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ESB to spend half-million in Swords area in next two weeks to tackle faults

Education officers to visit schools to warn of dangers of vandalism

THE ESB is to invest half a million Euro on a massive upgrade operation of Swords power-lines over the next two weeks alone, Dublin North Deputy Michael Kennedy (FF) has revealed.

Deputy Kennedy said: “The ESB has informed me that over €500,000 is to be spent in the next fortnight, repairing major faults to the Swords power system which has been left fragile because of repeated abuse by vandals.”

“This week’s power failures in Rivervalley, Brackenstown, and Broadmeadows were the culmination of years of vandalism, coupled with a significant increase in population. The system has been left vulnerable and overstretched, triggering a series of failures to many local areas over the past week.”

“The ESB has pledged over half a million euro for repair works which are to be completed within the next two weeks.”

“Unfortunately, hundreds of houses have been left without electricity because of the actions of some inconsiderate vandals. The fault last Sunday, 6th January was due to a fault in an underground cable that tripped the system and this has been repaired. The power was out for several hours and at the most inconvenient of times, at 6pm in the evening.”

“The fault last night (Thursday 10th January) in the River Valley / Rathingle / Ridgewood area was unrelated and the ESB believe that this may have been caused by vandalism.

Deputy Kennedy added that officials from ESB are considering visiting schools in the Swords and Malahide area following this week’s power failures.

Deputy Kennedy said: “I welcome this move because I don’t think young people necessarily understand the consequences of vandalising ESB property. This week’s events will leave many young people, along with their parents very aware of the result of this behaviour.”

“The ESB suspect that something may have been thrown at the power lines in an act of vandalism that caused the system to trip. Aside from the fact that this is a very dangerous act, vandalism of power lines causes great inconvenience to everyone who has to go without power,” concluded Deputy Kennedy.