

COUNCIL MEETING - 16 DECEMBER 2003

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR MARK EDWARDS – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Litter

The Litter Hotline is now operational and taking calls. The number of calls have been limited too date but we are expecting increases as the advertising starts to work. The extra funds have led to an additional member of staff for the street-cleaning programme. We have changed some of the cleaning regimes and as a result are seeing positive comments from members of the public. I am delighted to have been contacted on numerous occasions by telephone and letter thanking me for the stance taken, the efforts being made and the impact being seen. I personally want to thank all of the team from the Street Cleaners to the officers who have taken my position very seriously on this matter and have all pulled together to have a very positive effect. We are not there yet but have moved a considerable way.

Taunton Deane: Crisp and Clean

The principle of “Crisp and Clean” was discussed by the Health and Leisure Panel and was welcomed by all. The Crisp and Clean policy is an umbrella to cover various aspects of the Street Scene in and around Taunton Deane.

The aspects embraced by Crisp and Clean are:-

- Continuing the targeted increase in Street Cleaning across Taunton Deane.
- Promoting the new litter Hotline.
- Introduction of litter fines.
- Highlight and tackle litter Hot Spots.
- Tackling Fly Tipping.
- The formation of the River Tone Partnership to fund the professional cleaning of the tone.
- Encouraging local business to clean the stonework of their buildings
- The formation of Environmental Wardens to be the Councils eyes across the district.
- Improving the car parks to make them cleaner, more friendly and welcoming.

I am determined that all the departments within the Council take seriously what we are trying to achieve. We need a joined up approach to a district wide issue.

I would finish by adding that when I say “Taunton Deane” I mean the whole district not only Taunton Town Centre.

In addition I would like to thank Cllr Meikle for his assistance in preparing the “Crisp and Clean” paper and his thoughts with regard this policy.

Public Toilets

I have presently still agreed to keep shut the following toilets:-

Kingston Rd.

Hamilton Rd

Victoria Gate

Cheddon Green

French Wier

will be opened on a seasonal basis

Priorswood

shut for some time through vandalism

The other toilets are now fully open and the cleaning regime now in place appears to be working very effectively with a better quality service. There have been no financial gains as a result of this change indeed quite the opposite but we now have cleaner facilities which are open to the hours required certainly an improvement on the previous situation.

In Wellington I am still intending on replacing or refurbishing the North Street Toilets which are a serious concern and I will be speaking to the Town Council in the New Year about what type of facilities would be appropriate.

Councillor Mark J Edwards