

# Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report 2018/19

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has been collecting information about the quantity and types of litter for more than a decade.

Recognising in 2012 that litter was not the only indicator of the quality or cleanliness of a space, we began to monitor graffiti, flyposting and pavement staining, as well as specific information about dog fouling.

Here are some key facts and figures from our 2018/19 surveys:

\*This drop may be partly due to a change in what is included in the cleansing spend of some of the councils. See our Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report for further information.

**26%** Council spend on street cleaning dropped to **£33.6 million in 2017/18**, a decrease of 26% on the previous year\*

**10%** of transects were found with dog fouling, an **increase of 4%** on last year

**2,902**

Fixed Penalties were issued for littering during 2017-18. **This is down from 3,158 in 2016/17**

**20%** The number of transects failing to meet the accepted standard for litter has **increased from 15%** last year

**167**  
**Adopt A Spot**

groups have adopted a spot in their local area, committing to undertake **four clean ups per year** in 2018/19



**347**



**Fixed Penalties** were issued for failing to clean up dog fouling during 2017-18



**25%**

of the operational time accrued by a mechanical sweeping machine is wasted because **obstructions prevent them from reaching the curb or pavement backline**



**7%** of transects surveyed were completely **free of litter**, down from 12% last year

# The rural litter issue

56% of rural transects surveyed in 2018/19 were unacceptably polluted by litter

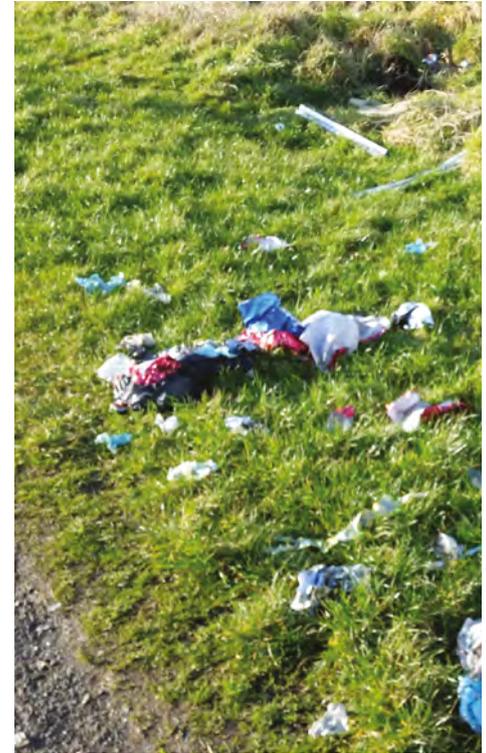
## Issues

- Careless people chucking waste out of their vehicles.
- It is resource intensive cleaning country roads safely. Ensuring the health and safety of cleansing staff, lifting rural litter by hand, is vital.



## Recommendations

- Bring in fines similar to England allowing councils to fine the owners of vehicles from which litter is thrown, rather than expecting councils to prove who exactly in the vehicle had thrown litter.
- All councils should increase resources to support behaviour change initiatives such as the Live Here Love Here campaign making littering socially unacceptable.
- Funding litter surveys helps to target limited resources where and when they are needed.
- Local action is important and prevention is better (and cheaper) than cure. Allocate a minimum percentage of cleansing costs to prevention.



To find out more about our work with litter contact:

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