

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 7 February 2019

LITTERING (REP1981)**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report gives an update on littering and fly tipping campaigns within the District. Following an Information Bulletin being presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 3 January 2019, a number of questions were raised which have been answered within this report.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Member:	Cllr G Catchpole Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships
Supporting Officer:	Kerry Blair Head of Operations 01502 523007 kerry.blair@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has requested that Members of the Committee be given the opportunity to ask questions, following an Information Bulletin being presented to the Committee on 3 January 2019.
- 1.2 This report sets out the answers to the questions received.

2 LITTERING & FLY TIPPING – EDUCATING RESIDENTS

- 2.1 Our Cleansing and Environmental Services Team work to take preventative measures, investigating incidents and the causes.
- 2.2 Local Community Groups, schools and Town and Parish Councils can organise litter picks with our help. Our Partners Waveney Norse will provide free disposable rubber gloves, sacks to collect the litter and will also arrange to collect and dispose of the rubbish collected. A form is available on the Council's website to register your interest in carrying out a litter pick.
- 2.3 During 2018 the Council have taken part in the following campaigns to help educate residents within the District around littering and fly tipping:

2.3.1 **Suffolk Anti-Litter campaign was launched at the start of 2018 in conjunction with the Suffolk Fly Tipping Action Group (Stag), on behalf of the Suffolk Waste Partnership**

- To raise awareness of the new littering penalty (inc Banners and posters use)
 - Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) currently £80
 - Maximum fine £1000
 - A successful prosecution brought through Ipswich Magistrates Court and offender ordered to pay a total of £830 fine, costs and compensation
- 46 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued and paid in respect to littering and fly tipping within the area of Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District
- To reduce litter on Suffolk's trunk roads, new orange litter bins were placed in some laybys to encourage responsible waste disposal
- Trialled a new bin monitoring device, viewed remotely to alert when emptying is required
- How to report fly-tipping on East Suffolk's website

2.3.2 **Love East Suffolk community litter picking scheme was launched at the start of 2018**

- Circa 140 litter picks took place throughout WDC and SCDC by various different organisations, charities, parish councils, schools, scout groups and businesses
- Equipment hoops, picks and bags, provided by Suffolk Coastal & Waveney Norse for each pick and arranged collection and disposal of the waste

2.3.3 **Enforcement Days**

- 3 high impact multi agency enforcement days organised by Suffolk Police with Norse.
- Identifying any individuals carrying waste, ensuring they have the correct waste carriers licence
- Checking waste transfer documentation to ensure waste is being disposed of correctly.

2.4 Looking ahead to 2019, the following proposals are suggested:

- Dog fouling article for the next WDC Tenants' Newsletter.
- Regular "Operation Quartzite" dates with multi-agency partners.
- Carry out area walkabouts with Councillors, community enablers and local community members.
- New tenancy letters detailing how to use the refuse collection service properly shared with the Eastern Landlords Association.
- Work in partnership with other Local Authorities across Suffolk on the Litter Innovation Fund Roadside Littering campaign.
- Work with local Housing Associations to provide education to their tenants not using the Refuse Collection service correctly.

2.5 Residents can report littering and fly tipping easily by completing an online form or contacting the Council's call centre.

3 ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

3.1 Enforcement

Q. Mention is made of the three high impact multi-agency days organized by Suffolk Police with Norse – whilst this is to be commended, how does it compare with other comparable authorities?

We are aware that Norfolk County Council had one organised for 23.01.19. No details currently available.

Q. Is there any opportunity for the escalation of fines for repeat offenders?

There is an education program followed by fines for repeat offenders.

3.2 Single-use plastics

Q. A motion to full Council in the spring of 2018; passed with cross-party support. Is an update available on how this has been actioned within the Council (to cut down on litter)?

Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) Member group (which includes Cllr's Carol Poulter – SCDC & Cllr Graham Catchpole - WDC) will be debating a similar SCC single use plastic motion at their meeting on Thursday, 24th January 2019.

3.3 Education programmes

Q. How is the Council seeking to develop links with schools on this matter to support young people in their desire to reduce litter, waste and wider pollution?

The SWP work with schools in a number of ways. Primarily they have developed the schools resource website <http://www.suffolkschoolsrecycling.org.uk/> as well as SCC officers working with schools directly (and other youth groups) on specific projects such as Xmas and the Suffolk Show e.g. <http://www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/waste-news/1000-polar-bears-and-penguins-a-re-use-and-recycling-art-project-for-christmas-2018/>

SCC are also developing the schools element of our 'Food Savvy' project (developed with Norfolk County Council and national environmental charity Hubbub) – <https://www.foodsavvy.org.uk/>

3.4 Recycling plastics

- Q. *Have there been any ramifications for the Council in relation to the decision by Chinese authorities to no longer take low-grade plastic waste from Europe? What alternative provisions are being made?*

SCC manage the current Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) contract with Viridor Waste Management on behalf all SWP member authorities. This contract ends on 15 May 2019. Whilst the changes to Chinese regulations, which lowered the contamination levels acceptable within recyclable materials imported into China, has had a global impact, Viridor has at no time failed to find markets for the County's recyclable materials. Suffolk's recyclable plastics go to a mix of UK, European and international end destinations.

On behalf the SWP, SCC has recently completed a new procurement for the processing and marketing of Suffolk's recyclable materials from May 2019 – March 2029. The incumbent Viridor was successful and the contract finance mechanism incentivises Viridor to continually find the best markets for the County's recyclable material. In addition, the new contract will see Suffolk's MRF be fully refurbished during 2019. One aim of this refurbishment is to install further material separation technologies to optimise quality. These installations will increase and improve the quality of Suffolk's recycled plastics stream ensuring they remain a desirable material stream for all national and international off takers and re-processors.

Viridor Waste Management (VRM) also have an in-house material brokerage, Viridor Resource Management, which is one of the largest organisations of its type in the country, to market all Suffolk's recyclable materials. This means that waste from East Suffolk is more likely to find a market in alternative destinations, even if countries such as China tighten their criteria on what they accept. As an example, VRM managed to find alternative markets to China during the most recent policy change, and shifted plastic materials to these alternative markets without any operational impact.

- Q. *In what ways is the Council working with other authorities to seek a national recycling policy? Eg to help residents have confidence in the process more and to encourage greater engagement and less confusion over materials and their disposal.*

The Government released its national Resource and Waste Strategy in December 2018 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england> This Strategy outlines Govt's strategic direction subject to a host of consultations which the SWP will respond to where applicable.

As part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, Waveney District Council is working to understand and respond to the changes set out in the national strategy. For example, we aim to work on a county wide basis to reduce the use of single use plastics, where it is in our power to do so.

The SWP will also engage with a host of national bodies including neighbouring authorities, the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), the Local Government Association (LGA), the National Association of Waste Disposal Authorities (NAWDO) and the Eastern Waste Alliance (EWA) where there is clear benefit, either for this Strategy or other waste related issues.

3.5 Household Waste Recycling Centre (South Lowestoft)

- Q. *It would seem that the two lanes for traffic are not being used sensibly; with the outer overtake lane often being congested by stationary cars with large loads; this must have a dissuading effect on the driver with waste if the process is going to be too time-consuming; is the Council aware of this and can it be more sensibly managed?*

HWRC's are managed under an SCC contract by FCC Environment (to May 2019).

SCC are aware of the congestion issues at Lowestoft and undertook a trial (during summer 2018) to look at how best to manage traffic flows on site. In addition, SCC are in the process of awarding a new contract from May 2019 and a key performance indicator within this contract will be the tackling of congestion at higher volume recycling centre sites, including Lowestoft.

Lowestoft HWRC also has a specific challenge in terms of trade waste customers (who often have larger loads) and this is another area the new contract will seek to address.

3.6 Litter

- Q. *Can we have an update as to how specific wards are being monitored and managed to encourage more community pride in communal spaces and places?; we have been made aware of the link with deprivation (during Hidden Needs presentations); if the problem is with a lack of private transport to dispose of waste goods, are residents being offered targeted help?*

Norse liaise with Parish Councils on an annual basis to understand any local requirements in terms of litter in communal spaces, and where necessary identify opportunities for targeted local activities.

For example, in Kirkley, targeted work has been carried out with local residents and in collaboration with Kirkley Business Association to address the issue of littering and flytips in certain streets and alleyways. Additional skips were provided, and community groups assisted Norse with litter collection. This is the type of activity that can be coordinated between Norse, WDC and community groups.

There is a 'Spring Clean' schedule of proposed community Parish Council litterpicks and it is important that town and parish councils engage with Norse to ensure that local initiatives are developed to address littering hot spots and problem areas.

- Q. *What was the result of the pilot on the orange bins in Beccles and in any other places they were situated in Waveney and where they are now?*

The pilot was funded through the Litter Innovation Fund, a DEFRA fund intended to help Councils develop innovative approaches to litter reduction. In East Suffolk, the project looked at roads where littering was a particular problem in laybys and on verges as a result of people throwing litter out of car windows. The project sought to test whether larger, wider-aperture

bins were effective in reducing littering – and the extent to which any improvements continued along the neighbouring stretches of road. An evaluation was carried out, and the following is from the evaluation:

“The indicators and outcomes have been fairly mixed:

- **Increased capacity results in decreased litter (standard or newly designed litter bins)**

Yes, overall the increased capacity reduced litter. This has been backed up by anecdotal information from operational crews as well as the data from the litter counts.

- **Trial sites will remain at an acceptable standard (A or B grade) for a minimum of four weeks from the baseline**

Yes, the majority of sites maintained an acceptable standard for four weeks

New - 5 out of 6

Additional - 4 out of 6 (1 failed all grades)

Control - 4 out of 6 (1 failed all grades)

- **Control trial sites will remain at an acceptable standard (A or B grade) for two weeks from the baseline**

4 out of 5 sites maintained for two week, 3 out of 5 sites for 4 weeks

- **The number of items of litter will be 70% higher at control trial sites than at trial sites with newly designed litter bins (at the end of the trial)**

The amount of litter was 58% higher at the control sites, although not at the level predicted it was still a significant difference in the amount of litter between the sites.

The new bins were installed at the busier locations but were still able to reduce the amount of litter that was counted at similar like for like locations.

- **The number of items of litter will be 50% higher at control trial sites than at trial sites with increased standard litter bins (at the end of the trial)**

The amount of litter was 111% higher at the control sites which was over double the expected amount and a very significant difference in the amount of litter between these sites although some sites were not as busy as the new bins/control site locations.

Orange bins are currently located in laybys along the A12, north and south bound carriageways. Based on this evaluation, Norse is planning to carry out some additional work over the coming months to collect litter along the A12, and are investing resources to employ an additional crew to carry out this work. The findings of the Orange Bin pilot will also be built on, with Norse looking to increase the number of bright, wide aperture bins available in laybys on the A12.

3.7 Private residences

Q. *How are individual residents being encouraged to take pride in their spaces that are house or flat frontages so as to keep areas clean?*

This is joint working between Enforcement and private sector housing/Housing Associations. This has been an issue in some areas – in particular more deprived parts of the district with a large density of Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and short term accommodation.

The Housing enforcement team works with landlords and tenants in order to address issues of littering and related issues – where we are able to do so. The housing team have some enforcement powers to require landlords to carry out this work if it can be shown to be a persistent and serious issue for local residents.

In addition, as mentioned above, some Ward Councillors have been working with residents and community groups – as in Kirkley – to encourage local residents to take pride in their areas, and to organise events to address problems in specific locations (e.g fly tipping in alleyways).

Norse and WDC are happy, in principle, to support these types of local initiatives where we can.

3.8 FPNs

Q. *46 fixed penalty notices were issued, where were these issued please (what towns)?*

These are fairly evenly spread throughout WDC, but with the majority in the Lowestoft area.

Eight Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for smoking in areas where it is not permitted, including in company vehicles.

- 6 FPNs were issued for dog fouling
- 11 for fly tipping
- 15 for littering offences.

These FPNs, in the WDC area, result from either eye witness accounts, CCTV evidence or as a result of a successful fly tipping investigation carried out by Norse. Norse and their counterparts in WDC's Environmental Services team work very closely together.

3.9 Litter Picks

Q. *How many of the Love East Suffolk community litter picks took place in Waveney and where were they carried out?*

A total of 34 Love East Suffolk community litter picks took place in Waveney during 2018.

In 2018 39 litter picks took place across the district, in both rural, urban and beach areas.

These took place in the following areas:

North Denes Beach, Kirkley Ham, South Lowestoft shoreline, Westhall Village, Beccles Common, Ilketshall St Margarets, Bloodmoor estate, Pakefield, Worlingham, Denes Oval Area, North Beach, Lowestoft (Job Centre area), Shadingfield Parish, Blundeston (Beevors),

Blundeston (WI), Pakefield Park, Mettingham, Southwold Promenade, Nicholas Everitts Park, River Blyth river bank (Blyth), Pakefield, Wrentham, Pakefield Beach, North Cove, Pakefield, Ringsfield, Oulton Area, Halesworth, Southwold, Corton Wood, Lowestoft, Carlton, Beccles, Oulton Community Centre, North Denes Beach, Sky Tramps Alley, Corton, Kirkley, Gunton, Spexhall.

Throughout the year information regarding community litter pick promotion is readily available on Council web pages. Each organised volunteer community litter pick group is provided with all the necessary equipment to enable them to safely carry out the task; free disposable gloves, sacks for the waste collected, any additional hi-viz vests required and litter picking sticks. To support the litter pick Norse arrange to collect and dispose of the resultant bagged litter. In addition, Norse donate £20 to each group for them to spend on their local community or a charity of their choice. Plus, all groups are entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a prize of £200 towards their community or chosen charity.

4 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 This report is for information and to answer specific questions raised by Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee receive the information given for information.