



**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
21st SEPTEMBER 2023**

Report of: The Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources

Relevant Portfolio Holders: Councillor Neil Furey

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**SUBJECT: UPDATES FOR THE LITTER CLEARANCE IN WEST LANCS,
INCLUDING FLY TIPPING AND GROT SPOTS TASK AND FINISH
GROUP**

Wards affected: All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report is to provide an update to the committee on the actions completed for the Litter Clearance in West Lancashire, including Fly Tipping and Grot Spots.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That the update in this report be noted to show the progression of the project.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 It was agreed at the last Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31st May 2023 that due to the significant progress that has been made with the Litter Clearance in West Lancashire, including Fly Tipping and Grot Spots that the project would continue.

3.2 The project involved a detailed action plan to set out the vision and following actions:

1. To roll out Community Skip Days in other parts of the Borough in conjunction with Parish Councils.
2. Eco Schools, to invite the 58 Primary Schools within West Lancashire to enter a competition to design a Poster showing their 'Eco School Ethos. Winning schools will receive a Character Bin and will receive an educational visit by the Environmental Enforcement Team.

3. Volunteer litter picking:
 - (a) Handbook for Volunteer Litter Picking Groups
 - (b) Gifting Litter Picking Equipment to Volunteer Groups/Individuals, including litter pickers, bags, hazard tape and Hi Vis tabards with logo (Community Litter Picking Volunteer)
4. Environmental Borough Improvements to tackle Grot Spot Locations, four locations were identified by Clean and Green Services to benefit from environmental improvements, to be set as project work:
 - a. Project 1 - East Gillibrands, Skelmersdale
 - b. Project 2 – West Pimbo, Skelmersdale
 - c. Project 3 – Old Boundary Way, Ormskirk
 - d. Project 4 – Elmers Clough, Skelmersdale

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The update for each project is below:

- 1. To roll out Community Skip Days in other parts of the Borough in conjunction with Parish Councils.**

All Parish Councils have been contacted to host a Community Skip Day within their Parish. To date none of the Parish Councils have expressed an interest the Community Skip Day.

There were 4 Parish Councils who responded and declined this offer.

The Clean and Green Operations Manager attended the Parish Council Annual General Meeting on 27th July 2023 and highlighted that the Community Skip Days were still available to all Parish Councils should they wish to host one of these events.

- 2. Eco Schools, to invite the 58 Primary Schools within West Lancashire to enter a competition to design a Poster showing their 'Eco School Ethos. Winning schools will receive a Character Bin and will receive an educational visit by the Environmental Enforcement Team.**

There were 56 entries received from 4 primary schools:

- Burscough Village Primary School, Burscough
- Pontville School, Ormskirk
- Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE School, Hesketh Bank
- St Johns RC Primary School, Burscough

The 6 winning entries (Appendix 1) for the Eco School competition were chosen by the Portfolio Holder for Street Scene.

Burscough Village Primary School, and St Johns RC Primary School, Burscough were presented with their character 'Monster' bin by the Mayor Cllr Maureen Nixon on 13th July 2023.

The Council's Environmental Enforcement Team have contacted both schools to arrange a follow up educational visit and are awaiting dates from the schools.

Pontville School, Ormskirk and Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE School, Hesketh Bank could not be finalised before the summer term break. The character 'Monster' bins will be presented during the autumn term 2023.

A follow up educational visit from the Council's Environmental Enforcement Team will follow within a month of the presentation.

3. Volunteer litter picking:

(a) Handbook for Volunteer Litter Picking Groups/Individuals

(b) Gifting Litter Picking Equipment to Volunteer Groups/Individuals, including litter pickers, bags, hazard tape and Hi Vis tabards with logo (Community Litter Picking Volunteer)

(a) The Litter Picking Volunteer Group Handbook is completed and will be supplied to volunteer groups (Appendix 2)

(b) The litter picking equipment is in stock and has been gifted to the following groups:

1. Ormskirk Scout Group
2. Skelmersdale Litter Picking Group

(c) There are currently 16 groups registered with the Council as volunteer litter picking groups/individuals. All groups/individuals have been contacted and notified in connection with the handbook and the equipment that is being gifted as part of this initiative.

4. Environmental Borough Improvements to tackle Grot Spot Locations, four locations were identified by Clean and Green Services to benefit from environmental improvements, to be set as project work:

a. Project 1 - East Gillibrands, Skelmersdale

- Timeframe: April 2023 – July 2023
- Status: Completed
- Appendix 3

b. Project 2 – West Pimbo, Skelmersdale

- Timeframe: September 2023 – October 2023
- Status: Work to commence 11th September 2023

c. Project 3 – Old Boundary Way, Ormskirk

- Timeframe: October 2023 – November 2023
- Status: Work to commence 14th October 2023

d. Project 4 – Elmers Clough, Skelmersdale

- Timeframe: November 2023 – December 2023
- Status: Work will commence 25th November

5.0 ISSUES

- 5.1 Environmental Borough Improvements were paused during the 6-week school holiday break due to existing annual leave of operatives and wet weather conditions. Further work is to resume from 11th September 2023.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This project will have a positive impact on the local areas. The cleansing of 'Grot Spot' locations will improve the access to the industrial areas of Skelmersdale.
- 6.2 Each project area will be added to cleansing schedules to ensure areas stay well maintained.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Budget provision is in place for the delivery of the project.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Officers complete and review risk assessments prior to the completion of each the project.

9.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Tackling litter clearance, fly tipping and grot spot locations will have a positive impact on community wellbeing in West Lancashire. The engagement of primary schools promotes the importance on protecting our planet and that littering, and fly tipping has a detrimental impact on the environment that we live in.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a positive direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix 4 to this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Primary School Competition winning entries.

Appendix 2 – Litter picking volunteer group handbook.

Appendix 3 – Environmental Borough Improvement works: East Gillibrands project update

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment Form