

Residents demand street cleaning to tackle litter problem around UCC

STREET cleaning resources are being demanded by the residents of Magazine Road and the surrounding area to deal with the "serious street litter problems" that exist around UCC.

According to the acting secretary of the Residents' Association, Aidan Cahill, the entire area is becoming a "litter blackspot" with broken bottles, empty cans and general litter strewn across the streets.

Mr Cahill said there are now over 22,000 students attending UCC and the vast majority of these pass through the area throughout the day. The Residents' Association says

■ Roisin Burke

that no other area of the city — including Patrick's Street — has this volume of people passing through on a daily basis.

The organisation also claimed that there are serious antisocial issues in the area at night resulting in empty alcohol bottles and cans being left along the streets and parks.

Another problem is the tipping over of residents' refuse bins resulting in litter being scattered around the footpaths and roads.

Mr Cahill said the area is cur-

rently serviced by a sweeper truck that cleans Bandon Road up as far as Denroches Cross (Centra store) but the Residents' Association is looking to extend the route to cover Magazine Road as far as the Killeera Park junction and also to include Highfield Avenue.

"The entire area is being turned into a ghetto and if students see it as a ghetto then they will behave accordingly."

Mr Cahill made the case that if City Council were seen to be looking after the area, it would have a positive effect on behaviour.

"It isn't too long ago that this area

was highly regarded as a residential area and is still classed as an Architectural Conservation Area (latest Cork City Development Plan) but it is now deteriorating at an alarming rate with street dirt/litter a major issue and gives no incentive to new potential permanent residents to move into the area."

Chairperson of the Residents' Association, Catherine Clancy, said the area deserves to be looked after by the council as it is a big earner for the city.

"We have development of student accommodation coming into the area which will be a huge development

contribution to the city and surely some of that development contribution should be put forward to improving and maintaining the public realm UCC is a big stakeholder within the city and a big revenue to the city and yet still it doesn't warrant having its own street sweeper."

The Residents' Association is also taking part in the An Taisce national spring clean week by holding a big clean-up on April 14 at 11am.

Rubbish bags and gloves will be available from the community house at Horgan's Buildings on the morning and light refreshments will be served after.