

KENSINGTON

Project aims to end dumping

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Ward 46 councillor Helen Joseph applauded Leslie Swartz for the work he does in reducing illegal dumping in the Kensington area.

“He and his team are doing a good job cleaning up the ward, however it is not enough. Community members must take ownership of their actions and do their part,” Joseph said.

She said there are not enough wheelie bins in the community because of overcrowding.

Swatz started the initiative in 2011 and it has been going well.

Him and his team of ten people perform these clean-up programmes bi-monthly and says the community is responding well to it.

“The aim was to change people’s mindset around dumping because an untidy community is not attractive,” he explained.

He further said that a drop-off site was opened on 12th Avenue and the response has been satisfactory.

We get a lot of people coming to the drop-off zone to discard off their unwanted goods and that is what we want, not just dumping

anywhere.”

Five of the people Swartz have worked with in this programme were taken into the Expanded Public Works Programme where they got remuneration for their work.

The next clean-up project is expected to start this month, but Swartz said it depends on funding. There are 26 drop-off sites for garden refuse, building materials and any items that do not fit into household wheelie bins across the City.

According to the City of Cape Town illegal dumping is a huge problem and not only in the city, but in the entire country. And it

costs government a lot of money.

It costs the City over R347 million to clear illegal dumping annually.

Mayor Dan Plato called on residents to help get rid of illegal dumpers.

“The type of behaviour displayed by these offenders is completely unacceptable and poses a risk not only to the environment, but also to public health,” he said.

Plato said law enforcement officials need to be extra vigilant with suspects who dump illegally because they place a burden on the City to keep communities clean.

▶ Contact 083 566 3019 if you would like to help.