

<b>Report on</b>	Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean 2022
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Karen Brown, Recycling Education and Awareness Officer

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b> If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on the Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean Campaign 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) promotes the annual Big Spring Clean, which is Northern Ireland's biggest volunteer clean up. The Big Spring Clean supports local community clean ups across all 11 Council areas in Northern Ireland. It is open to schools, community groups and businesses wishing to clean their streets of litter.</p> <p>The aims of the annual Big Spring Clean are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise awareness of the problems that litter causes in our local area in a fun and practical way.</li> <li>• To reduce litter in Mid Ulster through increased understanding and awareness.</li> <li>• To improve the quality of our local environment by physically removing litter from our local schools, parks, roadsides and public places.</li> </ul> <p>While promoted by KNIB, The Big Spring Clean is supported in the main by local Councils, which provide the equipment in the form of litter pickers and bags and collect and dispose of the rubbish that the local volunteers collect.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Despite the challenging times imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, with lockdowns and restrictions in place until quite recently, this did not deter local groups from organising hugely successful, socially distanced clean ups across the entire Mid Ulster district last year. As normal routines begin to resume again now in 2022 and community Groups and schools return to their group activities, this year has once again seen a huge involvement from various groups, with many recurring groups carrying out clean-ups and also new participants organising a clean-up for the first time.
3.2	The Big Spring Clean officially takes place between 1st March and 31st May, Up until the end of May, 34 community clean ups involving approximately 2,200 volunteers were facilitated by the Council and as a result of those clean ups it is estimated around 3,500 bags of rubbish and various other miscellaneous items such as tyres and domestic white goods have been collected from our local towns, roadsides and countryside.

- 3.3 In most cases the Council helped facilitate the local clean ups by loaning the groups litter pickers, providing bags and removing the rubbish collected for disposal.
- 3.4 Encouragingly, this year has seen a number of new community clean up events in areas that have not previously participated which shows that the message is spreading widely and more local communities are taking action to combat litter in their own local area.
- 3.5 Clean ups ranged in size from small groups of concerned residents living in specific areas or estates cleaning an area close to them, to large community events organised by local community associations, sports clubs and businesses. There were also a number of schools organising clean ups around their schools grounds and the surrounding area.
- 3.6 The organisations and schools which have organised clean-up so far this year are detailed in the below table:

Name of Group	Name of Group	Name of Group
Ballymaguigan GAC	Pomeroy Horticultural Group	Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society
An Carn	Ballyronan Marina	Eskra
Desertmartin GAC	Cookstown 100	Clogher GAC
Swatragh GAC	Coagh Community Group	Newmills & Brackaville
Bann Valley Community Group	Stewartstown Harps GAC	Washingbay Center
Maghera GAC	Cookstown Girl Guides	Soroptimist of Dungannon
Big Screen Clean, Ballynascreen	CDE Cookstown	Take a bow, Archery Club
Cornerstore Youth Club, Draperstown	Churchill PS Caledon	St Joseph's PS, Caledon
Phoenix Integrated PS, Cookstown	St Pius X HS, Magherafelt	St Colm's HS, Draperstown
Orritor PS	Fivemiletown College	Kilronan Special School, Magherafelt
Moneymore PS	St John Bosco's PS, Ballynease	St Patrick's PS, Aughindarragh
Derrychrin PS		

#### 4.0 Other Considerations

##### 4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial: The cost of supplying refuse bags and disposing of the waste/litter collected.

Human: Some staff time in coordinating the various activities across the District and collecting the rubbish collected by the various groups.

Risk Management: All groups taking part were advised to conduct their own risk assessments and to ensure that all persons taking part were equipped with the appropriate PPE (the Council had no responsibility or liability for any incident arising)

##### 4.2 Screening & Impact Assessments

	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: The opportunity to participate in a clean-up was open to all throughout Mid Ulster District.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications: Clean ups are especially welcome in rural areas where littering is a particular problem.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report and success of Big Spring Clean.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Selection of photographs from the various clean ups that took place.