

TOWN AREA COMMITTEE

18th SEPTEBER 2017

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

DOG FOULING AND ENFORCEMENT- UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with an update of the decisions made at the meetings of 13th March 2017 and 19th June 2017 regarding the above.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the steps taken and progress made as described in this report.
- (ii) Notes the intention to submit a further report to REEA Committee in November 2017 I relation to Public Space Protection Orders and options for enforcement, including resource implications.

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 The Committee appointed Cllr Pearson to be the Environmental Champion. A further meeting of officer and Members of the public who had approached the Council took place on 29th March 2017 to discuss progress. From this various actions have been taken by the Council and the residents involved:

- **'Take a bag, leave a bag' dispensers:** Samples have been purchased and can be compared for their suitability. It is suggested the way forward on this is for Cllr Pearson's group to meet and make a recommendation to a subsequent meeting of Town Area Committee to decide which version to purchase, how many, and where the optimum locations should be.
- **'We're watching you' posters for lampposts** have been sourced and priced, at a much lower rate than previously. Again it is suggested Cllr Pearson's group to meet and make a recommendation to a subsequent meeting of Town Area Committee to decide how many to purchase and where the optimum locations should be.
- **Adding a Street Scene option to the MBC telephone system option:** This is not possible at present because of constraints upon the adaptability of our 'phone system at present. However we are in the process of replacing it and the new system will allow greater opportunity, at which time this can be revisited. As a Council we seek to encourage as many 'service requests' (which is this would fall into) to be made on line because it is much more

efficient in terms of receiving the request and depositing it directly with the appropriate team for action, and of course is not restricted to office hours. We have relocated the 'report a problem' website option <http://www.melton.gov.uk/> to the front page from where a range of service requests including dog fouling can be made and which transfer directly to the service team http://www.melton.gov.uk/homepage/62/report_a_problem The 'Melton Matters' group have been requested to promote this 'route' on their social media presence and in any promotional/campaign activity

- Progress on making contact with **Westleigh Developments** re the installation of litter bins; This has not been completed to date as it has been given a lesser priority, bearing in mind we expect it to be many months until the houses and offices on this scheme are occupied.
- MBC utilisation of the substantial '**Melton Matters**' social media subscribers for its wider and more general publicity. This is possible and indeed desirable, and 'Melton Matters' have been asked to 'follow' the MBC Facebook page, and then our posts would automatically appear on their feed.
- **Participation of key Members and officers, including the Chief Executive, in further 'patch walks'** arranged by the 'Melton Matters' group, which are in addition the regular such activities carried out in Priority Neighbourhoods.
- **Stickers for bins** have been posted on bins advising that bins can be used for dog fouling as well as litter.
- **'Hot spots' have been visited** (a combination of those we had compiled from reports to MBC and those added from the information provided by 'Melton Matters' arising from complaints received on their social media presence) and surveyed for the presence, or otherwise, of bins, and where lacking new bins have been installed (6). For background information, a bin is approx. **£150** and costs £75 p.a. to service, depending on location & frequency.
- **A town map** has been supplied to Melton Matters enable 'Melton Matters' to plot bin locations and shortfalls in provision, and organiser 'patch walks' by their volunteers.

3.2 In addition progress has been made regarding **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)**. These were to be considered by the Council's REEA Committee when it met in August. However there were some legislative changes which allowed the existing Dog Control Order to retain their legal status and enforcement capability and as such only need to be introduced if which to extend their scope (either geographically, or the range of 'offences' (behaviours) they cover. The Committee will be invited to consider the scope of such Orders and/or whether to maintain them solely for dog fouling offences, in which case no new order is necessary. It is now intended to present such a report to the REEA Committee along with costed options to improve enforcement on the subject matter. An approach has been developed to the use of Parking attendants for dog fouling

enforcement and their presence as a deterrent in 'hot spots', but the Committee will be invited to consider their frequency, geographical presence and resultant costs.

- 3.3 The outstanding issue from the meeting of 19th March is to develop a longer term Plan to drive improvements in the future, including educational aspects and suggestions for enhanced enforcement/deterrent. This will be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee initially, with referral to others depending on the intentions agreed.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The issue is considered to relate to both 'People' and 'Place' Corporate Priorities (in terms of creating an environment that meets people's needs and reducing crime respectively).

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The measures taken to date have resulted in an increase in use of resources in terms of;

- Installation and replacement of bins
- Purchase of 'warning' and informative stickers
- Increased incidences of reports of fouling and fly tipping.

- 5.2 At present these have been met from existing resources but the future steps may exceed those available and demand. The resource implications of additional measures will be included in the report and plan referred to in para. 3.2 above.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report at present.
- 6.2 Melton Borough Council is provided with powers under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 Sections 59-79 proposes to make Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

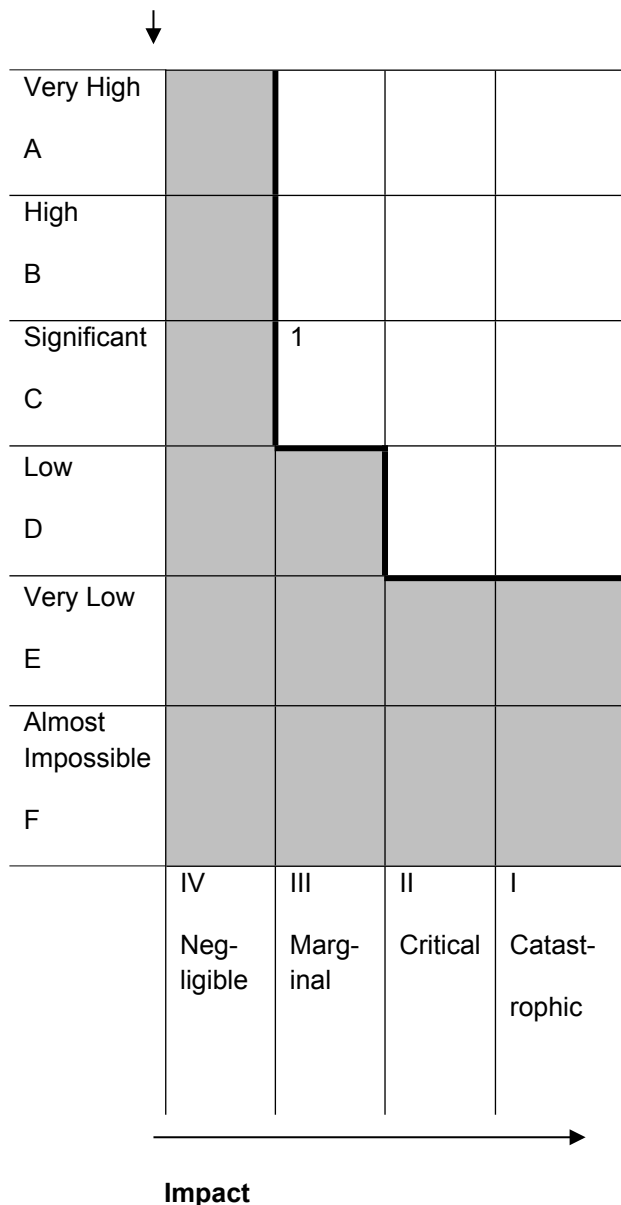
- 7.1 There are not expected to be any significant community safety implications as a direct result of this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 There are no direct equalities issues or implications that should result from this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 **Probability**



Risk No.	Description
1	Aspirations cannot be met from existing or available levels of resources

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 None at present.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards in the town centre including the Country Park would be affected

Contact Officer

J. Worley (Head of Regulatory Services)

Date: 9th September 2017

Appendices : None

Background Papers: Reports to TA Committee 13th March and 19th June 2017