

**26th September 2018**

## **Environment and Enforcement Committee**

### **Chair's Update Report**

**Report of:** *Cllr Keith Parker – Chair of the Environment and Enforcement Committee*

**Wards Affected:** *All Wards*

**This report is:** *Public*

Members to note updates from Officers set out below.

### **CSAS**

The Council were successful in becoming an accredited organisation under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme through Essex Police earlier this year. As a result, accredited officers of the Council will have 18 additional powers including:

- Power to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling
- Power to issue fixed penalty notices for graffiti and fly-posting
- Power to issue fixed penalty notices for littering
- Power to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of offences under dog control orders
- Power to require giving of name and address
- Power to deal with begging
- Power to require name and address for anti-social behaviour
- Power to require persons drinking in designated places to surrender alcohol
- Power to require persons aged under 18 to surrender alcohol
- Power to seize tobacco from a person aged under 16
- Power to remove abandoned vehicles
- Sale of alcohol to a person under 18
- Purchase of alcohol for a person under 18
- Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery
- Causing harassment, alarm or distress
- Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 or allowing such consumption
- Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by an under 18
- Sells or attempts to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk

This is double the powers of most other Local Authorities across Essex. The plan is to put existing officers through Essex Police vetting and for them to undergo the required training to become accredited officers.

Officers have been selected from across the organisation including Housing, Environmental Health, CCTV, Community Safety and the depot. This will result in our officers being awarded the powers like that of a Special Constable and therefore improve our enforcement activity across the Council. This will not increase their workload as the plan is that they will be able to enforce more effectively, share information appropriately, have access to Essex Police intel and PNC whilst carrying their current role.

In May this year 6 officers were awarded their accreditation by District Commander Lewis Basford. Since this time a further 3 have successfully passed their training and are fully accredited. Eventually we will have over 20 officers fully accredited.

### **Corporate Enforcement Team**

We developed a small core team of 6 accredited officers as listed below:

Tracey Lilley – Corporate Enforcement

David Carter – Environmental Health/Corporate Enforcement

Terry Knight – CCTV

Daniel Cannon – Community Safety

Anthony Willson – Street Inspector

Isabelle Hatton – Community Safety (ASB)

Whilst this is not a new team of officers, and they still have other responsibilities within their substantive role they are very keen to develop their roles and support the Councils enforcement activity. As a result, the core team have undertaken the additional responsibility of the role of Enforcement Officer. They have been provided with appropriate uniform, and the use body worn cameras whilst on patrol for additional security and evidence gathering. The equipment provided is of high quality and was funded by the Community Safety Partnership. The team meet every Monday for tasking where we review what has happened the week before, any issues that may have arisen over the weekend, and what is planned for the week ahead.

## **Dedicated Patrols**

We have recently produced a patrol schedule documenting dedicated patrols undertaken by the enforcement team in key locations addressing key issues such as homeless individuals in the High Street, nuisance motorbikes in Pilgrims Hatch and other patrols in locations such as parks. This schedule also details engagement events that take place throughout the year.

The team have supported SEPP during evening patrols tackling parking in the Town Centre and daytime patrols in other key locations including Brook Street. This has resulted in over 100 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) being issued. The plan is to put our core team of enforcement officers through Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) training which will mean we will improve our enforcement activity and generate income to support the team. This has been agreed by SEPP which is also positive and demonstrates how well our partnership is working.

## **Homeless Intervention**

As mentioned we have been carrying out regular patrols in the High Street to tackle the issue of homeless individuals leaving their bedding all over the High Street. Officers have engaged with the homeless and explained what we consider acceptable behaviour. They have been advised that any unattended bedding will be removed and stored at the depot for them to collect.

This is to reinforce the message and to encourage them to seek support. We have also engaged with Team Challenge who are a charity who provide outreach with the homeless and have managed to secure a place in a rehab facility for a vulnerable homeless man. Team Challenge also patrol with our officers.

Whilst on patrol officers have been welcomed by members of the public and have received positive feedback about the Council's effort to address community concerns.

## **Enforcement Vehicle**

We are currently going through procurement for a dedicated enforcement vehicle agreed at Environment and Enforcement committee in July. This will be a 4x4 vehicle made to look as much like a police vehicle as possible and will provide much needed mobility but also be a visible presence for our main enforcement officer, Anthony Willson. One of the main uses will be in targeting flytipping in our rural areas. It will be fully equipped with CCTV, flood lights etc and is being sponsored by the Community Safety Partnership who have provided funding for the decals etc. As a result, the vehicle will display our partnership logos. The vehicle will also be used by the team when undertaking high visibility patrols in key locations, and for transporting enforcement officers as and when required.

## **Public Spaces Protection Order**

We are in the final stages of putting in place a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the Town Centre and surrounding area. The plan is for the Order to in force by the end of September once the appropriate number of signs have been erected in the restricted area. This has been a huge piece of work but will mean that Essex Police and the Council will be able to enforce a vast array of unacceptable behaviours. This will obviously present resource pressures to ensure we proactively enforce the Order, but Essex Police are in full support.

## **Corporate Enforcement Newsletter**

To keep Members, partners and the wider community informed of our enforcement activity across the Council we will be producing a bi-monthly Corporate Enforcement Newsletter in partnership with our comms team.

**Purpose** To provide an opportunity for all service areas to showcase their enforcement activity. To better inform our stakeholders of the work undertaken and provide context to enforcement cases allowing us to highlight best practice and examples of good work. The newsletter will be an informative and useful document with a wide distribution list and the ability to promote through not only the usual channels but also social media, Council website and wider.

**Target Audience** Members, partners, businesses, and the local community.

**Content** Facts & figures from service areas for enforcement activity i.e. cases logged, those dealt with, action taken etc. Also, Case Studies highlighting particular good work/best practice.

**Frequency** Bi-monthly start with. The first edition is planned for the end of September 2018 which will be reviewed once we have produced the first edition.

### **Service Areas**

- Corporate Enforcement (fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, parking etc)
- CCTV
- Planning Enforcement
- Licensing
- Community Safety (ASB)

## **Enforcement Twitter**

An enforcement twitter account has been established to allow the team to publicise and promote their work. Providing another way of engaging with our partners and communities on key issues that matter to them. Please feel free to follow us @BBCEnforcement

## **Recycling Roadshows**

Members were informed on the 4 July on the forthcoming recycling events planned for the summer. To date there have been four roadshows, with three more to take place.

The roadshows provide an opportunity for officers to engage with the public and promote waste and recycling issues. The events also enable officers to promote the lease scheme for the garden waste bins.

Members were requested to note the details and to support the arrangements for the Recycling Roadshows.

## **Second Delivery of Orange Sacks**

Members were advised on July 4 that there will be a second delivery of orange sacks. The first delivery of orange sacks earlier this year provided 26 sacks to each household with the second delivery providing a further 40 sacks. The second delivery will take place October/November 2018.

The second delivery will result in a higher number of sacks being provided to each household, 66 in number, compared to the 52 sacks issued in the previous year. This split method of delivery is hoped to reduce the number of residents inclined to seek additional rolls of sacks. The timing of the delivery is crucial, being just prior to Christmas will remind residents to participate in the kerbside collection schemes, when the waste stream generates greater tonnage over the Christmas holiday period.

Members were requested to note that a second delivery of orange sacks, along with food waste sacks and an information leaflet will be delivered to every household.

## **Waste Holding Facility**

Members are informed that the waste holding facility is complete and the Environmental Permit has been granted to enable the Council to store dry mixed recyclables, prior to haulage to a material recycling facility. This will result in an expected gross saving of c. £20.00/tonne.



## **Traveller Incursions**

As members will be aware the Borough has, for a number of years been subject to multiple unauthorised incursions onto its land during the summer months via groups moving through the Borough to transit to other areas. For the last four years Officers in conjunction with lead Elected Members have been actively working to reduce the number of unauthorised incursions onto the land through a number of channels, one of which has been to improve the onsite security measures that are present.

Despite groups still passing through the Borough there has been a notable decline in the number of instances whereby these groups have gained access onto Council owned and operated land. Despite this decline both Officer and Lead Elected Members are conscious that the authority remains vigilant in its approach and this year has seen additional measures introduced to further combat the risk of an incursion taking place. These measure have included:

Improvements and strengthening to the height restrictor gates at Larkin Playing Field, Bishops Hall Park, Little Warley Common, King George's Playing Fields, Hutton Country Park, Hutton Poplars, Brentwood Centre main field, Brentwood Centre flying field have been completed along with strengthening of the padlock shrouds on the lower gates. In addition to this over 30 telescopic bollards have been installed in entrance ways at various sites to further prevent access. Wooden bollards have also now been installed around the amenity green to the front of Little Warley Village Hall [part of Little Warley Common], the amenity green at the junction of Doddinghurst Road and Elizabeth Road and also along the edge of Green Lane adjacent to Bishops Hall Park.

Following the completion of these works a further audit, only recently completed, has identified further improvements that could be made to provide even greater protection. These additions are in the process of being costed but would include plates welded over the top of hinges to all sites so that gates cannot be lifted off with mechanical intervention, the addition of bollards at a number of further sites, the installation of height restrictors and gates at the entrance to the field off of Crescent Road along with the installation of bollards/fencing along sections of the driveway entrance, strengthening to the height restrictor at Seymour Playing Fields car park and also strengthening to the field gate locking mechanism. Additional measures at the far end of the Brentwood Centre car park are also being considered. Members should note that following the recent incursion at Seymour Playing Field telescopic bollards were installed within 48 hours of the site being vacated to prevent a reoccurrence of the event. It is Officers intention to return the concrete blocks at site until after the summer period has finished and to then return these to storage at the Warley depot to be used as and when needed for quick reactionary work should incursion occur again.

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