

Report on	Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean 2021
Date of Meeting	11 th May 2021
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer	John Murtagh

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update members on the Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean Campaign 2021.
2.0	Background
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 rid their streets of litter/rubbish.</p> <p>The aims of the annual Big Spring Clean are as follows:</p> <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 improve the quality of our local environment by physically removing litter from our local, schools, parks, roadsides and public places. <p>While promoted by KNIB, The Big Spring Clean is supported in the main by Councils, which provides the equipment via the loan of litter pickers and provision of refuse bags as well as the collection and dispose of the rubbish that the local volunteers collect.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	As with most things in 2021 the annual Spring Clean Campaign has been affected by Covid19 lockdown and restrictions however this did not deter local groups from organising hugely successful, socially distanced clean ups throughout the district.
3.2	The annual Big Spring Clean has always been a hugely successful event in Mid Ulster but until last year it was in the main undertaken by local schools and youth groups. However, last year with the implementation of the first lockdown more and more people were spending more time outdoors in their local environment leading to an increased awareness of the levels of litter in our public places, roads and hedgerows. This in turn lead to a dramatic increase in clean ups organised through local community groups and sporting clubs.
3.3	We found ourselves in lockdown again from the start of the year and once again the local community groups and sports clubs have been out in force. From the start 2021 through to the end of April 50 community clean ups involving approximately 5,000 volunteers were facilitated by the Council and as a result of those clean ups we estimate over 5,000

	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.																																																						
3.4	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.																																																						
3.5	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 and more and more local communities are taking action to combat litter in their local area.																																																						
3.6	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 or local interest groups.																																																						
3.7	A list of the groups/areas which have participated so far this year is shown 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 social media posts and photos from the various clean ups that took place.