

Report on	Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean 2023
Date of Meeting	14th June 2023
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Assistant Director, Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karen Brown, Recycling Education and Data Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean Campaign 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	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, sports clubs, businesses etc. wishing to help with litter.
2.2	The aims of the annual Big Spring Clean are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness of the problems that litter causes in our local area in a fun and practical way. • To reduce litter in Mid Ulster through increased understanding and awareness. • To improve the quality of our local environment by physically removing litter from our local schools, parks, roadsides and public places.
2.3	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 on loan and bags and collect and dispose of the rubbish that the local volunteers collect.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	As normal routines have resumed again following Covid-19, with Community Groups and Schools returning to their group activities, 2023 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. This year has in fact seen just over a 40% increase in the number of clean-ups when compared with 2022.
3.2	From January 2023 through to the end of May, 48 community clean ups involving over 2,700 volunteers were facilitated by the Council and as a result of those clean ups we estimate around 4,500 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 local community. A full list of all clean ups registered is shown in the table below;																																																			
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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
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: The opportunity to participate in a clean-up was open to all throughout Mid Ulster District.
	Rural Needs Implications: Clean ups are especially welcome in rural areas where littering is a particular problem.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the content of this report and success of Big Spring Clean.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Selection of photographs from the various clean ups that took place across the district.