

COUNCIL MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2004

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR MARK EDWARDS – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Kerbside Recycling Waste Management

There have been some very positive steps forward in the kerbside recycling scheme. Firstly there was the introduction of the full service (including glass) to Hatch Beauchamp and North Curry as a result of negotiations with the contractor and at no extra cost to the Council. There was then the announcement of additional revenue support from DEFRA amounting to an additional £34,500, the success of the SWP bid for £5m to develop recycling services in 2004/5 and 2005/6 and a further £460,00 bid being awarded providing it can be spent in 2003/4.

The result of this is that we are now able to expand the service going forward for kerbside recycling by at least a further 4000 properties and all our collections will now include glass. This takes the coverage of the service to at least 92% in Taunton Deane.

This is a very positive step forward in the recycling of all waste produced in Taunton Deane and the success of the bids for SWP was in part due to the efforts of Bruce Carpenter who should be commended for his efforts.

Environmental Health

It became apparent that there was a problem in the parks and other areas with dog fouling and it was concluded that a review of our present situation needed to take place and action taken. There are a number of plans to look at this in the medium to short term and I am grateful to the officers for there responses to my requests.

In the short term there will, as a result, be more plain-clothes warden checks on certain areas and enforcement notices will be issued if we catch any offenders. Further changes are being considered and will be reported at a later date when a full reports has been drawn up and can be considered by the Health and Leisure Panel.

Litter/Street Scene

It is the intention to allocate £5000 for gum clearance iniatives from unallocated funds for 2003/4. This will further the “Crisp and Clean” agenda being followed by this Council. More information on this will be circulated shortly.

I will shortly be writing the owners of a number of properties within the Deane asking them to assist us in either cleaning their building if appropriate. In addition in certain instances I will be writing to ask that when land is left idle or derelict if they can assist by keeping the site tidy. Again this is another part of the “Crisp and Clean” agenda.

Public Toilets

The facility at Victoria Park has now re opened after I was satisfied that the contract would be enacted and the facility kept clean.

A full review of all services has gone forward to Health and Leisure, which met last week after submission of this report. I will assess their views in due course.

Out of Hours Noise

I have had comments with regard the possibility of this service from some Councillors but was not truly sure what the actual need was. To assist in reviewing this a form is being circulated to all Councillors so we can assess the true need.

Once again thank you to all the officers within my portfolio who are very able, supportive and hardworking and I am grateful for their continued support.

Councillor Mark J Edwards