

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	24 October 2017
Title:	Open Spaces Working Group – Litter Initiative
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk Janine Howells, Asset Manager

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide a verbal / written update on the Litter / Dog Fouling / Byelaws initiative being undertaken by Town Council members of the Open Spaces Working Group (OSWG).

Update

2. Over the years, the Town Council has executed a variety of initiatives to help reduce antisocial littering and dog fouling.
3. There continue to be concerns sporadically raised about the extent of litter and dog fouling in the town. As a result it was agreed that the Open Spaces Working Group, while it waits for funding certainty relating to Elms Park improvements, should turn its attention to more general litter, dog fouling and bye law issues.
4. A list of 24 educational ideas was presented at the last CLR meeting. The OSWG has selected 7 particular items from that list to concentrate on. The Town Clerk and Asset Manager have prepared an outline possible plan for action over the next year:

Ref	Idea	Possible Actions
2	Signs on all litter bins advising of dual use of litter & dog waste	Permission being sought to put such signage on District as well as Town bins. Some signage already in place.
4	Provide free dog poo bags – sponsored by vets/ pet shop	Approaches to be made to veterinary surgeries / pet shops when time allows
6	Litter campaign with Lord Williams Lower School	Will propose use of use of next off-timetable day – possibly instead of TGNS
10	Delay Maintenance Team litter pick so people see the impact	Will need careful communication around about – in advance and after – including photographic evidence. Most impact would be for a 5 day period in summer 2018.
11	Publicise how much litter is actually picked up by the Town Council	Some statistics already gathered. Need to agree what needs reporting – time spent? / weight? / volume? And over what period (report for a year from June 2018?) Or simply display a week's worth on a stage outside the Town Hall?
16	Poster to be designed by children 'Keep Thame Tidy'	Keep in back pocket for when we need a related competition
22	Provide more "inviting" bins, in accessible "hot-spot" locations	Bins with funnel / target shaped mouths are available. Hot spots to be identified – probably South Pole youth shelter and Skate Park.

5. The issue of dog fouling in the town centre as raised at last meeting has been discussed with the street cleaner. He believed there was no particular issue, and therefore no particular pattern that could be communicated to CCTV for evidence gathering.
6. Separate discussions continue with SODC on the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which may also assist. A public consultation on the proposed order for Thame is imminent. Expectation is that geographic aspects will be better covered, but litter / dog fouling will not. SODC have confirmed that PCSOs (supported by SODC's Environmental Protection team) have all the existing powers necessary to deal with litter and dog fouling and a PSPO cannot duplicate what is already in place.

Action Required

To note the report.