



Councillor **BRENDAN WYSE**

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Submission in relation to the Draft Kildare Litter Management Plan 2020 - 2023

Street Sweeping Schedule

The plan to have regular street sweeping carried out in the villages listed in Appendix III must be budgeted for appropriately, and adequate environmental funding must be made available to the MD Roads & Transportation sections that run the service.

In July 2019, the Kildare Newbridge MD reported to me as secretary of Allenwood Tidy Towns that the road sweeper for that MD serviced the larger towns only. Allenwood had been included in the previous Litter Management Plan under the Clane engineering area, although it is acknowledged that a change in MD boundaries occurred during the lifetime of the plan.

Service: Street Sweeping and Litter

Service Option:

Date Received: 02/07/2019

Dear Mr. Brendan Wyse

Your case number 44915 dated 02/07/2019 has been examined by the Kildare/Newbridge MD Team in the Road Transport and Safety Department and the outcome is:

The sweeper works between Kildare, Newbridge and Rathangan, there is no scheduled for the smaller villages, we are already over spent on our Environmental therefore there is no budget for sweeping the smaller towns

Regards

Kildare/Newbridge MD

[Quoted text hidden]

It is important that if the scheduled service is to be delivered in future, that the environmental budget allocated to the MDs is sufficient to cover the cost of the service in full. It should also be ensured that the plan is capable of being adapted to accommodate any future MD boundary changes.

Graffiti

The statement in relation to graffiti on private property, which may be located in public spaces, is not ambitious enough and doesn't provide enough support to local groups that are interested in keeping their community clear of graffiti.

Rather than pointing out that the local authority is not responsible for such spaces, it would be more helpful if Kildare County Council would at the very least agree to contact property owners on behalf of local community groups, and look into establishing points of contact with utility box owners such as Eir and Electric Ireland, and organisations responsible for canal towpath barriers and bridges, like Waterways Ireland.



I contend that whilst the responsibility of removing graffiti lies with the property owner, the responsibility of ensuring that the property owner monitors their property for graffiti and makes an effort to clean up any graffiti on a regular basis, lies with the local authority.

A strong statement in the Litter Management Plan confirming the council's intention to investigate and take action on graffiti would be recommended.

Advertising flyers and unauthorised signage

I note that the communications provider, Imagine, has been advertising countrywide using signs for several months now. In many rural areas of our county, these signs are still visible on local roads. It would appear that in recent months, more of this signage has been put up.

I have worked with one of our Community Wardens in the past to report and fine Imagine a penalty of €150 each for some of the signs in the Allenwood / Ballyteague area. The company responded by paying a number of fines, and removing the signs.



It would appear that this initiative is community led, and that many signs remain, in areas with no active community group in place. It appears as that unless a community group raises the issue, that Kildare County Council will not act on its own initiative.

In a similar case, I removed flyers for a Magic Show that had been taped to a light pole at Allenwood Cross at a Tidy Towns cleanup on a Sunday morning, and the Magic Show staff put them back up later the same week. They are obviously undeterred by potential fines, presumably from having not been fined or prosecuted in the past.

The council should be more proactive and aggressive on unauthorised flyers and signage and the Litter Management Plan should indicate an intention of the same. The plan should be to reach a position where companies are no longer doing what they like in County Kildare without any consideration for the environment in our local communities.

Naming and Shaming

The interpretation of GDPR at present is that it is not possible to name and shame individuals that have been prosecuted in the courts for offences under the Litter Pollution Act.

The Litter Management Plan should clearly state where this legal advice was obtained from. It is presumed that naming and shaming has not been ceased without fully pursuing the matter legally.

SEND FORM

Warning About Your Money Transfer
Are you sending money to:
• a government agency, taxing authority, or the police?
• claim an inheritance or prize?
• get a job offer or become a 'mystery shopper'?

• a friend or relative who says they need help?
• someone you don't know, including an online love interest?
• get a 'guaranteed' credit card or loan?
• send 'escrow' money to rent an apartment or buy a car, puppy, or anything else?
• prove to someone that you have enough money to buy a car or other product, rent a property, or get a loan or credit?
• YES, STOP! Don't send any money. It's a scam and someone is trying to steal your money. If you already sent the money, ask the clerk to STOP your transfer.

YOUR DETAILS
First and Middle Name: [REDACTED] Surname/FamilyName: CONNORS
Address, Town/City, Postcode, Country: [REDACTED] DUBLIN DUB 24
Telephone Number: [REDACTED] ID Number: [REDACTED] Sender's date and place of birth: [REDACTED]
Type-Country: PAS Issue Date: [REDACTED]

OPTIONS FOR RECEIVER TO COLLECT FUNDS (please select ONE of the below)
 CASH PICK UP
 10 minute
 Next Day - after 7 a.m.
 SEND TO ACCOUNT / BANK ACCOUNT DEPOSIT (Subject to availability) Account Number/IBAN: [REDACTED]
 MOBILE ACCOUNT DEP (Subject to availability) Receiver Mobile Number: [REDACTED]

RECEIVER
Country: GBR City: [REDACTED] First and Middle Names: [REDACTED] Surname/Fam: [REDACTED]
Message: [REDACTED]

TRANSACTION
Send Amount: 60.39
Send Fee: 7.50
Total Amount: 67.89
Amount of funds: [REDACTED]
Reference of funds: [REDACTED]
Reference of transaction: [REDACTED]

It has been suggested to me that if the press are in attendance at the court session where a prosecution is made, that the press can report the name of the criminal in the media. If this is the case then it is recommended that Kildare County Council notifies the press in advance of all prosecution cases to ensure that they are in attendance and are given the opportunity to report on each case, and that the Litter Management Plan states an intention to do this.

Reporting Vehicle Registrations

I think that more could be done to promote the fact that littering offences can be reported by members of the public using a vehicle registration. Much of the roadside and hedgerow litter is obviously discarded by passing vehicles, particularly in the more rural areas.



The Litter Management Plan should state a desire to increase awareness of the ability of members of the public to report a vehicle registration number if they see the motorist in front of them discarding litter.

A dedicated number or an online form which might be filled out and followed up with a phone call, for reporting litter offences might be considered. Increasingly drivers are using dashcam footage, and the plan might have some consideration as to how such footage might be submitted as evidence.

Bins

Many of the bins provided in small villages are emptied and maintained by the local community group. When those bins require maintenance, such as loose doors or missing parts, then the community group receives no support from the council.

It is recommended that the council department that looks after the bins which are the responsibility of the local authority, presumably being those in the larger towns, would assist the community groups with the maintenance of their bins also.



Whilst the volunteers are capable of emptying the bins, they would not have the expertise or the contacts with the bin suppliers that the local authority would have. It is recommended that the Litter Management Plan sets out an intention to support the local community groups with bin maintenance.

Recognise supportive businesses

Many local small businesses support their local community selflessly. In Allenwood, the local Spar shop allows the Tidy Towns group to use their waste bins for our cleanups. The local publican, Glennons, allows our group to store our small equipment shed on their property.

Kildare County Council should recognise such gestures by providing financial reimbursement to these small businesses by means of a rate reduction or other method. It is recommended that the Litter Management Plan states the intention to recognise small businesses that support their local communities with their litter management efforts.

Performance Indicators

It can be difficult to ascertain progress year on year in the absence of any metrics. It is suggested that some simple performance indicators are established and tracked over the lifetime of the plan.

For example, the number of fines issued and the number of prosecutions sought and number of those that were successful would be a good starting point. Tracking littering or graffiti related reports would tell us if we are succeeding in reducing such incidents or whether we need to look at new approaches or refocus our efforts in some way.

It is recommended that the Litter Management Plan states an objective to identify some Key Performance Indicators related to Litter Management, and begin tracking them on an annual basis

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission. We have a beautiful county with so many diverse landscape characters, all with their own particular litter issues. But, we also have great teams of volunteers, ably assisted by a professional and dedicated team in the Kildare County Council environment section, and I believe that in general we are in good shape with regard to managing litter.

It's important that we get our plan of approach for the next three years right, so that we can continue our good work, and I welcome this opportunity to air my views on that.

