

## AGENDA ITEM No. ....12

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: <b>REPORT ON NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 1998</b>
From: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Date: 15th September, 1998 Ref: PF/MC	

**PROPOSED DECISION**

The committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

**REPORT**

For a number of years the Environmental Services Department has made a commitment to, what was National Spring Clean Week; an undertaking organised in conjunction with The Tidy Britain Group and Keep Scotland Beautiful. Previous years has seen an educational role utilised to promote environmental awareness in schools and community groups. A partnership arrangement with the Education department, Leisure Services Conservation and Greening Unit and Public Relations worked particularly well in this respect.

The 1998 Spring Clean marked a different approach in that the same partners collaborated in the undertaking but a more holistic approach was taken AND the event now covered a whole month of local activities.

The North Lanarkshire group seconded a teacher from the Education Department in order to provide dedicated opportunities to volunteering schools whereby teaching staff, pupils and janitorial staff all co-operated with the teacher in the awareness raising process.

The Environmental Services Department provided resource support to the schools project and wrote to every known community and voluntary group in the North Lanarkshire area seeking their input into National Spring Clean. A large number of groups expressed initial interest but timing and other commitments meant that only thirteen of the original groups 'enrolled'.

The Department provided marketing packages and agreed to provide, free of charge, local community skips for clean up campaigns. The groups undertook to tidy up their local environs, including open areas. This proved to be an environmental benefit and helped a number of groups develop their own identity. As a team building exercise it proved of benefit also.

The initiative further benefitted from The Provost's intention of donating awards to parties involved. (The presentation of these awards took place on 22 September).

Over the month of April more than seventy skips, five hundred bin-bags of refuse and a large amount of recyclable materials, mostly drinks cans, were collected. The Department further donated protective/...

protective gloves to all interested groups and 'litter picker tongs' to those who requested them. Donated skips were located where the community requested them and areas as diverse as villages, nature reserves and inner urban areas all benefited from this Departments resources and the community spirit of North Lanarkshire's residents.

## THE FUTURE

The month long exercise proved that local partnership arrangements between departments and the community can work well.

The secondment of an educationalist helped immeasurably in getting the environmental message over to a range of schools and aiding said schools in aiming towards eco-school awards. This procedure should be maintained for future Spring Clean initiatives.

Last years report on the clean up initiatives highlighted the lack of any health & safety guidelines to groups. The council group advised all interested parties to obtain the information packs from the Tidy Britain Group which gave details of safety guidelines. This allied to the donation of litter pickers, gloves and bags ensured a safer, as well as cleaner environment for the duration.

A number of the community groups involved did express interest in scheduling more cleanups in their area over the whole year and have undertaken to do so - with the help of the cleansing section of the Environmental Services Department.

## RECOMMENDATION

To note the report.

*M'Kenzie L. Hutton*