

Litter Day of Action 2010 Briefing Session Notes
KSB offices, Stirling 26.5.10

Identification of Issues

a) Problem Locations: Where, When, Who

Where	When	Who
Town/City Centres Outside shopping malls	All day; esp. before 9am, lunchtime and after finishing (school, work etc)	Public, school kids, shop workers, shoppers
Fast food outlets, drive- thrus	Lunchtime, early evening, during opening hours	Young people, motorists
Pubs & clubs	12 noon – 11pm	Customers, smokers, drinkers
Schools and routes to shops	Lunchtime, 8.45am – 4pm	School children, under-16s
Car parks	Evening	Teenagers in cars, boy and girl racers
Work offices	Coffee breaks	Staff and clients
Parks	Lunchtime, good weather periods	General Public
Bingo halls	Between games	Customers
Bus/train stations	All day	Commuters, taxi/bus drivers, staff
Roads	All day, esp. rush hour	Motorists of all age groups
Dog walking routes	Early morning til early evening	Dog owners
Service stations, laybys	Throughout day	Businessmen, public, white van man
Supermarkets	All day	Taxis and smokers entering premises
Industrial estates	Lunchtime	White van man
Organised events, e.g. sporting events	Before, during and after event	General public
Universities	In between classes, lunchtime	Students (mainly smokers)

Other locations:

Privately-owned land, e.g. picnic sites
Organised events
Tourist attractions
Traffic lights
Beaches

b) Staffing

Working with Police	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Locally Police are up for it	Can get called away
Convey to public and offender severity of offence and level of dealing with complaint and problem of litter	Police approach can vary between PC to PC
High profile – cop presence reduces back chat and abuse	People think we are police on our own – have to deal with abuse and difficult incidents
Adds credibility to event	Police have other priorities
Raises profile	Trying to get police to 'joint working'
Use of CCTV	Don't know how much police resource is available?
Police can issue FPNs at times when wardens are not working / available	Hard to get police to call back
Can get offenders date of birth	Shift patterns
Local authority officers can pair up with police officers	Kids have no respect for police
Good working relationship with police	Currently 3 authorised officers, limitation to effectiveness
No litter dropped when police in attendance	Police pass onto community wardens who are limited to areas and no enforcement powers
Joint working, able to share information	Lack of interest - don't turn up
Offender details checked at time of offence	Lack of interest from police
Situations not likely to escalate too much	Police view this as an authority issue 'low level', 'no staff spare'
Can find out if police are available far in advance	Police have other priorities
Police have further powers	Police won't support council who already have the powers
Community Officer keen to start dual patrols again	
Litter and dog fouling patrols are far easier when police are in attendance	
High presence	
More likely to provide information	
CCTV van	
No issues with working with police – even better partnership working and intelligence sharing	
Some members of public usually older comply when police present	

Local Authority staffing	
Advantages	Disadvantages
Good number of officers and flexible hours	Staff must be trained
Good authorised officer level – Protection Officers, Land Services Officers, supervisors, police and Community Wardens	Do not do enforcement after 5pm
	Lack of staff in certain areas
	Can only work within core hours 9am – 5pm
	3/5 staff off
	Try to invite others to assist
	Low amount of authorised officers
	Not able to be ‘covert’
	Don’t do flexible hours to cover early/late
	Holidays
	Budgets
	Only 2 staff dealing with flytipping, littering, graffiti, other waste issues etc, covering 2400 square miles
	School patrols – need more officers
	Few officers for a wide area
	Need cover in offices for quick responses
	Working alone without corroboration
	Resourcing priorities
	Variable public attitudes – ‘waste of money’ vs ‘go get them’

Plain Clothes vs uniform	
Advantages	Disadvantages
High vis jackets – be seen	
High vis acts as a silent warning. Shows public and potential offenders that you are out dealing with it	

c) Zero tolerance?

For:

- Everyone treated equally
- Raises income for local authority – helps to cover costs!
- Good deterrent
- Consequence of actions
- Demonstrates LA efforts to general public, offenders, and would-be offenders
- No point in just 'slapping wrist' – they will do it again.
- Fair and consistent approach
- Cost to council tax payer to clear up litter requires a zero tolerance approach
- Everyone (should be) aware of the policy
- No warnings, no excuses – clearly applying the law
- Community gossip works
- Helps justify your job to other council staff

Against:

- Each case should be judged on its own merit
- Only if legislation, fiscal and Childrens' Panel support
- There is no consistent approach between Councils and agencies
- Bad publicity against Council
- Backlash from colleagues, management, councillors, public
- Can't enforce
- Not achievable or sustainable
- Sometimes a fine will add to problems
- Difficult to deal with people with learning difficulties or poorly educated
- U16s issued with warning letter, cc to school Headteacher

Questions/issues:

- Does zero tolerance eliminate common sense?
- Time and resources could be stretched
- Attitude test
- Zero tolerance litter zones?
- No FPNs – Fiscal Report at offence
- Under 16s?
- Over 8s?
- Pensioners?
- Heavy handed?
- Does this mean all unpaid fines go to Fiscal?
- Needs to be well advertised
- Good policy but hard to implement
- Enforcement vs Education
- Fiscals should take it on more (non-payment of FPNs)