Dave Dennehy and Sean O'Driscoll, Cork City Council, do a deep clean of Oliver Plunkett Street.

People must 'play their part' against litter

AN element of personal responsibility "must be brought to bear to resolve the scourge of littering and illegal dumping", Cork City Council has said.

■ Amy Nolan

The local authority acknowledged that, while it has a role in the upkeep of the public realm, the public also had to be held to account.

"We cannot solve the problem of littering on our own," the council said. "Tackling this issue must be done in conjunction and partnership with all sectors of society, including building/landowners and other bodies who have responsibility for the upkeep of certain aspects of public infrastructure."

The local authority's comments come in the wake of an Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) survey, which saw Cork city centre slip in the rankings, joining Mahon and Cork's northside in the "littered" category.

In a response to *The Echo* regarding the survey, the council said the classification of the city centre as littered did not take into account "the hard work and dedication of the city council's street sweeping crews, who are out seven days a week from early morning to late in the evening".

It added: "We also note that the city centre survey includes a number of derelict sites, which fall outside the remit of the street cleaning crews, and that the survey continues to include approach roads and other areas which are located well outside the actual city centre, eg Dunkettle Interchange, Kinsale Road Roundabout, and the N40 South Ring Road.

"Many of the issues identified fall within the responsibility of private landowners to resolve.

"In addition, consideration needs to be given to the health and safety requirements of litter management on many of the high-speed approach roads to the city and, thus, these locations cannot be classified in the same way as a city street."

Cork City Council also said the survey results needed to be "read in the context of the Covid19 pandemic", which has put a severe strain on local authority resources.

The council said it would review the IBAL report findings with a view to assessing what changes, further actions, or new initiatives may be needed to help bring about better outcomes for the whole city in future surveys.

Speaking to *The Echo* in relation to the survey, Fine Gael councillor Joe Kavanagh, former Cork lord mayor, also called on people to "play their part" in ensuring the city is clean and tidy.

Mr Kavanagh, who is a member of his local Tidy Towns Committee, said it didn't take a lot to make an area look heavily littered.

"It just takes a very small number of people to cause havoc for the whole community," he said. "The practical solution is that we all take personal responsibility.

"If you're out and you've got rubbish, take it home with you or put it in the bin.

"If we all play our own little part in making concerted efforts, we can keep our city litter-free," he said.

Green Party councillor for Cork South Central Dan Boyle said, in the case of the city centre, he believed the decline in performance was a "temporary phenomenon" due to congregations of people gathering in the city following the easing of restrictions.

"I'm not surprised in the sense that, when we've had opening ups after lockdowns, people have gravitated towards the city centre and it becomes more obvious," he said.

"I think to be fair to city council in terms of street cleaning and in terms of providing additional spaces for disposing of litter — we have a new set of solar-powered compactor bins in the city — they have done what can be done.

"The main problem is culture really. We have too many people in our society who think they can throw things away and that someone else will pick it up after them."

Cork TD Thomas Gould said he was disappointed, but not surprised, by the results of the IBAL survey.

Mr Gould said he agreed with a lot of the points made in the report and said the survey had an important role in ensuring that the pressure for change is kept on council and Government.

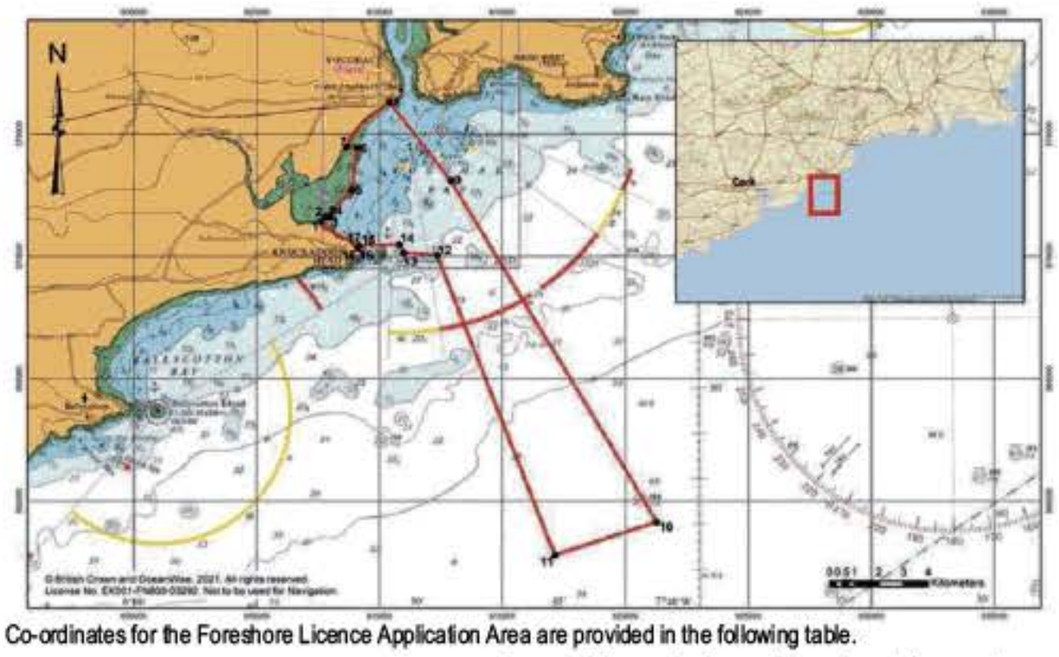
Mr Gould said there were a lot of great clean-up groups across the city, but a lot of them stopped meeting during the lockdowns, which had resulted in a build-up of waste that needed to be tackled.

The Sinn Féin TD said the local authority was doing the best it could with limited resources, but it wasn't good enough in his opinion.

PUBLIC NOTICE: APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Inis Ealga Marine Energy Park Ltd. has applied to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a Foreshore licence under Section 3 of the said Act.

This application is for site investigation works required to inform the engineering and design of a potential export cable route connecting a potential offshore wind farm, Inis Ealga Marine Energy Park, to shore. The objective of the site investigations is to gather sufficient geophysical, geotechnical, environmental, archaeological and ecological information to develop a potential export cable route within the Foreshore Licence Application Area. The Foreshore Licence Application Area is shown on the map below.



Co-ordinates for the Foreshore Licence Application Area are provided in the following table.

Point	Eastings (ITM)	Northings (ITM)
1	607609.9917	571429.3109
2	607806.7101	571630.3894
3	607975.3148	571634.8914
4	608101.8725	571932.0939
5	608875.9496	572723.3278
6	609104.2749	574428.9533
7	608670.5255	574466.8446
8	610410.7057	576294.9408
9	612900.6604	573090.2845
10	621265.6057	559144.8915
11	617126.4485	557792.7594
12	612346.9119	570037.237
13	611002.6259	570154.3742
14	610798.4496	570479.2057
15	609169.4822	570448.3496
16	609160.1092	570419.5591
17	609142.816	570374.3191
18	609132.634	570349.7278

A copy of the application, and the relevant documents, maps, plans, and drawings, are available for inspection, between 21st October 2021 and 19th November 2021, free of charge at:

- Cork County Council, Municipal District Office, Youghal: Mall House, Youghal Lands, Youghal, Co. Cork. 9am-4.30pm Monday to Friday.
- **Cork County Council, Municipal District Office, Midleton:** Youghal Rd., Park South, Midleton, Co. Cork. 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm Monday to Friday.
- Anglesea Street Garda Station, Ballintemple, Cork City. Open 24-hours.
- Midleton Garda Station, Oliver Plunkett Place, Midleton, Co. Cork. Open 24-hours.
- **Youghal Garda Station, O'Brien's Place, Youghal, Co. Cork.** Open 10am – 1pm daily.

The documentation is available on the Department's website https://www.gov.ie/en/foreshore-notice/8bd37-inis-ealga-marine-energy-park-iemep-site-investigations-off-county-cork

Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the licence sought as part of this public consultation should do so in writing, giving reasons, between 21st October 2021 and 19th November 2021 (quoting ref: FS007404) to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshoreore@housing.gov.ie. The closing date for submissions is close of business (17.30) on 19th November 2021.

All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minster shall determine this application may be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at:
http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process

Dated this 20th October 2021