

COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J CLARKE TO COUNCILLOR A WOODMAN

“There is an inordinate amount of road side litter on the rural roads in the district. I am happy to pick litter in my own village but I will not collect litter on roads where there is no pavement, for safety reasons. Could the Council assist Parish Councils in litter collection on the rural roads by providing extra litter pickers, plastic bags and bag rings but more importantly an escort vehicle to protect volunteer litter pickers from traffic. In addition could the Council launch a drive against those who litter and encourage fast food establishments too high light the anti-social behaviour of those who dispose of their rubbish on the roadside?”

REPOSENSE FROM COUNCILLOR A WOODMAN TO COUNCILLOR J CLARKE

“The council currently supports over 300 volunteer litter pickers across the district and this will be enhanced by the addition of a £15k budget that is being considered at this Full Council meeting which will provide much needed equipment to our army of volunteers. This equipment will be available for voluntary groups and parish/town councils to help organise litter picks and target areas of concern.

For insurance and health and safety reasons we are not able to supply escort vehicles to our volunteers, they are only advised to keep areas tidy that are easily accessible when out and about (footpath verges, community parks, hedgerows etc.).

The litter they collect should only be what is typically dropped irresponsibly by others (cans, plastic bottles, crisp packets etc.).

They are also advised to avoid large items and unidentified cans or canisters, poisons, insecticides, clinical waste, other hazardous substances, broken glass, syringes, etc.

This year, Keep Britain Tidy **‘The Big Spring Clean’** will be held 28 May to 13 June. North West Leicestershire District Council will be supporting this by organising our own event where we will be asking people to ‘Pick Their Own Street’. In previous years the event has been around the Coalville and Ashby Town centres however, this year we will be offering the event to the wider district and encouraging people to pick on the road in which they reside or work. (subject to any Covid restrictions in place at the time).

The Litter Strategy for England which the council supports aims to clean up the country and reduce both litter and littering behaviours by means of better education, enforcement. To help combat roadside litter new regulations were introduced in April 2018. These regulations mean that local councils may issue a Penalty Charge Notice to the registered owner of a car if it can be proved litter had been dumped from their vehicle even if someone else discarded the rubbish.

A countywide campaign was also launched in 2019 to highlight these new powers which is currently ongoing across the district.”