
REPORT TO:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	23rd October 2013	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Housing and Environmental Services	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Bob Ledger 5975 bob.ledger@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Clean team	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. Recommendations

1.1 That Members note and comment on the current service provision.

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise members of the current arrangements for tackling littering, fly tipping and dog fouling in the district and seek members input and comment on current processes.

3. Detail

3.1 The Clean team was established in 2002 in response to the Environmental Protection Act that requires local authorities “to ensure land, so far as is practicable, is kept clear of litter and refuse” as well as set frequencies and timescales for street cleaning.

3.2 The clean team is made up of 8 personnel who also have other substantive duties but can respond as a part or full team to instances of extensive littering or fly tipping. In this way we don't have personnel stood by phones waiting to react to reports.

3.3 The team's substantive or standard duties relate to manning the two mechanical footpath sweepers which follow pre specified routes in the built-up areas. The frequency of such sweeping is dependent upon the location and amount of foot traffic. In brief this is town and village centre areas at 4 times a year and all other urban areas at 2 times a year.

3.4 Also in the team is a dedicated barrow sweeper for the Swadlincote urban centre, the Swadlincote public toilets cleaner and the clinical waste officer (who collects from all parts of the District) The other three posts (of which one is currently held vacant) empty litter and dog bins around the District, again at varying frequencies to reflect their usage, as well deliver new to and collect broken wheelie bins from people's homes.

- 3.5 In terms of resources, the team have access to several different types of collecting bags, litter pickers, gloves and other PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). The team have dedicated vehicles for the clinical waste collections, the mechanical footpath cleaning as well as a general vehicle for use on fly tipping. This general vehicle is in poor condition and due for replacement this financial year.
- 3.6 Our target is to respond on a reactive basis to reports of extensive littering or fly tipping on public land within 24 hours. In the year to date this has been achieved on 192 of 281 reports, 80 of these were cleared on the day of the fly tip being reported.
- 3.7 In terms of responding to the need of keeping the District as clean as possible the perception has been to date that the clean team was an effective innovation in 2002 and it continues to be so. Before the creation of the clean team there was certainly more discussion in the Committee process about how to effectively tackle the cleaner streets agenda.
- 3.8 A log of clean team call outs is kept but through the input of 2 of the Committee's members on spending half a day with the team in August 2013, more is now being done with that log to track repeat locations for incidents and share that information particularly with the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens.
- 3.9 The clean team also respond to reports of dog fouling. The approach taken is to undertake this as needed and reported on public highway and associated areas e.g. footpaths in built up areas. Clearly it would not be possible to respond to all dog fouling across the whole District in all areas e.g. rural footpaths. The primary emphasis has to be on prevention.
- 3.10 The Safer Neighbourhood Wardens patrol known hotspots for dog fouling. These include parks and recreation grounds but also a number of key footpaths, mainly in the urban area, linking housing estates. The aim of the wardens is to encourage owners to take responsibility for their dogs and the approach usually taken for first time offenders is advice and warnings.
- 3.11 Everyone knows that it's in the wider community interest to pick up after their dog i.e. people know it is wrong not to do so. This is well evidenced that as soon as the wardens appear in a location people do pick up the faeces. The Council can only issue a fixed penalty notice or take someone to court for allowing their dog to foul public areas if this is witnessed by a neighbourhood warden or other appropriate officer. This combination of factors means that the current strategy is for wardens to offer a high visibility presence and engage with the dog owning community to prevent rather than react to fouling.
- 3.12 There are only three Neighbourhood wardens for the whole District covering a 7 day working week of 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. i.e. the majority of the time there is only one warden on duty across the whole District. However large numbers of warning leaflets and lamppost dog fouling signs have been and continue to be deployed to encourage people to be responsible in relation their dog's fouling.
- 3.13 Neighbourhood wardens also follow up on fly tipping incidents and close liaison with the clean team is often key. If the clean team find any documentation with identifying marks in the dumped material they will refer such matters to the neighbourhood wardens. They then will seek to trace the persons responsible and if possible prosecute the offenders under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. In

the calendar year to date we have issued 46 warnings and 8 fixed penalty notices for fly tipping.

4. Corporate Implications

- 4.1 The District's reputation is assessed on a number of generic factors one of which is the standard of street cleanliness.