



Service Delivery Committee	Tuesday, 22 March 2016	Matter for Information
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Title: Corporate Enforcement Update

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1. Introduction

This report is intended to provide an update to Members on the corporate enforcement activity of the Council.

2. Recommendations

To note the contents of the report which is presented for information only.

3. Information

3.1. Graffiti in the Borough

The Council's Community Safety Manager, Environmental Health Team, Environmental Development and Operational Services (EDOS) Team along with our Policing partners of Leicestershire Police and British Transport Police are working better together in a more proactive and co-ordinated approach. Work is underway to identify persons or person responsible for damage to area's around South Wigston rail station and associated land where a number, approximately four incidents of graffiti have occurred in the past month. The Community Safety Manager is in contact with Network Rail who have improved fencing to area's prone to vandalism.

Our EDOS team respond promptly (within 24hours) prioritising graffiti removal where it impacts on:

- Safety;
- Offensive, racist and of a sexist nature;
- Visible to the community; and
- Other graffiti as resources allow.

Our Environmental Health Team work with private land and property owners who have ultimate responsibility for graffiti removal however, we assist, where we are able in removal. A recent example:

- Graffiti clearance around Blunts Lane, Wigston – graffiti on private land was cleared by OWBC with condition that in future it will be cleared by private owners. This action taken was due to regularly used thoroughfare and impact on our public.

3.2. Fly Tipping

Fly tipping investigations – We recently completed two investigations following complaints. One resulted in the offender removing the vehicle, the same day but it was not in the public interest to prosecute. Another case example demonstrates the difficulties we have when householders use unregistered waste carriers. The case involved a householder using an unregistered waste carrier to remove waste which was later found fly tipped. Homeowners are still responsible under their 'Duty of Care'. We were unable to trace the alleged offender. Three members of the public reported this but only one witnessed it taking place but refused to give a formal statement making investigation difficult to progress.

3.3. Abandoned Vehicles

We received 28 complaints and we have removed seven abandoned vehicles as a result since November 2015.

3.4. Dog Fouling

The Community Safety Manager responds promptly to reports from our members and members of our community to incidents of dog fouling. The Community Safety Manager with volunteer staff embark on impromptu patrols to identified hotspots and public spaces such as parks, car-parks and our Brocks Hill Country Park. Patrols are conducted by upwards of four officers wearing hi-vis jackets aimed at raising awareness to the possibility of 'enforcement', please see example photograph, below.



The intention behind the patrols is to raise awareness and promote responsible dog ownership through advice, education, support and where necessary enforcement although we still have some work to do around the enforcement aspect which, is being

addressed.

Members of our community are becoming increasingly aware of our dog fouling patrols as are our members. Recently several members have asked for patrols to be implemented around Oadby and South Wigston however, we are happy to report that the Borough cannot be described as a dog fouling hot spot as officers tend to witness responsible dog ownership with very little evidence of wide scale dog fouling. Where potential hot spots or areas emerging as possible hot spots have been identified we work, implement initiatives with Environmental Health colleagues to stencil pavements, footpaths and park area's to alert dog owners of possible penalties.

Our Environmental Health Team, Environmental Development and Operational Services (EDOS) work proactively with us in installation of additional dog waste bins.

The Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 presents greater opportunities for possible dog control where education and raising awareness fails to tackle particular problem areas.

Public Spaces Protection Orders would enable the Council, with approval of members, to introduce controls such as:-

- Exclusions of dogs from particular areas;
- Requirements to pick up dog mess in specified areas;
- Requirements to have dogs on leads in specified areas; and
- Persons in control of dogs to carry the means to pick up dog mess.

At the moment dog fouling does not present a major problem within our Borough but we are ever mindful of this increasing particularly in the spring and summer months when we will step up various initiatives.

Our Environmental Health service has been going through a number of improvements and is recruiting permanent staff. Once the recruitment process has taken place we will be looking at reporting to members on the possible use of new powers to allow us to take action where other initiatives aimed at education may not be working.

3.5. Licensing Update

A full time licensing officer has been recruited to complement the existing team and we anticipate our new colleague will commence work with us later this month.

Proactive work around the general licensing remit has presented some difficulties due to staffing which we hope we have now resolved.

We have been particularly busy around licensing taxi driver and vehicle licensing however, we will mitigate this when our new colleague takes up the post.

A new chairperson has been elected to the Pub-watch scheme their next meeting was held on the 8th March.

The Community Safety Partnership (funded by The Council and Office of The Police and Crime Commissioner) have funded several Test Purchase (TP) operations where a young person is used in attempts to purchase alcohol.

During January to the 6th March this year (2016) twenty two premises licensed to sell alcohol on or off the premises were visited by a specially recruited young person aged 16 years and undisclosed months (the young person is not recruited from within the Borough or surrounding area) who attempts to purchase alcohol. In all cases Inn keepers and vendors refused the sale of alcohol. Test purchases will continue throughout 2016

It may help members to know that if licensees sell alcohol they are dealt with proportionately by the police and trading standards. Sanctions may include warnings and interventions such as to compel failing sellers to take the BTEC Level 2 – Award in preventing underage sales course.

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	No significant implications.
Legal (AC)	No significant implications.
Risk (AC)	CR6 – Complying with relevant legislations. CR1 – Decrease in financial resources.
Equalities (AC)	No significant implications.