

## ESG Radio CUTW 2006

The Clean Up the World weekend 2006 was a resounding success with even more volunteers taking part than last year and nearly 200 tonnes of rubbish removed from our roadsides and green areas.

Unfortunately, some of these areas are already starting to fall back into their old state. Those of us who put in time and effort removing rubbish from these sites will be particularly disappointed and annoyed to see this. Clean Up the World is not designed to be a solution to the litter problem, it is an awareness raising campaign which simultaneously helps to make Gibraltar cleaner but the fact remains that specific measures must be put in place by the relevant authorities in order to prevent the situation from becoming equally bad from year to year.

We need to see a sustained anti-litter campaign which will hopefully change attitudes throughout the community and make us all take more responsibility for our homeland. We need more and better designed bins; many areas lack such facilities and this encourages people to dump litter where they shouldn't. In addition to this we need enforcement: the legislation exists, littering is an offence yet few if any people are ever fined for it. This needs to change. It would only take one fine to make a person think twice about dropping their empty packet of crisps.

The Clean Up also raised the issue of cleaning contracts. Where exactly are Master Services contracted to clean and how often? Clearly there needs to be a revision of these contracts as many areas remain untouched for long periods, slowly becoming eyesores and raising issues of hygiene.

Building contractors need to be made legally responsible for the removal of old infrastructure as part of any refurbishment contract. Private lands also need to be fenced off to prevent illegal and toxic dumping from happening.

The ESG once again calls for recycling facilities to be set up without further delay. Many Gibraltarians currently collect their recyclable rubbish and take it over to La Linea. How many more might be encouraged to do so if recycling bins were made more accessible?

We need to change the way we think about litter and waste disposal and make some long lasting, positive changes which will benefit both the community and the environment.

As mentioned in past press releases, we are hoping to set up a meeting with all relevant authorities and agents to go over these issues and see how we can work together towards achieving these common goals as a community.

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