

Report of:	Head of Environment & Health Lifestyles
Contact Officer:	David Prosser-Davies
Telephone No:	01543 464 202
Portfolio Leader:	Environment & Climate Change
Report Track:	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Cttee: 23/03/22

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
23 March 2022
Envirocrime - Review of Council's Approach

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present to Scrutiny Committee the findings and recommendations of the Envirocrime Task and Finish Group (the Group) which the Committee set up to review the Council's approach to tackling envirocrime.
- 1.2 Membership of the Task and Finish Group is shown below

Councillor Martyn Buttery	Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Louis Arduino	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Andrea Beach	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Sheila Cartwright	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Josh Newbury	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Doug Smith	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Samantha Thompson	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Lisa Wilson	Scrutiny Committee Member

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee notes the content of this report;
- 2.2 That the Committee endorses the following recommendations brought forward by the Task and Finish Group and that these be taken forward for consideration by Cabinet:
- i. Consideration be given to what other Local Authorities are implementing to tackle the issue of dog fouling;

- ii. Review the Council's social media policy to allow more direct and effective engagement by field officers with businesses (legitimate and otherwise) and administrators of on-line groups;
- iii. To review cost neutral options for engaging alternative providers to undertake issuing of fixed penalties for littering and dog fouling.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

Key Issues

- 3.1 Within its 2021-22 workplan the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee decided to review the effectiveness of the Council's approach to enviro-crime. A Task and Finish Group (the Group) was set up to look at this issue.
- 3.2 At its initial meeting on 12 October 2021 (notes are appended to the report which is included as Appendix 1 to this report) the Group received a presentation detailing what enviro-crime was and summarising the national, regional and local trends. Members were also referred to a recently published House of Commons briefing on Fly Tipping and the latest national fly tipping statistics.
- 3.3 At subsequent meetings the Group debated and reviewed fly tipping and considered a range of measures which could be adopted to improve the Council's ability to tackle certain types of envirocrime.
- 3.4 At a final meeting of the Group (see report at Appendix 1) these measures were considered in some detail and prioritised. The Group then agreed on a final selection of measures to be brought forward for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.5 Comparative benchmarking information was not provided by other Staffordshire Districts until a Freedom of Information Act request was issued. Appendix 3 shows this information and paragraph 5.6 below provides some corresponding narrative.

Reasons for recommendations

- 3.6 The recommendations will ensure continued focus on envirocrime and will allow the consideration of new and innovative solutions to tackle dog fouling, together with evaluation of cost-effective approaches to significantly increase the numbers of fixed penalties issued for littering and dog fouling. Review of the social media policy will enable enforcement officers to identify and disrupt the activities of unregistered and illegal waste carriers, which they are unable to do at present unless using their own personal social media accounts.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:
 - (i) Supporting Health & Wellbeing [tackle waste crime such as fly tipping, dog fouling & littering] - Adoption of the recommendations ensures continued

focus on these issues will ensure anti-social behaviour of this nature our streets, parks and open spaces is tackled using best practice and cost-effective solutions.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 At its initial meeting on 12 October 2021 the Group received a presentation on envirocrime and heard that:
- for the 2019-20 year, local authorities in England dealt with just under 1 million (976,000) fly-tipping incidents, an increase of 2% from the 957,000 reported in 2018/19;
 - just under two thirds (65%) of fly-tips involved household waste. Total incidents involving household waste were 632,000 in 2019/20, an increase of 7% from 588,000 in 2018-19;
 - local authorities are responsible for investigating, clearing and taking appropriate enforcement action in relation to small scale fly-tipping on public land;
 - in England the Environment Agency is responsible for dealing with larger-scale fly-tipping (more than a lorry load), hazardous waste and fly-tipping by organised gangs;
 - on private land, it is normally the responsibility of the landowner to remove the waste;
 - on average, there are around 400-500 fly tipping incidents reported to the Council each year, the majority involving household waste, though very few of these result in formal action due to lack of evidence;
 - the Council receives an average of 85 complaints of dog fouling annually, with very few penalty notices issued and reporters often reluctant, or unable, to provide offender details;
 - efforts have been made, working with Keep Britain Tidy, via the CCDC website, local radio, social media and graphics on Council vehicles, to raise residents' general awareness of fly tipping and to warn potential offenders of the consequences of being caught;
 - mobile CCTV has been deployed within the District at hotspot locations and along with appropriate signage;
 - the Council offers a £250 cash reward to individuals whose reports of fly tipping result in enforcement action (it is thought this is the highest figure in the midlands and possibly the whole of England and is one of the few giving a cash incentive rather than vouchers);
 - Envirocrime duties are split between Environmental Health, Waste & Engineering Services and Planning Enforcement.

- 5.2 At its second meeting on 15 November 2021 the Group devoted much of the discussion to fly tipping, for several reasons:
- The detrimental visual impact this makes across the District;
 - The involvement of obvious criminal activity;
 - The prevalence in the District (particularly hot spot areas)
 - The growing national concern of this issue;
- 5.3 Following a lengthy discussion, the Group identified a number of areas it wished to be taken forward for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 30 November, these being:
- (a) Consideration be given to what other Local Authorities are implementing to tackle the issue of dog fouling;
 - (b) To review the Council's social media policy to allow more direct and effective engagement by field officers with businesses and administrators of on-line groups;
 - (c) How further information can be provided to businesses and residents on how to dispose of trade waste, and promotion of the bulky waste service;
 - (d) To consider supplying dispensers for dog waste bags, and consider whether this should be adopted by the Council or each Parish/Town Council;
 - (e) Consideration be given to developing options for bringing together all aspects of envirocrime enforcement within the Council into one dedicated service or team, under the direction of one manager;
 - (f) To identify cost neutral options for alternative providers to undertake issuing of fixed penalties for littering and dog fouling.
- 5.4 At the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 30 November 2021, it was agreed by the Chair that a further and final meeting of the Group be arranged to refine the above suggestions, prior to the wider Scrutiny Committee receiving the Group's recommendations.
- 5.5 This meeting took place on 15 February 2022 (notes are at Appendix 2 to this report). The report at Appendix 1 was considered, which includes at paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 a full summary of the recommendations in paragraph 3.5 (a-f) above, with Officers' priority rating, based on estimated timeframe for delivery (weeks) and the potential impact on envirocrime (where 1 is low and 5 is high). Officers have then allocated a priority rating (High, Medium, Low) based on a combination of the timeframe for delivery, the impact, and the available officer capacity.
- 5.6 The Group was unable to consider any comparative benchmarking data, since all Staffordshire Districts did not provide this until issued with a Freedom of Information request. Some information is still to be received. The data subsequently provided by authorities (attached as Appendix 3) suggests that (reading data columns from left to right):

Item No. 6.5

- In 2019-20 and 2020-21, Cannock Chase was 3rd highest for issue of FPNs for fly tipping (several authorities issued none);
- In 2020-21 Cannock Chase had the highest number of prosecutions for fly tipping and in 2021-22 has so far undertaken four successful prosecutions with a further seven prosecutions pending (we understand this is the highest of all Districts);
- Cannock Chase is the only Staffordshire authority to have used powers to seize vehicles involved in fly tipping (three times in 2020-21 and twice in 2019-20)
- Cannock Chase is the only Staffordshire authority to have conducted a focussed and resourced fly tipping campaign targeting both criminal activity and increasing awareness of the public;
- Cannock Chase is the only Staffordshire District to have used mobile covert CCTV operations to tackle fly tipping;
- Cannock Chase issued the highest number of littering FPNs in 2020-21 and the third highest number in 19-20 (albeit numbers are relatively low);
- The numbers of FPNs issued for littering and dog fouling, whilst relatively low, are comparable to other Staffordshire Districts and better than most;
- Cannock Chase is one of only two authorities whose officers are equipped with Body Worn Video to tackle envirocrime;
- Cannock Chase has the second highest FTE officer resource allocated to envirocrime duties.

The Group also heard that Cannock Chase is the only authority in Staffordshire (and possibly in the whole country) to offer a £250 *cash* reward for fly tipping reports leading to successful enforcement action.

5.7 Overall, therefore, the benchmarking data suggests that Cannock Chase performs well compared to other Staffordshire Districts in respect of tackling envirocrime. Whilst there are always improvements to be made, Cannock Chase invests considerable resource into tackling envirocrime, and is amongst the better performers in Staffordshire, top performing in some areas.

5.8 Paragraph 2.2 shows those measures the Group considers should be taken forward to further improve the service.

Note: The Group also agreed a recommendation to explore how additional information can be provided to businesses and residents on how to dispose of trade waste, and promotion of the Council's bulky waste service - this will be taken forward and actioned directly by Officers as part of routine service improvements.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

None.

6.2 Legal

None.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Management

Review of social media policy will ensure employees no longer have to use personal social media accounts and that health and safety is protected.

6.5 Equality & Diversity

None.

6.6 Climate Change

None.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1: Task & Finish Group Final Recommendations Report 15/02/22
(with Appendices)

Appendix 2: Notes of Task & Finish Group meeting held on 15 February 2022

Appendix 3: Staffordshire Districts' Envirocrime benchmarking data

Appendix 1

Report of:	Chair of Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Contact Officer:	David Prosser-Davies
Telephone No:	01543 464202
Portfolio Leader:	Environment & Climate Change
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ENVIROCRIME TASK & FINISH GROUP

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Envirocrime Task and Finish Group (the Group) with a summary of issues considered and to finalise recommendations to be taken forward for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 Membership of the Task and Finish Group is shown below

Councillor Martyn Buttery	Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Louis Arduino	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Andrea Beach	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Sheila Cartwright	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Josh Newbury	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Doug Smith	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Samantha Thompson	Scrutiny Committee Member
Councillor Lisa Wilson	Scrutiny Committee Member

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Group notes the content of this report;
- 2.2 That the Group confirms which of the issues listed in paragraphs 3.5, 3.7 and Table 1 below it wishes to take forward to Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny on 23 March 2022, with a view to consideration by Cabinet or possible inclusion in the Scrutiny work programme for 2022-23.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Within its 2021-22 workplan the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee decided to review the effectiveness of the Council's approach to enviro-crime. A Task and Finish Group (the Group) was set up to look at this issue.

3.2 At its initial meeting on 12 October 2021 (Notes at Appendix 1) the Group received a presentation detailing what enviro-crime was and summarising the national, regional and local trends. Members were also referred to a recently published House of Commons briefing on Fly Tipping and the latest national fly tipping statistics.

3.3 In summary, the Group heard that:

- for the 2019/20 year, local authorities in England dealt with just under 1 million (976,000) fly-tipping incidents, an increase of 2% from the 957,000 reported in 2018/19;
- just under two thirds (65%) of fly-tips involved household waste. Total incidents involving household waste were 632,000 in 2019/20, an increase of 7% from 588,000 in 2018/19;
- local authorities are responsible for investigating, clearing and taking appropriate enforcement action in relation to small scale fly-tipping on public land;
- in England the Environment Agency is responsible for dealing with larger-scale fly-tipping (more than a lorry load), hazardous waste and fly-tipping by organised gangs;
- on private land, it is normally the responsibility of the landowner to remove the waste;
- on average, there are around 400-500 fly tipping incidents reported to the Council each year, the majority involving household waste, though very few of these result in formal action due to lack of evidence;
- the Council receives an average of 85 complaints of dog fouling annually, with very few penalty notices issued and reporters often reluctant, or unable, to provide offender details;
- efforts have been made, working with Keep Britain Tidy, via the CCDC website, local radio, social media and graphics on Council vehicles, to raise residents' general awareness of fly tipping and to warn potential offenders of the consequences of being caught;
- mobile CCTV has been deployed within the District at hotspot locations and along with appropriate signage;
- the Council offers a £250 cash reward to individuals whose reports of fly tipping result in enforcement action (it is thought this is the highest figure in the midlands and possibly the whole of England and is one of the few giving a cash incentive rather than vouchers);
- Envirocrime duties are split between Environmental Health, Waste & Engineering Services and Planning Enforcement.

3.4 At its second meeting on 15 November 2021 (Notes at Appendix 2) the Group devoted much of the discussion to fly tipping, for several reasons:

- The detrimental visual impact this makes across the District;
- The involvement of obvious criminal activity;
- The prevalence in the District (particularly hot spot areas)
- The growing national concern of this issue;

3.5 Following a lengthy discussion, the Group identified a number of areas it wished to be taken forward for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 30 November, these being:

- (a.) Consideration be given to what other Local Authorities are implementing to tackle the issue of dog fouling;
- (b.) To review the Council’s social media policy to allow more direct and effective engagement by field officers with businesses and administrators of on-line groups;
- (c.) How further information can be provided to businesses and residents on how to dispose of trade waste, and promotion of the bulky waste service;
- (d.) To consider supplying dispensers for dog waste bags, and consider whether this should be adopted by the Council or each Parish/Town Council;
- (e.) Consideration be given to developing options for bringing together all aspects of envirocrime enforcement within the Council into one dedicated service or team, under the direction of one manager;
- (f.) To identify cost neutral options for alternative providers to undertake issuing of fixed penalties for littering and dog fouling.

3.6 At the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 30 November 2021, it was agreed by the Chair that a further and final meeting of the Group be arranged to refine the above suggestions, prior to the wider Scrutiny Committee receiving the Group’s recommendations in March 2022.

3.7 Officers have now reviewed the items in paragraph 3.5 above. Table 1 below shows an estimated timeframe for delivery (weeks) and the potential impact on envirocrime (where 1 is low and 5 is high). Officers have then allocated a priority rating (High, Medium, Low) based on a combination of the timeframe for delivery, the impact, and the available officer capacity.

ITEM	TIMEFRAME (weeks)	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT	IMPACT (1-5)	PRIORITY (H,M,L)
a	12	Environmental Health	4	H
b	24	Policy & Communications	5	H
c	12	Waste & Engineering Services / Environmental Health / Policy & Communications	3	M
d	12	Waste & Engineering Services	3	L
e	26-52	Chief Executive	4	L
f	12	Environmental Health	5	H

Table 1 - Review of items a) to f) from paragraph 3.5

- 3.8 From the table Members will see that items a), b), and f), are rated as highest priority due to a combination of reasonable delivery times, and estimated impact. Additionally, items a) and f) are largely within the remit of officers and require no policy changes. Item b) has a longer delivery time, as it may require more lengthy work on policy, but nonetheless has potential to have a high and growing impact, in that it will be possible to reach, and exert influence, both within and outside the District and potentially tackle some of the factors contributing to fly tipping at source.
- 3.9 The above information is given as a guide only to assist members in determining recommended actions going forward.

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1	Notes of Task and Finish Group 12.10.21
Appendix 2	Notes of Task and Finish Group 15.11.21
Appendix 3	Additional material considered by the Task and Finish Group (references).

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
ENVIROCRIME SCRUTINY REVIEW WORKING GROUP
TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021 AT 4.00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillors:

M. Buttery (Chairman)
L. Arduino
J. Newbury
L. Wilson

Officers:

J. Presland	Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles
N. Samrai	Head of Housing and Partnerships
D. Prosser-Davies	Food, Safety and Licensing Manager
J. Johnson	Senior Environmental Health Officer
J. Hunt	Senior Committee Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors D. Smith and S. Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interests from Members

Nothing declared.

3. EnviroCrime Review

Dave Prosser-Davies, Food, Safety and Licensing Manager gave a presentation to Members on "Envirocrime". The presentation covered the extent of the problem, local trends and how this was being tackled. The presentation would be circulated to Members separately.

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager explained that the process was lengthy for obtaining evidence to fine or even prosecute an individual. He then provided details of some recent incidents of fly-tipping where prosecutions had been taken. Some of those incidents included a fine for fly-tipping scrap waste and a fixed penalty for putting roof tiles in a household bin. In any event, the Council would obtain arrest warrants for people who failed to attend court for fly-tipping offences.

Members were then given the opportunity of asking questions regarding the presentation.

A Member referred to the use of social media and more frequently the public would suggest using cameras for trying to tackle the situation with fly-tipping. He then referred to the trial that had been taking place with the use of cameras and was keen to know what the outcome was.

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager reported that the Council had financed three deployments in hot-spot areas of mobile covert CCTV at a cost of £2,500 each, with between 3-6 cameras set up over a 2-month period in each location. He reported that there were no incidents recorded during that time and that use of cameras could act as a useful deterrent.

A Member was keen to know of the prosecutions made, what the most effective means was of identifying the perpetrator who was fly tipping. He also asked about vehicles being checked and ensuring they had the appropriate licence to have waste removed.

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager advised that the best way was in fact through witnesses and evidence in the waste that was fly tipped. The Senior Environmental Health Officer concurred with this, although he explained that trying to locate evidence in waste was very time consuming.

A member asked if checks were carried out at household waste sites to ensure businesses were not using these sites. A member also asked whether charges made at tips had increased fly tipping.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles responded and advised that the waste sites came under Staffs County Council and they made a charge for trade waste. He explained that a while back the Council had written to the County expressing concern that imposing charges would result in increased fly tipping. However, the County had responded that imposing charges had not resulted in any such increase.

In response to a Member question concerning checking those who offer waste services, the Senior Environmental Health Officer informed Members that people who carried out these services should be registered and using their documents each time they transferred waste. He also touched on the use of social media in relation to waste services and fly tipping.

Following the discussion on the presentation, Officers' asked Members if there was anything they would like to consider as part of the review.

The following suggestions were made:

- Abandoned vehicles, fly posting etc currently falls under two sections. Should it fall under Environmental Protection?
- Change the language used when using social media/advertising – referring to the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign.
- Raising awareness through social media and other avenues including local groups – referring to the 'keep Britain Tidy' campaign.
- Have a dedicated page on the Council's website for the public to use to find businesses that offer waste services.

- Billboard using a change of language to put across message that fly tipping is not acceptable

In response to some of the suggestions the following comments were made by Officers and Members of the Working Group.

In terms of the suggestion regarding the dedicated page on the Council website, the Senior Environmental Health Officer advised Members that householders had a legal responsibility for their waste and should be making checks on the carrier they were using. He also commented that the Environment Agency could make checks to ensure that waste carriers were registered. However, there was no guarantee that fly tipping would not occur.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles also referred to this and commented that there would be issues resourcing this and it could be problematic for the Council.

A Member expressed concern that vulnerable people could be fined because of someone fly tipping, despite it not being their fault and having done what they consider, the right thing.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyle referred to the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign and the stronger language used. This would be something that could be considered; however, the Portfolio Holder would need to be consulted. He then commented in response to the issue around vulnerable people and accepted that some residents may not fully understand the law, or believe they were dealing with a legitimate waste carrier.

The Senior Environmental Health Officer also commented on the duty of households. It was hoped that households in a position of having used an unregistered waste carrier would in fact inform the Council of who had taken away their waste. He also discussed the use of ANPR cameras with Members and what they were capable of, however this could be an expensive option.

Members discussed areas within the District where there were hotspots for fly tipping. However, implementing ways of tracking people was costly and evidence gathering was time consuming.

The Chairman asked Members to consider both the presentation and the discussion at the meeting today. He informed Members that a further meeting would be arranged.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
ENVIROCRIME SCRUTINY REVIEW WORKING GROUP
MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 4.00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillors:

M. Buttery (Chairman)
J. Newbury
L. Arduino
D. Smith
S. Thompson
A. Beach

Officers:

J. Presland	Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles
N. Samrai	Head of Housing and Partnerships
D. Prosser-Davies	Food, Safety and Licensing Manager
J. Johnson	Senior Environmental Health Officer
J. Hunt	Senior Committee Officer

1. Apologies

An apology was received for Councillor L. Wilson.

2. Declarations of Interests from Members

Nothing declared.

3. EnviroCrime Review

In response to the suggestions from the last meeting, the following comments were made.

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager referred to the last meeting and advised Members that the Council was considering engaging with an outside company to help with cases of dogs fouling and the issuing of penalty notices. He explained that this was a time-consuming task for the Council, and other Local Authorities had benefited from employing this type of service.

He advised that issues such as abandoned vehicles and fly posting did not fall within the remit of the Environmental Services section. However, he explained that with work continuing with shared services these issues may be discussed. It was considered

however that some of these issues should fall within the remit of Environmental Protection.

It was explained that certain language should be used with social media and advertising. The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles discussed a campaign entitled 'The Flicking Blue Murder Campaign' which was hard hitting and aimed at stamping out cigarette litter. However, the language used in some campaigns such as this may cause some complaints from members of the public, whilst other campaigns may be seen as offensive.

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager reported that the Council's Communications team were not keen on his team engaging directly with advertisers on the Council's social media sites which could be due to several reasons. The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles indicated that the Council's social media site was controlled, and only certain Officers would access and maintain it.

The Senior Environmental Health Officer advised Members that Officers usually used their own social media accounts to try and monitor certain sites, although having access to the Council's sites would provide the avenue for interaction with groups. He would also be keen for a separate page to be created for the Environmental Health section to work with groups whilst allocating a set amount of time for this.

Members were keen on this approach and felt it would be worthwhile. Administrators of groups could be provided with some information around issues such as waste carrier licences as many members of the public were unaware about these. They could also potentially pass this information to other groups which may result in overall less fly tipping.

Members discussed with Officers the criteria for waste carrier licences which was undertaken through the Environment Agency. It was explained that extra checks would be carried out to be a registered waste carrier, however overall, this would not prevent fly tipping.

Further Suggestions

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager referred to the presentation given at the last meeting and asked Members if they had any further suggestions.

A Member referred to other Local Authorities who had adopted different approaches in terms of securing penalty fines and asked if there was anything further the Council could do to raise awareness with the public and what they could report.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles responded and advised that post cards had been posted through doors to ask of complaints around dog fouling. This had been carried out over the last 3 years, however complaints remained about the same.

The Senior Environmental Health Officer discussed other options around the use of CCTV and carrying out patrols. However, it was often found that the perpetrators to the offence would walk their dogs late at night or early in the morning. Using these tactics could be costly and not very effective.

He reported that this was another area where social media could be effective. He explained that at least half of the complaints made about dog fouling would not be taken

further as the complainant would not want to provide their details. An option to the Council would be putting the photo of the offence on social media and provided there was sufficient evidence, this could be used. However, he did not have any data on how this helped to reduce the offence although it served as a deterrent.

A Member advised that a local parish Council had purchased dispensers and bags for owners of dogs to use. However, there was a lot of maintenance required and it would need some form of monitoring as bins were less full than expected.

In response to questions around road shows, the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles reported that many of these had taken place over the years. However, there was always an issue trying to reach those the Council needed to engage with.

Members also discussed certain items being disposed of at recycling centres and how people could be educated to properly recycle and dispose of waste.

The Food, Safety and Licensing Manager reported that the Council's bulky waste service had been advertised, however more clear information on pricing etc would need to be provided to businesses. He would take this away and speak with colleagues to see how it could be better publicised.

Following the Working Group meetings, the following suggestions be recommended to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 30 November 2021 for consideration:

- (a.) Consideration be given to what other Local Authorities are implementing to tackle the issue of dog fouling
- (b.) To consider how social media can be used to engage better with businesses
- (c.) How further information can be provided to businesses and residents on how to dispose of trade waste, and promotion of the bulky waste service
- (d.) To consider supplying dispensers for dog waste, and consider whether this should be adopted by the Council or each Parish/Town Council
- (e.) Environmental Protection and Environmental Services to work together in bringing certain issues such as abandoned vehicles and fly posting under one service, although this may be considered under shared services
- (f.) To consider third parties undertaking some enforcement work into dog fouling/littering to increase fixed penalties

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm

Additional material made available to the Task and Finish Group

SMITH, L (2021) *Fly-tipping: The illegal dumping of waste*; [online] House of Commons Library. Available from: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn05672/>

DEFRA (2021) *Fly tipping statistics for England 2019/20* [online] HM Govt. Available from:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964062/FlyTipping_201920_Statistical_Release_Acc_checked_FINAL.pdf

GUTTRIDGE, R (2021) Getting away scot-free: Nearly 20,000 fly-tipping incidents - but councils only issue 124 fines. *Express and Star* [online] 24 May 2021. Available from:

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/crime/2021/05/24/nearly-20000-fly-tipping-incident---but-councils-only-issue-124-fines/>

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE
ENVIROCRIME SCRUTINY REVIEW WORKING GROUP
TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY, 2022 AT 4.00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM

Present: Councillors:

M. Buttery (Chairman)
A. Beach
J. Newbury
D. Smith
S. Thompson
L. Wilson

Officers:

J. Presland	Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles
N. Samrai	Head of Housing and Partnerships
D. Prosser-Davies	Environmental Health and Public Protection Manager
J. Hunt	Senior Committee Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillors L. Arduino and S. Cartwright.

2. Declarations of Interests from Members

Nothing declared.

3. Notes

The notes of the meeting held on 15 November, 2021 were agreed.

4. EnviroCrime Review - Recommendations of EnviroCrime Task and Finish Group

Dave Prosser-Davies, Environmental Health and Public Protection Manager outlined the recommendations contained at paragraph 3.5 of the report.

He referred to Table 1 which outlined the priority rating for each of the recommendations. Item A, B and F was the highest priority. Item B would have a longer delivery time and if agreed by the Group, could have a greater impact on Officer capacity given the need to engage more using social media.

A Member referred to Item A and asked if park staff could be supplied with bags to distribute to the public who had forgotten them (for dog waste), as staff were supplying these at their own cost.

A Member referred to Item E which had a low priority rating and discussed how envirocrime could be brought under one team.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles advised that most items would fall under the Environmental Health section, although abandoned vehicles were dealt with by a separate section. Members and Officers discussed this, and it was noted that fly posting would fall within Planning Enforcement. The additional sharing of Council services with Stafford Borough was also mentioned.

A Member referred to the use of social media to engage more with the public concerning waste removal and felt this would have been useful to go forward as a recommendation.

The Environmental Health and Public Protection Manager responded and indicated that some regular posting on social media to promote bulky waste collections could be possible, although this item was more around carrying out a review so this would require a much larger piece of work to be carried out.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles responded and would speak with the Interim Waste and Engineering Services Manager regarding social media and bulky waste collections. He also commented that some social media could be undertaken around trade waste and actively promoting what businesses and the public should do.

The Chairman referred to the report and outlined recommendations A, B and F:

- (A) Consideration be given to what other Local Authorities are implementing to tackle the issue of dog fouling
- (B) To review the Council's social media policy to allow more direct and effective engagement by field officers with businesses and administrators of on-line groups
- (F) To identify cost neutral options for alternative providers to undertake issuing of fixed penalties for littering and dog fouling

The Group agreed that Items A, B and F would go forward for consideration to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 23 March, 2022.

The Group also agreed that Item C would be considered separately.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm

Staffordshire Districts - Comparative envirocrime benchmarking data 2018-2022

		Number of Fly Tipping FPN's Issued	Number of successful Fly Tipping/littering Prosecutions	Number of Vehicles Seized due to fly tipping	Fly Tip Campaign (Yes/No)	Covert CCTV Used (Yes/No)	Dog Fouling FPN's Issued	Litter FPN's Issued	Duty of Care FPN's Issued	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier FPN	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier Prosecution	Body Worn Video Used by Officers (Yes/No)	FTE Engaged in Enviro Crime
2021-2022 (to date)		3	4	0	Yes	Yes	5	13	3	1	0	Yes	1.2
Cannock Chase Only													
NB: 7 further prosecutions pending													
2020-2021													
	Date Range	Number of Fly Tipping FPN's Issued	Number of successful Fly Tipping/littering Prosecutions	Number of Vehicles Seized due to fly tipping	Fly Tip Campaign (Yes/No)	Covert CCTV Used (Yes/No)	Dog Fouling FPN's Issued	Litter FPN's Issued	Duty of Care FPN's Issued	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier FPN	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier Prosecution	Body Worn Video Used by Officers (Yes/No)	FTE Engaged in Enviro Crime
Cannock Chase	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	5	2	3	Yes	Yes	2	15	1	0	0	Yes	2
Newcastle	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	14	1	0	No	No	2	5	14	0	0	No	4
Tamworth	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	0	0	0	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	No	0
Lichfield	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	0	0	0	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	not currently but looking to	0.3 but diverted to covid so less than this
East Staffordshire	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	0	0	0	No	No	0	3	0	0	0	Yes	No
Stafford	1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	8	0	not provided	not provided	not provided	2	1	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	1.25
2019-2020													
	Date Range	Number of Fly Tipping FPN's Issued	Number of successful Fly Tipping/littering Prosecutions	Number of Vehicles Seized due to fly tipping	Fly Tip Campaign (Yes/No)	Covert CCTV Used (Yes/No)	Dog Fouling FPN's Issued	Litter FPN's Issued	Duty of Care FPN's Issued	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier FPN	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier Prosecution	Body Worn Video Used by Officers (Yes/No)	FTE Engaged in Enviro Crime
Cannock Chase	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	4	0	2	Yes	Yes	4	13	0	0	1	No	2
Newcastle	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	9	1	0	No	No	0	72	9	0	0	No	4
Tamworth	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	0	0	0	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	No	0
Lichfield	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	0	0	0	No	No	5	0	0	0	0	no	0.3
East Staffordshire	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	2	0	0	No	No	1	15	0	0	0	Yes	No
Stafford	1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	5	1	not provided	not provided	not provided	0	8	not provided	1	not provided	not provided	1.25
2018-2019													
	Date Range	Number of Fly Tipping FPN's Issued	Number of successful Fly Tipping/littering Prosecutions	Number of Vehicles Seized due to fly tipping	Fly Tip Campaign (Yes/No)	Covert CCTV Used (Yes/No)	Dog Fouling FPN's Issued	Litter FPN's Issued	Duty of Care FPN's Issued	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier FPN	Scrap Metal and Waste Carrier Prosecution	Body Worn Video Used by Officers (Yes/No)	FTE Engaged in Enviro Crime
Cannock Chase	1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	0	1	0	Yes	No	2	28	2	0	1	No	2
Newcastle	1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	0	1	0	No	No	3	45	0	0	0	No	4
Tamworth	1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	0	0	0	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	No	0
Lichfield	1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	1	1	0	No	No	0	0	0	0	0	no	0.3
East Staffordshire	1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	0	0	0	No	No	5	52	0	0	0	Yes	No