Safer Communities and Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Overview & Scrutiny Panels

Anti-Social Behaviour in Shared Public Spaces

February 2015

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Chairman’s Foreword and Acknowledgements

Chair’s Foreword

I speak on behalf of all councillors when I say that the continual dumping of rubbish on our streets and in alleyways is not only an eye sore, but is environmentally damaging. Dumping rubbish on the streets of our borough is anti-social and erodes the pride residents have in their locality. During consultation on the work programme councillors received feedback around a number of Anti-social behavioural issues. What seems like a small incident to some can cause worry and concern for those residents directly affected.

This is one of the reasons why the Safer Communities Scrutiny Panel, together with the Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel decided to look into anti-social behaviour in shared public spaces and see how the Council might improve its performance in tackling the different issues and make St Helens a cleaner, safer place where people really want to live, work and visit.

It became apparent during our meeting that the Council and its partners are working hard to address anti-social behaviour in our borough and this work seems to be having some good results, particularly our joint campaigns such as Operation Good Guy.

I would like to thank the Panel Members for work they have put into this review. I would also like to thank our partners and Officers who have supported and taken part in the exercise. I therefore hope that our joint recommendations are successful in ensuring cleaner, brighter and safer St Helens streets.

Councillor Charlie Preston
Chairman of the Scrutiny Task Group
1.0 Introduction

1.1 During the process of agreeing the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2014/2015 the Council’s Safer Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel agreed to look at Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Shared Public Spaces. The main concern for Councillors and members of the public appeared to be the effects of fly tipping, the use of alley gates and general anti-social behaviour.

2.0 Background

2.1 The general issue of ASB in shared public areas was raised by several Councillors and members of the public during the consultation for the 2014/2015 Scrutiny work programme.

2.2 These areas included fly tipping, gangs of youths in alley ways, lack of alley gates, ASB in parks in certain areas and football being played in shared garden areas and against the side of houses/street.

2.3 The task group met with relevant officers for a morning session, held at Helena Central officers, to discuss what the Council and its partners are currently doing and what can be undertaken to improve the situation.

2.4 Officers and Partners who attended:

- Colin Buckley – Operations Manager, Youth Offending Team, St Helens Council.
- Rod Jones – Community Safety Manager – St Helens Council.
- Collette McIntyre – Anti-Social Behaviour Manager, St Helens Council.
- Kate Morris – Community Fire Protection Arson Officer / ASB Advocate, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.
- Chrissy Nevitt – Private Sector Landlord & Tenant Liaison Officer, St Helens Council.
- Mike Peterson – Principal Environmental Health Officer (Environmental Control) St Helens Council.
- Tony Williams – Senior Environmental Health Officer.
- Dave Brennan - Merseyside Police.
- Amanda Fogarty – Merseyside Police.
3.0 Findings

3.1 Each Councillor attending the meeting talked about specific issues affecting their ward. Although these issues affect all the wards in St. Helens, the following areas were discussed in depth as summarised below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Issues Discussed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackbrook</td>
<td>Issues discussed included playground areas being vandalised, gangs of youths and drug dealing in certain locations and burglaries at a local primary school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thatto Heath</td>
<td>Issues raised included football on certain housing estates, alley ways and walk ways being used as 'rat runs' and young people climbing on building sites for new houses. ASB increases when PCSO's go off duty at 9pm. Residents are starting to 'dread' 9pm as this is when they know trouble could start.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton</td>
<td>Fly tipping was highlighted as being a major problem and concern. A number of tenants do not have bins, will not pay the £17.50 for a new one and therefore just throw their rubbish into black bin liners which are dumped on the street. Dog fouling is also an issue in the Sutton area and racist incidents appear to be on the increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>Fly tipping is a big issue in the Town Centre ward. Private lettings seem to be a large part of this problem due to the high turnover of tenants. It is not felt that new tenants are educated/encouraged to use wheelie bins. Youths and vandalism in Nanny Goat park are also on going issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earlestown</td>
<td>The issue of the PCSO's finishing at 9pm was raised and discussed. The young people know what time the PCSO's finish and it is perceived that ASB increases after this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainhill</td>
<td>Fly tipping is an issue with the same few locations being used week after week to dump rubbish. Cleansing teams are well aware of the locations however despite regular visits to collect fly tipping continues. The sights are an eyesore and only increase contamination and the spread of vermin. The possible installation of an alley gate to alleviate problems is being investigated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Litter and Fly Tipping

3.3 All Councillors present at the meeting had problems with litter and fly tipping in their wards. Mike Peterson Principal Environmental Health Officer (Environmental Control) St Helens Council and Tony Williams – Senior Environmental Health Officer agreed that this was a continuing problem throughout the borough with particular hotspots being known to the cleansing team.

3.4 We heard that a team of four enforcement officers commenced on 25th August and will issue a £75 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for dropping litter, dog fouling and dumping rubbish on private property. This initiative will be run on a 12 month pilot scheme. A FPN of £300 can also be issued by the Cleansing Team for fly tipping and rubbish on private properties. To date, the Council has prosecuted 28 littering cases successfully. This is in the period from November 2014 to date, when the cases from the new pilot scheme started to be received. A further 15 littering prosecutions are scheduled for court hearings in the next few weeks. Legal Services have not received any prosecution cases for consideration re fly tipping.

3.5 A similar scheme to our pilot has been running in Doncaster which appears to have had a lot of success. Environmental protection is also engaging with local partners so they too can complete a witness statement which in turn will allow the Enforcement Team to issue a FPN. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service work closely with the enforcement team and fire engines have CCTV cameras present which allow information to be recorded for prosecution purposes.

3.6 Members of the Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel highlighted issues around the fly tipping aspect of ASB and had recently visited a number of sites. The findings were:

- Visits to Hardshaw Street area, Gladstone and Chamberlain Streets and Pigot Street.
- Several alley ways in Hardshaw Street area had black bin bags and loose rubbish in them.
- Again in Chamberlain Street area lots of black bag rubbish and litter, no evidence of recycling, brown bins had recyclable waste in them. Cllr De-Asha raised the question of Euro bins for communal use. It was also noticed that there was a lot of weeds growing in the alley ways.
- It was also discussed why the refuse collectors when collecting the brown bins don’t just pick up the odd black bags that are lying around.
- The alley ways located on Pigot Street are by far the worst. Full of loose rubbish, nappies etc, lots of flies and Cllr L Preston said there had been rats here.
- Most of waste is behind locked alley gates.
- Warning notices have doubled since last year.
- Notices are being put up on alley gates.
3.7 The Task Group discussed at length the issue of fly tipping within the borough and raised the following points/questions for further consideration:

- Should the Council consider introducing weekly collections for terraced streets?
- For those areas where fly tipping was a real problem would the introduction of Euro bins resolve the issues?
- Recycling staff have been reduced by two (their roles were door to door public relations) would it be possible to look at recruiting via the council’s apprentice scheme to help?
- It was clear, some residents needed to be re-educated with regards to recycling.
- Residents moving to new properties where there was a lack of refuse and recycling facilities were reluctant or unable to pay the £17.50 replacement charge.
- Concerns by the Fire Service related to rubbish fires in bins, alley ways and gardens. They only have three fire engines at present and next year this will reduce to two. Two engines are required for a house fire, so if one is busy with a rubbish fire it is out of action.
- Housing Association’s need to do more with their tenants re-education as do private landlords.

3.8 Bulky Rubbish and Partnership Working

3.9 Since the production of the report, Members had requested further information on the Bulky Rubbish service and the potential for working with charitable organisations for the collection of some reusable items. This was reported to the Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel at its meeting in November 2014.

3.10 The Bulky Rubbish collection service had historically been provided free to residents of the Borough. All neighbouring authorities either charged for the service or restricted the number of items or a combination of the two. When the service was first introduced it catered for domestic waste that could be collected with a refuse collection vehicle and was seen as incidental to the main collection service. The service was now more comprehensive. It was appointment based and split into three distinct categories of Standard, White Goods and Specials.

3.11 With effect from 1 December 2014 a charge of £25 was to be introduced for large bulky items. It was anticipated that the introduction of a charge would see a reduction in the amount of requests and a corresponding reduction in the waiting time for collection. At certain times of the year demand for the service was sufficiently high to cause a backlog.
3.12 The service was oversubscribed with a six week waiting period for collection. Extra resources would be available from November 2014 as the Green Waste collection service moved to a monthly collection for the winter period. More appointment slots would be available and appointments would be brought forward to clear the backlog by Christmas 2014.

3.13 The Panel were informed that if the Council liaised with charitable organisations, the Charity would be given first look at the item and if suitable would be removed by them. If not the customer would have to contact the Council for a bulky collection which could then lengthen the collection period.

3.14 A pilot had been carried out in 2013 working with Willowbrook Hospice involving recycling items of furniture. The pilot involved telephoning residents who had recently made an appointment for bulky collection and enquired about their items. If the items were suitable and residents agreed their details were passed to Willowbrook Hospice. The charity then screened the information and measured it against a set of criteria regarding the condition and deemed if it suitable would then arrange a collection. Had the pilot continued the intention was to carry out the screening process on the initial telephone call to the Contact Centre. Of the 160 calls made to residents after the initial screening only 15 were passed on to the charity and only nine were followed through by Willowbrook Hospice.

3.15 Partnership working was currently being developed for textiles with the establishment of a Merseyside Textile Forum. The Forum had been developed in conjunction with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority, local charities, Merseyside District Councils and the national Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). The aim was to identify and support ways to increase recycling and divert textiles from landfill. As part of the project, the Council was looking to launch an ‘on-demand’ textile collection six month trial.

3.16 We heard that the Panel discussed the report and raised concerns with regard to the charge for large bulky items. The Panel requested further information in relation to the statistics for fly tipping for the last three months up to 1 December 2014 and would monitor the statistics in the following three months.

3.17 Alley gates

3.18 Alley gates are large black metal gates that have been useful in helping reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in alleyways. The main reason for installing the gates is to prevent burglaries at the rear of properties. But they have also reduced other problems like anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, drug use and vandalism.

3.19 Alley gates are made out of steel and have a decorative appearance with holes, to allow viewing in and out of the alleyway. They are made to the 'Secure By Design' Gold Standard - which is the UK Police flagship scheme supporting the principles of designing out crime.
3.20 Alley gates are fitted into the ground, they are self-supporting and do not have fixings into your property. Small pieces of fencing are fitted to the posts and building line to block any gaps. These are fixed to brickwork with small screws.

3.21 There are over 1200 alley gates installed across the Borough to date. Alley gate queries (repair reports or key requests) can be made via the Council's Contact Centre and the gates are maintained by a contractor on behalf of the council. It currently costs around £150 per gate to maintain and these are dealt with on a reporting only basis. The 12/13 programme has been completed via the Council's Improvement Programme and further consideration is required as to whether we continue with installations or maintain current stock. Installation programmes are still being planned for the future although the number of installations has recently reduced due to the reduction in demand.

3.22 Complaints from residents are often received about alley gates being left open for no reason. By not closing the alley gates after use, the properties on the block can be exposed to acts of criminality and the alley may become the focus for anti-social behaviour. All residents are asked to respect their neighbours and keep the gates closed at all times.

3.23 Notices have recently been placed on all alley gates asking residents to recycle and warns against fly tipping.

3.24 It was felt that it would be useful if residents who live with alley gates are reminded of the conditions of use, particularly privately rented properties which have a high turnover of tenants. Members suggested that letters be sent to those new tenants and the possibility of these being delivered by PCSO’s could be investigated.

3.25 What is anti-social behaviour?

3.26 A lot of people think they've experienced anti-social behaviour (ASB). There are many different types of ASB, some are dealt with by the police, and some by St Helens Council.

St Helens Council deals with:

- Rowdy and noisy neighbours
- General vandalism
- General graffiti, such as ‘tagging’
- Uncontrolled pets
- Abandoned vehicles
- Unkempt gardens, rubbish dumping
- Shouting and name-calling
- Littering
Merseyside Police deals with

- Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
- Inappropriate vehicle use including off road bikes
- Criminal damage and arson
- Hate crime and hate incidents (incidents that are motivated due to disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation)

3.27 St.Helens Council, Merseyside Police and Community Safety Partners recognise that anti-social behaviour, disorder, drug misuse and environmental crime are high on the list of residents’ priorities for action. Everyone is continuing to work together to deliver on the ASB pledge and will support local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to identify, tackle and eradicate ASB.

3.28 A wide range of ASB legislation is used and tools to help tackle perpetrators. Partners also run a number of annual campaigns to tackle seasonal rises in anti-social behaviour. These are:

- Spring (SpringWatch) to tackle expected rises in ASB, off-road vehicle nuisance and neighbour nuisance.
- Summer (Safespace) to reduce ASB in parks and open spaces
- Autumn (Be the Good Guy) to reduce ASB and nuisance fires in the lead-up to Halloween and Bonfire night.

3.29 The table below shows a breakdown of ASB incidents that occurred between 18:00 – 00:00hrs, across the three wards of the Town Centre, Parr and Thatto Heath over a six month period April to September 2014 in comparison with the same period the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parr</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thatto Heath</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.30 It can be seen that all three wards have seen an increase during the 2014 period, the overall average increase being 42%.

3.31 The table below shows a breakdown of incidents that occurred during the reporting period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned Vehicles</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Problems</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begging / Vagrancy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inappropriate Vehicle Use</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>167%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malicious Communication</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance Neighbours</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowdy Inconsiderate Behaviour</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Drinking</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.32 The times graph below shows that incidents have followed similar trends over the two years. During 2013 incidents have peaked at 20:00hrs then decreased right down to the lowest level at 00:00hrs. Incidents during 2014 have peaked slightly earlier at 19:00hrs and decreased down to the lowest level earlier at 23:00hrs before then recording a slight increase.

3.33 Members discussed the concerns of residents around the increase in ASB and once PCSO’s finished their shift at 9 p.m. Although the number of ASB incidents reported at 10 p.m. is at a higher level during 2014 it would appear that this is following the trend of increased calls in general and there may be a correlation with the general restructure of Neighbourhood Police in November 2013 rather than being associated solely with the times that PCSO’s complete their afternoon/evening patrol duties.


3.35 Rod Jones, Community Safety Manager gave us a brief overview of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act which is intended to introduce simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities. The new Community Trigger and Community Remedy will empower victims and communities, giving them a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints of anti-social behaviour and in out-of-court sanctions for offenders. The Act will also tackle irresponsible dog ownership and the use of illegal firearms by gangs and organised criminal groups, strengthen the protection afforded to the victims of forced marriage and those at risk of sexual harm, enhance the professional capabilities and integrity of the police, amend the port and border security powers in Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 to ensure that they strike the right balance between the need to protect public safety and the protection of individual freedoms.

3.36 The commencement dates for the anti-social behaviour provisions are due to start from October 2014. The overarching aim of the Act is to provide more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB): protect victims and communities and treat the underlying behaviour of perpetrators.

3.37 The practical effect of this is to give victims and communities more power to define and respond to ASB and impose positive requirements on perpetrators to address the causes of their behaviour. The Act replaces 19 existing powers...
dealing with anti-social behaviour with 6 broader powers, streamlining procedures to allow a quicker response to ASB. The government envisages that these powers will make it easier for victims and communities to take action against ASB and reduce repeat violations.

3.38 The Act has 14 parts: Parts 1-6 deal with Anti-Social Behaviour; Part 7, 8, 9 and 10 deal with Dangerous Dogs, Firearms, Protection from Sexual Offences and Prohibitions on Forced Marriage; the remainder of the Act addresses policing, extradition, criminal justice and court fees.

3.39 **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour – the new proposals.**

3.40 The range of measures include powers to compel local agencies to investigate anti-social behaviour if it has been reported by several people or by the same person three times. A "community trigger" would also force police, councils and agencies to act if five households made a complaint. This 'community trigger' is intended to tackle persistent ASB which has not been addressed by Community Safety Partnerships - it will place a duty on the CSP to take action and it is intended that the Police and Crime Commissioner will hold the CSP to account.

The new plans will replace 18 of the formal powers currently available with just five.

The diagram above shows where the Home Office envisages the new tools being used to tackle anti-social behaviour.

3.41 ASBO's and six related orders relating to the behaviour of people, such as Drink Banning Orders, will be replaced in England and Wales by two orders: the Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) and a Crime Prevention Injunction (CPI). The CBO will be available to be used against people convicted of crime. The CPI is a civil order and similar to the existing Asbos - but it will be available at an earlier stage of bad behaviour and be easier and faster to use.
3.42 CBO and CPI have a lower standard of proof and could be put in place in days or even hours. Ten current laws relating to protection of places will be reduced to three types of Community Protection Orders. This is a flexible local authority power to address a range of anti-social behaviour and prevent future problems. A Community Protection Order (Closure) - would simplify existing powers to close particular premises that cause severe anti-social behaviour.

3.43 Police powers to allow them to force people to move on are to be consolidated into a single power under which the police will not need to designate a dispersal zone in advance and can order people to leave an area for up to 48 hours. People who fail to comply with the order face a £2,500 fine or three months imprisonment.

3.44 The key changes explained; Existing powers on the left, proposed powers on the right

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>CRASBO</th>
<th>Cr DBO</th>
<th>ASBO</th>
<th>D BO</th>
<th>Criminal Behaviour Order</th>
<th>Crime Prevention Injunction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASBI</td>
<td>ISO</td>
<td>IO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.45 Police and Community Support Officers (PCSO's)

3.46 PCSOs provide a reassuring, highly visible presence on the streets of St Helens and work with local residents and the business community. They also have regular contact with the local schools and have well developed
relationships with the community centres, the Tenants and Residents 
Associations and local ward councillors.

3.47 PCSO’s attend as many community meetings as possible and interact with 
the local community on a daily basis, finding out what issues matter to them, 
informing them of what they are doing to tackle those issues and letting them 
know they are available to help.

3.48 Their role also involves being involved with problem solving at a local level, 
working in partnership with other agencies such as the Council’s 
Environmental Wardens and Housing Associations and targeting areas that 
experience problems with youth disorder. PCSO’s continue to develop links 
with local shops, businesses, vulnerable and community groups as well as 
local residents, working together to make the area a safer, more pleasant 
place for residents and visitors.

3.49 As of January 2015 there are approximately 51 PSCOs. A number of 
PCs&TO’s have left to join Merseyside Police as regular officers, however 
these have been replaced by new PCS&TO’s recruited into the organisation.

3.50 There are three Neighbourhood Action Groups which are held on a monthly 
basis, these are aligned to the Police Neighbourhoods below:

D1 - Town Centre / Windle
D2 - Parr / Sutton / Bold / Thatto Heath / Rainhill / West Park / Eccleston
D3 - Rainford / Billinge & Seneley Green / Moss Bank / Haydock / Earlestown / Newton / Blackbrook

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 We all agreed that we had numerous problems in our wards in respect of litter 
and fly tipping. The dumping of rubbish on streets and in alley ways is not 
only unpleasant to look at, it is environmentally damaging and erodes pride 
residents have in their own areas. We heard that a team of four enforcement 
officers commenced on 25th August and will issue a £75 Fixed Penalty Notice 
(FPN) for dropping litter, dog fouling and dumping rubbish on private property. 
This initiative will be run on a 12 month pilot scheme. A FPN of £300 can also 
be issued by the cleansing team for fly tipping and rubbish on private 
properties. To date there hadn’t been any successful prosecutions however 
we requested that an update be brought to a future meeting of the 
Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel in April 2015.

4.2 It was clear, some residents needed to be re-educated with regards to 
recycling. Residents moving to new properties where there was a lack of 
refuse and recycling facilities were either reluctant or unable to pay the 
£17.50 replacement charge. This resulted in rubbish being dumped in alley 
ways and on the streets.

We discussed a number of potential solutions relating to fly tipping and 
agreed that we would urge Cabinet to further consider the following 
suggestions:
• Increased learning on successful integrated collections for problem locations.
• Examine the best practice evidence for the introduction of Euro bins at problem alleyways.
• Investigate the possibility of recruiting additional recycling staff via the council’s apprentice scheme to help with door to door education and public relations.
• That Housing Association’s and private landlords continue to work with their tenants in respect of reinforcing the messages around recycling and litter.
• Examine the effectiveness of wheelie bin replacement policy.

4.3 We heard that the number of Warning Notices for fly tipping had risen considerably in the past 12 months however there had not yet been any prosecutions. We would like to see that any appropriate enforcement action is effective in reducing the number of incidents throughout the borough.

4.4 We heard that notices are in the process of being placed on all alley gates in targeted areas. These notices remind residents of the collection day together with a reminder that that particular area is regularly monitored. We welcome this action and hope that it goes some way towards reducing the build-up of litter in alley ways which is of grave concern.

4.5 We were informed that the 12/13 programme had been completed via the Council’s Improvement Programme and further consideration was required as to whether the Council continues with installations or just maintain current stock. Installation programmes are still being planned for the future although the number of installations have recently reduced due to the reduction in demand.

4.6 On considering the evidence we believe it would be useful for residents who live with alley gates to be reminded of the conditions of use, particularly privately rented properties which have a high turnover of tenants. We suggested that letters be sent to those new tenants and the possibility of these being delivered by PCSO’s could be investigated.

4.7 We discussed at length the concerns of residents around the increase in ASB and once PCSO’s finished their shift at 9 p.m. Although the number of ASB incidents reported at 10 p.m. is at a higher level during 2014 it would appear that this is following the trend of increased calls in general rather than being associated solely with the times that PCSO’s complete their afternoon/evening patrol duties. We believe there may also be a correlation with the general restructure of Neighbourhood Police in November 2013.

4.8 We received a brief overview of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and welcome the new more effective powers available to residents, the Council and the Police to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour.

4.9 We heard about the excellent partnership working between ourselves, Helena, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Merseyside Police. All agencies are involved in problem solving at local level and all work very hard to make St Helens a safer more pleasant place for residents and visitors. We would like to commend this approach and encourage this successful joint working to continue.
4.10 We raised our concerns with regard to the charge for large bulky items. We requested that further information in relation to the statistics for fly tipping for the last three months up to 1 December 2014 be reported to the Panel. This had been agreed in the minutes at the meeting held in December.

5.0 Recommendations

1. That a report on progress made by the newly established Environmental Wardens Team be brought to the April 2015 meeting of the Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

2. That consideration by Cabinet be given to the following suggestions:
   - Increased learning on successful integrated collections for problem locations.
   - Examine the best practice evidence for the introduction of Euro bins at problem alleyways.
   - Examine the possibility of recruiting additional recycling staff via the council’s apprentice scheme to help with door to door education and public relations.
   - That Housing Association’s and private landlords continue to work with their tenants in respect of reinforcing the messages around recycling and litter.
   - Examine the effectiveness of wheelie bin replacement policy.
   - Consider the potential of the Bulky Rubbish Service working with charitable organisations for the collection of some reusable items and these charitable organisation collection services be promoted through the Contact Centre, Council Magazine, Press Releases and Private Landlords.

3. That in the more serious cases of fly tipping, consideration be given to escalating the prosecution process and that the use of appropriate and effective enforcement action be further encouraged throughout the borough.

4. That residents who live with alley gates are reminded of the conditions of use, particularly privately rented properties which have a high turnover of tenants and that letters be sent to those new tenants with the possibility of these being delivered by PCSO’s.
### ASB in Shared Public Spaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rec No</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Responsible Officer</th>
<th>Agreed Action and Date of Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>That a report on progress made by the newly established Environmental Wardens Team be brought to the April 2015 meeting of the Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 2      | That consideration by Cabinet be given to the following suggestions:  
  - Increased learning on successful integrated collections for problem locations.  
  - Examine the best practice evidence for the introduction of Euro bins at problem alleyways.  
  - Examine the possibility of recruiting additional recycling staff via the council’s apprentice scheme to help with door to door education and public relations.  
  - That Housing Association’s and private landlords continue to work with their tenants in respect of reinforcing the messages around recycling and litter.  
  - Examine the effectiveness of whee... |                      |                                        |
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<td>charitable organisations for the collection of some reusable items and these charitable organisation collection services be promoted through the Contact Centre, Council Magazine, Press Releases and Private Landlords.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>That in the more serious cases of fly tipping, consideration be given to escalating the prosecution process and that the use of appropriate and effective enforcement action be further encouraged throughout the borough.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>That residents who live with alley gates are reminded of the conditions of use, particularly privately rented properties which have a high turnover of tenants and that letters be sent to those new tenants with the possibility of these being delivered by PCSO's.</td>
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