

# Community Services Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Sarah Sprung  
Asst. Scrutiny / Committee  
Officer  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
Open

## Recommendations from the Fixed Penalty Notice for Litter Dropping Review Panel

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This briefing paper details the recommendations of the Fixed Penalty Notice for Litter Dropping Review Panel, following its scrutiny of the policies relating to fixed penalty notices for litter dropping.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Budget Review Panel, at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008, whilst scrutinising a budget proposal for additional resources for street scene cleansing, felt that the Council needed to take a tougher approach in relation to the issue of fixed term penalty notices to people who dropped litter. As a result, they agreed that it would be helpful to review arrangements for fixed penalty notices for dropping litter.

- 2.2 The item was highlighted to the Corporate Service & Performance Scrutiny Committee who referred the matter to the Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

- 2.3 A review panel which consisted of the following members was formed:

Councillor Mrs T L Onslow (Chairman)  
Councillor G C Yarrington  
Councillor D J Millis  
Councillor P V Hayward  
Councillor M Price  
Councillor Mrs H E Dyke

- 2.4 The terms of reference for the review were:

To review the policy relating to fixed term penalties for litter dropping including:

- i) Resources deployed
- ii) Education and preventative measures
- iii) Depositing litter
- iv) Litter control notices
- v) Legal issues relating to enforcement

### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 Members of the panel raised concerns regarding the amount of litter in the District, and felt that allocating additional funding for litter pickers would not address the route of the problem.
- 3.2 The Panel noted that residents had reported problems with litter dropping out of recycling wagons.
- 3.3 Members of the Panel noted that the Wyre Forest District Council employs just one dedicated Enforcement Officer, but does have some officers who have enforcement duties incorporated into their job roles.
- 3.4 The panel noted that, like other authorities, the district had problems with fly tipping, particularly in nature reserves. The issue of fly tipping was discussed as part of general enforcement issues.
- 3.5 The panel felt that a visible presence of enforcement officers in town centre areas could improve the problem with litter in these areas.
- 3.6 It was proposed that the Council could run a high profile litter campaign during August and early September (appendix 1) which could incorporate the three town centre areas in the District, together with some rural areas that experience problems with litter.
- 3.7 Discussion took place on the prosecution of school children for dropping litter, as school children account for a high proportion of the litter surrounding school areas. It was noted that it was difficult to prosecute minors and that it was hoped that by providing education in this area it would lessen the amount of litter dropped. This approach is supported by Encams (previously the Keep Britain Tidy Group).
- 3.8 Members suggested that in order to raise awareness amongst school children a second litter campaign could be run during term time, focusing on the areas surrounding schools.
- 3.9 The panel heard evidence from the Licensing & Litigation Solicitor regarding enforcement cases and noted that the Council had successfully prosecuted some offenders. Details of these prosecutions had appeared in the local media which had received a positive response from the public.
- 3.10 Members felt that Newsywe could publicise the problems with litter in the District and raise awareness of the Council's enforcement policy.
- 3.11 Members received information from officers that it was possible for Members to report any incidences of litter dropping from vehicles that they witness. The panel felt that District, Town and Parish Councillors should be reminded of this power.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 **To run a litter programme during August and early September 2008, as this period sees the highest number of visitors to the District, to raise the profile of the Council's Enforcement Powers. (Appendix 1)**

- 4.2 To run a second litter programme during term time, in September 2008, in order that schools and the areas surrounding them can be targeted. (Appendix 2)
- 4.3 The Operational Services Manger ensure that refuse vehicles are emptied at regular intervals to ensure that litter does not overflow.
- 4.4 To distribute a letter to all District, Town and Parish Councillors advising of the procedure for reporting incidences of litter dropping. (Appendix 3)
- 4.5 To have a regular slot in Newsyre to promote the Council's enforcement policy and the number of fixed penalty notices issued, subject to the approval of the Newsyre Editorial Panel.

## **5. Wards affected**

- 5.1 District wide

## **6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – August Litter Campaign Programme  
Appendix 2 - Term Time Litter Campaign Programme  
Appendix 3 – Proposed Letter to District, Town and Parish Councillors

## **7. Background Papers**

- 7.1 The minutes of the Fixed Penalty Notice for Litter Dropping Review Panel held on:
  - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008
  - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2008

### **Officer Contact Details:**

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**Enforcement Programme**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Action</b>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Bewdley – Load Street, High Street, Severnside North and South, Dog Lane, Gardeners Meadow, Lax Lane, Stourport Road	High visibility education, warnings and awareness. Limited enforcement
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Bewdley – Load Street, High Street, Severnside North and South, Dog Lane, Gardeners Meadow, Lax Lane, Stourport Road	Less visible, hard enforcement issuing FPN
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Kidderminster – Town Centre and Comberton Hill/Horsefair	High visibility education, warnings and awareness. Limited enforcement.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Kidderminster – Town Centre and Comberton Hill/Horsefair	Less visible, hard enforcement issuing FPN.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2008	Stourport – York Street, High Street, Bridge Street, Riverside Meadows, Lombard Street	High visibility education, warnings and awareness. Limited enforcement.
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2008	Stourport – York Street, High Street, Bridge Street, Riverside Meadows, Lombard Street	Less visible, hard enforcement issuing FPN
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Kidderminster – Canterbury Drive shops, Spennells shops, Foley shops	High visibility education, warnings and awareness. Limited enforcement.
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2008	Kidderminster – Canterbury Drive shops, Spennells shops, Foley shops	Less visible, hard enforcement issuing FPN
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	Upper Arley, Wolverley, Cookley, Blakedown and Shenstone	High visibility education, warnings and awareness. Limited enforcement.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	Upper Arley, Wolverley, Cookley, Blakedown and Shenstone	Less visible, hard enforcement issuing FPN

**Term Time Litter Enforcement Programme**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Action</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 (end of school day)	Baxter College and surrounding streets	High visibility education and awareness
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 (end of school day)	Stourport High School and surrounding streets	High visibility education and awareness
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 (end of school day)	Bewdley High School and surrounding streets	High visibility education and awareness
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 (end of school day)	King Charles High School and surrounding streets	High visibility education and awareness
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2008 (end of school day)	Wolverley High School and surrounding streets	High visibility education and awareness

To all District, Town and  
Parish Councillors

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Dear Councillor,

**Reporting Incidences of Litter Dropping in the District**

You may be aware of the fact that the Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee established a review panel to review the policy relating to fixed term penalties for litter dropping.

During the course of the review the Panel identified that District, Town and Parish Councillors should be refreshed of the procedure for reporting incidences of litter dropping in the District.

Should a Councillor witness an offence whereby a member of the public is seen dropping litter from a vehicle the following details are required:

- Vehicle Registration
- Colour, make and model of vehicle
- Date, time & location of offence
- Description of offender

These details should be reported to the Parking Services Manager in Property and Operational Services on 01562 732962.

Should you wish to report litter to be removed from a public area, all incidents should be reported to the Worcestershire Hub on 01562 732928 whereby a reference number will be allocated to enable progress to be tracked.

Kind regards

Caroline Newlands, Head of Legal & Democratic Services

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