

SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL

Place Scrutiny Committee

5th June 2023

Questions from Members of the Public

Question 1: from Mr Hardiman to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Davidson)

I am the chair for a local community volunteer group, Grassroots Westcliff, which aims to enhance the area of Westcliff and neighbouring areas by litter picking, addressing the root cause of litter issues, and building pocket parks. One of the main causes of litter in the areas we cover is that Veolia do not pick up litter they drop on waste collection day, leaving our streets in a worse state than they found them in. Many complaints have been made via MySouthend, and directly to Veolia, with photographic, witness and video evidence, however the issue has not been resolved. We have collected a number of signatures from people who are represented by councillors on this committee. Will you work with the chair of this Committee to bring Veolia before it to hold them accountable, and resolve this issue promptly?

Response:

We recognise that any waste left post collection creates additional litter and we have established protocols with Veolia to address these issues, including:

- **Veolia undertaking training with all collection crews to reinforce that split or spilled waste must be cleared at the point of collection;**
- **Veolia's Environmental Managers undertaking monitoring of collection rounds to ensure their instructions are being adhered to;**
- **Should crews fail to clear split waste post collections individuals can be subject to disciplinary procedures;**
- **The issue is also regularly addressed in the council's contractual meetings with Veolia's senior management team.**

Unfortunately, there are still some residents in Westcliff and the wider City that continue to present their residual waste and recycling earlier than the scheduled collection day. When sacks are left overnight or longer, animals will try to access the material within the sacks, which splits them, causing littering. Veolia are communicating with those residents through visits and in writing to remind them of their collection day and this information is also available on the council's website. We would encourage as many people as possible to use the food waste service as this removes the 'odorous' waste from the black sacks and secures them in a lockable bin.

Going forward, the Council's Waste Management team will closely monitor reports of spilt/spilled waste post collection and will pro-actively manage any ongoing issues with Veolia for tangible improvements. Residents should continue to report these issues via MySouthend to ensure they are logged and resolved quickly.

On the 20th June, Veolia will be attending a Customer Liaison Group at the Civic Centre (12pm -2pm in Committee Room 6. This is an opportunity for residents to raise any service issues directly with Veolia representatives and members of Grassroots, Westcliff are welcome to attend.

In addition to all the above, Councillors will also be discussing this issue at the next meeting of the Environment Working Party.

Question 2: from Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Davidson)

Question:

The new Southend-on-Sea City's administration in its election material, implied that they were not opposed to 're-wilding' but that they objected to the way it was being done. Please may the Council confirm its commitment to increasing biodiversity and 're-wilding', and, if so, how will progress be measured? What is the Southend City Council doing to assess all the grass verges in Prittlewell Ward, and how are the Southend Council joint administration strategies to fix, stop heavy cars and cars from the house going onto the grass verge which have gone past them onto their off-street parking and how much will it cost, when will they be fixed this year in Prittlewell Ward?

Response:

Conserving and enhancing biodiversity is an important duty on all local authorities and we will be discussing with officers a variety of ways in which this can be achieved across the entire city.

Question 3: from Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Parking (Cllr Buck)

Question:

In Prittlewell ward the Junction of the A127 and A1158 remains dangerous with driving of westbound vehicles illegally turning left into the A1158 across the 'green man' pedestrian phase on the A1158. I have reported badly faded traffic signs and road markings on MySouthend, which was going to be fixed, but still have not been done. On Tuesday 30th May 2023 a car accident occurred at this junction. Both myself and Councillor Meg Davidson reported this illegal driving at the latest local community police meeting.

What action is the council going to take to stop cars illegally turning left here and reduce car accidents happening and the high risk of colliding with pedestrians crossing here?

Response:

Thank you for reporting this to us. We will be replacing the 'No Left Turn' sign and additionally, I have asked officers to investigate and report back on what can be done to prevent illegal manoeuvres at this junction.