

Neighbourhood Environmental Services

Street Care Initiatives

Augmenting Daily Cleansing

Scotland Litter Managers Network

26 February 2026

Pride in our City (Scrub my Streets)

Community Led
Locally Delivered

Background

- Edinburgh's streets need additional care following a decision by the Council for a significant reduction in on street chemical weed treatment, and requests for pesticide free streets.
- Additional funding allocated to address this issue through a Committee motion by the Conservative Group.
- Enabled the purchase of 20 electric brush cutters new Pellenc City Cut cutting head, which is particularly suited to the maintenance of urban spaces and weeding without pesticides or projections.
- Initiative started in March 2025, in the Craigentenny/Duddingston area.

Background cont.

- Elected member and community engagement to inform and prioritise locations/work
- Communication 'toolkit' developed utilising the long established **#OurEdinburgh** brand. Incl.:
 - Social Media and Main-Stream Media
 - On-Street advertising
 - Community engagement sessions
 - Webpage and Dedicated email address

Scope of Initiative

- Each of the 17 City Wards to receive attention on a rolling basis.
- Data driven prioritisation from service requests.
- Wards assessment by NES Staff, informed via community and elected member feedback.
- Tailored programme of works for each Ward, supported by partner services.

Core Works

- Gully Cleaning – Weed, litter and debris.
- Removal of weed growth from kerb, Setts (Cobbled Streets) and backline (private boundary on Footways)
- Removal of dog fouling.
- Litter picking and sweeping streets.
- Cleaning around communal bin recycling hubs.
- Removing dumped/fly tipped items.

Working in Leith



Partner Services

- Graffiti and sticker removal from CEC assets and structures.
- Street washing and gum removal.
- Reporting road defects.
- Reporting graffiti on statutory undertakers' assets (Utilities/Transport/Education).

Progress to Jan 2026

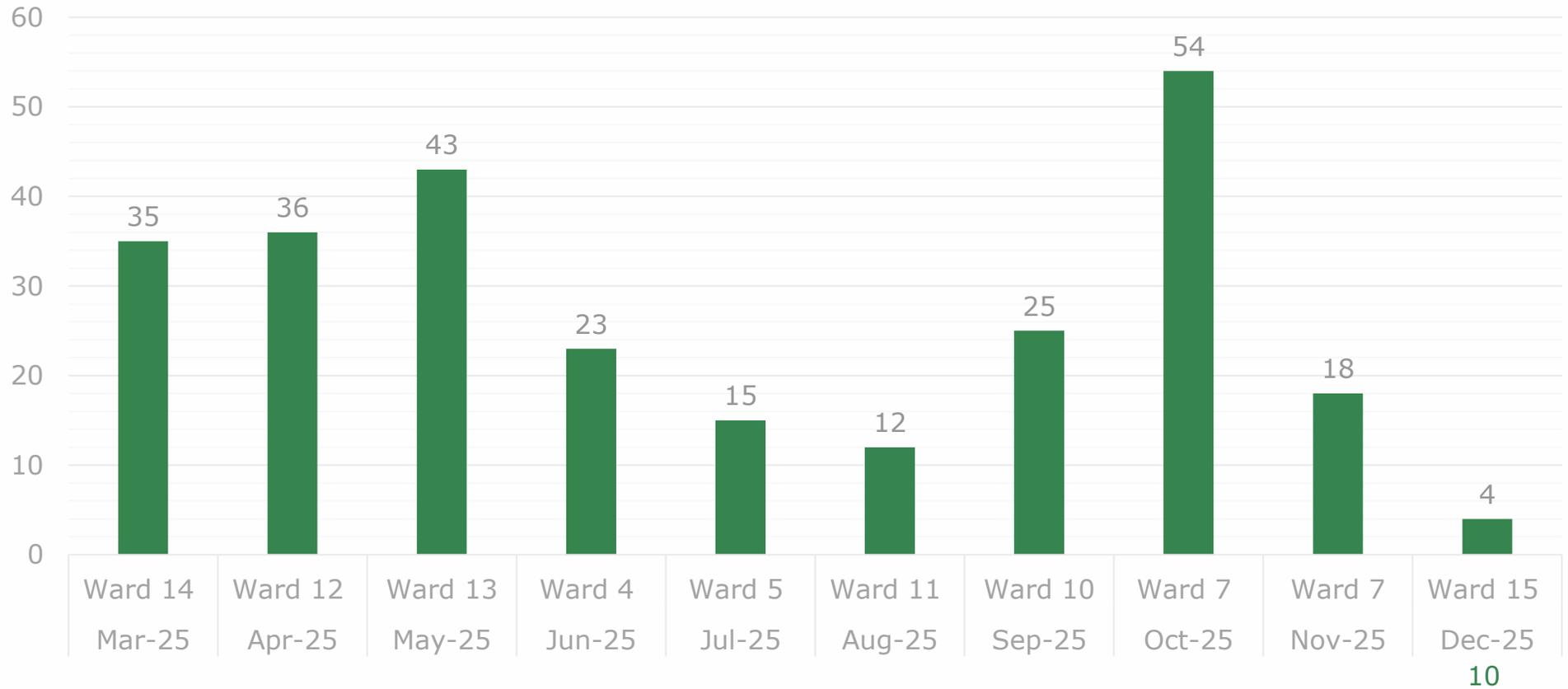
- 10 Wards completed
- 1428 Streets
- 265 Tonnes of plant matter, litter and fly-tipping removed from the City streets



Waste Removed in Tonnes

Litter, Plant Material, Debris and Fly-Tipping Removed

■ Tonne



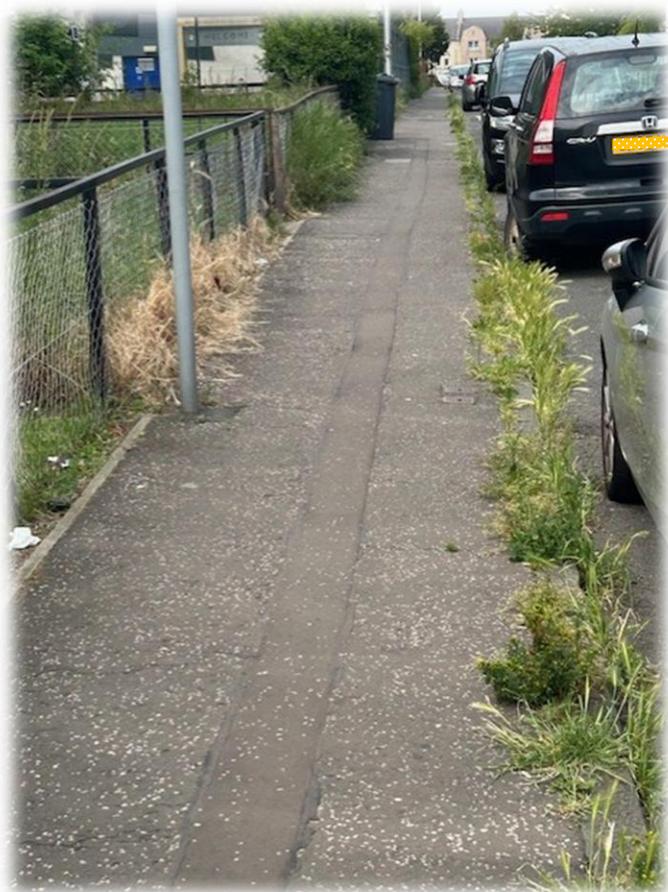
Example 1 – Magdalene Drive



Example 2 – Braid Road



Example 3 – Wardieburn Road



What's Next

- Community Support for Future of Initiatives.
- Other pilots/programmes of work?
- Supporting community groups who wish to self-weed areas outside their properties by providing equipment (scraper's, bags and brushes), and removing arisings, when request.

Community Support



Graffiti and Gum Removal

Investment of Grant Funding

Chewing Gum task Force (CGTF) 2024

- **5000m²** of premium footway cleaned (Picardy Place) over 14 days.
- **80** x Gum Litter Awareness media items installed
- Added Resources via CGTF funding
 - Stonehealth DOFF - Skidmount
 - Ecogum E-MaxE – Battery backpack
- **70%** reduction in gum litter noted at 6 Months, between removal

Graffiti & Gum

DOFF (Skidmount)

- Effective for graffiti and small areas of gum staining.
- Using 5 litres/minute increases time on-street by reducing water usage.
- Reduces need for chemical treatment.



Graffiti & Gum

Ecogum E-MaxE

- Effective portable gum litter remover (backpack)
- Street Care have employed these during Pride in our City initiative



CGTF - 6 Month Assessment

CGTF—Picardy Place (Edinburgh)—Monitoring Area—6 Month Timeframe



Graffiti Removal – City Centre



CGTF Equipment - Conclusion

- Equipment purchased via the CGTF was effective at cleaning premium stone footways in small areas. Very effective on graffiti on sensitive stone (low pressure high temperature)
- Location has high footfall and traffic throughout the day, restricting access and working times.
- More efficient resources needed to cover large areas of footway cleaning, especially for gum.
- Further research has been undertaken - alternative equipment being considered.

**Thank you and
Questions**