

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 31

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Notice of the following question has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 31:-

Question to the Chairman Councillor Sara Johnston from Cathy Roe (Cleaner Hatfield Action Campaign)

“Does WHBC Environment Committee agree with the following 10 points about litter and fly-tipping in Hatfield, and will WHBC implement the suggested improvements?”

1. Concern of Residents of Hatfield

Residents of Hatfield have shown by their massive efforts in voluntary litter-picking (with over 200 bags of litter collected) in the week of March 1st – March 6th how important the appearance of Hatfield is to them. Some residents are also committed to being street-litter-guardians, to pick up litter near their homes and report fly-tipping.

2. Special Need in Hatfield

Hatfield has a special need for cleaning by the WHBC because of its large, young, temporary population of university students, and because of its large number of workers living in houses of multiple-occupation. Because of this, Hatfield’s needs should be a priority for WHBC.

3. There is need for WHBC to clean Hatfield much more regularly and thoroughly, especially the Town Centre and main streets.

Important main streets which need to be cleaned and cleared of litter much more regularly and thoroughly are:-

i. The main B-roads radiating from the Town Centre:-

Queensway/Cavendish Way
Wellfield Road
St Albans Road East
French Horn Lane

ii. The main streets used by many pedestrians (including many university students, who are walking between the College Lane Campus, de Havilland campus & Bishops Rise Halls of Residence and the rest of the town)

Woods Avenue (up to Oxlease roundabout, and from Oxlease roundabout to University)
Bishop’s Rise
Travellers Lane
Lark Rise
College Lane
Albatross Way/Mosquito Way

iii. The smaller residential streets also need to be cleaned more thoroughly and litter collected from verges and shrubberies.

4. It is essential that there is a check on what cleaning Serco completes

The public have been informed that "The Town Centres are visited daily, surrounding roads are swept every three days, and residential roads are typically cleaned every four to six weeks."

It is evident that Hatfield is not cleaned properly at the time intervals claimed here. We ask to see publicised at the end of each month a list of exactly what Serco and any other firms employed by WHBC claim to have done in regard to cleaning in Hatfield during that month.

5. Co-ordination of Cleaning and Gardening Work by Serco is needed

Quite often Serco cuts grass without first removing the litter, thereby leaving a worse problem of sliced litter. Sometimes shrubberies are cut back without the litter in them being cleared. A co-ordinated approach is needed.

6. Rubbish from HMOs.

- One source of litter in Hatfield is over-flowing rubbish from front yards of houses in multiple-occupation. This rubbish is unsightly, leads to rat infestation, and blows into the streets.
- Residents in these houses are clearly struggling to deal with their rubbish using the current bin-collection system.
- We suggest that HMOs should be allowed to have the larger black bin (as now) and also a larger recycling bin (or 2 recycling bins if that is more practicable for bin-collection lorries). This would alleviate the over-flowing rubbish problem, and also increase recycling in the borough. Much of the over-flowing rubbish in HMOs is recyclable material such as drinks cans, bottles and cardboard take-away packaging.
- We also suggest that the University is asked to give major publicity to all its students in how to handle and recycle rubbish correctly.
- We also ask WHBC to take measures to improve the behaviour of tenants of HMOs whose rubbish is persistently causing problems for other residents. (In this WHBC should be supported by the University for tenants of HMOs who are university students).

7. Fly-Tipping

This is a major problem in Hatfield Town Centre and throughout Hatfield.

We ask WHBC to clear reported fly-tips very quickly and to try to identify the culprits. We ask WHBC to clean fly-tip spots very thoroughly, so they do not still look like fly-tip spots.

8. Public Waste-Bins

- There are not enough public waste-bins in Hatfield, and existing waste-bins are often over-flowing and causing litter problems in the streets.
- We ask WHBC to empty waste-bins very regularly.
- We ask WHBC to provide more waste-bins, especially on the main pedestrian routes (listed in point 3 above).
- We ask WHBC to implement the installation of agreed waste-bins more speedily.

9. Easily Accessible Information about how to dispose of large items

The various ways of disposing of large items and excess rubbish need to be gathered together and displayed prominently in as many places as possible. (e.g. Hub notice-board, Town Library, Housing Office, Leisure Centres, as well as on-line on Town Council, Hatfield Hub, WHBC and University websites)

The main methods of disposing of large items and excess rubbish are:

- Household Waste & Recycling Centre at Cole Green (Off A414 between Hatfield & Hertford. Open Thurs to Monday. 10-6p.m. April to Sept. 8-4p.m. Oct to March)
- Waste Cage (Free pick-up of large items, not car-loads. Dates & Places from Hatfield Housing Office 357088. Next one - Howe Dell May 2nd 2016)
- Contacting WHBC to collect large items (£30.90 or £15.70 concessions for 4 items or 20 sacks. Phone 379160) To encourage use of this service by students, Hertfordshire University students living off-campus in Hatfield need to have the concessionary rate, even if they are not drawing benefits.

10. Publicity is Needed to Stop People Dropping Litter and Fly-Tipping

Posters and on-line publicity are needed to tell local people:

that litter and fly-tipping spoils our town

that it is anti-social and is an offence

that fines can and will be imposed for dropping litter and fly-tipping.