

Recommendations From the Flytipping and Litter Working Party Report

Cllr Heavens - Proposal for Volunteer Litter Picking:

1. Types of Litter Picking Activity Already in Place

- 1.1 West Swindon Parish Council has around ten volunteers who litter pick on a regular/weekly basis as individuals. They have been provided with equipment from the Parish Council and they report back to the Parish Council on an ad hoc basis.
- 1.2 The Parish Council has a number of groups who undertake a regular litter pick e.g. monthly. These include Shaw Residents Association, Westlea Church, Freshbrook Church. The Parish Council provides bags and collection of waste.
- 1.3 Parish Councillors organise community litter picks on an occasional basis. The Parish Council provides the equipment, the organisation and the collection of waste.
- 1.4 Local groups borrow litter picking kit for their own litter picking activity e.g. schools, brownies. The Parish Council provides the equipment and collection of waste but expects the organisation and responsibility to be placed with the borrowing organisation.

2. Current Outcomes from this Model:

- 2.1 People are participating as and when they want to. They have the freedom to do as much or as little as they choose.
- 2.2 The Parish Council enables and supports litter picking across the Parish in addition to main road routes undertaken by the Streetsmart contract.

3. Areas to Improve:

- 3.1 There is a limited acknowledgement of the positive contribution that local volunteers are making.
- 3.2 People can feel that they are filling in activity that should be or was provided by paid staff.
- 3.3 Accountability for risk and insurance cover could be more clearly defined.
- 3.4 This model is slow to grow/expand and is not delivered consistently. Volunteers do not have updates to tell them where recent litter picking has taken place so there is no coordination of effort.

4. A New Model for Volunteer Litter Picking:

- 4.1 West Swindon Parish Council launches a new approach to community litter picking;
West Swindon Clean and Green Teams.
- 4.2 West Swindon is divided into smaller areas e.g. Westlea, Toothill, Freshbrook, Grange Park, Eastleaze, Shaw, Peatmoor, Sparcells, Ramleaze, Nine Elms, and Middleleaze = 11 Teams.
- 4.3 Residents are invited to join the *Clean and Green Team* for their neighbourhood. 1-2 Residents are encouraged to be the Team Leaders (this could be Parish Councillors). Each team agrees litter picking routes to be undertaken by the team on a weekly basis. We could do this through a workshop in September. The routes will be done weekly on a rotation basis. Completion of the routes would be recorded by the team leader and reported to the Parish Council office.
For example, if there is a Clean and Green team of 10 people, each team member could offer 2 hours a month, creating 20 hours of litter picking in their area a month. This could be allocated as 5 hours of litter picking a week and would result in 260 hours of litter picking in that area over 12 months and a community grant pot of £1300.00
- 4.4 The goal would be to achieve a minimum of 13 hours a month per team/area (2 hours a week ideally). This would equate to 156 hours per year. If this was achieved by each of the 11 teams, it would be the equivalent of 33 hours of litter picking across West Swindon each week.
- 4.4 The Parish Council would still encourage and facilitate the larger group activities with the collection of waste and help with bags and equipment, however, smaller local activity on a weekly basis would provide a more consistent approach.
- 4.5 In recognition of this voluntary effort, the Parish Council would create an Environmental Grant pot for each of the teams. This would provide £5.00 in recognition of each volunteer hour spent litter picking with an annual cap of £2000 in the year. For larger group activities happening outside of the area teams, the Council could award a £50.00 to the neighbourhood pot to the area team. If the scheme was successful, annual costs for the grants would be up to £22,000.
- 4.6. The *Clean and Green Team* grant pots would be held and spent by the Parish Council. The items of expenditure would be proposed by the area team. Items would need to fit eligibility criteria such as environmental improvements and benefit their area. This could include bins, benches, planters, planting. It is proposed that there would also be an annual event to enable the teams to come together and celebrate achievements.
- 4.7. The Parish Council would provide equipment, risk assessments, and insurance and coordinate the teams' activity.

- 4.8 *Clean and Green Teams* could link with or encompass existing volunteer groups that are looking after local woodland and wildflower areas.

Flytipping:

- 4.9 It is proposed that measures to tackle litter and flytipping are addressed in two phases. Residents will be invited to get involved in litter picking through the coordinated *Clean and Green* teams as part of Phase 1. Phase 2 will focus on the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices and measures to deal more effectively with fly tipping (depending on the outcome of the Streetsmart Contract review).
- 4.10 In terms of flytipping, this could be dealt with through the agreement of local collection points, the introduction of environmental ambassadors and a new model for (non litter bin) waste removal.
- 4.11 There are a number of options for flytipping waste to be collected and removed which could be in place of or in addition to the existing arrangement that could deliver a speedy and effective solution.
- 4.12 Training to enable Parish Council staff to issue fixed penalty notices is currently being agreed. It is proposed that there is an Environment Ambassador role that could be employed by the Parish for up to 10 hours a week. The Ambassador would work closely with the area *Clean and Green team* and undertake regular area patrols. The Environment Ambassadors could potentially be recruited from the pool of volunteer Team Leaders. The Ambassador would
- be trained to promote positive education about recycling and clean environments in schools
 - issue Fixed Penalty Notices
 - issue advisory/warning letters
 - support the work of the *Clean and Green* teams

5. Recommendations:

- 5.1 That the Parish Council considers approval of
- a) the Litter Picking model outlined in the report.
 - b) the creation of 11 area *Clean and Green Teams* to coordinate resident volunteers.
 - c) the creation of Environmental Grant pots for each area
 - d) that the Parish Council receives a report on Phase 2 - further measures to address flytipping at its meeting in September.

Flytipping & Litter Working Party

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