

Councillor Jeff Jones
Convener – Environmental Enforcement
Scrutiny Working Group

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Thomas
Direct Line: 01792 63 6926
E-Mail: cllr.mark.thomas@swansea.gov.uk
Our Ref: MT/KH
Your Ref:
Date: 21 March 2019

Dear Councillor Jones

Following the Environmental Enforcement Working Group Meeting on 5 February, I have listed your conclusions and my response below:

1. **We would like to commend the team for the good work that they are doing.**
I would like to thank the Group for this comment and will pass on to the relevant teams.
2. **We feel there are a number of issues the Authority needs to publicise more to get the message out:**
 - a) **How much fly tipping costs the Authority, money which could be used for other things**
Whilst the specific cost of fly tipping cannot be accurately determined due to the Cleansing Teams multi-tasking, we will seek to promote an estimated cost.
 - b) **That dog fouling can be disposed of in own black bags at home**
We will add this fact to our website and include in future Street Cleansing Campaigns
 - c) **Positive news stories such as the big reduction in the number of fly tipping incidents on council land during last two years.**
We will continue to publicise fly tipping prosecutions and highlight successes
3. **We would like to see detailed financial information on enforcement, for example how many FPN's are issued, costs of prosecutions etc.**
In terms of 3GS, they issue an average of 2,200 FPN's per year, predominantly for littering. The contract is essentially cost neutral to the Council. The cost of prosecutions depends on the complexities of the case, usually costing in the region of £125, with these costs being recoverable in successful prosecutions.
4. **It would be useful for the Working Group to see the criteria for the contract with 3GS.**
I will arrange for the tender documentation for the current enforcement contract to be provided to the Group as this would provide the starting point for any replacement contract.

5. **We recommend a change to procedures so that when Members/Public report issues they are automatically notified of what happens as a result.**
It is not considered practical to advise Members/Public of the outcome of all issues raised within the staff resources available.
6. **We would like to take up your offer of sending a letter to the Post Office requesting post men/women do not drop elastic bands on pavements whilst out delivering mail.**
I will arrange for a letter to be sent
7. **We would like to see figures on how often the beach ban for dogs during the summer is enforced, as we have not seen much evidence of enforcement.**
Over the last 4 years an average of 45 fixed penalty notices have been issued a year under the dog beach ban.
8. **We would like to request that the map of all waste bins/dog bins is sent to all members as this is useful information for them to disseminate in their wards.**
There is no definitive map which exists for litter and dog bins. They are listed on the area schedules and are generally emptied once a week via the litter picking crews. Those bins in areas of high footfall including the city centre and other shopping areas are emptied on a daily basis.

To compile a map of all our bins would require significant resource which is not currently available. The bins we currently service have all been strategically positioned following historical Supervisor/Operative local knowledge in their respective areas. Bins are only upgraded as and when necessary and as capital resources allow. With bin misuse an ongoing problem for Cleansing, we are routinely removing or relocating bins (even if only on a temporary basis) and any maps would soon become out of date unless there was a robust and accurate mechanism for updating any system. Again, this would require resource. Should we ever be in a position in the future where hand-held devices are the norm for Operatives emptying bins etc. then this could be revisited.
9. **We are disappointed at the number of convictions for dog fouling in Swansea and feel strongly that the enforcement of dog fouling needs to be made more of a priority.**
Within our teams, we are constantly trying to manage our limited resources. We have no extra resources to tackle dog fouling, if we were to focus more Officers on this area, then those resources would have to be withdrawn from somewhere else such as cleansing or fly tipping. I am more than happy to consider any change of emphasis put forward by the panel, but would also ask for help in determining lower priority areas.
10. **We would like to see the Authority investigate the use of community wardens in areas of Swansea, who would be responsible for highlighting all enforcement issues in the area.**
There is no funding available to employ community wardens, however we have provided enforcement training to Housing Officers to enable localised enforcement within Council Housing areas
11. **We would like to express our concern about the confusion around legislation concerning highways and tracks. We feel the Authority should be lobbying for review and clarification of legislation with whoever is responsible – Welsh Government or national government.**

I am uncertain of what this question refers to. Please provide clarification to ensure that the group's concerns are understood and a relevant response can be given.

12. **We feel the Authority needs to inform the public of what it is responsible for with regards enforcement and who to contact if the Authority is not responsible. We suggest this information is shown on the website.**

With regard to which organisation is responsible for enforcement of parking violations, this is already covered in detail within the Council's website under the Parking pages which can be found at <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/parking/enforcement>

13. **We would like clarification on what the proposed addition of a bylaw, under the West Glamorgan Act, could potentially allow the Authority to do in terms of taking action against motorists who consistently park on and obstruct footways and verges.**

Further work is currently underway, with the assistance of legal colleagues, to develop a policy for the enforcement of verge and pavement parking. To introduce a blanket ban would obviously create difficulties for some communities, without access to of street vehicular parking, yet this must be balanced against protecting the rights of the most vulnerable sections of our community and hence officers are working to develop a policy that will allow intervention to target 'problem areas'. This is a challenging objective and could take a number of months to refine before seeking member approval.

Please let me know if you require any further details.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR MARK THOMAS
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT**