

Central- Area: Quarter 3 Report. Oct- Dec 2020

Overview.

The Central Area is contracted to 1.5 x officers, this equates to 721.5 hours over these three months of the Contract, the hours our officers achieved was 685.4 Patrol hours, which is 95% of our contracted hours.

This quarter 150 FPN's have been issued in the area. 146 of these have been for littering offences and 4 for dog fouling offences. (Cigarette litter accounting for 75% of the Offences, which is well below the national average and gives us an average of 73% over the year to date). The Officers concentrate their patrols around intelligence led information from the Central Area Council, the neighbourhood tasking process and also from complaints on the street and the community at large. There still has been a noticeable lull in the tasks received from the Area Council/Neighbourhood Services up to date this quarter, as with last quarter, reference public complaints, with 5 tasks being received through the system, 2 of them having direct action taken with them. Again however, this will in the main be due to the fact that all Council employees are still working from home and not in the various offices.

Operations are on-going and all areas continue to be patrolled, however during this quarter the area was back in lockdown during November, which saw a vast reduction in the number of people on the streets. Many of the tasks that do come in from all areas throughout the Borough, is to report issues with people complaining of individuals allowing their dogs to foul and leave it. As part of their patrols the officers have continued to visit parks and open grass spaces within the borough in an attempt to catch these offenders. Due to the dark mornings and the fact that it is getting darker earlier has hampered the officers witnessing the actual offences taking place during the last Quarter, and many owners will take their dogs out prior to and returning from work.

The number of offenders that refuse to give details to the officers when approached after committing the offence has stayed steady this quarter as there has been 16 cases in which the offender has refused their details and walked away from the officer. 1 of these was for Dog Fouling offences.

Prosecutions have continued for Littering and Dog Fouling offences for those who do not pay the FPN issued to them. To date, this current contractual year across the boroughs, 50 offenders have had court files prepared for prosecution, which have been passed to BMBC to be submitted for court. However the number of offenders we are able to pursue for failing to pay is dependent upon the court space allocated to District for Barnsley offenders. Currently this is 10 per schedule.

The revenue raised thus far from FPN's (Dog Fouling and Littering) for this quarter is £7,650.00 and £16045.00 Year to Date.

District offers the option to pay at the Post Office or any Pay zone outlet using the unique bar code at the top of the FPN. So far 30 payments have been made and £2,950.00 has been received through this method of payment. (£7,000 YTD).

Operations / Case Studies

Operations.

Littering and Dog Fouling Operations have continued in the Central area through information received from Councillors and Neighbourhood Services. Two particular areas identified were around the Warren Quarry Lane/Highstone Road and also Birk Avenue in Kendray.

In total 20 FPN's for littering have been issued across both locations. 12 FPN's for Littering have been issued in this quarter around the area of Warren Quarry Lane/Highstone Road, with a further 8 FPN's issued on Birk Avenue in Kendray. (See separate attachments for individual case studies)



Added Value

'Litter Picking' days

For those juveniles that are caught committing an offence, District would normally offer an option of a Litter Pick as a means of discharging their liability for the FPN. However due to the current Co-vid 19 pandemic regulations and the relevant Social Distancing regulations, we are unable to offer this option still at the moment. Therefore due to the current circumstances, a letter has been sent to the parents/guardians of each of the juveniles discharging their child from all liability for the FPN, but asking them to explain to their child that any further offences could result in a Litter pick having to be attended in the future.