

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 22 MAY 2018
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES
KATHERINE RODGERS, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

To update on the sale of the Peel Street car park, the increasing incidents of fly tipping, and the developing Artwalk in Clitheroe.

2 CAR PARKS

Peel Street car park sale to Lidl was completed on 5.4.18

3 FLY TIPPING AND STREET CLEANSING

3.1 The spate of fly tipping across the Borough is now very significant and has previously been reported to members. However, the scale and frequency of the problem is such now that it is taking resources away from the basic role of litter collection.

3.2 To illustrate the problem, in the first four months of 2018, the Council dealt with 216 fly tips. This figure is not the total number of incidents recorded. There were others, which were on the highway and the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, plus those on private land, where the Council has no involvement. Ribble Valley BC has the authority to pick up from our own land or the verges of highways. We can pick up from private land only if the landowner is prepared to pay for the cost of the work being carried out.

3.3 Council staff photograph every fly tip that is found on private land as they sometimes have mysteriously appeared on the public highway, in such instances the original victim becomes the offender. Photographs are taken where evidence of ownership is found, perhaps an envelope or parcel wrapper.

3.4 Where evidence of ownership exists, action is taken, however such instances are rare. The sorts of things left range from builders' rubble and garden waste, to tyres and asbestos and household goods.

3.5 The major rise in the scale of the problem is linked to charges, which LCC has imposed on businesses and residents for disposing of such waste. Although the fines for fly tipping can be severe, the risk for many is worth it. We have many quiet country lanes, and these are attractive areas to dump.

3.6 Despite media information, telling people that if they have work done and the contractor dumps their waste, they have a legal duty to ensure the waste is disposed of correctly and they cannot ignore it. Few residents check that their contractor has a proper method of disposal.

3.7 The Council employs 6 people to carry out litter collection and street scene work, such as weed spraying across the Borough, on some days this year, 2 of these have spent a full day dealing with fly tipping issues. Therefore, the impact on the rest of their work is beginning to show. This problem will continue to grow as fly tipping increases as the national trend indicates it is.

4 ARTS DEVELOPMENT

RVBC Arts Development are looking to develop the partnership of Clitheroe Artwalk. The project was developed to cross market the hub of visual art galleries and venues that have developed within Clitheroe. The group's aim is to work together to promote Clitheroe as a destination for a cultural day out. The trail can be done all year round but has focused day events throughout the year. Venues currently involved are Knowle Top Studios, Longitude Gallery, Platform Gallery, Ribble Valley Art Studios, The Keep, and the Steward's Gallery at the Castle Museum.

After a successful year piloting the project, the group would like to formalise the partnership for the project to be sustainable. The Arts Development Officer will work with the RVBC Legal department to develop a relevant structure, including a constitution, terms of reference, and aims of the group. With this, the council's Director of Resources will consider the partnership with the aim of RVBC becoming the accountable body for the group.

5 CONCLUSION

Further developments and relevant activities within Community Services will be reported to future Committees.

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