

**Press  
Statement**



**Innovative Chewing Gum Removal Project  
in Maynooth, Co Kildare**

Kildare County Council has engaged the services of a contractor to remove chewing gum from the Main Street in Maynooth.

Unlike most chewing gum removal systems, this proprietary system does not use steam or high-pressure cleaners or harsh abrasives. Rather, it uses a non-toxic, environmentally-safe, chemical derived from sugar cane to gently agitate the gum. The chemical is warmed in a special backpack and then applied to the gum using a lance with a small wire brush. The residue can then be swept away.

The system is so safe that the operator can walk around removing each piece of gum without any need to close off areas or otherwise affect pedestrian traffic.

The gum removal will take place over the course of the week beginning Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October.

For more information, contact Dara Wyer, Environmental Awareness Officer, Kildare County Council at 045 980563 or email [dwyer@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:dwyer@kildarecoco.ie).

ENDS

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**Note to editors:**

Chewing gum litter is a problem in most towns in Ireland and finding cost-effective solutions can be difficult. In response to this the Gum Litter Taskforce was set up as a partnership between the local authorities, chewing gum producers and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The campaign aims to change consumer behaviour when it comes to disposing of chewing gum litter.