

**AREA BOARD: WEST LUTON
CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE & LEWSEY WARDS**

DATE: TUESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2014

SUBJECT: AREA REPORT

REPORT BY: HEAD OF POLICY & PERFORMANCE

CONTACT OFFICER: GARY J. ROBERTS 01582 546985

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE & LEWSEY WARDS

PURPOSE

1. To bring before the Board an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Board held on the 8th October 2013

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **The West Luton Area Board are recommended to note the report and make recommendations on further action where required.**

BACKGROUND

3. This report encapsulates the progress of the area board since the implementation of the initiative in October 2001. In addition it includes information on projects and activities supported by the committee and following liaison and mediation with both internal and external service areas, pursues the concerns raised by both the local community and Members of the council.

REPORT

4. Members of the public who appear on the current database were informed of this meeting by post on the 14th February 2014 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the March edition of Lutonline, the Luton on Sunday and Luton & Dunstable Express during

week commencing 16th February and 2nd March 2014. Additionally, posters in keeping with the new style advert and corporate approach to area committees were also dispatched to every General Practitioner, Dental Practice, Chiropodists, Chiropractors, Educational establishment, Library, Sports Centre, Community & Youth Centre, Day Centre, Places of Worship and Sheltered Housing provision, across the borough. The information gave dates for every Area Board across the town.

5. The Area Board web site is regularly updated and can be accessed on www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees
This address is soon to be changed to www.luton.gov.uk/areaboards

COMMUNICATION

6. I would like to remind the Area Board that the web pages on www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees are regularly updated and members of the public can access all of the following on these pages:-

- Information – What are area boards? What are ward forums?
- Dates of all meetings
- Dates and information of all area tours
- Ward Forum issues/updates
- Agendas
- Minutes
- Reports
- Area project proposal form

The actual address to the above web page and of coursed email address will be changed in due course to come into line with the new title of Area Boards.

AREA COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES

7. The following are up to date attendances at the West Luton Area Board for the period January 2012 to October/November 2013.

Area Board cycle	January 2012	April 2012	June 2012	October/ November 2012	February/ March 2013	June/July 2013	October/ November 2013
West Luton	37	65	42	59	60	71	66

BUDGET UPDATE

8. The following table shows the budget for the West Luton Area Board.

West Luton Challney, Leagrave & Lewsey Wards	
Allocation 2013/2014	£10,000.00
Current balance:	£6,872.00

9. There are four projects that have been identified by Members which will be reported to this area board at the June meeting. Therefore the above budget has been committed.

DOG FAECES ON THE PAVEMENTS – BROXLEY MEAD AREA AND TOP OF WENTWORTH AVENUE.

SIGNAGE REGARDING: DOG FOULING AND SPITTING

10. The two items above were raised at the end of the last meeting of the West Luton Area Board. Inquiries were made with the respective department.
11. The Dog Wardens state that dog fouling in the area stated is still on our regular patrol list and signage for dog fouling is checked regularly and replaced where required.

The Cleansing Division advise that they reactively clean the mess, but proactive measures would probably come from the dog wardens in terms of enforcement.

12. There is no By Law in place in Luton to prosecute someone for spitting although it can and is classified as an assault should it be carried out against another person.

However, in the London Borough of Enfield spitting has become a criminal offence after a by-law confirmed by the government made the practice illegal. From the 8th December 2013 people who spit in public in Enfield will face prosecution and fines of up to £500.

The by-law does not cover people who spit in a handkerchief, tissue, bin, spittoon or other container.

The borough believes it is the first in the country to introduce such a by-law.

The London Borough of Enfield applied to the Department of Communities to approve the regulation prohibiting the anti-social habit.

Following a month-long consultation the communities secretary Eric Pickles confirmed the by-law. More than 4,000 residents supported the proposals.

Earlier this year Waltham Forest Council introduced fixed penalty notices of £80 for those caught spitting.

However, it classified spitting as "waste", meaning a by-law was not necessary.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

13. It is proposed that Members of the West Luton Area Board note the report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

14. Much of the work conducted by the Area Board will have an impact on Council services and will address issues such as accessibility, local participation and the general quality of life within the Borough.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

15. A large amount of the work being pursued and undertaken by service areas and other outside agencies will make a major contribution to community safety and need to be considered alongside other schemes that may be under consideration or being implemented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Any contribution made by the Area Board will be met from existing budgets.

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. The implications of the work being undertaken will address and improve the environment, create safer communities and address the quality of life for local people.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

None