



# **Soham and East Neighbourhood Panel Update**

**March 2013**

## East Cambridgeshire District Council – Action Updates

**Priorities: None Identified**

**Other Issues:**

No.	Issue	Action Taken
1	Dog fouling and cleaning services from contractors (Isleham and Soham)	Below is a short report on how we deal with littering and fouling issues. If there are any concerns regarding how we carry out this work, residents can contact the waste team to discuss specific cases, via customer services.
2	Dog fouling improved with new bins provided. No action required (Wicken)	Noted
3	Littering in the town (Soham)	Soham has a dedicated cleansing operative, the town centre is litter picked daily. If there are specific areas of concern, they can be reported via customer services.
4	Recycling and the ECDC successful bid, will the black bag and brown sack service continue? (Soham)	A weekly black bag service for waste will continue to be provided to all households. Green waste will be collected in a wheeled bin, except where the Council has decided that a property is not suitable to stores bins. In this case they will keep the brown sack and recycling box. A survey of all households in the district will take place over the summer to establish if households are suitable for bins.

### **Dog Fouling**

#### Reporting Dog Fouling

This can be reported to the Council through Customer Services, or via our website.

The Council will arrange for clean up of reported Dog Fouling by the end of the following working day.

#### How We Manage Dog Fouling

- All incidents of dog fouling reported to the Council are recorded. If we get a number of reported incidents in one area during the month, we will arrange for some high visibility patrols during the following month, where the Enforcement Officer will engage with dog walkers, offer advice.
- The Enforcement Officer will investigate fouling reports that include some information regarding who is responsible. The most useful information would include names and addresses.
- Fixed Penalty Notices of £50 can be issued to owners who are witnessed by an officer.

## **Fly-tipping**

### Reporting Fly-tipping

If you discover Fly-tipped waste, you can report it to the Council through Customer Services, or via our website.

Before you report it please;

- Do not touch the waste, and try not to disturb it, there maybe evidence that could identify the offenders and lead to their prosecution.
- Take a good look, try to determine how much there is, and what it consists of
- Take a note of where it is, and whether it is near any landmarks that will help us to find it.

If you see someone fly-tipping;

- Make a note of the day, date and time your saw the fly-tipping
- How many people were there and what they looked like
- Any vehicles involved (and their make, model colour and registration number)
- Do not approach them.

### How we manage fly-tipping

- The Council can prosecute those caught dumping waste
- We can also issue warnings, formal cautions and Fixed Penalty Notices for less serious cases of Fly-tipping
- Reported fly-tipping will be inspected by the Enforcement Officer to see if there is any evidence that might lead to a prosecution.
- Following inspection the Enforcement Officer will request removal of the waste, for town centre areas this will be the next working day, for other areas within 3 working days.
- The Council does not investigate incidents of Fly-tipping on private land. It will be the landowners responsibility to get this removed.

## **Litter**

Litter is anything dropped, thrown down or deposited on land or water in the open air, including food wrappings, organic material, cigarette ends, or chewing gum.

### Reporting litter

Build up of litter can be reported to Customer Services, or via our website.

### How We Manage Litter

- Routine street cleaning is done on a 23 day cycle, and mechanical sweeping every 6 weeks.
- If litter is reported it will be cleaned up within the time scale outlined in the Codes of Practice, but in most cases this will be by the end of the following working day. For major roadways (A11, A14 for example) it will be done within 4 weeks, other roadways within 2 weeks.
- There are numerous bins around the district provided for the disposal of litter, which are emptied regularly. If a bin is reported as overflowing it will be emptied by the end of the following working day.
- Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued to those witnessed dropping litter.

### **Soham & East Neighbourhood Panel**

Parish/Village	Reported Fly Tips												Total
	Apr	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	
Chippenham	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0			4
Fordham	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			2
Isleham	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1			5
Kennett	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0			2
Snailwell	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0			6
Soham	2	7	5	6	4	2	3	9	0	2			40
Upware	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0			3
Wicken	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2			5
<b>Month total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>

### **Total Fly Tipping Reports in East Cambridgeshire**

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Monthly Ave.
2012/13	26	24	27	25	25	13	22	19	8	20				

<b>2011/12</b>	27	23	23	25	28	38	43	30	32	54	0	0	323	27.33
<b>2010/11</b>	47	15	35	31	33	16	28	20	19	18	30	28	320	32.20
<b>2009/10</b>	41	20	24	39	17	40	24	35	32	27	32	57	388	32.33
<b>2008/09</b>	42	19	30	37	32	30	50	28	18	47	29	37	399	33.25

**Fly Tipping Enforcement Actions 2012/13  
(District)**

	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigation	27	16	33	32	42	31	31	28	20	37			<b>297</b>
Warning letter	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			<b>2</b>
Statutory Notice	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			<b>1</b>
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			<b>1</b>
Duty of Care Inspection	3	0	1	1	1	0	14	9	0	0			<b>29</b>
Stop & Search	7	1	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0			<b>18</b>
Formal Caution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			<b>0</b>
Formal Caution With Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			<b>0</b>
Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			<b>0</b>

**Fly Tipping Enforcement Actions 2011/12  
(District)**

	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Total</b>
Investigation	32	17	21	27	42	37	61	53	38	74	33	57	<b>492</b>
Warning letter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Statutory Notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Duty of Care Inspection	2	3	2	0	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	<b>17</b>
Stop & Search	0	0	1	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	10	<b>23</b>
Formal Caution	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Formal Caution With Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

## Fly Tipping Enforcement Options

Investigation	Inspection of fly tip for evidence that could lead to enforcement action being taken, together with related enquiries.
Warning letter	Used where formal enforcement action is not considered appropriate as a warning of the potential consequences of further infringements.
Statutory Notice	A legal requirement to provide information that will assist with investigation of an offence.
Fixed Penalty Notice	Agreement to accept a standard penalty fee as an alternative to formal legal action.
Duty of Care Inspection	Check that a business has correct arrangements in place for the storage, transport and disposal of its waste.
Stop & Search	Check on vehicle carrying waste for waste carriers licence and waste disposal documentation.
Formal Caution	An offender having admitted an offence is formally cautioned by the Head of Service. A record is kept of the Caution for 5 years.
Formal Caution With Costs	As Formal Caution, but investigation and clear up costs are charged to the offender.
Prosecution	Formal prosecution through the Court System.

Parish/Village	Fouling Reports												Total
	Apr	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	
Chippenham	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Fordham	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Isleham	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1			4
Kennett	0		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			1
Snailwell	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Soham	0		0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2			5
Wicken	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
<b>Month total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

## Total Dog Fouling Reports in East Cambridgeshire

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Monthly Ave.
2012/13	7		7	4	8	12	9	8	18	16				
2011/12	5	4	0	1	1	6	4	12	10	24	30	28	125	2.20
2010/11	4	7	7	8	4	5	9	8	13	19	21	12	117	6.00
2009/10	2	4	1	4	1	0	7	3	8	11	14	9	64	5.33

### Cambridgeshire County Council – Action Updates

**Priorities: None Identified**

**Other Issues:**

No.	Issue	Action Taken
1	Pot holes on roads outside the village – Fordham and Road and Beck Row (Isleham)	<p>The Highways Supervisor will inspect and arrange repair works where appropriate.</p> <p>Members of the public and local councils are able to report pot holes and other defects using the County Council's highways fault reporting processes. This can be done on-line or by telephone. The County Council seeks to encourage people wherever possible to report on-line rather than by telephone, as it allows the County Council to offer a more efficient service.</p> <p>Following consultation with the public on the way they prefer to report pot holes and other highway problems, the on-line Highways Fault Reporting System was upgraded recently to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>easier data entry for the public</li> <li>improved tracking, so people reporting on-line can follow the progress of a repair</li> <li>the ability to enter a second fault without the need to re-enter personal/contact details</li> <li>better system capacity to ensure fault reports do not fail</li> <li>better on-line access to advice and information from the County Council's Contact Centre.</li> </ul> <p>The improvements to the Highway Fault Reporting System are designed to make it easier for the public to report a concern or a fault, which will then be dealt with as quickly as possible by the repair teams throughout Cambridgeshire.</p>

		To report a highways fault, go to: <a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm">www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm</a> or telephone the Contract Centre on 0345 045 5212.
2	Traffic and local roads with mud due to farm traffic (Chippenham)	<p>Generally to deposit mud, or for that matter anything, on the highway which could cause a potential danger is an offence under the Highways Act and the Road Traffic Act.</p> <p>The Police are the enforcing authority and the County Council, as the Local Highway Authority, assumes that the Police will respond to such issues raised and take appropriate action, dependant upon the resources they have available to address such issues.</p> <p>It is understood that the Police do try to approach the culprits to prompt a clear up but this cannot always be achieved.</p> <p>The County Council is loathed to send out sweepers to clear mud deposited by agricultural contractors, as this gives the message that they can continue with bad practices in the knowledge that there will be a clear up paid from the public purse.</p>

### Sanctuary Housing – Action Updates

#### **The Government is reducing the amount of housing benefit some people can claim.**

If you claim housing benefit to help pay your rent you may be affected by changes from April 2013. The changes mean that some people will get less housing benefit than they did before.

From April 2013, if you live in a council or housing association home and you have one or more 'spare' bedrooms your housing benefit may be reduced.

This could affect you:

- if you are 16 to 61 years old
- even if you only get a small amount of housing benefit – for example, if you are working
- even if you are sick or disabled

You won't be affected if:

- you live in a one bedroom flat or bedsit, or if
- you or your partner are old enough to receive pension credits.



- In April 2013 the pension credit age will be around 61 years and 6 months

The new benefit rules will apply from April 2013, so now is the time to get help and support.

#### What is a 'spare' bedroom?

Under the new rules if you have more bedrooms than the Government says you need, you will lose part of your housing benefit. The new rules mean you will be allocated one bedroom for:

- each adult couple
- any other person aged 16 or over
- two children of the same sex under the age of 16
- two children under the age of 10 regardless of their sex
- any other child
- a carer (who does not normally live with you) if you or your partner need overnight care.

It does not matter how the 'spare' bedroom is used, the new rules will apply even if:

- you and your partner need to sleep apart because of a medical condition
- the main residence of your children is another address, but you have a spare room for when they stay with you.

#### What happens if you have a 'spare' bedroom?

If you have one 'spare' bedroom your housing benefit will be cut by 14% of the rent you pay every week. If you have two or more spare bedrooms, you will lose 25%. If your benefit is cut you will have to pay your landlord the difference between your housing benefit and your rent.

#### Limit on benefits

From April 2013, the overall amount of benefit you can receive will be capped. The Government will add up how much money you get from a range of benefits, including: housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, employment support allowance, child benefit, child tax credit and carer's allowance.

If the total comes to more than the maximum amount allowed your housing benefit payments will be reduced.

#### The maximum amount of benefit you will be able to receive from April 2013 will be:

- £500 per week for single parents
- £500 per week for couples with or without children
- £350 per week for single people without children.

#### This will not apply to you if:

- you get pension credit or working tax credit
- a member of your household is claiming disability living allowance, attendance allowance or the support element of employment support allowance.

If you are worried about being able to afford to pay your rent from April 2013 you should ask for advice now. If you don't pay your rent you could lose your home, so talk to your landlord about different ways to pay. You can also:

- Talk to your landlord about transferring to a smaller home or taking in a lodger
- Contact your council to ask about extra financial help. Councils have a limited amount of money available to make discretionary payments towards housing costs. Your council may prioritise your claim if you have a disability and your house has been adapted.
- Get in touch with your local citizens advice bureau ([www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)) or other local advice agencies
- Make sure you are claiming all the benefits you can – for example, money to help with the costs of a disability
- Try to find some paid work to increase your income
- Get more information about the cap on benefits by calling the Government's information line on 0845 605 7064.

#### Do you have a disability and need overnight care?

If you are of working age, have a disability and need a 'spare' bedroom so that a carer can stay overnight you should contact your local council now so that staff can help you keep more of your housing benefit.

#### Changes to council tax benefit

From April 2013, if you are of working age and claim council tax benefit, the amount of support you receive may be cut. This is because the Government is reducing the amount of money available and asking local councils to run their own schemes, which may vary from area to area. Contact your local council for details.

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet you can talk to your:

- Landlord
- local council
- citizens advice bureau
- local advice agency.

### **East Cambridgeshire Local Policing Team – Action Updates**

**Priorities: None Identified**

No.	Priority	Action Taken
1	Cyclists and lights (education) / cycling on the pavement (Soham)	2 persons spoken with during this time period , who had been cycling on the pavement and were given words of advice. No cyclists were seen without light in the reporting period. The review period was only 7 weeks, and poor weather during this period reduced offences.
2	Parking outside schools i.e. Weatheralls Primary School Soham	Areas outside schools were monitored, and 2 tickets issued at the Weatheralls School. 4 tickets were also issued on Sand Street - outside SVC - during the review period. Police presence, ongoing education of motorists and the deterrent effect of seeing tickets issued appears to have modified behaviour to some extent. The review period is only 7 weeks.

#### Other Issues:

No.		
1	Parking in the village – on corners / double lines West Street and Little London Road (Isleham)	Regular patrols carried out. 1 ticket issued during the 7-week review period.
2	Parking on the Limestone Close junction (Isleham)	No offences revealed, as no obstructions were seen by attending officers. Please note that there are no yellow lines at this location, so obstruction is the only offence that can be dealt with by officers.
3	Anti social behaviour underage rider on motor bike Saturday afternoon and School holidays. Mill Drove (Soham)	A number of patrols were carried out during the review period. As this is only 7 weeks, and with winter weather, nothing of note seen.  Elsewhere in Soham a young person has been warned regarding anti-social use of their moped. A further complaint is currently being investigated, and should the person have used their moped into an anti-social way again, the vehicle will be seized.
4	Cyclists with no lights (Soham)	No cyclists seen without lights during reporting period. Reporting period only 7 weeks and poor weather for most of that time.
5	Police and Crime Commissioner and impact on the panels (Soham)	Noted

East Cambridgeshire Fire Service Data
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Month	Ward	Is Primary Fire	Is Derelict	Is Chimney Fire	Property Category	Property Type	Is Property Regulated	Cause
Dec	Soham	yes			Agricultural	Store		Accidental
Oct	Soham	yes			Vehicle	Car		Deliberate
Nov	Fordham					Rubbish		Accidental
Oct	Soham					Rubbish		Accidental
Oct	Soham					Rubbish		Deliberate