

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Streetscene

Tuesday, 21 October 2008

Present: Councillor Adrian Lowe (Chair) and Councillors Julia Berry, Debra Platt, Stella Walsh and Peter Wilson

Also in attendance: Chorley Council Officer Ishbel Murray – Corporate Director (Neighbourhood), Keith Allen – Streetscene Manager – (Neighbourhood Directorate), Steven Hart – Streetscene and Transport Manager (Neighbourhood Directorate), Jo Oliver – Waste and Contaminated Land Team Leader (Neighbourhood Directorate)

08.22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Doreen Dickinson, Pat Haughton, June Molyneaux, Shaun Smith and Joyce Snape.

08.23 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No Members declared an interest in respect of items on the agenda.

08.24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from Members of the public.

08.25 SCHEDULE OF LITTER BINS IN THE BOROUGH

Following requests made by Members of the Task Group, copies of the schedule showing the location of every litterbin in the Borough had been circulated.

Members welcomed the document and the format. Members were requested to check for any omissions.

Members requested that the document be made available to all Parish Councils and Borough Councillors. This would be put forward as a recommendation from the inquiry.

The document could also be used as a reporting tool as each bin had a reference and this could be used when members of the public made a complaint.

08.26 COLLECTION AND CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE

To enable Members to put forward any questions or queries regarding the Streetscene Service the under mentioned officers attended the meeting.

Jo Oliver (Waste and Contaminated Land Team Leader)
Steven Hart (Streetscene and Transport Manager)

Jo Oliver reported that she was involved in the waste management collection and the recycling of waste.

Currently two recycling litterbins had been installed on a six-month trial at the entrance Market Walk and Chapel Street. Initial impression so far was that there had been a

high level of contamination, however, there were plans for better publicity to inform the public about the type of recycling waste that could be put into the bins. These bins would not be suitable for everywhere in the Borough.

Other issues that were of a concern was fly tipping. Litterbins often attract fly tipping for domestic and trade premises. It was currently difficult to obtain evidence, as most forms of identification could not be found.

A concern was raised that the market stalls on a Saturday throwaway vegetables at the end of the day into a bin and a request was made for them to be recycled.

In response food waste should not go into a recycle brown bin because of a possible spread by birds and danger of the foot and mouth.

It was reported that currently Burnley, Blackpool and Pendle spend a lot of money on recycling but do not have the same quality. The quality of material collected had been poor with paper being the most contaminated material. It is understood that the recycling bins cost in the range of £500 to £800 per unit.

Regarding the prosecution of fly tippers it was reported that the authority does have the power to prosecute and would be used providing evidence is found and it would be appropriate.

Steve Hart reported that he was responsible for Streetcene Service and the Transportation.

He outlined the frequencies for the schedules fro litterbins emptying and street cleaning and the types of vehicles used.

Operatives report back any bins that are damaged and those that are consistently full.

Members suggested that those bins constantly full should be replaced with larger ones.

Members gave examples in their particular wards were bins are consistently full on Fridays and Saturdays if they were near to fish and chip shops and fast food outlets.

An outline on the service given over the Christmas and New Year holiday period when 3 / 4 vehicles go out to empty bins on main roads and shopping centres (eg. Eaves Lane, Chorley, Adlington).

It was pointed out that the budget for litterbins was fixed, however, a policy existed whereby bins are swapped around.

It was put forward that Euxton Parish Council would be willing to pay for larger bins, for use around the shopping area.

It was suggested that if a larger bin were supplied operatives would not have to visit the site as often.

When asked whether there was any difficulties in operatives providing feedback on the size of bins, it was pointed out that they do report those bins that are situated on a post, as they are open to the rain and are often used for dog waste.

With regard to the problem of cigarette ends outside pubs a suction machine is used to remove them.

Members expressed their concern at the responsibility of fast food outlets of cleaning up around their premises of litter and food wrappers and that they should ensure that they keep their perimeter clear.

It was suggested that Neighbourhood Officers be encouraged to look at these problem area and increase where necessary the enforcement and perhaps have an awareness campaign with the fast food outlets as to their community responsibilities.

Chair