

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Responsible dog ownership		
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services	Item	3
Class	Part 1 (open)	3 December 2014	

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper outlines work currently underway to tackle dog fouling and linked issues.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are asked to note the content of the report.

## 3. Background

A number of Members have raised a range of issues in relation to dogs in parks and green spaces, which have been brought to their attention through surgeries or correspondence with residents.

## 4. Current Work

- 4.1 There has been much multi-agency work undertaken in relation to these issues over the past year. Below is a list of activity for Members' consideration. The majority of this work is overseen by the Strategic Waste and Environment Manager.

- Enforcement activity – Lewisham's Environmental Enforcement team can take action against those dog owners who are not complying with the Dog Control Orders. Anyone who witnesses or is aware of anyone not picking up after their dog should be encouraged to contact the service for assistance with preparing a witness statement.
- BARK - The Animal Welfare Dept works with our partners - The Safer Neighbourhood Teams, RSPCA, housing providers, Glendale, Battersea Cats & Dogs Homes and the Status Dogs Unit through our BARK (Borough Action for Responsible K9's) project which aims to promote responsible dog ownership.
- 'Dog Days' are organised through BARK and offer activities such as behaviour and training advice, tag engraving, free micro-chipping, leaflet & information distribution and agility displays. Enforcement activities can also be linked to the Dog Days. Officers also attend community events to promote responsible animal ownership.
- Pavement Stencils, which are a visual reminder to dog owners to pick up after their pets.
- Awareness raising campaigns including leaflet drops, articles in local housing providers' newsletters and articles on our blog and other social networking media.
- Battersea Cats & Dogs Home talk to local schools about responsible dog ownership including ownership of so called 'status dogs'.

- Residents and partners can report issues of dog fouling through the Love Lewisham web via [www.lovelewisham.org](http://www.lovelewisham.org).
- A Green Dog Walkers Scheme has been developed, the aim of which is to shift public attitudes towards fouling, so that it becomes unacceptable and decreases the amount of fouling on our streets. It is aimed at volunteer groups and dog owners who pledge to:
  - **Always clean up after their dog;**
  - **Carry extra doggie bags;**
  - **Hand out extra doggie bags.**
- Information including on choosing a pet and 'Your dog and the law' are available on the Lewisham website.
- Letters are delivered to problem areas, resources permitting. The Police Cadets have supported this activity in the past.
- The use of national campaigns such as the Dog Poo Fairy
- We conduct training for dog related issues such as the Dangerous Dogs Act and Enforcement for our partners.
- Junior Citizens - Battersea provide a session during these activities.
- Clean & Green Schools - Animal Welfare theme included for schools to choose.

4.2 Street cleansing remove dog fouling and the Council also has a special machine, 'FIDO', that removes dog fouling. People can put dog fouling, bagged, in a litter bin. The Council no longer provides special dog fouling bins, and hasn't for at least ten years.

4.3 Lewisham Homes also have some of their own events and in 2014 they undertook the following:

- **Micro chipped: 96**
- **Neuter vouchers: 146**
- **Health care vouchers: 165**

4.4 Since April 2013 Lewisham Council has:

- **Micro chipped: 167 dogs**
- **Tagged: 83**

4.5 This work was undertaken at the following events:

- August 2014 - Phoenix and BDCH held 3 day event in Downham 43 dogs chipped 73 tagged
- July 2014 - DD Dog Show 3 dogs chipped, 12 signed up to the Green dog walkers scheme
- June 2014 - Bellingham Festival - 6 dogs chipped
- February 2014 - Phoebes garden centre -5 dogs chipped, 10 tagged.
- December 2013 - Leaflet drop on Mountpleasant Road and surrounding area re: dog fouling
- June 2013 - 2 day event at Bellingham Leisure centre 24 dogs chipped
- May 2013 - Enforcement day in Hilly Fields Park - 1 FPN for dogs not on lead and 4 owners signed up to the Green Dog Walkers Scheme
- Battersea Dogs & Cats Home have also been to four school as part of clean and

green and also attended the citizenship day at Bonus Pastor School

## **5. Operation Bigwing**

- 5.1 During 2013/14, the Metropolitan Police Service have been co-ordinating days of action across the capital in an operation Called Operation Big Wing, focusing on domestic abuse, burglary, theft and related offences.
- 5.2 Lewisham borough officers including the Safer Transport Command, Special Constabulary, Volunteer Police Cadets and other specialist units, along with Council officers take part in numerous engagement activities including joint patrolling, automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) operations, processing Foreign National Offenders and undercover licensing operations and community engagement in an ongoing drive to reduce crime in London.
- 5.3 On the 22 October 2014 Operation Bigwing was had a 'Community Action Day'. Multi-agency activities were planned jointly between and the Police, UKBA, Glendale and the Crime Reduction Service in order to tackle the issues raised by residents as those that most affect them in their community. Dog fouling was also brought into the scope for this day.
- 5.4 A joint event involving Battersea Dogs Home, Lewisham Community Safety Team, Lewisham Police, London Fire Brigade and Phoenix Housing was run in Downham Park. The Safer Lewisham Partnership Bus was in Downham Park between 11.30am & 3.00pm and the activity included:
  - Dealing with any scooter/moped problems in the park encountered on the day
  - Sweeping through the park to establish any rough sleepers
  - Partnership event with Battersea Dogs Home, where they chipped and gave identity tag to around 30 dogs.
  - The team also offered obedience training advice and guidance on socialising animals in public. All this is aimed at reducing the number of stray animals in the ward and to reduce issues of anti-social behaviour in the wards parks and open spaces.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend in relation to the ASB. The Council funds a service that focuses on tackling ASB in the round, and environmental services to tackle animal welfare and street cleansing.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 The Council is under a number of statutory obligations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder; the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 requires the Council as a local housing authority to have policies and procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places the Council under a duty to have, when carrying out its functions, due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.

7.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

7.3 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area.

7.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

## **8. Equalities implications**

8.1 Developing safe and secure communities is central to the work of the Council as a whole and in particular to the Community Services directorate. Reducing and preventing crime, reducing fear of crime and supporting vulnerable communities is critical to the well-being of all our citizens.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

9.1 Section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

## **10. Environmental implications**

10.1 The Council lead for environmental related issues is an advisor to the SLP and makes representations as appropriate in relation to impact. This agenda clearly has significant environmental impact and joint practice and work with crime enforcement partners is an approach that has shown to have good outcomes.

## **11. Conclusion**

11.1 The SLP will continue to review its practice and that of the sub groups to ensure that all activity in relation to crime and disorder and drugs and alcohol is in line with the sustainable communities strategy, and the Safer Lewisham Strategy as well as having links to children's and young persons board and the health and wellbeing board.

11.2 Lewisham has a strong track record in working with partners to resolve issues that affect residents. The work outlined above shows that these issues are taken seriously and a balanced approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement can work to tackle such issues as this effectively.

For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8314 9569.