



BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Serving Bellinge, Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Little Billing

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT BERNARD WESTON PAVILION, GREAT BILLING

PRESENT

Cllr. Mr J. A. Marlow (Chairman of Billing Parish Council)
Cllrs. Mrs T. Smith, Mr D. Brede, Rev. R. Burbidge, Mr J. Clements, Mr M. Pearson,
Mr S. Rockall, Mr. C. Shah, Mr. S. Ward.

Also Present:

Mrs C. Goodridge (Clerk to Billing Parish Council)
Mr. P. Marks (Green Space Manager)
Cllrs. Mr S. Hibbert, Mr. K. Holland-Delamere (WNC)
Liz Newbery (WNC Neighbourhood Warden)
Two Parishioner

		Action
69	<i>Apologies for Absence</i>	
69.1	Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Mrs. G. Chaggar and Mrs. C. Worthington. Apologies were also received from WNC Councillors P. Flavell, P. Clark and Parish Highways Warden D. Lang.	
70	<i>Minutes</i>	
70.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21 st June 2021 (Folio Nos. 022/2021 – 029/2021) and Monday 19 th July 2021 (Folio Nos. 030/2021 – 030/2021) were approved and signed as a true record.	
71	<i>Declarations of Interest</i>	
71.1	None declared	
72	<i>Public Forum</i>	
72.1	Wendy O'Connor wanted to bring to our attention some issues that the Great Billing Women's Institute are experiencing when hiring the Pavilion. She has advised that there are rarely any parking spaces available due to the field being in use for football training so the ladies are having to park on Penfold Lane or the High Street which is not ideal for the senior members of the group who struggle with walking. She also confirmed that whilst they were holding their session a lot of noise was being made whilst the nets were being put away in the corridor and then so they could exit the building they had to walk out through the hall. She would like us to look into a solution that will alleviate these issues.	

		Action
73	<i>Reports from Outside Agencies</i>	
73.1	<p>Liz Newbery, WNC Neighbourhood Warden, reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As of the 1st October 2021 there will be a change in Neighbourhood Wardens. She will remain to look after Little Billing however there will be two new Neighbourhood Wardens covering Ecton Brook, Great Billing and Bellinge. Contact details will be provided nearer the time. ➤ There was a successful Fly Tipping conviction on 31st August 2021. The offender was ordered to pay costs of £987.00 plus fees. 	
73.2	<p>In her absence Pauline Woodhouse, Bellinge Community House, had forwarded the following report:</p> <p>Bellinge Community House are taking part in BBC Radio Northampton, Make a Difference - Kit Out the Nation appeal. Sports kit can be dropped off the Bellinge Community House, Fieldmill Square, Bellinge, Northampton, NN3 9AQ between 10am and 1.30pm every Thursday throughout September.</p>	
73.3	<p>In his absence Damian Lang, Parish Highway Warden, had forwarded the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The footpath from Billing Aquadrome to Crow lane is overgrown with nettles. Work should have been complete within 10 days but still outstanding so will chased up. ➤ The footpath up to the bridge from Station Road to Pennycrest was reported and now cut back. ➤ The bus stop on A4500 just up from Ecton brook Road has been reported for graffiti and dirt. It's being looked into if this forms part of Clear Channel contract. ➤ Fly tipped green waste just off Ecton Brook Road has been reported. ➤ Various street lamps in the Parish are covered by trees. These have been checked and placed on the Parish Winter cutting programme. ➤ Large cracked paths behind Glade Close has been reported. ➤ Trip hazard from a pothole on footpath from Glade Close to Valley Road just before the bridge was reported and repaired within five days. ➤ Mini roundabout on Ecton Brook Road that has no paint on it has been reported but no time scale given. ➤ Pothole on side of speed bump on Ecton Brook Road was reported and being monitored by Highways. ➤ Street lamps 6 & 7 at the bottom of Station Road leading to A45 Roundabout have now been repaired. ➤ The barrier by Ecton Brook Primary School has been repaired however barrier at the top of Ecton Brook Road near Lakeside Drive 	
74	<i>Planning</i>	
74.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. APP/V2825/W/21/3275893 - Development Land at Ashmead - Appeal in process b. WNN/2021/0020 – Shalimar Parekh House Great Billing Park – Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and erection of a new garage. 	

		Action
74	Planning (Continued)	
74.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. APP/V2825/W/21/3275893 - Development Land at Ashmead - Appeal in process d. WNN/2021/0138 - 6 Codlin Close, Lt Billing - Front Porch Extension and new summer house / office to rear garden. e. WNN/2021/0162 - 20 Cumbrae Drive, Gt Billing – Amendment to N/2021/0162 – Proposed garage conversion and single storey extension. f. WNN/2021/0235 - 52 Valley Road, Lt Billing – Amendment to N/2021/0059 – Two storey rear extension and loft conversion. g. WNN/2021/0240 – 30 Fitzgerald Road, Lt Billing – Single Storey rear extension h. WNN/2021/0314 - 35 High Street, Gt Billing - T1 Cooper Beech – Prune i. WNN/2021/0338 - 8 Cumbrae Drive, Gt Billing – Two storey front extension. j. WNN/2021/0350 - 26 Cottage Garden, Gt Billing – Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of ground floor rear/side extension with flat roof system. k. WNN/2021/0369 - Oldways, 7 Elwes Way, Gt Billing - H1 Mixed Hedge (consisting predominantly of Lilac & Hazel) - Remove existing poor hedging to allow for planting of mature instant Holly hedge around boundary. l. WNN/2021/0489 - 27 Vantage Meadow, Ecton Brook - Conversion of double garage to games room, new front parking space, changes to existing and additional fenestration to rear and side elevations, wrap around single storey extension and garage link. m. WNN/2021/0507 - 28 Standing Stones, Gt Billing - First Floor side extension and new sauna outbuilding structure, including basement ancillary plant and storage, to be located in rear garden <p>NO COMMENTS OR OBJECTIONS TO ANY OF THE ABOVE</p>	
74.2	<p>The following determinations had been received from WNC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) N/2021/0353 - 60 Fishers Close, Lt Billing - Single storey extensions and alterations - Approved b) N/2021/0380 - 9 Whiteheart Close, Gt Billing - Change of use from domestic garage (use class C3) to hairdressing and nail salon (Sui Generis) - Refused - due to unacceptable intensification of the use of the property bringing more comings and goings and parking which will be at the detriment of the other residents. 26/06/2021 c) WNN/2021/0077 - 15 Valley Crescent, Lt Billing - Two storey side/rear extension – Approved d) WNN/2021/0138 - 6 Codlin Close, Little Billing - Front Porch Extension and new summer house / office to rear garden - Approved e) WNN/2021/0148 - Old Rectory, Gt Billing - T1 Lime – Removal – Approved f) WNN/2021/0158 - Fishers Close, Lt Billing - UPGRADE TO EXISTING BASE STATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS, TO INCLUDE EXISTING 15.0M HIGH ELARA POLE C/W SHROUD ON EXISTING ROOT FOUNDATION TO BE REMOVED, EXISTING ROOT TO REMAIN BURIED, NEW TEF HUTCHINSON ENGINEERING 20.0M HIGH ORION COLUMN ON NEW D9 ROOT FOUNDATION, COLOUR TO BE LIGHT GREY (RAL7035) AND ASSOCIATED ANCILLARY WORKS – Letter sent to ask that they make the boxes blend in with surroundings – Approved 	

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74.2	<p>g. WNN/2021/0235 - 52 Valley Road, Lt Billing – Two Storey rear extension & left conversion - Approved</p> <p>h. WNN/2021/0314 - 35 High Street, Gt Billing - T1 Cooper Beech – Prune – Approved</p> <p>i. WNN/2021/0366 - Fishponds Road, Bellinge - PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR INSTALLATION OF 20.0M PHASE 8 MONOPOLE C/W WRAPROUND CABINET AT BASE AND ASSOCIATED ANCILLARY WORKS - Approved</p> <p>j. WNN/2021/0369 - Oldways, 7 Elwes Way, Gt Billing - H1 Mixed Hedge (consisting predominantly of Lilac & Hazel) - Remove existing poor hedging to allow for planting of mature instant Holly hedge around boundary. Approved</p> <p>k. WNN/2021/0437 - The Old Rectory, GT Billing - T1 Birch - Lightly reduce by 15-20% (1-2m), T2 Yew - Reduce and reshape by 20% (3-4m), T3 Yew - Reduce and reshape by 20% (3-4m) – Approved</p> <p>l. WNN/2021/0471 - 6 Coneygree Court, Bellinge – Two storey and single-storey rear extension - Approved</p>																																																																																																																									
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75.1	<p>The list of Accounts for Approval for Payment for July to September had been forwarded to all Members. RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Small Business Payroll (Jun) Salaries and monthly fee)</td><td>LGA1972s133</td><td>3700.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>D F Phipps, Mowing & Strimming of the Leys & Church Way x 2</td><td>OSA1906s9 & 10</td><td>1188.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>O2, Clerk Mobile Phone (21/4 – 20/6)</td><td>LGA1972s111</td><td>55.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Interlynx Security Ltd, CCTV Service & Maintenance</td><td>LGRA1997</td><td>220.32</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unicom, Pavilion Telephone & Broadband (01/06 – 30/06)</td><td>LGA1972s133</td><td>54.16</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr George, Pollard Tree, Remove deadwood from oak Belling Field</td><td>OSA1906s9 & 10</td><td>1410.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Footprint, Pavilion Wheelie Bin Waste Removal (May)</td><td>LGA1972s111</td><td>124.12</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aylesbury Mains Ltd, 2 light connections – Valley Rd</td><td>PCA1957s.3</td><td>1470.48</td></tr> <tr> <td>S F Harris, End of Employment gratuity 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75.2	The schedule showing Income and Expenditure compared to Budget for the period to 31.08.21 had been forwarded to all Members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																																															
75.3	The schedule showing the accounts for the first quarter to 30.06.21 had been forwarded to all Members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																																															
75.4	A copy of the Internal Control check as at 30.06.21 had been forwarded to all members. RESOLVED this be approved.																																																																															
75.5	<p>The form The Clerk reported that reconciled bank account balances as at 31.08.21 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Current Account £19,484.15 ➤ Reserve Account £305,779.29 																																																																															
75.6	Quotation received from F S Training at £1296.00 inc. VAT for the Great Billing defibrillator. £770.00 of funding provided by the Elwes Arms Public House leaving a balance of £526.00 for Billing Parish Council to pay. RESOLVED that this can now be ordered.	Clerk																																																																														
75.7	RESOLVED that a donation of £500 be made to the Royal British Legion and poppy wreaths obtained for laying at the two war memorials.	Clerk HW																																																																														
75.8	RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000 to Little Billing Pocket Park Volunteer Group for the 2021-22 financial year be approved.	Clerk																																																																														
75.9	RESOLVED that the electricity supply is renewed with British Gas Lite on a five-year fixed plan.	Clerk																																																																														

		Action
76	Other Matters	
76.1	<p>Installation of Little Billing Notice Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Little Billing Notice Board shall be installed as suggested by Highways on the area of grass verge, between the car park and the first of the long driveways on Valley Road. As it will be located near the Village Green it will be highly visible and less likely to be vandalised. As the grass verges are classed as Highway's land, authorisation from Highways will be sent to the clerk before it can be installed by the GSM.</p>	GSM
76.2	<p>Parking on Little Billing Village Green.</p> <p>Cllr. Clements advised that parking on the village green has increased over the last month. After a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED that he will start by placing notes on the window screens of the cars advising them that vehicles are not permitted to park on the green as it has Village Green Status which prohibits it.</p>	Clerk
76.3	<p>Grass Cutting on Orchard Hill.</p> <p>Cllr. Marlow has discussed the grass cutting with the Parishioner who brought the poor workmanship to our attention in June. He has confirmed that since then that the workmanship has improved.</p>	
76.4	<p>Little Billing Riverside Walk</p> <p>Cllr. Marlow has advised that a local Professor has offered to give guidance on how we can prevent any further erosion along bank which runs alongside the Riverside Walk. He will arrange a site visit with him and Mr Clasper. Cllr. Rockall also advised the GSM to contact Mr Bull who also has expertise in this particular field.</p>	JM GSM
76.5	<p>Resumption of hire of Bernard Weston Pavilion.</p> <p>RATIFIED as previously agreed, that the Bernard Weston Pavilion can resume to hold private parties.</p>	
76.6	<p>Anti-Social Behaviour and CCTV on Bellinge.</p> <p>The residents are still concerned about the level of anti-social behaviour and potential drug dealing going on outside the Co-op and in the carpark on Bellinge. Local Policing Teams have been made aware of this however it was suggested that this doesn't seem to have any impact. Was suggested to speak to PC Jonathan Bailey about youth groups. Liz Newbery has advised that there will also be a change of policing teams from 1st October 2021. It was suggested that maybe that Bellinge Community House should look into providing more youth services.</p>	Clerk
76.7	<p>Councillor ID Cards.</p> <p>It has been suggested by Cllr. Shah that the councillors should have a council id card. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would produce business cards for all Councillors by the next Parish Council Meeting.</p>	Clerk
76.8	<p>Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022</p> <p>Cllr. Rockall advised that as Billing Parish Fayre is held in June that it could take on a Platinum Jubilee theme. He also suggested giving out some small trees to link it with the Queens Green Canopy. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will attend the Queens Canopy NALC meeting and come back to the Councillors with further ideas.</p>	Clerk

		Action
76	<i>Updates (continued)</i>	
76.9	Remembrance Sunday Service RESOLVED that this will go ahead on 14 th November 2021 at 10.45am as normal whilst adhering to any government guidelines in place at the time. Cllr. Burbidge Remembrance Sunday Service (Cont.) will arrange the service and the Bugler.	RB
76.10	NCALC AGM "Six Months of Unitary – How's it Been for You" Due to Cllr. Brede being unable to attend this year's AGM a volunteer is needed to attend. Cllr. Pearson has advised that he may be able to attend and will let the Clerk know in due course.	MP
76.11	Budget 2022 – 2023 The Clerk has requested that the GSM and any Councillor that would like to undertake any project in the financial year of 2022 – 2023 needs to complete a written proposal with costings/estimates by the next Parish Council Meeting so that it can be included when drafting the budget.	Cllrs. GSM
76.12	Christmas Parish Food Bank Retracted	
76.13	Parish Magazine The Clerk has advised all councillors to provide all articles including Christmas Church Service Times for the Parish Magazine by the next Parish Council Meeting.	
76.14	The Usage of the Recreational Field by Billing United Football Club The usage of the Recreational Field at Gt Billing by Billing United Football club has increased compared to two years ago. A number of complaints have been made by hirers of the Pavilion that coincide with the footballers including no available parking, noise when they are putting away equipment and walking through the hall whilst meetings / parties are taking place. Clerk to invite councillors to working group to discuss ideas to resolve the situation.	Clerk
76.15	Installation of New Bin on Fishponds Road It has been brought the attention of Cllr. Marlow that there is a desperate need for a bin next to the bus stop on the corner of Fieldmill Road and Fishponds Road. There was previously a bin there but was removed some years ago by NBC. It was RESOLVED that the clerk would write to WNC to request that this is reinstated.	Clerk
77	<i>Updates</i>	
77.1	New Parish E-Mails The Clerk has requested that Cllrs. Brede and Pearson contact Steve Bishop before the end of the month to set up Councillor .gov e-mail addresses.	DB MP
77.2	Ecton Brook Linear Park. Cllr. Ward has advised that Linear Park is currently like a jungle with overgrown bushes, unsafe trees, broken branches covering the pathways. Some of the stream is now silted up or blocked by fallen tree branches. Steve would like to withhold the Lottery Application at present and first concentrate on trying to get WNC to take ownership of the maintenance of the area as they do with the main parks within the Unitary. It was AGREED that the Parish organise a private health and safety tree	GSM

		Action
77	<i>Updates (Continued)</i>	
77.2	Ecton Brook Linear Park (Cont.) survey of the area to assess to identify any safety issues that may cause harm to people or property. This can then be presented to WNC who have a duty of care to act on the information provided. Cllr. Ward has also written to local MP Andrew Lewer to request a site visit to discuss this further.	
77.3	Parking High Street Great Billing. No further update received from Highways.	
77.4	E-Scooters Cllrs. still have concerns regarding the use of VOI scooters including them being used in drug dealing and being randomly left where they can cause harm to pedestrians. The Clerk has received a response form VOI advising that they will consider adding areas to the red zone. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will contact VOI and request that they add all Parish owned land plus Ecton Brook.	Clerk
77.5	Bellinge Community House There has still been no progress with the transfer of Bellinge Community House however a representative from the WNC Asset Department is attending the Clerk Forum later on in the month. The Clerk will get an update then. Cllr. Rockall has advised that Pauline Woodhouse has now arranged all the safe checks and inspections requested. The new EPC has been completed just for the Bellinge Community House section of the building. The Clerk will request a copy of this to pass onto our Solicitors.	Clerk
77.6	Parish Litter Picking in Conjunction with the Wombles Cllr. Smith asked if the new Litter Charter has been produced which the Clerk confirmed that it had and can be found in appendix 1. The Clerk also advised that Nicola Powell, the Education and Community Officer for Veolia has advised that they have not forgotten about the Red Sack Scheme and is awaiting sign off from WNC.	
77.7	Anti-Social Behaviour Beneath the Underpass at Great Billing Pocket Park It was confirmed by the residents that this had improved over the holidays however, they were back this weekend. They advised that they will monitor this and keep logging the disturbances with the police.	
77.8	Trim Trail Great Billing Pocket Park No update available	
78	<i>Leisure & Recreation</i>	
78.1	GSM Update The GSM reported that a number of trees in the Parish are in need of some attention due to damaged and over hanging branches. These are being attended to by himself and the volunteers.	
78.2	Little Billing Pocket Park Update In his absence Michael Clasper, Little Billing Pocket Park Volunteers, had forwarded the following report:	

		Action
78	<i>Leisure & Recreation (continued)</i>	
78.2	In the volunteering sessions the riverside and main footpaths were cleared of overgrowth and part of the riverside path was also cleared of weeds. The grass in the picnic area north of the orchard was strimmed, hard surfaces were swept and blown clean and litter collected.	
78.3	Ecton Brook Residents Association Update In the absence of The Ecton Brook Residents Association Keith Holland-Delamere reported that they are looking to hold a Big Jubilee Lunch on 5 th June 2022 in celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The GSM confirmed that they have been in touch with him regarding some advice on how to plan the event.	
79	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i>	
79.1	Cllr. Smith wanted to bring to our attention the over grown bushes in the alleyway between Codlin Close, Little Billing and the Little Billing Pocket Park. This has been reported to WNC. She has also aware of parking issues in Lakeview Court off Wildacre Drive due to a HMO. Cllr. Hibbert has offered to assist Cllr. Smith regarding the issue.	
79.2	Cllr. Ward reported that the overgrown hedge in Millbank, Ecton Brook has been reported and is being investigated by WNC.	
79.3	Cllr. Clements wanted to have an update regarding the overgrown area of land next to 1 Valley Crescent. The Clerk confirmed that this has been reported to WNC and has been sent to the maintenance team. She will be chasing up again this week if not resolved.	
79.4	Cllr. Rockall wanted to send Billing Parish Councils best wishes to Cllr. Clark following his recent hospital visit. He also wanted to express his dissatisfaction of the lack of consistency of the new Unitary boundaries and feel that WNC is regressing. Suggested that this be taken to the NCALC AGM by representative.	
80	<i>Date of Next Meeting and Closure</i>	
80.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.26pm. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 11 th October 2021 at Barnard Weston Pavilion, Gt. Billing.	

APPENDIX 1



Litter Charter

July 2021

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1.0 Introduction

A Litter Charter aims to change the behaviour of those who feel it is acceptable not to dispose of their waste responsibly. Litter within our council area not only is unsightly and has a negative effect on the perception of the area, but also is hazardous to the environment and wildlife.

Litter is a sign that people do not respect their local environment which can then lead onto other issues. Tackling litter is a wider issue than just clearing it up, education programmes in schools and communities are required along with strategic plans for infrastructure, regular monitoring on usage and emptying schedules to be reviewed seasonally.

Dealing with litter, places a significant financial and resource burden on local authorities, and a poor local environment can discourage inward investment which could result in suppression of property prices, damaging local economic growth. Therefore, it is in everyone's interest to tackle this issue.

2.0 Objectives

This Litter Charter has been developed to ensure that West Northamptonshire has a co-ordinated charter to tackling litter across the whole council area.

The objectives of the charter are to

- improve the local environment
- remove littering efficiently and quickly to provide a good visual image of the area
- work with communities and partners to support them in their activities
- educate the public into the detrimental effect of littering

This Charter provides a plan of action which is regularly carried out to tackle litter in West Northamptonshire.

We have developed a charter for the following reasons:

- To think through issues
- Define problems and possible solutions
- Understand opportunities
- Set direction
- Benefit from best practice elsewhere
- Get feedback and support from stakeholders
- To adopt a co-ordinated approach across the whole of the newly created West Northamptonshire Council area
- To provide a clear and transparent way of communicating our aspirations and methods of dealing with litter, education and enforcement

Our approach to tackling litter falls under the following themes:

- 1) Communicate and educate
- 2) Join up the work between different council departments
- 3) Work with partners and Communities
- 4) Infrastructure provision
- 5) Regular maintenance
- 6) Enforcement

7) Review

3.0 Approaches to Tackling Litter

3.1 Communicate and Educate

In tackling littering, our main aim is to discourage the dropping of litter in the first place and encourage responsible disposal (e.g. using a litter bin, or taking home to recycle or dispose of). We have a range of communication and education actions we undertake:

- Working with schools on littering, arranging assemblies, talks and visits
- Carrying out competitions to highlight littering issues
- Using social media to promote anti-littering messages and initiatives with other partners and community groups
- Attending local neighbourhood meetings or community groups to talk about litter and wider environmental crime
- Installing clear signage and stickers to encourage bin usage
- Providing Councillor information evenings highlighting issues and successes
- Running high profile anti-litter local campaigns
- Promoting national campaigns through social media and our websites
- Use message on the side of our waste collection vehicles

3.2 Work with Partners and Communities

Our Litter Charter will support the wider community providing positive good working relationships. That will mean consulting with community groups, businesses, schools, environmental agencies, charities, and others.

Examples of work we carry out with partners and communities are:

- Support national litter campaigns e.g. Keep Britain Tidy and other charities on campaigns such as “The Great British Spring Clean”
- Provide ongoing support through the year to groups wishing to undertake litter picks in their area by providing H & S information, litter pickers and sacks for the collection of waste. We also arrange collection and disposal of the waste following the event
- Support local initiatives with other departments in the Council to tackle specific areas to improve the overall environment. For example, we have undertaken deep cleans in a selected area and worked with Ground Maintenance and Waste Collection departments to tackle a range of issues, supported door knocking and provision of information leaflets for residents
- Work with businesses to reduce litter in their local area and other hot spots, including considering sponsoring of litter bins and litter picks, particularly working with take-away food businesses
- Working with colleagues in the highways team and Highways England to obtain access to high-speed roads to safely undertake litter picking and having a co-ordinated approach to abandoned street signs
- 041/2021

3.3 Infrastructure Provision

Litter bin provision is a key element for the charter. We take the following factors into account when assessing locations of litter bins:

- Intensity of usage of an area e.g. high, medium or low footfall
- Proximity to areas where litter may be generated e.g. near schools, colleges shopping precincts (large and local), pubs, cafes and restaurants, transport hubs and commercial areas such as car parks
- Proximity to other litter bins
- Customer complaints regarding litter
- Officer inspection information which has identified litter hot spots.
- The general principle of take your litter home is applied in locations such as our country parks and some open spaces

We regularly review litter bin locations as needs change with the provision of new facilities, housing estates and opening and closing of businesses. Our street cleansing staff report damaged bins so that they can be removed or replaced.

The type of bin used will depend on the location, e.g. in laybys the bin provision is different to encourage use, make bins visible to stopping vehicles and to provide a size sufficient to last between emptying. We also work with partner organisations such as Highways England for layby provision.

We are also considering the introduction of “recycle on the go” litter bins in key locations and are currently assessing potential locations.

We are working with our waste collection team to provide wheeled bins instead of sacks for most properties because when waste is contained it is less likely to spill out and become litter.

We have been successful in a bid for external funding for new litter bins and signage in some areas. We will continue to bid for such funding opportunities, as they arise.

3.4 Service Design

Frequency of litter picking, and litter bin maintenance is reviewed regularly and amended following monitoring and staff feedback. Regular seasonal reviews take place and feedback from the operational team is taken into consideration when setting the maintenance schedule, as well as the resources available to the council and or our contractors.

The maintenance schedule is regularly updated to ensure it is the most suitable for the time of year and area. Some local businesses such as fast-food outlets will also assist in maintaining their local area by emptying bins and litter picking outside their premises sometimes out of our working hours.

We regularly review the equipment we use for collecting litter, trialling new plant and equipment or moving existing equipment to different areas of the council to provide the most effective use of resources.

3.5 Enforcement

We are committing to taking robust enforcement action in relation to litter, dog fouling and environmental crimes, in accordance with our enforcement policy. Teams work closely with partners and the public to identify hotspots and aim to reduce litter through actions such as:

- Targeted patrols
- Issuing of fixed penalty notices
- CCTV in various locations to assist with gathering of evidence
- Prosecution in the most serious cases
- Publicising successful enforcement

3.6 Reviews

Regular reviews of the above aspects are carried out seasonally to ensure all information is kept up to date and schedules are suitable for the area.

4.0 Conclusion

This Litter Charter documents the approach taken to tackling litter in West Northamptonshire and details the actions we are using to do this.

Our aim is to improve the local environment for residents and visitors to the areas, making them want to live and return to the area.