REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM:6
DATE OF MEETING:	12th AUGUST 2021	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ADRIAN LOWERY, 5764, adrian.lowery@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURVEY 2021	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS09

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the Committee notes the content of the Local Environmental Quality Survey report attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

1.2 That the Committee approves an additional survey to take place in September/October 2021.

1.3 That the Committee agrees future performance information from the Local Environmental Quality Surveys is included within the Corporate Plan Performance Reports.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

2.1 To inform the Committee of the outcome from the second Local Environmental Quality Survey undertaken by Keep Britain Tidy.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Keep Britain Tidy was appointed to undertake a Local Environmental Quality Survey for South Derbyshire. The survey took place in January 2021, with the report completed at the end of March 2021.

3.2 The surveys were based on the old National Indicator NI195, used by the Audit Commission to compare Local Environmental Quality as part its Comprehensive Performance Assessment of local authorities under the government's Best Value regime. 300 sites were surveyed, covering ten land use types based on the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse.

3.3 Survey sites are a 50m section of the street or area, referred to as a transect, with all public property within that site being considered.

3.4 The survey in South Derbyshire assessed the four key elements Litter, Detritus, Graffiti and Flyposting. Weeds and Dog fouling were additional elements surveyed at the request of the Council.

3.5 To assess the standards on each site, each indicator was assigned a grade. The grading system follows the same principles as the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse which identifies four grades of cleanliness: A, B, C and D. This survey uses these plus an additional three intermediate grades, giving a total of seven grades as detailed in the table below. The intermediate grades are not individually defined; put simply, if cleansing at any given site is not at an A standard, but is performing better than a B standard, it would be identified as a B+.

Grade	Description
A	None of the issues present
B+	Not formally defined
B	Predominantly free with some minor instances of the issue
B-	Not formally defined
C	Widespread with some accumulations of the issue
C-	Not formally defined
D	Heavily affected by the issue

3.6 According to the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, any grade below a B grade is classed as being below an acceptable standard of LEQ.

3.7 The grades have been processed and presented in an NI195-style format. This is a percentage of sites which are below an acceptable standard, i.e. below a B grade. In keeping with the old NI195 monitoring methodology, any site receiving a B- grade is given a half-weighting, so only half of all sites graded B- will count towards the score, whereas all sites graded C, C- or D receive 'full' weighting. This allows for the fact that sites which are given a B- grade are only just below an acceptable standard and are not as bad as a C grade.

3.8 The split of Land Uses surveyed in South Derbyshire are shown in the table below. It is important to consider these sample sizes when reviewing the breakdown of NI195-style scores by Land Use. A number of Land Uses have small samples (below 30) which can mean a particular element can look like it has a significant issue in South Derbyshire but due to the sample size it may only affect a few survey sites.

Land Use Type	Definition	Number
Main Retail and Commercial	Consists of the main town and city retail and commercial centres. Urban tourist 'hot spots' which are wholly or partially separated from a main town or city retail and commercial centre are also included in this land use. Main Retail and Commercial areas contain a choice of outlets in a range of different retail and commercial sectors (such as fashion clothing,	7

	financial services, restaurants, bars and entertainment), and will include national and international brand names. Normally, there is also a range of public facilities, including libraries, museums, law courts and places of worship.	
Other Retail and Commercial	Covers retail and commercial areas which are primarily located outside main city and town retail and commercial centres (but excludes out-of-town or edge-of-town 'retail park/retail shed' developments, which are included with industry, warehousing and science parks). Other Retail and Commercial areas usually contain a range of facilities that mainly meet the needs of local residents. Most premises contain individual private businesses, sometimes branches of regional chains (such as bakers), and occasionally national brand names. They can also be home to civic facilities, areas of office and hotel development, and areas of mixed retail, office, hotel and entertainment uses.	11
High Obstruction Housing	Housing areas where the proportion of dwellings with purpose-built off-street parking facilities is less than or equal to 50%. Can also include occasional small retail premises, offices, manufacturing, and warehousing sites. Includes various housing types, such as: - terraced housing - alleyways behind and between housing areas where there is direct access to properties - flats and maisonettes with only limited off-street parking - semi-detached and short terraced dwellings with limited or no purpose made off-street vehicle parking, or parking provision which is not large enough for the use of modern vehicles.	24
Medium Obstruction Housing	Housing areas where more than 50% of dwellings have purpose-made off-street parking/garaging facilities for up to two modern-day family cars. This land use includes housing types such as: - private housing, often where passageways at the side of houses are too narrow for most current-day cars - council housing originally built with no off-street parking, where limited off-street parking has since been provided for some properties - modern developments with limited off-street parking - modern developments of flats with parking underneath - terraced housing with garage facilities or rear access parking for up to two cars.	64
Low	Housing areas where more than 50% of properties	87

Obstruction Housing	have purpose-made off-road garaging/parking within the property boundary for three or more cars. In these areas, there is generally a low risk of obstruction to mechanical channel sweeping operations. The space available should be capable of accommodating all the parking requirements of residents (including, where applicable, boats and caravans, etc.) and most of the demand from visitors to the premises. This category includes maisonettes and flats, as long as the parking is contained within the property boundary. In low obstruction housing areas, it is likely that there will be few or no vehicles parked on-street, and significant on-street parking is the exception rather than the rule.	
Main Roads	Main Roads are all 'A' roads. However, if a main road is situated within Main Retail and Commercial, Other Retail and Commercial, or High Obstruction Housing area, then that transect should be recorded as that land use and not as a Main Road, due to the potential obstruction caused.	22
Rural Roads	This class comprises of all highways that are located outside built-up areas and are not included in the Main Roads or Other Highways land use classes, whether 'rural' in character or not.	20
Industry and Warehousing	Includes industrial and warehousing developments, out-of-town retail parks (including food and non-food developments), and science parks (containing offices, laboratories and manufacturing processes). The following sub-types would be classified as 'industry, warehousing, retail sheds and science parks' sites: classic estates primarily dedicated to heavy industry and warehousing, retail sheds and areas with large retail units, hospitals, business/science parks and campus (such as university or college properties).	9
Other Highways	Formal lay-bys, informal lay-bys, stub roads, underpasses, footbridges, un-metalled bridleways, metalled bridleways, narrow routes and alleyways, cycle ways and 'other' - this includes any other highway which is not listed above.	23
Recreation Areas	Is a combination of public open space and watersides. 'Public open space' includes parks, recreation areas, grassed areas, picnic sites, and paved areas (which are not classed as either main or other retail or commercial locations). Officially signed and/or marked public footpaths and deconsecrated cemeteries should also be included in this land use category. 'Watersides' includes all	33

	publicly accessible areas adjacent to ponds, lakes, reservoirs, canals, rivers and estuaries.	
Grand Total		300

3.9 South Derbyshire again achieved excellent scores for low levels of Graffiti and Flyposting, weeds and Dog Fouling with 1% or less failure for these elements. The level of litter was 5% of survey sites failing. Detritus was the worst performing element of the survey at 11.11%.

3.10 The surveyors noted that some Rural Roads had been affected by recent flooding bringing slit and mud onto the road exacerbating the problem.

Litter

3.11 Out of the 300 sites surveyed, 41 had no litter at all on them and received an A grade this is an improvement on 2020 where only 24 sites had no litter, the number of sites having a very small amount of litter and receiving a B+ grade improved from 135 sites in 2020 to 152 sites. However, more sites were graded below a B than the previous survey going from 14 to 25.

3.12 Surveyors noted that a lot of litter appeared to be from recycling collections. The survey was undertaken at a time when the recycling collections were still outsourced.

Detritus

3.13 Detritus was again identified as the biggest issue in South Derbyshire, although the number of sites failing for detritus had improved from 13.655 to 11.11%.

3.14 Rural Roads had the highest percentage of failing survey sites at 42.5% followed by high Density Housing at 20.83%

3.15 Surveyors noted that a lot of detritus was formed from broken down leaf and blossom fall.

Graffiti and Flyposting

3.16 Graffiti and Flyposting are not a widespread issue in South Derbyshire with 1% or less of survey sites failing for these issues. Flyposting had zero failures and only one site failed for Graffiti, an improvement on last year where three sites failed.

3.17 The surveyors did note that some of the Covid-19 distance signs were starting to look weathered and could impact on the feel of the area.

National Comparison

3.18 In comparison with the last Local Environmental Quality Survey for England, South Derbyshire performed well above the average for litter at 95% at an acceptable standard in comparison with 86% nationally. Despite the issues highlighted relating to detritus, South Derbyshire compares favourably with the national average with 89% of sites meeting an acceptable standard against 75% nationally. Graffiti is not an issue with 99% of sites at an acceptable standard in comparison with a national average of 97%.

3.19 There are no national comparisons for weeds and dog fouling as these are combined in the national survey with detritus and litter respectively.

Weeds

3.20 The surveyors identified that weeds are not a widespread issue in South Derbyshire and has seen a great improvement from last year dropping from 2.29% to under 1%.

Dog Fouling

3.21 For all areas Dog Fouling did not fail on any transects compared to three last year. Only 16 had any dog fouling on them compared to 25 last year.

3.22 However, surveyors did notice two full and overflowing dog bins which need timely emptying to ensure people make the right choice in bagging and binning their dog waste.

Additional Survey

3.23 The overall survey results are very encouraging; however, they only give a view of the District at one point in time. Litter, weeds, detritus, and dog fouling can all have a seasonal element to them. A second survey in September/October will give half yearly assessment and combined with a January survey a more balanced view of the environmental quality of the District.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Budget provision has been made in the Medium-Term Financial Plan for continued membership of Keep Britain Tidy and for the two surveys per year to be undertaken.

5.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

5.1 None

Legal Implications

5.2 None

Corporate Plan Implications

5.3 E1.2B - Improve the quality of the District through the Local Environmental Quality Survey, gives assurance that the cleansing regimes and resources deployed are delivering the Council's Service Standards.

5.4 Increasing the number of surveys will improve the data and remove seasonal impacts from the year end outturn.

5.5 The results of the survey will be used to provide additional focus to the work of the Street Cleansing Team. The Service had set a target to improve the survey scores so that over 95% of survey sites achieve a score above grade C in future years.

Risk Impact

5.6 None

6.0 Community Impact

Consultation

6.1 None

Equality and Diversity Impact

6.2 None

Social Value Impact

6.3 None

Environmental Sustainability

6.4 None

7.0 Background Papers

CODE OF PRACTICE ON LITTER AND REFUSE

LITTER IN ENGLAND, THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURVEY OF ENGLAND 2017/18

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE 13 AUGUST 2020 AGENDA ITEM 8 LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURVEY 2020

THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SURVEY OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE 2021

Appendix 1

About Keep Britain Tidy

Keep Britain Tidy is an independent environmental charity with three goals – to eliminate litter, improve local places and prevent waste.

We understand that we cannot reach our goals by working alone, so we work with businesses, schools, communities, individuals, government - local and national – and other charities and voluntary organisations.

We know that if people care for the environment on their own doorstep – the local park, the street in which they live, the river that runs through their area – then the environment, the community and the individual will all benefit.

How can we expect people to understand and care about global environmental issues if they don't understand the importance of, or care about, their own local environment?

Keep Britain Tidy is a charity with a wealth of experience and expertise. We have been working and campaigning to eliminate litter, improve local places and prevent waste for many years. We want to share that experience and expertise with others, supporting businesses, communities, schools and government.

We fund our work by offering services and expertise to those who can benefit from them, by delivering accreditation schemes for parks, beaches, schools and public spaces and by developing relationships with partners in the corporate sector to support our research and campaign activities.

CONTENTS

1. Introduction

Project Background

Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) used the updated survey methodology for this survey which uses Low Super Output Areas (LSOA) and randomly assigned survey points within each chosen LSOA. This removes any land use based bias and means the data can be used with other National data sets collected using LSOA methodology. Land uses are still assigned to each survey site and the Land use definitions can be found in Appendix 2.

The sites were graded by Keep Britain Tidy's experienced surveying team who are trained in undertaking a range of LEQ surveys. Surveyors have undertaken surveys for the annual Local Environmental Quality Survey of England (LEQSE) as well as bespoke client projects, and are trained in carrying out LEQ standards in accordance with a strict quality assurance policy.

Survey sites are a 50m section of the street or area, with all public property within that site being considered. Handheld devices were used to collect the data. This allowed GPS to capture the position of each survey site, a feature which can be used to assist in mapping trends and producing data graphics. Photographs were also taken to highlight specific LEQ issues and surveyor observations of the general condition of the area were used to provide further insight. These observations cover any points of interest from the survey locations

themselves, as well as areas within the district which were not included in the specific 50m survey sites.

The survey in South Derbyshire assessed the four key elements Litter, Detritus, Graffiti and Fly-posting. Weeds and Dog Fouling were additional elements surveyed at the request of the council. Photographs were taken of any failing elements.

Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 Corona Virus in 2020 an additional count was added specifically for any Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Litter relating specifically to this. PPE was added to the Litter types list and a separate count was made for face masks, gloves and other related items

To assess the standards on each site, each indicator was assigned a grade. The grading system follows the same principles as the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (CoPLR) which identifies four grades of cleanliness: A, B, C and D. This survey uses these plus an additional three intermediate grades, giving a total of seven grades as detailed in Figure 1. The intermediate grades are not individually defined; put simply, if cleansing at any given site is not at an A standard, but is performing better than a B standard, it would be identified as a B+.

Grade	Description
A	None of the issues present
B+	Not formally defined
B	Predominantly free with some minor instances of the issue
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C-	Not formally defined
D	Heavily affected by the issue

Figure 1. Description of the grades used in the survey

According to the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, any grade below a B grade is classed as being below an acceptable standard of LEQ.

The grades are then processed and presented in an NI195-style format. This is a percentage of sites which are below an acceptable standard, i.e. below a B grade. In keeping with the old NI195 monitoring methodology, any site receiving a B- grade is given a half-weighting, so only half of all sites graded B- will count towards the score, whereas all sites graded C, C- or D receive 'full' weighting. This allows for the fact that sites which are given a B- grade are only just below an acceptable standard and are not as bad as a C grade.

Land Uses in South Derbyshire

The split of Land Uses surveyed in South Derbyshire are shown in the table below. It is important to consider these sample sizes when reviewing the breakdown of NI195-style scores by Land Use. A number of Land Uses have small samples (below 30) which can mean a particular element can look like it has a significant issue in South Derbyshire but due to the sample size it may only affect a few survey sites.

Land Use	Count
Main Retail and Commercial	7
Other Retail and Commercial	11
High Obstruction Housing	24
Medium Obstruction Housing	64
Low Obstruction Housing	87
Industry and Warehousing	9
Main Roads	16
Rural Roads	26
Other Highways	23
Recreation Areas	33
Grand Total	**300**

Figure 2. Number of Survey Sites by Land Use

2. Survey Results

The data, once collected, can be analysed in a number of ways. It is important to understand the overall performance of the area. Therefore, two methods have traditionally been used to analyse the grades assigned to sites and to provide this overview. The methods are:

- NI195-style scores. Reviewing the percentage of sites below an acceptable standard (below a B grade); this focusses on grades at the lower end of the scale. This score is weighted to account for only half of all B- grades.

- Standard Quality Intervals (SQI). This reviews the overall grading pattern by converting the grades to a 16 point scale and provides an overview of whether an element is at a Good, Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory or Poor standard.

Both of these methods are closely linked to the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (CoPLR). This states that sites should not fall below a grade B standard and sites should be cleansed to a grade A standard. Measuring the percentage of sites below an acceptable standard highlights where sites are failing and standards need addressing. The SQI method analyses the grading pattern across all of the sites for a particular element. This conversion is based on a calculation that expects to see all sites at a grade B or above, with a proportion of sites at 'A' and 'B+' standard.

An SQI is an interval (measured in terms of quality, rather than time) over which an observant person can reliably detect that a difference in the standard of an aspect of the visible environment has occurred. The range in the 'Satisfactory' category is from +1 to +4 SQI, and the 'Good' category is +5 to +8 SQI. Similarly, the range in the 'Unsatisfactory' band is from 1 to -4 SQI and in the 'Poor' category is from -5 SQI to -8 SQI. There is no zero point on this scale.

In terms of the graphical output, SQIs are displayed in either a Gauge Chart or a Matrix Chart (Figures 5 and 6). Further explanation of these charts can be found in Appendix 3.

All Areas NI-195 Style Results

Classification	Litter	Detritus	Graffiti	Fly-posting	Weeds	Dog Fouling
All Areas	5.00%	11.11%	0.17%	0.00%	0.74%	0.00%
Main Retail and Commercial	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other Retail and Commercial	0.00%	4.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
High Obstruction Housing	16.67%	20.83%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Medium Obstruction Housing	7.03%	3.13%	0.00%	0.00%	0.78%	0.00%
Low Obstruction Housing	1.15%	7.47%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Main Roads	6.82%	18.18%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rural Roads	0.00%	42.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Industry and Warehousing	11.11%	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other Highways	13.04%	15.38%	0.00%	0.00%	11.54%	0.00%
Recreation Areas	0.00%	0.00%	1.52%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Figure 3. NI195 Style Results for South Derbyshire by Land Use

Looking at the above table South Derbyshire has excellent scores for Graffiti, Fly-posting, Weeds and Dog Fouling with 1% or less failure for these elements. Litter has an 5% failure, Detritus has the most failures at 11.11%.

Survey Year	Litter	Detritus	Graffiti	Flyposting	Weeds	Dog Fouling
2021	**5.00%**	**11.11%**	**0.17%**	**0.00%**	**0.74%**	**0.00%**
2020	4.00%	13.65%	1.00%	0.50%	2.39%	0.83%

Figure 4. NI195 Style Results for the recent surveys

Looking at figure 4 we can see that all elements have improved this year apart from Litter that has seen a 1% increase to 5.00%

Image 1, Litter – High Obstruction Housing – Windsor Close

Litter

Litter is the only element that saw an increase in failures in 2021. The 2021 survey had more A grades up from 24 to 41, there was an increase in B+ grades up from 135 to 152. In 2021 more transects were graded below a B, 25 in total up from 14 in 2020, these were 20 B- and 5 C graded there were no C- grades or D grades in 2021, compared to 1 C- in 2020.

High Obstruction Housing and Other Highways had the highest percentage of failures for Litter. Surveyors also noted that a lot of Litter in housing areas seemed to originated from the household waste stream, with much of it being recyclables such as cardboard.

Image 2, Litter - Other Highway - Wellwood Road

Detritus

Detritus is still the biggest issue in South Derbyshire with 11.11% of survey sites failing compared to 13.65% in 2020. A total of 50 out 270 (non-metalled, paved surfaces have N/A for Detritus) transects failed for Detritus. Rural Roads was the worst performing element at 42.50% followed by High Obstruction Housing at 20.83%. Surveyors noted that along with Detritus from mud and grime a lot of Detritus was formed from broken down leaf and blossom fall.

Image 3, Detritus - Ashby Road

Graffiti and Fly-posting

Graffiti and Fly-posting both scored excellently in South Derbyshire with zero failures across all land uses for Fly-posting and only one transect failed for Graffiti which was on a Recreation Area with a Graffiti on a sports club house.

Image 4, Graffiti behind Mount Road playing field

Although very relevant at the moment the Covid-19 distance signage is getting weathered and losing its impact and starting to impact the 'look' of an area so it may need refreshing a rain filled sign is shown image 5.

Image 5, Weathered Covid-19 Signage

Weeds

Weeds are not a wide spread issue in South Derbyshire. It has seen a great improvement from last year's survey with a 1.5% drop and is now under 1% failure rate overall. Only three transects failed for this issue two of these were from weeds spreading on to a footpath in Other Highways and the other being Weeds in a channel on housing.

Image 6, Weeds - Winchester Drive

Dog Fouling

For all areas Dog Fouling didn't fail on any transects this year compared to 3 last year, this year 16 transects had Dog fouling on them compared to 25 last year. The Surveyors did notice lots of anti-dog fouling signage which may be having an impact of people's behaviour in South Derbyshire. However surveyors did notice two dog bins that were over full that looked and smelt bad, timely emptying of these bins is essential for people to make the right choice in bagging and binning dog poo.

Image 7, Overfull dog bin - Linton Recreation Area (top end)

Image 8, Overfull dog bin - Off Trent Lane towards Cycle Lane

PPE

PPE was only seen on eight transects or 2.7% of transects this is a low level compared to data collected from other Local Authorities. Seven transects had 1 mask on them the remaining transect had 3 gloves on them and the surveyor noted it looked like a hot spot for people dropping this litter.
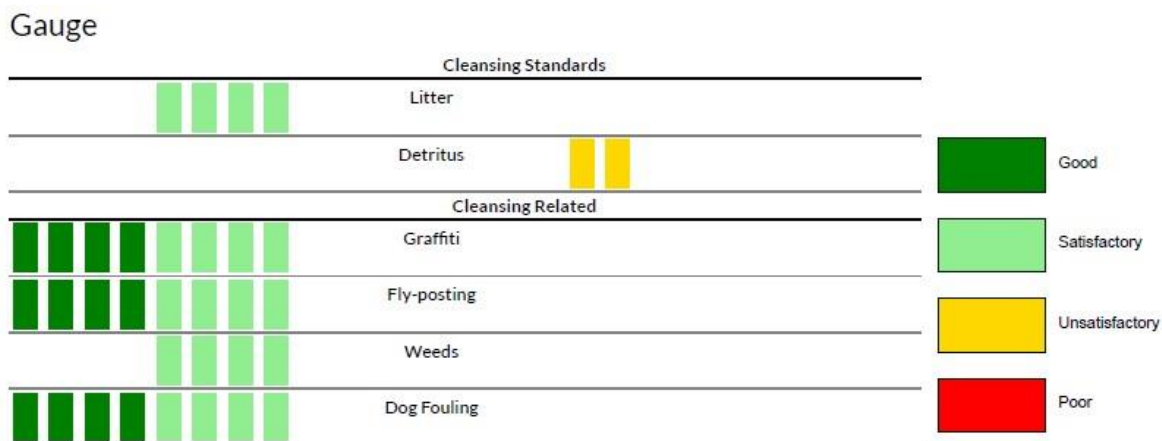
Gauge Chart

Figure 5, Gauge Chart of all elements - All areas

In the gauge chart it can be seen that litter is +4 SQI 'Satisfactory', an increase of 1SQI from last year. Graffiti, Fly-posting and Dog Fouling are an excellent +8 SQI 'Good', the same as last year. Weeds are +4SQI 'Satisfactory' same as last year. Detritus is -2SQI 'Unsatisfactory' which is 1SQI lower than last year's survey.

Image 9, Detritus from Leaf and Blossom Fall

Matrix Chart

Figure 6, Matrix Chart

When looking at the Matrix Chart there needs to be some caution when looking at land uses due to the sample size. It can be seen for Litter, Industry & Warehousing is the only Land use that is 'Unsatisfactory', five are 'Satisfactory' and four are 'Good'. Graffiti, Fly-posting and Dog Fouling across all Land uses are 'Good'. Weeds have three land uses that are 'Good' and seven that are 'Satisfactory'.

Detritus is the only element that has a 'Poor' land use on Rural Roads, across seven land uses it is 'Unsatisfactory' it is 'Satisfactory' on Recreation Areas and 'Good' on Main Retail & Commercial.

Surveyor Observations

Surveyors noted that the combined housing Land uses have the most failures for Litter, they noted that quite a lot of the litter seemed to come from the household waste stream especially cardboard and drinks containers. This could be a by-product of more packaging from online shopping but maybe something that needs monitoring to improve LEQ in the area.

Images 10, Litter from Household waste stream

Surveyors noted that Detritus is still a problem in South Derbyshire, this year there seemed to be a lot originating from Leaf & Blossom Fall this could be down to reduced sweeping or during a wet autumn making sweeping up leaf fall more problematic. Although Weeds have improved from last year if this Detritus is still there in summer months it could give a medium for Weeds to grow in and this element could get worse.

Image 11, Detritus and Litter - Acacia Ave

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Following on from last year's results we can still see that overall South Derbyshire has no issues with Graffiti and Fly-posting. Surveyors did note the Covid-19 distancing poster were getting weathered and may need replacing or removing as they may start to affect the 'Look' of an area.

Litter has gotten slightly worse in 2021 compared to 2020 with 5% of transects failing compared to 4%. Tackling Litter on housing transects especially litter from the Household waste stream may help to improve the Litter results.

Detritus is still the main issue in South Derbyshire, although it has seen an improvement on the 2020 survey with a fall from 13.65% to 11.11%. The 2021 survey had less Rural Road transects than 2020 but 13 out of 20 transects that were surveyed had an issue with Detritus on them so it looks like there still is an issue on this land use. All land uses had Detritus failures in 2021 apart from Main Retail & Commercial so it is an issue on all Land Uses. Surveyors noted that along with Mud and Grime, Leaf and Blossom Fall was a source of Detritus timely cleaning of leaf fall before it is broken down may help to improve the Detritus results along with regular sweeping in all Land Uses.

Weed growth has also improved in 2021 and less than 1% of transects fail for this issue.

Dog fouling has seen a great improvement in 2021 with no failures and dog fouling only being recorded on 16 transects compared to 25 in 2020. Surveyors noted 2 overfull dog bins that impacted the LEQ of the local area, making sure that these are emptied will help people dispose of dog waste correctly.

Keeping up the current cleansing regimes on Litter, Graffiti, Fly-posting and Weed Growth will keep these excellent results.

For further information about our range of services contact our Litter & Place Services team via network.enquiries@keepbritaintidy.org

Appendix 1: Definition of Terms

Alcoholic drinks related – all items associated with alcoholic drinks; this includes cans, bottles, wine cartons, identifiable bottle tops and ring pulls, labels from bottles, beer/spirit/shot glasses, etc.

ATM slips – financial receipts associated with automated cash machines.

Bagged dog faeces – dog faeces that are placed in a bag and left, whether the bag is on the ground or in a shrub/tree, etc.

Balloons – full or in part, inflated or deflated, including the stick or ribbon.

Clinical packaging – any packaging associated with any clinical waste, such as condom packets, pill packets, plaster packaging, etc.

Clinical wastes – any material that could have come into contact with human or bodily fluids. This includes excrement or material associated with medical, dental or veterinary activities, and materials of similar kinds which may have emanated from domestic or other residential properties, e.g. cotton buds, plasters, discarded nappies and other sanitary products, pill packets, condoms and needles used by drug abusers.

Clothing – including underwear, shoes, gloves, hats, and any other identifiable items of clothing, even if ripped or damaged.

Commercial wastes – materials discarded by all types of business, such as retail, catering, commercial, industrial and transport enterprises. Some premises, such as restaurants and hotels, can discard wastes that are similar to domestic refuse but which are treated differently because of their source and the large quantities that are usually involved.

Confectionery material – all types of confectionery material, such as sweet wrappers, chocolate wrappers, lollipop/iced lollipop sticks, chewing gum wrappers, etc., but not the confectionery itself.

Construction waste – includes all materials which appear to have originated directly from construction works (e.g. building and civil engineering projects). However, if materials appear to have been intentionally dumped or abandoned, they should be recorded as 'fly tipping'.

Detritus – comprises dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic and other finely divided materials. Detritus includes leaf and blossom fall which has substantially lost its structure and has become mushy or fragmented (i.e. it can no longer be considered as recent leaf and blossom fall).

Discarded food/drink – small amounts of dropped or spilt food and drink. If there is evidence that it has been discarded from a food outlet or retail premises, it is classified as commercial waste. If the amounts of spilt food/drink are deemed large enough to attract vermin or produce an unpleasant odour due to decay, then they should be classified as putrescible waste.

Domestic waste – all materials normally found in domestic (household) waste containers; this can include waste stored in bags and wheeled bins. Domestic refuse can be spillage from a collection vehicle or waste arising from the dwelling.

Fast food related – packaging and paraphernalia related to freshly prepared, ready-to-eat food and drink, which is dropped by customers while sitting in, or passing through, an area. This includes wrappings, boxes, drinks containers, plastic straws, plastic cutlery, branded paper napkins, all sandwich cartons, salt sachets, etc. Fast-food premises include hot food takeaway premises, coffee shops, and all other retail outlets that sell pre-prepared foods (with short shelf lives) in a format that can be consumed in public places, including bakeries, supermarkets and mobile catering units.

Flyposting – any printed material which is unauthorised and either informally or illegally fixed to any structure. It includes all sizes of material, from small self-adhesive stickers to large posters – often advertising popular music recordings, concerts and other events. It excludes formally managed and approved advertising hoardings and any other authorised legally placed signs and notices (unless they are out-of- date).

Fly-tipping – comprises quantities of dumped materials, where there is evidence of attempted abandonment or concealment of the materials in question. The sources may vary, for example domestic refuse, bulky household goods, commercial or construction wastes, or travel/vehicle related wastes (old tyres, abandoned/burnt out cars).

General litter – items dropped or discarded by people (e.g. pedestrians, cyclists or drivers and passengers in vehicles) in public spaces. This category includes the types of materials that most people regard as litter – smokers' materials, sweet papers, fast-food packaging, drinks containers, etc.

Graffiti – any informal or illegal marks, scratchings, carvings, drawings or paintings that have been deliberately made by a person or persons on any physical element comprising public space.

Harmful Waste – any waste which has the potential to be harmful to people, animals and the environment, e.g. broken glass, batteries, aerosols, paint and oil tins, etc.

Industry related – waste which appears to have originated directly from commercial production, assembly or repair of goods and/or materials. Found most frequently on industrial estates, this often includes nuts, bolts, metal/plastic/wood fragments, and vehicle parts outside commercial garages.

Lottery related – scratch cards, lottery tickets and receipts.

Newspaper/magazines – part or whole newspapers and/or magazines including those which have been purchased, those which are available free of charge, and any supplements and inserts.

Non-alcoholic drinks related – all items associated with non-alcoholic drinks including cans, bottles, cartons, identifiable bottle tops and ring-pulls, straws, labels from bottles, etc. This excludes those items arising from fast food outlets, which should be classified as fast food litter.

Other Packaging – any packaging material which is deemed to have been dropped by a member of the public, rather than originating from a commercial or domestic source, but which is not captured by another category. For example, a soft drinks bottle is packaging but will be recorded as non-alcoholic drinks related litter. Examples of 'other packaging' include cellophane wrapping from around CDs and blister packaging from toys.

Paper tissues – paper tissues or toilet paper which appears to have come into contact with bodily fluids; this would be regarded as clinical waste. Branded paper napkins from fast food outlets which are deemed not to have come into contact with bodily fluids would be classified as fast food litter.

Post Office related – includes small, thick elastic bands used by the Post Office to fasten groups of mail together, which are often discarded by postal workers. This also includes information cards, for example, those used to advise that a parcel is waiting at a collection point.

Putrescible Waste – any items of waste in sufficient quantities that it may attract vermin, or produce an unpleasant smell due to decay. Putrescible waste can include carrion and large amounts of food, e.g. food spilt from a domestic or commercial waste collection.

Retail litter (all types) – waste that appears to have originated from all types of retail premises; for example, from fast food outlets, bakeries, cafés, fruit and veg. stores, butchers, convenience stores, clothing and electrical stores.

Smokers' materials – all types of items discarded by people using tobacco products, including cigarettes and cigarette ends, cigars, matchsticks/boxes, cigarette and cigar boxes/wrappers, disposable lighters, etc.

Snack packs – all items of packaging litter (excluding the contents) that are associated with pre-baked/preprepared snack foods, e.g. crisp packets, biscuit packaging, cake wrappers or containers, etc.

Solid gum – discarded, chewed chewing gum that has not been squashed into the pavement. This could include gum stuck to litter bins, posts or other street furniture.

Staining – any material that discolours surfaces comprising public spaces in an unplanned way, including chewing gum after it has been trodden into a paved surface, and general mud and grime that can build up in the absence of rainfall or street washing.

Supermarket plastic bags – supermarket chain branded plastic carrier bags.

Telephone cards – mobile phone pre-pay cards, international calling cards, etc.

Till receipts – receipts from any retail outlet.

Travel related – bus, train, tram and other public transport tickets, car parking pay-and-display stickers and fixed penalty tickets or sleeves.

Vehicle parts – these include any part of a motorised vehicle, including bodywork, engine parts, numberplates, wheel trims, exhaust (or part(s) of), and light or window glass, which appear to have

originated from a vehicle. They may have been displaced by either wear and tear (i.e. falling off), roadside repairs or due to accidents. However, if the vehicle parts appear to have been deliberately dumped then they should be assessed as 'fly-tipping'. If they appear to have originated from a commercial garage, they should be classified as 'industry' under commercial waste.

Wastes placed out – waste either contained or uncontained which is judged to have been placed out for an expected collection. If there is any evidence that the waste has been intentionally dumped or abandoned, then it should be recorded as fly-tipping.

Weed growth – any plant that is growing in a location where it is not intended, including where plants or grass are encroaching on paved areas in an unplanned way – usually in colonising accumulations of detritus or along cracks and joints in paving. 'Weed growth' includes weeds that have been sprayed with weed killer and may be dead but have not yet been removed.

Appendix 2: Land Use Definitions

All land uses include publically accessible land which can be managed by either local authorities or private land owners.

Main Retail and Commercial Areas

This land use consists of the main town and city retail and commercial centres. Urban tourist 'hot spots' which are wholly or partially separated from a main town or city retail and commercial centre are also included in this land use.

Main Retail and Commercial areas contain a choice of outlets in a range of different retail and commercial sectors (such as fashion clothing, financial services, restaurants, bars and entertainment), and will include national and international brand names. Normally, there is also a range of public facilities, including libraries, museums, law courts and places of worship.

Other Retail and Commercial Areas

This land use class covers retail and commercial areas which are primarily located outside main city and town retail and commercial centres (but excludes out-of-town or edge-of-town 'retail park/retail shed' developments, which are included with industry, warehousing and science parks).

Other Retail and Commercial areas usually contain a range of facilities that mainly meet the needs of local residents. Most premises contain individual private businesses, sometimes branches of regional chains (such as bakers), and occasionally national brand names. They can also be home to civic facilities, areas of office and hotel development, and areas of mixed retail, office, hotel and entertainment uses.

High Obstruction Housing Areas

Housing areas should be classified as 'High Obstruction Housing' if the proportion of dwellings with purposebuilt off-street parking facilities is less than or equal to 50%. In these areas, there is a high

risk of obstruction to mechanical channel sweeping operations (e.g. obstruction from parked cars). High Obstruction Housing areas can also include occasional small retail premises, offices, manufacturing, and warehousing sites.

This land use class includes various housing types, such as:

- terraced housing

- alleyways behind and between housing areas where there is direct access to properties

- flats and maisonettes with only limited off-street parking

- semi-detached and short terraced dwellings with limited or no purpose made off-street vehicle parking, or parking provision which is not large enough for the use of modern vehicles.

Medium Obstruction Housing Areas

Housing areas should be classified as 'Medium Obstruction Housing' if more than 50% of dwellings have purpose-made off-street parking/garaging facilities for up to 2 modern-day family cars.

This land use includes housing types such as:

- private housing, often where passageways at the side of houses are too narrow for most currentday cars

- council housing originally built with no off-street parking, where limited off-street parking has since been provided for some properties

- modern developments with limited off-street parking

- modern developments of flats with parking underneath

- terraced housing with garage facilities or rear access parking for up to 2 cars.

Low Obstruction Housing Areas

This land use includes all types of housing where more than 50% of properties have purpose-made off-road garaging/parking within the property boundary for three or more cars. In these areas, there is generally a low risk of obstruction to mechanical channel sweeping operations.

The space available should be capable of accommodating all the parking requirements of residents (including, where applicable, boats and caravans, etc.) and most of the demand from visitors to the premises.

This category includes maisonettes and flats, as long as the parking is contained within the property boundary. In low obstruction housing areas, it is likely that there will be few or no vehicles parked on-street, and significant on-street parking is the exception rather than the rule.

Industry (Industry, Warehousing, Retail Sheds and Science Parks)

This class includes industrial and warehousing developments, out-of-town retail parks (including food and non-food developments), and science parks (containing offices, laboratories and manufacturing processes).

The following sub-types would be classified as 'industry, warehousing, retail sheds and science parks' sites: classic estates primarily dedicated to heavy industry and warehousing, retail sheds and areas with large retail units, hospitals, business/science parks and campus (such as university or college properties).

Main Roads

Main Roads are all 'A' roads. However, if a main road is situated within Main Retail and Commercial, Other Retail and Commercial, or High Obstruction Housing area, then that transect should be recorded as that land use and not as a Main Road, due to the potential obstruction caused.

Rural Roads

This class comprises of all highways that are located outside built-up areas and are not included in the Main Roads or Other Highways land use classes, whether 'rural' in character or not.

Other Highways

Other Highways are made up of the following:

- Formal lay-bys, informal lay-bys, stub roads, underpasses, footbridges, un-metalled bridleways, metalled bridleways, narrow routes and alleyways, cycle ways and 'other' - this includes any other highway which is not listed above.

Recreation Areas

This land use is a combination of public open space and watersides. 'Public open space' includes parks, recreation areas, grassed areas, picnic sites, and paved areas (which are not classed as either main or other retail or commercial locations). Officially signed and/or marked public footpaths and deconsecrated cemeteries should also be included in this land use category. 'Watersides' includes all publicly accessible areas adjacent to ponds, lakes, reservoirs, canals, rivers and estuaries.

Appendix 3: Explanation of scoring methods and charts

NI195

National Indicator 195 was a statutory requirement for all local authorities until 2010. The indicator takes the grades from sites and produces a percentage of sites deemed to be below an acceptable standard. In accordance to CoPLR, any site graded below a grade B is classed as unacceptable.

NI195-style scores are weighted scores which classify a B- grade as a half-fail, so only 50% of sites graded as B- are included in the NI195-style percentage. All sites below a B- grade are classed as 'whole' fails, so no weighting is applied to C, C- and D grades. The combined percentage for sites below a B grade produces the NI195-style score.

Overall Quality Standards

Local Environmental Quality Survey results can be presented in a number of ways, using different levels of detail for different purposes. Throughout this report the overall standards achieved are summarised as being 'Good', 'Satisfactory', 'Unsatisfactory' or 'Poor'. These are defined as follows:

'**Good**' – an exceptionally high standard that is unlikely to be maintained in all places at all times. This standard should be achieved after a service intervention (such as street sweeping) has taken place where the overall physical condition of the infrastructure in the survey area is satisfactory.

'**Satisfactory**' – this classification indicates that a survey area is not completely free of the environmental issue that is being reported – for example, there will be some Graffiti present – however the extent to which it is present is unlikely to be noticed by most people walking or travelling through the survey area.

'**Unsatisfactory**' – the environmental element in question is present to such a degree that many people passing through an area will notice it and some may regard it as worthy of criticism.

'**Poor**' – the condition of the environmental element in question has deteriorated to such a degree that few people would fail to notice it and most people would regard that standard as a matter for criticism.

The aim for Local Environmental managers, therefore, is to ensure that the condition of environmental elements does not fall below the lower end of the 'Satisfactory' scale before the next service intervention takes place. The threshold for a 'Satisfactory' standard is set at a point which is achievable in normal circumstances, given suitable equipment and diligence, and where most members of the public would perceive the standard to be satisfactory for the element in question.

Standard Quality Intervals

Each of the four Quality Categories ('Good', 'Satisfactory', 'Unsatisfactory' and 'Poor') covers a range of standards, and can be sub-divided into four Standard Quality Intervals (SQIs). These are shown as sets of coloured blocks on the relevant charts. Each SQI block represents an interval over which a reasonably acute person should see that a small, qualitative difference in standard has occurred for the local environmental element being examined, e.g. Litter, Detritus, Fly-posting or Graffiti.

The SQI scale runs from +8 SQI at the upper end of the 'Good' category to –8 SQI at the bottom end of the 'Poor' category. There is no zero data point.

Dark Green is a 'Good' standard (+5 SQI to +8 SQI)

Light Green is a 'Satisfactory' standard (+1 SQI to +4 SQI)

Yellow is an 'Unsatisfactory' standard (-1 SQI to - 4

SQI) Red is a 'Poor' standard (-5 SQI to -8 SQI).

Gauge Chart

The Gauge Chart indicates the position of an environmental element within its overall quality category using a 'fuel gauge' graphic. Each of the four quality categories ('Good', 'Satisfactory', 'Unsatisfactory', and 'Poor') is sub-divided into four Standard Quality Intervals (SQI).

Each SQI represents an interval over which a reasonably acute person should see that a small, qualitative difference in standard has occurred for the local environmental element being examined.

The scale on a Gauge Chart runs from +8 SQI at the upper end of the 'Good' category (with +4 SQI being the top end of the 'Satisfactory' scale) to -8 SQI at the bottom end of the 'Poor' category (with -4 SQI being the lower end of the 'Unsatisfactory' category). This is the same scale as detailed under 'Standard Quality Intervals'.

Matrix Chart

The Matrix Chart provides a strategic overview of standards by element across all relevant Land Uses. The standard applicable to a particular element and Land Use is simply shown at an overall Standard Quality Interval (SQI), using the relevant colour – dark green (Good), light green (Satisfactory), amber (Unsatisfactory), or red (Poor).