there are approximately 130 litter bins provided at parks locations in the County, this number has increased in recent years and will continue to increase as the need arises. There are a further 650 litter bins provided on streets and in villages and urban centres. Currently, dog litter stickers are being piloted on existing litter bins demonstrating that these receptacles are suitable for such litter.

Dog Litter Signage continues to be available and requests for signage are considered on a case-by-case basis and signs are erected on demonstrated need. The location of the request is examined for suitability and if deemed suitable signs can be erected. If there is/are registered group(s) in existence in an area, signage may be provided directly to the group through

the Social Credit Scheme with the caveat that such signage erected must have due regard for public health and safety, and must not impede visibility or restrict traffic, cycling and pedestrian flow.

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## **Appendix VI: GRAFFITI RESPONSE**

To assist in combatting Graffiti, The Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant is made available to community groups and schools through the Environmental Awareness Section. In addition, the South Dublin Canvas project will be continued.

It is a criminal offence to deface property, and it is a requirement of Section 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 for property owners to remedy defacement.

The purpose of this protocol is to set out clearly the basic principles for the Council's management of graffiti, and to provide consistency in approach to graffiti removal across the county:

- If the graffiti is on public property, the Council will arrange for its removal. Depending on the type of surface, chemicals or paint will be used
- If the graffiti is on utility boxes belonging to utility companies, the company concerned will be contacted and requested to remove the graffiti. There is currently a formal Memorandum of Understanding in place with four utility providers. These will be kept under review as part of this protocol
- It is the responsibility of all property owners to remove graffiti from their premises. Where graffiti is on private property the Council will request the property owner to remove the graffiti in the first instance. Depending on the location, and if the property faces onto a strategic public place, the Council will endeavour to have the defacement removed. The Council will require indemnity from the property owner or an agent of the property owner to enter onto the property for the purpose of removal of the defacement. The property owner or an agent of the property owner will sign an indemnity, and, in all cases, there will be a fee involved. No works will take place on private property in the absence of such indemnity and no chargeable work will be carried out until such charges are agreed by both parties.

In a limited number of circumstances, it may not be possible to remove the graffiti owing to difficulties accessing sites.

## South Dublin County Council Graffiti Indemnity form for Private Property

**This form contains important provisions about our liability to you.**

**Please read it before signing.**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [insert name] being the freehold owner/freehold owner's agent/tenant/tenant's agent/other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ of the premises known as \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Premises") give South Dublin County Council or any contractors appointed by them, permission to enter the Premises to remove and/or paint over fly-posting and/or graffiti from the external walls, windows and fronts of the premises.

I understand that this work will be carried out for which there may be a charge incurred to me, as part of South Dublin County Council's initiative for the prevention and removal of graffiti.

I understand also that no chargeable work will be carried out until I have agreed the charge. I also authorise South Dublin County Council and any contractors appointed by them to erect signs warning of prosecution if acts of graffiti or fly posting persist.

I acknowledge that South Dublin County Council, nor any of their contractors, have carried out or arranged to be carried out any inspections, building surveys, assessments, or tests regarding the suitability of the Premises for the removal processes used, including (but without limitation) the use of power washers and high-pressure hoses.

If the Premises (and/or related property and/or other premises) are damaged because of the above removal then neither South Dublin County Council, nor their contractors, shall be liable to any party in any circumstances for any damage whatsoever and however caused (including without limitation in tort, contract and by negligence). South Dublin County Council, and any contractors appointed by them, do not attempt to limit, or exclude liability for death or personal injury arising from negligence. I hereby indemnify South Dublin County Council and their contractors from and against any claims, costs, liability and/or proceedings in respect of any damage caused from the removal of such graffiti / fly posting as set out above.

If I am not the property owner, I confirm that I have the freehold owner's permission and full authority to provide this consent and sign this disclaimer on behalf of the freehold owner.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to:** South Dublin County Council

**Alternatively Email To:** [info@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:info@sdblincoco.ie)

## **Appendix VII: LITTER BIN MANAGEMENT**

The Public Realm Section is responsible for litter control in all public spaces within the Council's administrative area. As part of this service, Public Realm section provides and maintains a network of approximately 800 litter bins on street and in public parks, open spaces, and housing areas across the county.

The purpose of litter bin management is to address the following issues with the overall objective of improving the cleanliness of the county:

- Ensure litter bins are of an attractive and robust design, fit for purpose and placed in the right locations
- Clear criteria against which litter bin requests can be assessed.

The Environment, Water and Climate Change Directorate is the main directorate that provides and services litter bins in the county. These bins are managed by the Public Realm Section. To optimise resources and ensure that bins are provided in the most cost-effective manner, while ensuring that they deliver maximum service, it is important to establish the principles of where litter bins will / will not be provided.

It is neither desirable nor effective to simply provide litter bins on a request basis. This protocol aims to set out the basic principles for litter bin placement to provide consistency and appropriate coverage in all parts of the county. This should provide greater understanding of litter bin provision and inform requests for new litter bins.

Locations where requests for bins should receive priority for litter bin placements are:

- Town and village centres
- Vicinity of shops such as newsagents, food retailers, supermarkets
- Areas where people congregate e.g., bus stops, tram stops, post offices, public service buildings / offices
- Main routes to schools
- Larger parks greater than 16 hectares in size e.g., in the vicinity of playgrounds and dog runs

Capacity of the location to facilitate safe access for maintenance vehicles (side loader) will be considered in all cases.

Locations that are not considered suitable for litter bin as they tend to attract dumping, vandalism are:

- Residential areas with no mixed usage, especially cul-de-sac type developments, as they attract dumping of household waste around the litter bins
- Parks less than 16 hectares in size where they are in residential areas, unless some demonstrable demand exists that cannot be met by bin placement on street.

In managing this service, the Council is mindful of all costs when considering requests for new bins. These include not just the initial purchase and installation cost but must also have regard to the ongoing maintenance and servicing costs for each new bin.

Where a request is received for a new/replacement litter bin, each location will be assessed having regard to the criteria set out above, as well as the existing provision of litter bins nearby i.e., within 400m.