

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

20 June 2017

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 Refuse and Recycling Collections Rescheduling

1.1.1 Members may recall that a report was brought to the 6 June 2016 meeting of this Board advising on plans by the Council's contractor, Veolia, to reschedule the collection services in some parts of the borough. This is in order to accommodate both recent and planned domestic property growth between now and the end of the contract (end of February 2019).

1.1.2 This work was somewhat delayed due to management changes at Veolia but is now ready to implement. A total of 2822 properties are in some way affected although 851 of these will not notice any change as they are simply a case of change of vehicle and crew and not a day or week change. The reschedule covers parts of Kings Hill, central Tonbridge, the London Road (A20) from West Malling to Wrotham Heath, new developments at Aylesford, The Lakes at Larkfield and Holborough Lakes.

1.1.3 In summary the changes will only affect a relatively small number of properties, as follows.

Round (vehicle and crew only) changes: 851

Day changes only: 1196

Week changes only: 104

Day and Week changes: 671

Total: 2822

1.1.4 The rescheduled round(s) have been agreed with Veolia and communications with residents are being prepared to inform them of the changes. These communications will include letters and leaflets to residents where there will be a

day and / or week change and amendment of the on-line look up tool for individual addresses' collection days.

- 1.1.5 It is proposed to commence the new collection schedule in July 2017.

1.2 Christmas and New Year Collections 2017/18

- 1.2.1 Although it may seem a little early to be advising Members on the Christmas and New Year collection arrangements, this does allow extra planning time and the opportunity to include additional notifications to residents with their collection calendars.

- 1.2.2 Unlike last year, where there was no need to suspend green waste collections for any borough resident, the services will revert to a similar approach to prior years in order to ensure consistency of collection of black bin waste. This means that the green waste collection service from properties due on Monday 25 December will be suspended for one collection cycle. In this way, service disruption can be kept to a minimum, with only 10 per cent of properties affected by this change.

- 1.2.3 While it is unlikely that these arrangements will change, they are still subject to final confirmation from Kent County Council (Waste Disposal Authority), who will be confirming the availability of disposal sites.

Changes to collections during Christmas and New Year weeks

- 1.2.4 Where the normal collection day is a MONDAY there will be no collection in Christmas week; all other normal collection days will be collected one day late. In the New Year week all collections will be one day late.

<u>Normal Collection Day</u>	<u>Collection Day in Christmas and New Year Weeks</u>
Monday 25 th December	No collection this week
Tuesday 26 th December	Wednesday 27 th December
Wednesday 27 th December	Thursday 28 th December
Thursday 28 th December	Friday 29 th December
Friday 29 th December	Saturday 30 th December
Monday 1 st January	Tuesday 2 nd January
Tuesday 2 nd January	Wednesday 3 rd January
Wednesday 3 rd January	Thursday 4 th January

Thursday 4 th January	Friday 5 th January
Friday 5 th January	Saturday 6 th January

- 1.2.5 As in previous years, we will temporarily suspend our “no extra waste” policy. Additional sacks of waste will be taken along with the black bin collections for all properties during the two Christmas and New Year weeks.
- 1.2.6 Advance notification to residents will be included in their recycling calendars, in News Releases and on bin tags on the lead up to the Christmas period. Details will also be publicised on our website and via our telephone message system.

Saturday bulky household waste and WEEE service during December 2017 and January 2018

- 1.2.7 To enable the collection of waste from all properties over the Christmas and New Year period it is necessary to work the Saturday 30th December and Saturday 6th January. This means that the refuse collection vehicles and crews will not be available to provide the normal Saturday bulky household waste and WEEE on those two weekends. The Saturday bulky household waste and WEEE schedule will therefore be as follows:

Saturday 6th January	Saturday 13th January	Saturday 20th January	Saturday 27th January
No Service	Weeks 1 & 2 locations	Week 3 locations	Week 4 locations

1.3 National Litter Strategy

- 1.3.1 In April 2017, DEFRA published its “National Litter Strategy”. The development of this strategy was just one of the recommendations made by the DCLG’s cross-party Select Committee report into littering and fly tipping. The strategy sets out “to apply best practice in education, enforcement and infrastructure to deliver a substantial reduction in litter and littering behaviour”. This reflects our own historic approach of the four Ps: Promotion (education & publicity), Prosecution (enforcement) and Picking Up (street cleansing infrastructure), as well as Partnership working. The strategy can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/litter-strategy-for-england>. The main aims are to:

- 1.3.2 “Send a clear and consistent anti-litter message:
- work with others to run a national anti-litter campaign

- help people to clear up litter in their local areas
- encourage young people to care about their local area
- make sure that schools have what they need to teach about litter
- encourage businesses to work with others to deal with local litter problems
- ask businesses to think about designing their products and packaging in ways which will reduce litter
- look for new ways to encourage more recycling and reducing litter”

1.3.3 “Improve enforcement against offenders:

- ask people if we should increase the fines for dropping litter (and for similar crimes like graffiti and putting up posters illegally)
- give local councils powers to fine vehicle owners if litter is thrown from it
- provide guidance to local authorities on using these powers appropriately

1.3.4 “Clean up the country:

- work to reduce litter on the country’s major roads
- make it as easy as possible for people to get rid of their rubbish properly
- work with organisations to make sure they have the right facilities to get rid of litter
- help councils in deciding where bins should be placed, what types to use and how many are needed
- make sure the code of practice for litter and refuse is clear and up to date
- support and encourage people sharing their experience of what works to reduce littering”

1.3.5 Whilst any national drive to raise awareness of the issue of littering is to be welcomed, a number of the elements included in the strategy are already being delivered by this Council and also through the Kent Resource Partnership’s (KRP) Street Scene Group. The aim of improving the enforcement powers against littering from vehicles is also to be welcomed, but will require a change to existing legislation. Currently London authorities have powers to enforce against the registered keeper of the vehicle from which litter is thrown but this is a civil enforcement power. If the proposed legislation is not fully thought through, we could end up with a two-tier enforcement approach whereby litter from vehicles

becomes a civil offence similar to parking offences, with other litter offences being a criminal offence as is currently the case.

- 1.3.6 The KRP Street Scene Group has been tasked with monitoring progress of the various strands within the strategy, and will respond to any relevant consultation as a partnership to ensure a consistent approach across Kent.

1.4 Enforcement for Waste Offences

- 1.4.1 During 2016/17, a total of seven prosecutions for fly tipping and Duty of Care offences were taken, all of which were successful. These resulted in a total of £10,713 in fines, costs, compensation & victim surcharges. Although this in no way offsets the full costs of clearing fly tips, or the cost of carrying out what can be complicated & lengthy investigations, it is pleasing to note that all prosecutions taken have been successful and fines given within existing sentencing guidelines.
- 1.4.2 Members will recall approving the use of new Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for fly tipping at their November meeting. Since then, twelve of these have been issued for lower level fly tipping offences. The option of using FPNs for appropriate offences does away with having prosecution as the only option for enforcement action. Examples of where these have been used include non-recyclable waste dumped at recycling sites, and sacks of business waste dumped on the highway. Large scale fly tips and those which have been carried out by illegal waste carriers operating commercially and by repeat offenders are more likely to result in prosecution where the offender can be identified, rather than by FPN.
- 1.4.3 In order to help raise residents' awareness of their responsibilities for ensuring legal disposal of their waste (Duty of Care), a leaflet has been developed which will go to all households this month. This will outline what checks need to be made when engaging someone to take away their waste, such as tree cuttings, builders' rubble, etc. We will also make an online form available for residents to record details of anyone taking waste away for them so that they have a record in case we find their waste fly tipped. This will include the waste carrier's Environment Agency registration number, contact details and description; registration of vehicle used; and where the waste is supposed to be disposed of. As ever, we continue to pursue the fly tippers themselves, but where residents have breached their own Duty of Care, we will still consider formal enforcement action against them as well.

1.5 Love Where You Live Initiatives

- 1.5.1 **Great British Spring Clean** The Kent Resource Partnership (KRP) supported the national Great British Spring Clean campaign which was launched over the weekend of 3 – 5 March 2017. As a group the KRP agreed to run the campaign for the whole month of March to encourage more groups to take part. In Tonbridge and Malling we supported 47 events borough-wide from Hildenborough to Wouldham and Golden Green to Mereworth. 366 volunteers collected over 269 sacks of rubbish from businesses, schools, uniform groups, parish councils, friends of groups, street monitors, churches and borough councillors. The events

attracted a huge amount of good news stories for the local and national media, with huge support on social media particularly.

1.5.2 Environmental Champions Awards 2017 supported by Veolia. This is the 9th year which Veolia have supported these wards, which seek to recognise individuals and groups in the borough who go above and beyond to make improvements in their local environment. This year 14 groups and 5 individuals will receive a Love Where You Live Environmental Champions Award. This includes Clare Park residents in East Malling, Brampton Fields Residents and McDonalds in Tonbridge for their commitment to litter picking. This also includes Tonbridge Dementia Friends gardeners and the Medway Tidal Tidy Up group from Wouldham. To date we have awarded 110 individuals and groups for various activities including running farmers' markets, leading volunteer health walks around our country parks, sprucing up children's play areas, supporting the management of local nature reserves, river clean ups and community allotment and gardening schemes.

1.5.3 The Mayor will present the awards at a ceremony at Tonbridge Castle in late June.

1.6 Legal Implications

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

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.7.1 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.

1.8 Risk Assessment

1.8.1 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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