

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

11 September 2013

WINCHESTER LITTER BIN PROVISION

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT)

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RECENT REFERENCES:

Minutes of Winchester Town Forum meeting dated 12th June 2013.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City Council has a long history of working in partnership with the Winchester Litter Pickers, a voluntary group that provide litter picking patrols to enhance the services provided by the City Council around the City.

In June 2013, the Forum received a representation from the Chair of the Group requesting that consideration be given to the provision of additional litter bins across the City.

Officers have now carried out initial assessments of the 49 suggested sites and have come to some early conclusions. However, further work is required to carry out more detailed analysis of the extent of any problems at other times, particularly during school terms and consider options at each site where remedial action is required.

This report confirms the results of those investigations and sets out a planned way forward. It also asks the Forum to consider the budget implications of any enhanced litter bin provision at the suggested sites.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Winchester Town Forum:

1. Notes progress with the investigation of the proposed litter bin sites suggested by the Winchester Litter Pickers.
2. Requests an update report with the final conclusions at the Town Forum's November meeting.
3. Considers at this stage whether it wishes to make financial provision for the installation of additional litter bins within the town area, subject to agreement that any future emptying costs will be met from existing budgets within the General Fund.

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DETAIL:

1. Background

- 1.1 The City Council has a long history of working in partnership with the Winchester Litter Pickers, a voluntary group that provide litter picking patrols to enhance the services provided by the City Council around the City.
- 1.2 As part of that relationship the City Council provides the group with equipment for the volunteers and also receives 'intelligence' from the Litter pickers of any problem areas which may require additional cleansing or litter bins.
- 1.3 These requests are usually submitted on a case by case basis but in June 2013 the Chair of the Group wrote to the City Council (copy letter attached at appendix 1) and attended the 12th June meeting of the Town Forum and discussed the letter during the public participation session with suggested options for litter bins at 49 sites. The Town Forum asked for a report to be prepared for the next meeting as a response to the suggested locations.
- 1.4 The number of locations listed in the Winchester Litter Pickers letter has presented a challenge in terms of assessing each for the need for provision of additional litter bins. In addition, the process used to consider such requests also takes into account alternative solutions such as enhanced cleaning frequencies as this may provide a better option than providing a litter bin. Finally, before any final decision can be made, it is necessary to assess each location at various times of the day and year as factors like school holidays can have a significant impact on littering.
- 1.5 This report should therefore be seen as an interim report and gives officers' initial assessment of the situation at each of the locations but further investigations will be carried out over the next few months in order to ensure that a full picture is obtained. This is particularly important because, at a time when resources are limited, Members will have to consider whether there is justification for the expenditure for installing each litter bin and also the ongoing annual costs of emptying.
- 1.6 Appendix 2 shows a summary of the conclusions of the initial assessment. Each location falls into one of the following categories
 - a) Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering justifies remedial action

- b) Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will be kept under observation and subject to a further review if required
 - c) There is agreement that a bin needs to be provided and a location for this is suggested
 - d) Existing dog waste bin will be replaced with a dual use bin
 - e) No additional bin is required as there is an existing bin already in close proximity
- 1.7 Insofar as option d) is concerned there has been a change in the legal requirements relating to the way that dog waste and normal litter can be disposed which now allows the co-mingling of these wastes. Work is currently underway to roll out a programme for the removal of all dog waste bins and replacing these with dual use bins including the re-branding of existing litter bins to take this into account. Where replaced the existing 120l dog waste bins will be swapped for 240l dual use bins generally in the same location.
- 1.8 As explained earlier, whilst many sites at this stage require further investigation this does not mean that it is not accepted that some may require action but assessments need to be carried out over a representative period. Remedial action could either entail provision of additional litter bin/s or enhanced cleaning frequencies in these areas. This latter aspect is being considered as part of a wider review of the street cleaning contract requirements and specification wording.
- 1.9 Two other aspects were discussed at the Town Forum meeting namely
- a) Options for mixed recycling and litter bins
 - b) Future proposals for the issue of fixed penalty fines
- 2.0 The City Council already operates a limited number of combined litter/recycling bins within the City Centre but their effectiveness is questionable as much of the recycling collected is often contaminated by ordinary litter despite clear labelling on the bins. The materials collected are also limited to plastic bottles and cans so the weights of any material collected are low.
- 2.1 For these reasons rolling out a wider programme of combined bins is not an option being considered but instead officers encourage events staff to provide recycling bins on site. A programme of education aimed at increasing the capture of recyclables and reducing contamination will also be delivered in conjunction with East Hampshire District Council to support the work of the Project Integra partnership.
- 2.2 The effectiveness of the Fixed Penalty regime is also in question as officers do not have any powers of arrest and rely on individuals providing correct personal details in order for a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued. Non co-operative offenders therefore often escape punishment. Whilst the Neighbourhood Support Officers (NSOs) are accredited by the police to issue such fines the City Council's approach has built upon previous work on dog fouling by patrolling hotspots and challenging individuals seen to drop litter. The NSOs are also

actively involved in fly tipping investigations and several prosecutions are pending and will be announced shortly.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN (RELEVANCE TO):

3.1 The effective maintenance of the streetscene is a key element of the High Quality Environment priority of the existing Community Strategy. It also supports the work to provide an enhanced approach to neighbourhood management across the District.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 There are no direct resource implications at this stage from the proposal to provide the additional bins listed in Appendix 2 or to change over the existing dog waste bins to dual use bins as these costs can be met within existing resources.

4.2 Looking ahead, however, there will be additional costs incurred if a programme of more extensive provision of additional bins is agreed by the Town Forum. The arrangement in these cases is for the requesting organisation to pay for the installation costs of £187 per bin with the ongoing emptying costs of £197 per annum met from within the depot contract budgets.

4.3 The exact cost that will have to be met will depend upon the size of the final programme. However, it is suggested that Forum give this matter some consideration at this stage and decide whether they wish to make provision for any expenditure within their 2014/15 budget or whether these can be found within existing budgets. Based on the remaining litter bin options the worst case for the budget required is approximately £3,500 for the installation.

4.4 Insofar as the additional costs to the General Fund are concerned this will depend upon the option chosen. The costs of any enhanced street cleansing works cannot yet be quantified as this will be decided on a case by case basis. Based on the remaining litter bin decisions the worst case of the ongoing emptying costs is likely to be approximately £4,000 but this will be dependant upon there being capacity within the existing emptying rounds to absorb this work. Either of these resources would have to be found within existing budgets before any decision to proceed could be agreed.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Letter from Winchester Litter Pickers dated June 2013

Appendix 2 – Initial Conclusions of site investigations



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Suggested New Litter Bin Locations in Winchester Town Forum Area – June 2013

St Barnabas Ward

Stoney Lane:

There are no bins in Andover Road north of Berewecke Road and none in Stoney Lane east of the primary school. It is suggested that a bin be installed at the Stoney Lane/Andover Road junction and another opposite St Matthews Road. Acorn Close, a residential road between the shops and Peter Symonds adult education site, attracts a great deal of litter and a bin here is suggested.

Hampton Lane

Although there is a dog waste bin on the footpath passing the south end of Hampton Lane, it is suggested a litter bin also be provided here.

Town/Harestock Boundary Path

The footpath running from Stockbridge Road to Andover Road crossing the north ends of Fromond Road and Berewecke Avenue has no litter bins and it is suggested that at least two be provided: one at the Stockbridge Road end and another by the dog waste bin to the east of Fromond Road.

St Bartholomew Ward

Staple Gardens/Tower Street Area

Although this block to the east of Sussex Street, south of City Road, west of Jewry Street and north of High Street covers a large part of the city centre and is widely crossed on foot by office workers and railway station users, there are no litter bins within the area except for one at the High Street end of Tower Street. The area would benefit from several bins especially in the Cross Street vicinity.

Andover Road (East Side)

Although the west side of the southern end of Andover Road is well provided with bins there is a dearth on the east side. One at the Swan Lane junction, one at the Victoria Road junction (a very messy area), one opposite Tesco Express by the pedestrian access into the Cattle Market car park, another by the new pelican crossing and one further north at Park Road junction would all be useful.

Hyde Street/Worthy Road

Unlike every other radial route from Winchester, there are no litter bins in Hyde Street or in Worthy Road until the corner of Bedfield Lane, Headbourne Worthy. Suggested locations in Hyde Street are Swan Lane junction, Hyde Gate/Hyde Street corner and/or the Hyde Street/King Alfred Place corner and the weed garden at the Hyde Street/Worthy Road junction. In Worthy Road bins at the bus shelter opposite Park Road and the bus stop opposite Stoke Road are proposed.

Eastgate

There are presently no bins in Union Street or Eastgate Street and one at the Friarsgate/Union Street/Eastgate Street junction is suggested.

St John and All Saints WardWinnall

Although Winnall residential estate generally has a reasonable number of litter bins there is a lack on the peripheries. Suggested Locations are:

Winnall Manor Road/Winnall Valley Road junction;
 Alresford Road at St Johns Road bus stop;
 Alresford Road at south end of Black Path;
 Easton Lane at Fiona Close junction;
 Easton Lane at Erasmus Park entrance;
 Easton Lane at Moorside Road junction

Highcliffe

There are very few litter bins in or near the streets of Highcliffe.

Suggested locations are:

Petersfield Road/Canute Road corner;
 Cathedral View/Highcliffe Road corner;
 At or near some of the bus stops

Chesil/Bar End

Chesil Street/Old Station Approach corner
 Bar End Road/Barfield Close junction
 The grass area in Wharf Hill opposite the Black Boy

St Luke WardStanmore

Junction of the Valley and Thurmond Crescent
 Junction of the Thurmond Road and Thurmond Crescent
 Halfway up Battery Hill

St Michael WardCollege Street/College Walk/The Weirs junction.

Although there is a dog waste bin here there is presently no litter bin

East-west section of The Square

Prior to the resurfacing of the highway there were two litter bins on this street, now there are none.

St James Lane to Airlie Corner path

A bin was provided two years ago at the end of Peninsula Road at the request of one of our members. A second bin on the path near the end of Sparkford Close would be useful

St Paul Ward

Station Hill

Although the north side of Station Hill is probably the most popular walking route to and from the railway station, there are no litter bins on this side between the station building and the Carfax junction. and the provision of bins above and below the bus shelters would greatly help improve visitors first perception of the city.

Fordington Road

This is on the main walking route between the City Centre and Western Primary and Westgate secondary schools. Reportedly a bin was removed at the request of a local resident but needs reinstating somewhere in the street.

Western School

A red dog faeces bin or a dual purpose bin in the wood at the back of Western School

Chilbolton Avenue

Junction with Stockbridge Road and
By pelican crossing

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Litter Bin Audit - Initial Conclusions

Location	Conclusion
St Barnabas Ward	
Stoney Lane/ Andover road junction	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Stoney Lane op. St Matthews Road	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will be kept under observation
Acorn Close	Agree that bin needs to be provided next to NTL Junction box
Hampton Lane- red bin on south footpath	Existing dog waste bin to be replaced with dual use bin
Stockbridge road to Andover road footpath	Existing dog waste bin to be replaced with dual use bin
St Bartholomew Ward	
Staple Garden/Tower Street area	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will be kept under observation
Andover Road (East)	No additional bin required - there is an existing bin already in close proximity
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Hyde Street	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will be kept under observation
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Worthy Lane	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Worthy Lane	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Eastgate	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
St John and All Saints	
Winnall	
Winnall Manor road/ Winnall Valley road	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation
Alresford Road	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action. Limited space for a bin.
Alresford Road	Existing dog waste bin to be replaced with dual use bin
Easton Lane	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation
Easton Lane	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation. Previous bin was removed because of misuse by students and accumulations of domestic refuse.
Easton Lane	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation
Highcliffe	
Petersfield Road	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Cathedral View	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action. Finding a suitable location will be difficult.

	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Chesil Street	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action. There are existing bins nearby.
Bar End road	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Wharf Hill	Agree that bin should be provided on the grassed area.
St Luke Ward	
Thurmond Crescent	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Thurmond Crescent	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Battery Hill	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation. There are existing bins nearby.
St Michael Ward	
College Street/College Walk/ The Weirs junction	Existing dog waste bin to be replaced with dual use bin
The Square	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation. Previous bin was removed following a complaint about its location.
St James Lane to Airlie Corner footpath	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation
St Paul Ward	
Station Hill	It is our understanding that British Rail do not allow bins on the approach to train stations for security purposes. Will be kept under observation and enhanced street cleansing considered

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Fordington Road	Not considered to be a litter problem at this stage but will kept under observation
Western School	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action
Chilbolton Avenue	Requires further investigation to establish whether extent of littering requires remedial action