

COUNCIL – 23 FEBRUARY 2021

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN TO COUNCILLOR A WOODMAN

“2021 has seen an increase in dog fouling on public footpaths and litter in grass verges & laybys, whilst fly tipping shows no signs of abating. How does the Council plan to respond?”

REPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR A WOODMAN TO COUNCILLOR S SHEAHAN

“A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was adopted in 2018 replacing the old dog control orders. This will be extended in March 2021 by Cabinet for a further 3 years and will give enforcement officers continued powers to deal with offences relating to dogs such as:- fouling, having a means to pick up, exclusion in children’s play areas and on marked sports pitches and leads by order. The Environmental Protection Team are also looking to revamp the current ‘Dog Watch’ campaign with new signage for 2021 to raise awareness around picking up after your dog and correctly disposing of the waste. There has been an increase in bagged dog waste being discarded into trees and bushes and this will be highlighted in the new campaign combining the two offences of littering and dog fouling. The team have also introduced a new impact assessment which will form the initial part of any investigation into dog fouling. This will give clear data into the seriousness of problem areas and will enable appropriate action to be taken, the public can also assist with this by giving precise details when reporting issues to council.

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. This will speedup investigations making it easier to fine those responsible or who allow other to litter from their vehicle. A Countywide campaign was also launched in 2019 to highlight these new powers which is currently ongoing across the district. A Litter campaign is also being compiled which will be taken into schools throughout the district to highlight the issues litter has on our environment and wildlife.

The local authority has been under immense pressure with regard to fly tipping which was heightened at the start of the pandemic when the local tips were closed. There has been a steady decrease since the waste disposal sites reopened and we have seen this right across the district which is encouraging.

From an enforcement point, fly tipping investigations rely wholly on gathering intelligence and the use of technology to apprehend those responsible and I’m pleased to inform you that the council’s 2021/2 budget is proposing a new fund of £15k for cameras which have been specifically designed with fly tipping in mind. It is important when possible to stop a problem at source and our campaign ‘Your Waste, Your responsibility’ is an ideal example of how the council is trying to deal with and educate those people who use rogue waste carriers to take their rubbish away. This campaign was taken into the three main DIY outlets in the district and the team has already started to see signs of this education working.

Monitoring of social media sites has seen an increase in people advising others against giving their waste to unregistered waste carriers highlighting that the message is getting through which will hopefully see less people using illegal carriers in the future”