

Press Releases - Kilbogget Polluted - 29/10/01

**Councillor Eoin Costello (FG)
has been given a major report
compiled by a PHD student
which finds that the
Deansgrange River which flows
through Kilbogget Park is**



***"grossly polluted and unable to support
any fish life."***

The research, which was completed in September 2000, found that *"the water samples from the Deansgrange river show high levels of manganese, copper and aluminium. Crucially, levels of Mercury and Cadmium are far above the limit for aquatic life. Their concentrations are sufficiently high to warrant further tests to see whether or not they are a threat to human health."*

Reed bed filter systems have been suggested for the park in the past but they have not been put in place.

Councillor Costello stated that this report is further evidence of how poorly Kilbogget Park has fared in comparison with other Council Parks such as Blackrock and Longford Gardens. He stated that Kilbogget has always been the ugly duckling of the County, never receiving enough resources to make a lasting difference.

Councillor Costello stated that the Councillors are failing in their duty to the Parks Staff. The staff maintaining Kilbogget Park are also charged with looking after numerous other facilities and Kilbogget can only get a small part of their time. It is imperative that Councillors include a significant amount for the installation of a permanent parks presence at Kilbogget Councillor Costello stated. He has written to the members of the Council's Corporate Policy Group (who help form the annual estimates) on a number of occasions in the past year highlighting the case of Kilbogget Park.

Councillor Costello had a motion successfully accepted by the Dun Laoghaire Area Committee on Monday October 22nd which requests that

the landscaping of Kilbogget Park be made a priority and that the Council install a full time parks presence in the park. In the Council reply, officials stated that the provision of a small secure local facility for staff could cost in the region of £100,000 and the provision of two new staff to carry out basic maintenance duties would cost £45,000.

Councillor Costello said that this is a very small amount of money when compared with the £700,000 plus being spent on Longford Gardens. Not a single sporting activity would ever take place in Longford Gardens whereas Kilbogget is home to numerous clubs.

The campaign for funding of Kilbogget is gathering momentum. A coalition of resident groups and sports clubs have formed to pursue action and called themselves the Kilbogget Park Project. On Saturday, 13th October the group organised an open day for the Councillors. The event was attended by an Cathaoirleach, Betty Coffee. In a recent letter to Councillor Eoin Costello, an cathaoirleach said she would be bringing up Kilbogget Park under Cathaoirleach's business at the next meeting of the full council.

Councillor Costello stated that he looked forward to an allocation being made in this year's Council estimates to allow Kilbogget to become a facility that all the County can be proud of.