

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

07 November 2016

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1. WASTE & STREET SCENE SERVICES UPDATE

Summary

This report provides an update on a number of projects and initiatives within Waste & Street Scene services.

1.1 Dog Warden Service – RSPCA Gold Award

1.1.1 For the fifth year running, TMBC has been awarded the Community Animal Welfare Footprints Gold Award for Stray Dog Services from the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals (RSPCA). The award reflects both the Council's commitment to dog welfare over and above the statutory requirements, as well as its Dog Warden, Lorraine Baseden's personal and professional commitment and dedication in her role and the promotion of responsible dog ownership.

1.1.2 There are three categories in the Stray Dog Services Award, bronze, silver and gold. The Council won the Gold Award by showing that, as well as maintaining high standards of service for dealing with stray dogs, the service it provides goes beyond the call of duty by offering an out-of-hours collection service in addition to the provision of kennelling services, by micro-chipping stray dogs before they are returned to their owners or re-homed and by running pro-active initiatives to encourage responsible dog ownership.

1.2 KCC Waste Disposal Strategy – Consultation Questionnaire

1.2.1 Members may be aware that Kent County Council, as Waste Disposal Authority, is currently reviewing its Waste Disposal strategy. Officers, and our then Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Environmental Services, have received updates on this process through the Kent Resource Partnership.

1.2.2 Full details of the draft strategy and consultation process were publicised and made available on KCC's website:

1.2.3 The deadline for this part of the consultation process was 2 October 2016, although we are advised that there will be further opportunities to comment at the next stage in spring 2017. Officers discussed the key areas of TMBC's response

in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Environment and our Kent Resource Partnership Member, and included the following.

- Highlighting potential opportunities for partnership working to develop efficiencies in collection systems to compliment disposal systems.
- To acknowledge lack of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) within the borough and give proper consideration during the review and evaluation of sites across Kent.
- To explore opportunities to accept additional materials at disposal facilities to assist in reducing potential fly tipping.
- To continue to work with districts through the Kent Resource Partnership to ensure that accurate, timely and meaningful information is provided regarding disposal data to assist in raising public awareness of waste & recycling services.

1.2.4 A copy of TMBC's response to the consultation questionnaire can be made available to Members on request.

1.3 Oil Bank Recycling

1.3.1 Members may be aware that, for many years, the Council has provided facilities for residents to dispose of their own used motor engine oil. The used oil was then treated by a specialist company to make it suitable for re-use.

1.3.2 Two specially designed oil banks were located at the Three Elms Petrol Station, Golden Green and the Parkfoot Petrol Station, West Malling via long-standing arrangements with the business owners.

1.3.3 Although the costs of having the banks emptied on a regular basis over the years had been fairly minimal, in recent months the costs had significantly increased and were considered prohibitively expensive. In addition, the banks were beginning to show signs of excessive wear and tear and it was therefore decided to remove them before they required costly replacement.

1.3.4 In consultation with the two business owners and the Waste Disposal Authority information was provided to the public about the planned removal of the banks. The information, displayed on signs at the two sites and on the Council's website, also identified alternative disposal points operated by the County Council i.e. the Household Waste Recycling Centres at Dunbrik, Sevenoaks, Tovil in Maidstone and North Farm, Tunbridge Wells.

1.3.5 The oil banks were removed for safe disposal by a specialist contractor in early October.

1.3.6 The facilities operated by the County Council are for the use of residents only and not for commercial operators e.g. local vehicle repairers / garages etc.

1.4 National Litter Strategy – TMBC Input to Defra Project Group

1.4.1 Members may be aware that the Government is currently looking at the problems associated with littering and is working with a number of groups and organisations to produce a National Litter Strategy.

1.4.2 This borough council has a good track record regarding its own litter campaigns, raising public awareness and involving the local community in a range of projects and initiatives. Regular updates of our litter campaigns have been reported to this board and Members will have been personally involved in many of these initiatives over the years.

1.4.3 Following a submission to the Local Government Association last year highlighting a number of the borough council's litter awareness and local community initiatives, Officers were contacted by Defra earlier this year. The Head of Waste & Street Scene was invited to give a presentation to Defra's Litter Strategy Community Engagement Project Group in October 2016.

1.4.4 It was pleasing to note that the Defra Project Group was particularly interested and impressed with the range of initiatives introduced and our engagement with the local community on:

- The Voluntary Litter Code (initially developed in Larkfield by local resident and neighbourhood watch coordinator, Stuart Olsson).
- Street Monitors Scheme
- LitterGram (our recent work in developing the Council Portal and our case study with LitterGram)
- Snodland Goes Cleaner Project
- “Bash the Trash” and “Bag & Flag” events

1.5 Waste Services Contract – Preparation for 2019

1.5.1 Members may be aware that our main Waste Services Contract is due to expire in February 2019 and officers are currently working with colleagues to explore a number of options for the future delivery of these services.

1.5.2 An internal Officer Project Group has been set up involving colleagues across services, including Waste & Street Scene, Health & Safety, Legal and Financial Services.

1.5.3 Through the Kent Resource Partnership West Kent Officer Group, officers are also exploring partnership opportunities to develop more consistent and cost

effective collection and disposal systems. Some modelling of the potential options is already underway and the accompanying cost illustrations will be a key factor in this process.

- 1.5.4 There is an ever growing list of considerations and a significant amount of preparatory work involved in taking this project forward. One of the key elements is potential partnership working and it is essential that is explored and determined at an early stage.
- 1.5.5 It is intended that a fuller report, with partnership and service delivery options, some guiding principles, an outline timetable and the key decisions on this process be brought to the next meeting of this board in February 2017.

1.6 Borough Council Recycling Sites

- 1.6.1 This report advises Members that the Council has received requests from the respective landowners, to remove its recycling banks from the current sites at Quarry Hill Road, Borough Green and Hadlow College campus, Hadlow.
- 1.6.2 Officers are currently working with the landowners, Crest Nicholson and Hadlow College respectively, and the local Parish Councils to identify and evaluate options for the relocation of these recycling facilities.

1.7 1.7 Refuse and Recycling Collections Rescheduling

- 1.7.1 Members will recall that a report was brought to the 6 June 2016 Board advising of plans by the Council's contractor, Veolia, to reschedule the collection services in some parts of the borough in order to accommodate both recent and planned domestic property growth between now and the end of the contract (end of February 2019).
- 1.7.2 This work is ongoing and we are still advised that there are no plans to change the refuse and recycling weeks of the areas being reviewed but that there may be some need to change collection days for a small proportion of properties..
- 1.7.3 Once the rescheduled round(s) are agreed there will be a period of time to allow for communications with residents where day changes are to be introduced. We would anticipate a period of approximately six weeks to enable us to properly prepare and deliver the information to residents.
- 1.7.4 Assuming that the rescheduled rounds are agreed by the end of this calendar year implementation of the changes are expected to occur in the early Spring 2017.
- 1.7.5

1.8 Legal Implications

1.8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide refuse and recycling collection services. The proposed arrangements ensure that the Council complies with that duty.

1.9 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.9.1 There are no specific costs associated with this update. Any additional costs or efficiency savings arising from the initiatives or services in this report will be subject to further reports to Members.

1.10 Risk Assessment

1.10.1 Careful planning, good communication with residents and coordinated arrangements for collections, help to ensure minimal disruption and effective delivery of these high profile services.

Background papers:

Nil

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