

12th December 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.

Community Safety Accreditation Scheme - CSAS

Corporate Enforcement Team

As well as the core team of 6 accredited officers 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)

A further 3 more Council officers from our Environment Health department have now successfully passed their Community Safety Accreditation. Bringing the total up to 12.

Fly-tipping

170 fly-tips have been reported between July – September 2018 (October info not ready yet). Navestock dominant again with 60 fly-tips during this period.

The team have been working on a 'fly-tipping and duty of care campaign' which will be launched in Navestock during December.

Working with the local community, CCTV is being sponsored in Navestock in a bid to secure evidence of fly-tipping to provide the best opportunity for enforcement and prosecution.

Environmental Health officers have taken action against a number of cases and have secured prosecutions in four cases and issued a fixed penalty notice for a duty of care offence. Fines (including the Council's costs) amounting to more than £5500 have been imposed as a result.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has agreed to fund two further rapid deployment cameras which can be deployed to hotspot locations.

The CSP has also provided funding to purchase 'NO Fly-tipping' signs which will be erected across the borough.

Following a report of a fly-tip in Lorne Road Cemetery a £400 FPN has been issued against the responsible person and the items removed at their cost.

Whilst on patrol with Essex Police the enforcement team dealt with a vehicle that was stopped by officers carrying a large amount of garden waste. Details were taken including photos and the individuals were spoken to about their activities in the borough. As a result, they were warned about disposing of their load appropriately and details were provided of where they intended to dispose of their waste. It was established that they had completed work to a driveway locally. Officers attended the address and warned the occupant about Duty of Care. The following day officers made enquiries at the site provided by the individuals carrying the waste and they had indeed disposed of their waste appropriately. It was made very clear to them that we are targeting fly tippers and action will be taken.

Enforcement Opportunity/Support

Essex Police have approached the Council after hearing about the work of the newly formed enforcement team to explore options for further collaboration in terms of speeding issues across the borough. As a result, enforcement officers are to undertake training in order to be able to use Essex Police speed cameras in the borough. Once trained, staff will be awarded the necessary powers from the Chief Constable to be able to undertake speeding patrols. Speeding is always a key community safety issue for our communities, so this is a real positive step forward. It will also improve our visibility across the borough including our rural areas.

Abandoned Vehicles info:

Please note in the chart below the activity relating to the management and removal of abandoned vehicles over the previous three months

Month	Enquiries	Total Removed	BBC Removed	DVLA Removed	Owner Removed
Aug-18	17	5	1	2	2
Sep-18	26	10	0	1	9
Oct-18	21	4	0	2	2

Parking on grass verges - Essex Act 1987 notices have been applied to 62 vehicles that were parked illegally where prohibition notices are in force. Only 1 vehicle was found a second time on the verges and received a second warning (same notice).

Waste presentation issues

158 warning/education letters sent to residents.

Parking Enforcement

Whilst on-street parking falls under the remit of the South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP), four officers from the Council's enforcement team have undertaken Civil Enforcement Officer training. This will enable them to tackle parking issues whilst on patrol. Their role will not be one of parking enforcement, but the aim is to develop a fully equipped team who are able to enforce effectively across a number of enforcement activities.

We are currently negotiating with SEPP on a Service Level Agreement which will secure funds to cover the cost of patrols undertaken by the Council's enforcement team.

Dedicate Patrols

The team continue to undertake patrols in key locations tackling community issues such as ASB, fly tipping, nuisance vehicles and enforcing the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). Several patrols have already taken place during the evening and weekends alongside Essex Police.

Police Operations

Corporate Enforcement have been working with Essex Police over several months on a planned operation within the borough targeting organised criminal activity. This culminated in enforcement officers taking part in an operation at a location in the borough alongside Essex Police, Environment agency, and HMRC. Work continues pursuing enforcement opportunities alongside our partners.

Homeless Intervention

A meeting took place in October between the Council, Sawyers Hall Church and representatives from the local Homeless Group to consider options for collaboration in terms of supporting our rough sleepers. Some success was achieved working in partnership with local churches and the charity, Team Challenge, which resulted in the most vulnerable homeless person going in to a residential rehab facility.

Enforcement Vehicle

The enforcement vehicle is now fully operational, and an official launch is planned in early December 2018.

One of the main uses will be in targeting fly-tipping in our rural areas. 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

The Order is now in place and the team are working with Essex Police in ensuring it is effectively enforced. There has been a period of engagement and education which has proved extremely positive.

Corporate Enforcement Newsletter

To keep Members, partners and the wider community informed of our enforcement activity across the Council we will be produce a bi-monthly Corporate Enforcement Newsletter in partnership with our communications team. The first edition will be available shortly.

The purpose of this newsletter is 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 with the ability to promote through not only the usual channels but also via social media, Council website and wider.

The newsletter is for members, partners, businesses, and the local community and will contain 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.

The Service Areas it will cover are:

- 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.

Community Safety

ASB Officer

Since January 2018 the dedicated ASB Officer has dealt with 75 reports of anti-social. 58 of those cases have been resolved or closed with 17 remaining open and ongoing.

Achievements include:

- ✓ 10 Notices of Seeking Possession for anti-social behaviour served.
- ✓ 2 successful injunctions obtained.
- ✓ Application made to court for an eviction.
- ✓ 3 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts signed.
- ✓ Worked with partners including the local GP in supporting an extremely vulnerable lady who was sectioned under the Mental Health Act.
- ✓ Visited over 200 properties in key hotspot areas to reassure local residents and encourage reporting.

Case Management

The team have now completed the required training on the Council's ASB case management system. This will improve our case management of ASB and streamline our processes.

ASB issues

Since the enforcement have been introduced the borough has seen 106 fewer incidents a 9.3% reduction in ASB within the borough according to Essex Police figures. This is against the Force 4.7% reduction. The team have been patrolling key dates and locations and Halloween and Bon Fire Night were noticeably quieter than previous years.

Off road vehicle nuisance has been an issue in a rural area of the borough. The team have been working with Essex Police and local residents which has resulted in warning letters being issued to a number of vehicles.

An untaxed, in-insured vehicle parked on housing land has been removed following intervention from the enforcement team.

Engagement Days

Throughout the year the Community Safety Partnership alongside Neighbourhood Watch engage with the public at least two times a month. Each engagement day has a designated theme such as fire safety, fraud, senior safety, Essex Community Message System and more. The CSP and NHW have a stall in the libraries, Baytree Centre, High Streets (Brentwood, Shenfield and Ingatestone) and are sometimes accompanied by other agencies, such as Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue. All agencies provide a variety of safety advice to the public as well as answer questions.

Speedwatch

The Community Safety team continue to co-ordinate and support Community Speedwatch across the borough.

Building Lives Project

The Council and Community Safety Partnership (CS) commissioned Reach Every Generation to deliver a Youth Intervention Programme in early 2018. This has resulted in a successful bid to the Big Lottery who have now funded the organisation for 3 years to deliver the Building Lives Project to young people locally who are at risk or presenting risky behaviour. The only other area to benefit from this funding is Basildon.

Recycling Roadshows

There are three roadshows scheduled for December. These are:

Tuesday 11th December - Brentwood Centre, 11am - 1pm
Friday 14th December - High Street, Brentwood 11am-1pm
Friday 21st December - High Street, Brentwood 11am- 1pm

These roadshows will publicise the importance of recycling, re-enforce the message to recycle and providing general advice to residents.

Second Delivery of Orange Sacks

The second delivery of orange sacks has commenced – comprising of 40 orange sacks per household. These Orange sacks continue to be available through retail outlets in the borough.

Waste Holding Facility

The waste holding facility is fully functional and Brentwood's dry recycling is now being delivered directly to the MRF which has enabled our gate fee for Mixed Dry Recycling (MDR) to reduce. Further the service is now running mixed glass directly to a local processor which will deliver a further saving in the future.

Traveller Incursions

There were 15 reported unauthorised incursions in the Borough as a whole between January and August 2018. The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit (ECTU) dealt with seven cases and Essex Police issued s.61 directions on six sites.

Incursions on Brentwood Borough Council land occurred on four occasions, at William Hunter Way, Larkins Playing Fields, Elizabeth Road and the Brentwood Centre; police action resulted in two of the sites being vacated in less than one day

There has been a significant reduction of incursions onto Council land over the past three years which is set out below:

- 19 incursions 2016
- 11 incursions 2017
- 4 incursions 2018

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