

Costello challenges Manager over new Customer Charter

Cllr Eoin Costello (FG) has told the County Manager, Derek Brady, that he will vote against the refuse charges unless the promised Customer Charter is brought in before the Estimates vote in October.

Cllr Costello said that at the time of the Estimates last year, he informed the county manager that he would only vote in favour of the charges after receiving a commitment from him that a Customer Charter, specifically for the refuse collection service would be introduced.

He claimed that council officials produced a specimen of this proposed charter



● Councillor Eoin Costello in Woodbrook Glen, Shankill, where this rubbish was left uncollected for three weeks. File photograph.

on the night of the estimates vote. This charter would give those who pay the charge the

right to a proper standard of service and to an accountable complaints procedure.

"To date the manager has failed to introduced this charter despite many requests. This is just one example of the current County Manager's level of disdain for the publicly elected representatives," Cllr Costello told The People.

The county's bin collection service has been beset with a number of problems throughout the year.

In June, residents of Woodbrook Glen were left without collections for three weeks. They have since sent a petition of complaint signed by 47 residents to the manager.

According to Cllr Costello, bank holiday collections for St. Patrick's Day

were "very patchy" with many areas receiving no collections.

In July, a dispute about organic waste collection affected residents serviced by the Sandyford depot.

Cllr Costello said recycling, which was a major part of the plan presented to the council last year, is only being introduced in August 2000 in a very limited area (12,000 houses in the Ballinteer/Dundrum area).

"Citizens are saying they want their rights to be recognised. If they are to pay a charge for the refuse collection service they are entitled to expect it to be of a reasonable standard and when it is not, to have a proper and accountable complaints procedure," Cllr Costello concluded.

Testing the waters

The International Atomic Energy Agency has introduced a revolutionary radiation monitoring device to be deployed in the Irish Sea.

Unlike current monthly testing carried out by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII), the new device, in the form of a buoy, will carry out continuous testing without the necessity for the samples to be brought to a laboratory.

The monitoring buoy is the result of a number of advances in technology and has been developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

At the moment the RPII takes samples of seawater, seaweed, sediment and fish from the east coast of Ireland. In conjunction with the Department of the Marine, the RPII also take

samples from the centre of the Irish Sea.

This buoy is the first of its type in the world and results from it will be published on the website of the RPII. Data from the buoy is transmitted automatically via satellite to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Monaco and from there is relayed to the RPII's laboratory in Dublin. It will initially run for 12 months.

Cllr Eoin Costello, (FG), has said that the introduction of a new buoy to monitor radiation levels in the Irish Sea is a source of some comfort to the seaside communities in the county.