

Agenda item: SC 123/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide the committee with an overview of service delivery, current successes, challenges and proposals for delivery during current restrictions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee notes the report.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

As the committee has not met for a couple of months, this paper provides an overview of the three specific service areas (Landscape and Environment, Youth, Community) to inform the committee of the issues that are being managed. The following reports have been provided by Service Managers.

Landscape Overview

Landscape has continued through the Covid Pandemic apart for a 5-week period in April/May last year. Grass cutting concluded in November. Winter shrub work commenced, and we were able to utilise the Tractor Flail after a few teething problems. Two of our operators were trained to NPTC/Lantra standards in the use of the tractor flail combination in conjunction with Shenley Brook End Parish Council, who paid for the course in return for borrowing the flail for two weeks.

Covid has posed some problems regarding landscape operations, however control measures have been put in place and we now have only two operators in each vehicle (masked up at all times), sanitising tools and equipment at the end of the day and keeping safe distancing at all times.

Hopefully, we will soon be introducing self-testing. All these measures are reviewed on a regular basis and changes made accordingly.

Grass cutting will re-commence at the end of March weather permitting, and things should hopefully be back to a near normal by the end of the summer.

Environment Overview

Fly tipping has risen since the Pandemic as tips being closed then booking systems put in place has caused problems. The environment staff have been out and reported quite a lot of areas and have been liaising closely with MK Council's enforcement teams.

700 to 800 trees and shrubs have been planted around the parish as well as 4000 to 5000 Crocus and Daffodil bulbs these have been planted by youth, groups, community payback team and even some of our councillors.

The environment team have also stayed safe during this time reducing the amount of face-to-face contact with members of the public.

Youth Service Overview

During Covid, the team have continued to adapt, working wherever and whenever possible. Face-to-face contact with young people has obviously been minimal, with just a few extremely vulnerable groups being met. However, the youth team have remained available and accessible to children, young people & parents across the parish. Those known to us as high risk and vulnerable have had welfare checks and contact maintained regularly wherever we could. Signposting has continued where possible and alternative sources of support sought, where not possible.

The youth team is the smallest it has been for many years and most have been unable to engage in service delivery but have contributed to the development of online materials and resources.

However, the Youth Manager and Youth Development Officer have been consistently working throughout the last few months with sessions for Young parents, independent living, domestic violence support, LGBTQ+ and wellbeing groups having continued online, using ZOOM on a weekly basis. And throughout the pandemic our dance classes have continued to run.

Training in areas of Special Education Needs & Disabilities, Food hygiene, Safeguarding, Resilience, Sports Coaching, Sign language & Play Therapy have been undertaken.

Covid and the social impacts of Covid have had major impacts on our service users and by default, our service delivery priorities, in the following areas:

- **Poverty:** A huge increase in families experiencing difficulties due to low finances. We have been able to support through Baby Basics, budgeting support, signposting and wellbeing support.
- **Food:** The youth service has generated vast numbers of Foodbank vouchers- unprecedented numbers. But has also been able to offer support with accessing benefit support, school meal access, community fridge etc
- **Accommodation:** Overcrowding, evictions, rent arrears, restriction for those who sofa surf= homelessness and poor living conditions without hope of solution have been areas we have been able to support.
- **Mental health:** Isolation, loneliness, fear, depressions, self-harm and anger have all increased exponentially as areas of need for support. It has been a privilege to support our families during these times.
- **Family breakdown/ problems:** Domestic abuse, hostile living, relationship difficulties and some breakdowns have increased. And as the root causes have overflowed into issues of poverty, food, accommodation and mental

health too. An empathetic ear, excellent local knowledge & their genuine care have shown our team to be invaluable.

Whilst these are prominent areas that always affect our service users and dictate our day-to-day workload, there has been a significant increase in families experiencing difficulty, a greater number reaching higher levels of need or even crisis points. Many issues have come through us as a

safeguarding channel and the workload here has increased. Alongside this the pathways we usually use to wrap support around vulnerable children, young people & families has been strained and at

times unavailable. Whilst there have been situations which should not sit within our remit or our responsibility we have to an extent (in some cases) become all things to all people.

Moving forwards.

- We have created a sign-up system for residents to access the usually open access projects so when we can return we can do so safely.
- I am in contact with all of our partner organisations to ensure a smooth transition back into working together and service delivery.
- We are again important partners in the plans for National Play day & PRIDE.
- We are working with the Knife crime prevention task & finishing group at MKC and hope we will soon be able to lead on a community run Boxing club to combat anti-social behaviour, knife crime & gang culture.
- We are exploring funding streams alongside the community team, to create a post Covid service that reflects the increased need for interaction activities & support.

There is no denying the last year has been really tough on the Youth team. Our service will emerge differently after the crisis passes but I am confident in our relationship with our community that we will be able to adapt and respond again. I have no doubt that we will continue to deliver the best service we can until things improve and beyond. We still have very high aspirations for the Youth Service and we will work hard to achieve them.

Wellbeing and Advice Service Update

Our Mental Health & Wellbeing Community Officer and Wellbeing Advice Officer have both been working remotely since March. Despite this, they have managed to maintain the majority of their workload. Recent successes and ongoing work:

- Immigration, with success in gaining 'right to reside' status, alongside significant back payments of benefits,
- Housing issues, including support to those with physical and mental health issues go to 'panel', repairs issues, taking inappropriate landlords to court,
- Financial issues – almost £6,000 in back payments, as noted above (plus ongoing payments), supporting PIP appeals and assessments, supporting 'appointeeship' to protect vulnerable residents' benefits,

- Providing support in making complaints to agencies to ensure rights are protected, supporting action to prevent abuse and contact from abusive ex-partner,
- Supporting education and access, assessments for support and similar

There are also ongoing sessions, including the rebranded 'Virtual Drop In' and continuing support to resident, promoting wellbeing (often linked to housing, money, employment and health).

The holistic approach means significant successes across the service provision with some extremely vulnerable residents where often, there is no alternative provision.

This service relies on good contacts with various agencies and organisations, and the local community. Referrals continue to come from colleagues, councillors, residents, family centres, and agencies including TVP, MH teams, housing officers, social services etc.

Community Fridge

The fridge was reopened in July 2020 and is set up to be compliant with government Covid guidelines. Since reopening:

- Over 22,000kg of surplus food has been distributed to users.
- In addition to Woughton, the fridge has reached nearly every part of Milton Keynes – 39 separate estates/areas in total (ref survey in Sept/Oct)
- We have recruited a solid team of volunteers (reduced officer time)
- All deliveries are made by a fleet of electric vehicles (reduced officer time)

Since lockdown, the fridge has been a portal to the other services offered by WCC – many referrals to WAS/Wellbeing and Safeguarding have come through the fridge. Once we come out of lockdown, we plan to restart the Community Café, which made a brief but promising appearance early last year.

Community Development and Events

Despite there being no real opportunity for public events during 2020, the Community Development and Events Coordinator worked with various groups on the following:

- Community Café events – e.g., Tea Dance/Bingo, Manic Mondays drop-in
- Community garden on Beanhill – ongoing project
- Remembrance Day multimedia commemoration – delivered online.
- Christmas celebration multimedia message – delivered online.
- Co-ordination of a food parcel delivery network to support vulnerable residents during lockdown.
- Supporting Resident Associations to take their meetings online, and developing a calendar of meetings.

Current work includes planning for post lockdown events, notably a (proposed) Woughton-wide festival in the late summer.

Throughout the last 10 months, the entire team has had to adapt rapidly to the situation with lockdown and develop new ways of delivering their work under very challenging conditions. Strangely, the situation has provided us with entirely new ways to work, which should be a positive for us in the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The reports above reflect the challenging times which we are working in, both in terms of service delivery but also in terms of staffing levels and budgets. With the need to be extremely careful with spending in coming years, this does mean continuing to deliver more with often less. This will need careful management and consideration over the coming period.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

See above.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 124/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide an update to the committee on the Services & Communities Annual Service Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the Council Manager continues to work with officers to achieve the plan, with variations based on this paper.**
- 3. That an 'end of year' report be provided to this committee at the April 2021 meeting.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The changes noted relate primarily to the impact of Covid 19, the changing priorities and the need to focus in different areas at times. However, this report updates progress against the previous paper, presented in September 2020.

The service plan has 21 items on it, of which 10 sit within the Service Committee remit. Some are unaffected, some will need adjusting and some will not be met this year. Briefly, this breaks down as:

1 – Woughton on the Road. The trailer is up and running and the wrapping should happen, if somewhat later than anticipated. We are currently trying to find a suitable designer as no response from our previous companies.

2 – Community Allotments. Transfer is progressing. Planning being considered. No update following the change in legal team. Follow up emails sent and hopefully transfer will happen prior to end of financial year.

6 – Increase the equipment library. Due to MKC refusing permission for additional storage, the 'hold' on the community growing space and the need to reduce spending, we will replace broken but not increase the number of items this year. Some additional items in place (pressure washer, carpet cleaner) and webpage / online form being created.

8 – Resident Skills Development. No face-to-face training at the current time, but some online sessions have taken place (food hygiene, etc.).

10 – Waste, recycling and the environment. Difficult currently and impact on summer plans likely. Building understanding, volunteer teams and similar restricted by situation, but work is continuing,

nevertheless. Significant work to do to promote Woughton cleanliness, including focus within Gazette, during trailer sessions and generally during day-to-day operations. Further focus in future service plans and work around fly tipping, rats and general waste and recycling at the fore.

12 – Community Development – continuing, but in a different way. Some good work started (e.g. Beanhill Comm Garden, online Res Association Forum) but restrictions limit significantly. Larger focus expected post Covid, with budget attached.

13 – Events. Trailer and Play Rangers have happened. Pop up café has been successful. Limits to what is possible, but consideration for different types of event continuing. Plans for coming year, on the understanding that these may or may not be possible. Will be ‘oven ready’ when situation allows.

17 – Youth Council. Unlikely in 2020, but potential for early 2021 for new council year / new school year (either May or September).

18 – CCTV. Decision to make on spend, given impact of CV19 on budgets. Meeting with TVP and MKC postponed due to covid and lack of clarity around impact remains (unwillingness / unable to confirm that action would be taken even if CCTV evidence).

19 – MK Storehouse. Decision made and reduced funding awarded.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are areas where spending hasn’t happened, for obvious reasons. This will help ensure impact of other income being loss is mitigated. However, a realistic budget for the coming year should ensure that those items that are not complete, where wanting to continue, can progress post Covid.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

No variation noted. Some officers have had variations to usual working patterns and focus, due to situation, but nothing specific within this proposal / paper.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None perceived.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Service Plan 2020/21.

AUTHOR:

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 125/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide the committee with some 'information only' items, to ensure oversight.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee considers what, if any, updates they would like regarding these items:**
 - a. The management of the 'back alleys' across the parish, specifically on Beanhill.**
 - b. The 'Public Realm' money allocated to four estates being managed by Resident Associations / groups.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

This paper is to provide initial information about two issues that fall within the remit of this committee, to ensure oversight and provide the option of ongoing updates, if requested.

Back Alleys

There are a number of estates where there are 'back alleys' between housing terraces. Tinkers Bridge have managed these with support from Residents Association over the past years. Recently, questions have been raised with regard to the alleys of Beanhill and both the immediate and long-term plans for managing these. Whilst there is a current agreement (using the public realm money noted below) to address the immediate issues, there appears to be no plan for the long-term management of these spaces. As a result of this, the Landscape and Environment Manager, Council Manager and MKC will be discussing how best to address this for future management.

Public Realm Money

Each of the four previously designated 'Regeneration Estates' (Coffee Hall, Beanhill, Tinkers Bridge and Netherfield) were allocated monies from a public realm fund to address specific issues. This funding was NOT allocated to WCC and decisions with regard to spending were made between residents groups and MKC.

The items agreed in the original discussions have, in some cases, been started, but many other elements have been delayed as a result of covid, impact on staffing, change of officer at MKC level and various other reasons. There were concerns that these delays would result in this funding being lost and actions not being completed,

but there has been confirmation from MKC that the funding will remain and, if necessary, be carried over into the next financial year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unclear at this time but may impact upon the Landscape contract if decision is that the alleys become part of the contract.

The public realm funding is not directly involving WCC, but the decision does protect the funding for use as agreed with the resident groups in 2019.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

There may be some impact on Landscape Team, but this should be minimal and manageable within the existing structures.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 126/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To propose some short-term adjustments to the Grants programme, in response to the impact of Covid 19 during the current financial year.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee agrees that any funding allocated for activities that have been cancelled due to Covid, is extended for a further twenty four (24) months, rather than being returned.**
- 3. That the level of funding for the year 2021/22 reflects the limitations on spending due to the restrictions, but that additional funding be enabled as and when the pandemic allows activity to start again.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The issue of previously awarded grant funding was flagged at a meeting within the council in late 2020, with a query regarding repayment of grants that were awarded for activities that could not take place due to the restrictions in place due to Covid. The suggestion was that this funding, rather than coming back to council simply to be re-awarded in future for the same activities, was allowed to remain with the applicants, on the understanding that the events would still take place, but at a later date. This suggestion seemed to be generally approved by the meeting attendees.

As a result, further conversations have taken place and the proposal for this committee is that:

- Funding that has been allocated for specific activities that have NOT taken place as a result of Covid-19, but that WILL take place once the restrictions are lifted, remains with the applicant on the understanding that it is spent and reported against, in line the existing policies, within a period of 24 months from 1st January 2021 (so all reports and spending to happen by 31st December 2022).

It is felt that this timescale is realistic as it is unlikely that any such activity will take place during the current calendar year (with the possible exception of Christmas Fayres), so can be utilised during 2022.

If applicants would rather return and reapply, this is also acceptable.

This also helps address some of the concerns with regard to funding levels for the coming year. As mentioned, it is unlikely that trips and large group activities will be

able to take place until autumn of 2021, so funding for these is likely to be limited. With existing funding remaining in place, this provides a greater amount that is in the budget whilst not enabling any 'roll over' as these are in breach of our financial regulations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The budget for grants during 2021/11 is currently £7000, excluding the direct grants to RA's (and additional £3500). There is around a further £2,000 already agreed which will remain in place. During the current financial year, we have only had 2 grant applications; one for Grand Union Vineyard and one for some socially distanced events, a total of £3,132.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None noted.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Whilst there is a reduction in the overall pot proposed, this reflects the current situation. In the event that the situation changes drastically, a review can take place and we can adjust if necessary and in agreement with budgetary constraints.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 127/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To propose consideration of post Covid focus for services and consideration of issues that may arise.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee considers any issues that may need additional resource or focus once the pandemic is more managed.**
- 3. That the committee develops a work plan to address these issues, with flexibility to respond to any unforeseen issues that may arise.**
- 4. That this plan is updated and adjusted as the situation changes and that the document is managed by the Community Services Manager, in conjunction with this committee.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

At time of writing, we are in a National Lockdown, which follows 10 months of restrictions being in place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has meant that schools have been closed, businesses restricted in their operations, many people have been either furloughed or made redundant, contact with families and friends has been severely reduced and access to services and support has been patchy in places. This has led to an increase in those claiming benefits, those who are in financial hardship, a rise in incidents of mental ill health (including PTSD and bereavement and loss issues) and a range of other challenges.

The proposed Service Plan for 2021/22 does include a number of specific items that relate to 'Covid Recovery' – addressing food poverty, ensuring advice and representation, building and rebuilding communities and engagement and a focus on employment, training and similar.

Early indications are that these items cover most of the issues noted above, but with no specific focus on mental health and wellbeing. Whilst all elements link to this (food helps maintain good wellbeing, education and training mean higher incomes are possible, which also can help, community support provides opportunities for activities, etc.) there may be a need for a more focused approach, linking to our mental health specialism, local support agencies and health / social care support, alongside specific groups (e.g. PTSD Resolutions, etc.).

It is also likely that the Youth Service will see changes and additional needs identified. This is already visible in terms of safeguarding and the impact of loss of services and schools. Without having access to youth clubs and the support they

offer, some young people will, undoubtedly, be experiencing additional difficulties. How the future may present challenge is unclear, but the youth team are aware and prepared to adjust delivery accordingly as the position becomes apparent.

There are also likely to be unforeseen impacts that only become apparent as the future unfolds. It is important that we are able to respond to these as and when they become apparent, in the way that

Woughton is renowned for historically. As the most local element of government and with positive links into our communities, we have an essential role to play in helping the locale recover from what has been and continues to be an exceptional set of circumstances. This paper aims to prepare the way for this work, whilst acknowledging that the future is unclear.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is a budget allocated to the elements noted above and some additional within the 'emerging priorities' heading. In addition, many funders are offering grants to support post covid work, which we will also be investigating and applying for, where appropriate and linked to the delivery we envisage.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

The staffing model laid out in the budget and planning has capacity for all the above, but there is likely to be additional need in key areas, where links to outside organisations, targeted income to 'top up' staffing where necessary and partnership working with other organisations will be key.

The Community Services Manager has oversight of the majority of these areas, with the Youth Service also likely to see some specific needs. Given this, it is recommended that the Community Services Manager takes the lead in creating and developing an action plan, leading on the Service Plan items and liaising with this committee, other officers and the wider community and organisations to best implement any activities and actions needed.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 128/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the committee on the 'Santa Sleigh' event and proposed delivery for Christmas 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to:**
 - a. WCC providing a sleigh, on the rear of a vehicle, with a Santa.**
 - b. That this visits each of our residential estates during the later part of December 2021, preferably in the early evening once it is dark(ish).**
 - c. That Residents Associations can, if they choose, add on elements to the Santa sleigh event (e.g. giving out chocolates, holding an event, etc.) but that this is optional.**
- 3. That a full programme, risk management scheme, involvement of other groups and associated work is undertaken and provided to this committee on or before November 2021 meeting for final agreement.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

On the 19th December, Woughton Community Council supported three local resident associations in delivering the 'Santa Sleigh' – essentially Santa, on a sleigh, on the back of the landscape truck.

The events were reflective of the three estates (Tinkers Bridge, Beanhill and Netherfield).

Tinkers Bridge was during the afternoon and saw a team of elves with lists of properties handing out / delivering presents with noise and instruments. This is an annual event on Tinkers and was reflected in the level of organisation and structure. There were lots of people who came out of their homes to see the parade.

Beanhill was as dusk fell – with decorated scooters at each corner, several elves and helpers, they also distributed selection boxes to those along the route. There were LOADS of people lining the route and, due to having sufficient time, an additional loop was added to enable the Perrydown properties to also be visited.

Netherfield was in the dark and again, there was people lining most of the route and coming out of their houses as the parade passed. It was later, darker and had started raining for Netherfield, but despite this, there were still considerable numbers.

The Council Manager was surprised by the number of people and the levels of excitement from all. It was an event that clearly touched many local families and showed the value of having something during the difficult time in the run up to Christmas. The event took place at a time where there was much anxiety about activities and festivities and which was followed the next day by additional

restrictions being enforced. It is felt that this event, provided in a Covid safe manner, made some positive difference.

Proposal for 2021

With the success of this event and associations from other areas wanting involvement, it is proposed that there is a plan in place at an early stage, to ensure all can take part. As a result, the following steps are proposed:

- That Woughton Community Council commits to providing the sleigh, on a vehicle, a driver and associated decorations, etc.
- That Woughton Community Council commits to a route through each estate within the parish, covering as many streets as possible and reasonable, which the Santa Sleigh will travel
- That Woughton Community Council will encourage resident associations on each estate to put together an event that compliments the sleigh route, be that the dishing out of presents, links to a Christmas Fayre or similar, noise making elves – whatever each estate feels is best for them.
- That a full, detailed proposal is in place, with all relevant staffing, processes, risk management, equipment and so on, by the end of October, with agreements in place with RA's included. That this proposal then comes to this committee in either October or November of 2021 for agreement and ratification.

Based on our experience this year, we would suggest that events in the evening, where the Sleigh is lit up, are more visually engaging, but that this would be a decision for each estate to make.

Each estate should allow between 60 – 19 minutes for one the parade to take place. It is recommended that there should be no more than 3 estates undertaken within any day, and no more than 2 within an evening. This may mean that we do the parish over the course of a week (evenings) or weekend (if days are included).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are limited costs associated with this event – the sleigh and decorations are already in place, the vehicle is there (and not used evenings or weekend) and staff needed is limited, with the support of Resident Associations. Fuel is the only other cost and this will be minimal.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

Minimum is one officer to drive the vehicle, but other support is welcome (e.g. photos, elves, etc.) but this will mainly be provided by Resident Associations, as it was this year.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 129/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the committee on previous discussions around fly-tipping and the action points arising from such.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes this report.**
- 2. That the Council Manager continues to work with the Environment Team, Serco and MKC departments to make improvements to the parish regarding waste and recycling in all guises.**
- 3. That any further information is provided to this committee as and when it becomes available.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Following significant discussions around agenda item SC 112/20, there were a number of action points for follow up. This paper explains actions to this point and further work needed.

The first point related to reports that any waste with a Woughton 'label' on it (e.g. a notice that stated this was fly tipping) would NOT be removed by Serco. The Council Manager was asked to see if this was the case. It is not the case and any rubbish that has a WCC notice on it will also be reported and should be collected in the same way as any other fly tipped waste.

Secondly was a request for a Service Level Agreement regarding the Serco contract. This is unable to be provided due to 'commercial confidentiality'.

Thirdly, a meeting to be arranged with Wayne Turner to address the concerns raised. This is an ongoing process which has been hampered by the current restrictions, but regular catch up meetings are held between the Environment Team and Mr Turner to address these issues which has resulted in the feedback included in this paper.

Finally, the Council Manager was asked to write to MKC regarding the fencing work on Netherfield and the request that contractors clear up any waste. This has happened.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

Ongoing demands on environment team, but otherwise nothing new.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

SC112/20 – Report on Fly Tipping presented to committee in October 2020.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 130/21

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Services & Communities Committee

Tuesday 26th January 2021

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the committee on dog waste issues and proposals for future provision.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to a full evaluation of dog waste bin provision, with any additional demand and / or alternative placement addressed, working with Resident Associations whilst acknowledging budgetary constraints.**
- 3. That issues relating to the allegation that dog bin contractors are driving over grassed areas are addressed and managed.**
- 4. That the committee is presented with a full report and proposal at March 2021 meeting.**

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

There have been a number of requests from residents and resident associations for additional dog bin provision within the parish. This includes the request that was submitted to Full Council in December (see agenda item FC 227/20) and other requests since that time.

Woughton Community Council currently provides 38 dog bins across the parish. These are serviced by Warners of Bedford, who empty and dispose of the waste on a weekly basis, providing a report on the amount of waste collected.

As agreed at the Full Council meeting, a full evaluation of dog bin provision, placement, levels of need, any additional demand (i.e. more than 38 bins) and any budgetary implications is due to take place. Early indications are that there are enough bins, but that some of them are not necessarily in the right place. Lorraine Essam, the Environment Officer who manages the dog waste element, has suggested that there are some bins that would benefit from being moved, mainly closer to paths / roads (see issue below regarding emptying of bins) and to higher traffic areas / areas where bins have been requested. This early work will be built upon, including discussions with Resident Associations to highlight where they feel would be most beneficial, to enable a full report and proposal to be provided for this committee in March 2021.

Another issue that has been raised is a suggestion that grassed areas are being damaged by the collection of the dog waste by operatives in vans. This has been highlighted to the contractors who are aware that this shouldn't happen. It is

suggested that anybody who sees this happening should, if possible, take photos or registration numbers and we can then take appropriate action.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of a new bin is around £160. Installation is around a further £50. Each bin then costs a set amount (£3) per collection. This equates to approximately £350 in the first year, with ongoing costs of

around £150 per year, per bin (just under £6,000 per year for current provision). At the current time, there is nothing within the budget for additional bin collections, but there is some additional money each year for replacement bins, dog bags and similar, which could be used for additional collections if agreed.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None, but additional contractor demands may be needed.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager