

CFYA presentation – comments/ questions

Areas of responsibility

- **What is the level of ‘responsive’ requests for the removal of dog waste from highways? Are there specific problem areas?** Information to be added to presentation.
- **Does this cover other animal waste (e.g. from horses)?** Removed when observed by operational staff and following responses from the public.
- **Who decides where dog bins are located?** The waiting list is managed by Environmental Health with referrals from CFYA where it is clear that a particular problems exists – Members also identify locations through SEIB allocation.
- **Are there any perceived ‘gaps’ in the number of dog bins provided?** Perhaps the issue is once of culture as opposed to provision or location of bins as some dog owners will continue to let dogs foul and not remove it irrespective of the presence / amount of bins. Bins are located in areas in popular dog walking areas and new locations are added to the waiting list on an ongoing basis.
- **Provision of dog bins - are some areas considered to have better coverage than others?** No, there is a distribution of bins across the Borough in open spaces and green corridors where walkers are prevalent.
- **Are there directional signs showing the location of the nearest dog waste bin?** No, dog walkers tend to be local and would normally be aware of the presence of bins.
- **Public awareness - Do we use temporary banners on lampposts or stencils on pavements in problem areas?** No, unless permanent signs are being used, this could be regarded as fly-posting hence the requirement for fixed signage.
- **Do we use a geographic information system (GIS), is used to record litter bin locations?** This would facilitate improved maintenance and repairs and also ensure that an up to date record is maintained of a valuable Council asset. Yes, litter and dog waste bins are mapped on the Council’s GIS system which allows us to interrogate current locations when requests for new litter bins are logged – the asset inspection regime is also updated on the same system.
- **Do we work with Parish Councils and schools to reach agreement on the number and location of bins and signs, arrangements for emptying and maintenance and financial contribution from each Parish Council?** We work with Schools and Parish Council’s on an ad-hoc basis when issues are raised regarding dog waste bins and litter bins and we would offer advice on appropriate locations and the design of bins. Wherever possible we would empty bins as part of our normal activities and charges would only be applicable if land is not Council responsibility, e.g. chargeable agreements for cleansing services on private land such as ongoing arrangements with British Waterways for the path along the River on Teesdale.

Operational Practice

- **Which areas do the area based cleansing teams cover – is it confined to town centres, highways, principal footways?** All areas of the Borough are covered although the frequency of cover depends on the area e.g. Town Centre and Primary Retail areas receive a daily visit / permanent cover whereas residential areas would receive a weekly litter picking visit. All areas of adopted highway are included in a programme of works which included emptying of litter and dog waste bins.
- **Is there a problem with vandalism? Are there any ‘hot spot’ areas? How soon can a dog bin be replaced?** Sporadic problems with vandalism across the Borough and is in line with other areas where ASB is common. Dog waste bins take in the region of 4-6 weeks to arrive upon placement of the order although EH would need to have sufficient finances to replace bins. Running repairs are undertaken by CFYA where required.
- **Do the teams deal with other animal waste deposited on pavements/ highways (as above)?** Any waste deposited on the highway would be removed as part of our normal activities.

- **Frequency of information fed through to Environmental Health? Method used?** Ad-hoc basis when issues arise.

Issues associated with dog fouling

- **Dog fouling placed in litter bins – are there specific problem areas? Does it happen often or occasionally?** Yes there are problems and it is Borough wide – problems tend to increase in the colder months when Parks become less accessible and walkers do 'estate runs' which tend to have more litter bins.
- **Are there signs/ stickers on litter bins saying something on the lines of 'Not for dog waste - this bin is for litter only'.** No, they are labelled 'litter'.
- **Should litter bins and dog waste bins be sited much farther apart?** Location of litter and dog bins do vary depending on locations – some have litter and dog bins together whereas other locations they are apart.
- **Does CFYA receive many complaints about dog fouling directly? (Mark has provided complaints figures previously but it would be helpful to have a CFYA perspective).** As per presentation.
- **Are incidents of dog waste bags in trees/ depositing dog waste in litter bins reported, e.g. to the Enforcement Team for follow up action – particularly in problem areas?** Referrals are made to EH when particular problems arise.