

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

## **Environment & Housing Management Committee**

### **Street Care Updates and Actions**

**Report of:** *Dawn Taylor – Business Support Services Manager*

**Wards Affected:** *All wards*

**This report is:** *Public*

#### **1. Executive Summary**

1.1 This report covers three areas within the Street Scene Department:-

- Fly-tipping on Byways
- Little Warley Car park (also known as Childerditch Common).
- Investment in Front Line Services to assist with clearing of Fly-tips and an update on the Neighbourhood Action Team.

#### 1.2 Fly- tipping on Byways

There have been ongoing issues with fly tipping on byways which are proving expensive to deal with as well as being detrimental to the local environment.

It was therefore suggested as a trial that the byway (Horsemanside to Murthering Lane) has a temporary Traffic Regulation Order raised. This will have the effect of limiting access to specific users.

#### 1.3 Little Warley Car Park (also known as Childerditch Common)

Officers received a representation from Little Warley & Childerditch Village Hall Association with regard to the permanent closure of the car park at Little Warley Common (also known as Childerditch Common). The reason for this request is outlined in more detail within section 3 of this report with the recommendation outlining that officers consult statutory bodies to obtain their views on such a closure.

#### 1.4 Investment in front line services to help with fly-tips and an update on the Neighbourhood Action Team

The front line investment of £80k will now give an opportunity to support the Nats to work on requests from Members within their wards on a 15 week Rota system. Three new staff will be deployed to undertake predominately the clearing of fly tips along side the investment of new equipment such as a JCB in order to assist with the larger fly-tips ourselves rather than having to use contractors. It should be noted that any hazardous fly-tips will still need to be removed by specialist contractors.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee agree to the Chief Executive writing to the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport requesting consideration for a temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the Byway Horsemanside to Murthering Lane.**
- 2.2 That the Committee agree to instruct officers to undertake a consultation exercise with identified public bodies (to be determined) to ascertain feedback on the requested closure of the car park at Little Warley Common (also known as Childerditch Common) and report this back to a future committee.**
- 2.3 Members to note the arrangements for the Neighbourhood Team going forwards from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 and actively participate in submitting tasks for the Neighbourhood Action Teams.**

## **3. Introduction and Background**

### **3.1 Fly tipping**

There have been ongoing issues with fly-tipping on byways which are proving expensive to deal with as well as being detrimental to the local environment. In order to address this issue a meeting was held recently with the Public Rights of Way Manager from Essex County Council (Highways). At the meeting it was recognised that despite the importance of ensuring public rights of way are accessible to all; the fly-tipping issue at many of these byways require urgent attention.

It was therefore suggested as a trial that the byway (Horsemanside to Murthering Lane) has a temporary Traffic Regulation Order raised. This will have the effect of limiting access to specific users.

### **3.2 Little Warley Car park**

As Members will be aware a request has been received from Little Warley and Childerditch Hall Association proposing that there be a permanent closure of the car park at Little Warley Common (also known as Childerditch Common). The site has a long and documented history of fly-tipping, litter abuse and unauthorised incursions by caravans. All of these have either been instigated or occurred at the car park with the most recent being a fly-tip of over 70 tonnes of commercial material. The result of this fly-tip was that the car park was temporarily closed whilst alterations and repairs were made to the height restriction barrier at the car park entrance. This closure currently remains in force at this time. To date no representation or complaint has been received regarding the closure or for the car park to be re-opened.

Although there is no direct evidence that the site is used for anti social behaviour, Members should be mindful that the car park is located in a rural and unoverlooked position therefore such activity could go unnoticed.

- 3.3 The following representation has been received from Mr David Tee, representing Little Warley & Childerditch Village Hall Association

*“Dear Cllr Hossack*

*Following our Association's January Committee Meeting followed by our AGM I have been asked by the village community to contact Brentwood Borough Council with the following request:*

*"Since the car park on Little Warley Common has been closed by the Council following an unprecedented tonnage (over 100 tons) of industrial waste illegally tipped onto our car park many residents have enjoyed the absence of men in cars soliciting their favours, youths in cars late at night screeching their tyres and trading in drugs, during the summer travellers gained access to the common via the car park and of course the continuing random fly tippers.*

*The residents of Little Warley & Childerditch want Brentwood Borough Council to keep the car park closed until we can be assured that the previous abuses will not occur again."*

*I am with other residents prepared to meet with you at any time to see how we might discuss the future of this car park. Once a year on Horseman's Sunday we open the Height Barrier for the access of horse boxes and the car park is also our access for the tractor and trailer in order to fill the beacon when light it for national anniversaries and of course for the council machines to cut the grass on the common once a year.*

*Best Regards*

*David W Tee (Resident)"*

- 3.4 Investment in front line services to help with fly-tips and update on Neighbourhood Action Team

The Neighbourhood Action Team (Nat's) was introduced in 2013 and was responsible for taking a pro-active role in the cleanliness and appearance of the Boroughs streets, public open spaces and woodlands, ensuring that the Borough is a clean and green place for all to enjoy. Due to demands of the service and lack of tasks forthcoming, they have recently been working on predominately the clearing of fly-tips.

- 3.5 The front line investment of £80k will now give an opportunity for the Nats to return to work on requests from Members on a rota system. Three new staff will be deployed to undertake the clearing of fly tips alongside the investment of new equipment such as a digger to assist with the larger fly-tips ourselves rather than having to use contractors. It should be noted that some fly-tips will need to be removed by specialists.

- 3.6 The work is on top of the daily scheduled work currently carried out by the grounds and street cleansing teams, and will enhance existing features and assets. Appendix A details how the Nats team will operate from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 and dates that will be in each ward. Examples of the tasks they can and cannot undertake whilst in the wards are shown.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 Fly-tipping is a continuing issue and one option considered was blocking access to the byways, however, this would be unacceptable and contrary to current legislation. It was therefore suggested as a trial that the byway (Horsemanside to Murthering Lane) has a temporary Traffic Regulation Order raised. This will have the effect of limiting access to specific users.
- 4.2 Resources will not allow for opening and closing of the car park at designated times so therefore the options to Members are to either shut the car park as requested or for it to remain open for the duration.
- 4.3 With the opportunity of investment in front line services to assist with the clearing of fly-tips, and other appropriate tasks, this will enable the Neighbourhood Action Team to undertake tasks/jobs within specific wards as requested by Members.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 Fly-tipping in byways – the expense and difficulty in removing fly-tips is high and as such urgent measures are required to address this issue going forwards.
- 5.2 Little Warley Car Park - to allow Officers to obtain further comments from other public bodies associated with the site and to report these findings to a future committee for a final decision.
- 5.3 Investment in front line services to assist with clearing fly-tips including larger fly tips, hence allowing Neighbourhood Action Team to work on the Members rota system within the wards.

#### **6. References to Corporate Plan**

- 6.1 The approval of the recommendations will benefit the street scene and environment. The Council is committed to providing an efficient, cost effective and responsive Street care service to residents aimed at keeping our street clean and creating a clean, green and sustainable environment to make the Borough an even better place to live, work and visit.

#### **7. Implications**

##### **Financial Implications**

**Name & Title: Ramesh Prashar, Financial Services Manager**

**Tel & Email: 01277 312 513 ramesh.prashar@brentwood.gov.uk**

- 7.1 Funding for the additional three members of staff have been included in the budget from 2017/18. Any other expenditure will be met from existing budgets.

**Legal Implications**

**Name & Title: Daniel Toohey, Monitoring officer and Legal Services Manager**  
**Tel & Email: 01277 312 860 / daniel.toohey@brentwood.gov.uk**

- 7.2 Traffic Orders (also known as Traffic Regulation Orders and Traffic Management Orders) are the legal instruments by which traffic authorities implement most traffic controls on their roads. They are designed to regulate, restrict or prohibit the use of a road or any part of the width of a road by vehicular traffic or pedestrians. A TO may take effect at all times or during specific periods, and certain classes of traffic may be exempted. Traffic authorities have the powers to make traffic orders, which includes local authorities, Transport for London and the Highways Agency.

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 7.3 None

8. **Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendices

Appendix A - Neighbourhood Action Team Information

**Report Author Contact Details:**

**Name:** Dawn Taylor

**Telephone:** 01277 312668

**E-mail:** dawn.taylor@brentwood.gov.uk