

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CABINET - 18TH MARCH, 2009

CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT UNIT INITIATIVES

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director or Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the completed and proposed initiatives to be carried out by the Corporate Enforcement Unit.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the permanent establishment of a Corporate Enforcement Unit within the Environmental Health Service on 2 July 2008.
- 2.2 Cabinet subsequently approved an update report advising of progress made in establishing the Corporate Enforcement Unit (CEU) on 22 October 2008.
- 2.3 The main thrust of the Corporate Enforcement Unit is the provision of a coordinated role in the implementation of the relevant statutory enforcement activities involving the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices and associated activity relative to dog fouling, fly tipping, littering, illegal dumping and smoking enforcement.
- 2.4 In addition to regular enforcement activity the Unit are also committed to providing coordinated and targeted initiatives drawing on duly authorised officers from other Council services and external partners including the police.

3. PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 Five major initiatives have been carried out in Kilmarnock and Cumnock in November and December 2008 respectively, and in Auchinleck in January 2009 and Muirkirk and Ochiltree in February 2009. The multi disciplinary approach to enforcement involved the Corporate Enforcement Unit with officers from other Council Services (Cleansing, Outdoor Amenities, Pest Control/Dog Wardens, Community Wardens, Licensing Standards and Licensing Enforcement staff) together with the police.

- 3.2 The high profile patrols resulted in the undernoted outcomes from the five major initiatives:

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Fixed Penalty Notices Issued | 2 |
| Litter - Written Warnings Issued | 32 |
| Dog Fouling – Written Warnings Issued | 7 |
| Smoking – Written Warnings Issued | 12 |
| Flytipping – Written Warnings Issued | 2 |
| Members of Public Spoken To | 224 |

- 3.3 The initiatives carried out to date have been well publicised and well received by members of the public recognising the coordinated efforts of the enforcement patrols in addressing dog fouling and littering in the community.

4. FUTURE INITIATIVES

- 4.1 The proposed programme of enforcement and education initiatives to be carried out during 2009 is attached in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 All communities will benefit from the targeted approach to enforcement in improving the environment with associated publicity arranged prior to each initiative
- 4.3 In addition to specific towns and villages there will also be specific initiatives targeted at green spaces (parks and open spaces), transport, No Smoking, schools, retail outlets and dog owners. Appropriate liaison will be undertaken with relevant agencies in advance of these initiatives, including, in particular with schools to enable appropriate preparatory and educative work to be undertaken with pupils in order to maximise the benefits of these initiatives, given that the emphasis is as much on raising awareness and changing behaviour as it is on the detection and prosecution of offences.
- 4.4 The high profile initiatives will be carried out in addition to the day to day complaint investigation and operation of the Corporate Enforcement Unit.
- 4.5 To assist in investigations, enquiries and patrols in more inaccessible areas (parks, housing areas, service lanes etc) it is proposed to provide the two core members of the Unit with bicycles. Officers will be fully kitted out, be highly visible, and will undergo specific training in terms of health and safety. The high profile patrols will provide an added dimension to enforcement, raise the profile of the Unit and also provide an environmentally friendly frontline service.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Expenditure relative to the initiatives will be met from current budget resources.

6. LEGAL/POLICY/COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATION

6.1 The programmed initiatives and general operation of the Corporate Enforcement Unit are commensurate with and support the Community Plan theme of Improving the Environment.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Cabinet is invited to :-

- (i) Note the progress with initiatives carried out by the Corporate Enforcement Unit and future proposals
- (ii) Agree the proposed programme of initiatives for 2009.
- (iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

Elizabeth Morton

Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

25 February 2009

DM/PLT/SMcD

List of Background Papers

Nil

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should contact David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services on 01563 576161 or by email to David.Mitchell@East-Ayrshire.gov.uk or Paul Todd, Principal Officer, Environmental Health (01563) 554021.

CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT UNIT – 2009 INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

| DATE AND TIME | TOWN AND AREAS | OFFICERS INVOLVED |
|---|--|--|
| JANUARY 28 th 29 th | AUCHINLECK -All areas Focus on Well Road shops and areas of Academy. Address dog fouling complaints. | 2x CEU 5x Outdoor Amenities 3x Police 1x Licensing Officer 2x Community Wardens 2x Pest Control Officers |
| FEBRUARY 27 th | OCHILTREE - All areas (AM) MUIRKIRK - All areas (PM) | 2x CEU 2x Police 2xPest Control Officers 1x Taxi Licensing Officer |
| MARCH 18 th | KILMAURS/FENWICK All areas | 2x CEU 2x Police 2xPest Control Officers 1x Outdoor Amenities 1x Licensing Standards Officer |
| MARCH 19 th | CROSSHOUSE/KNOCKENTIBER All areas inc. Gatehead | 2x CEU 2x Pest Control Officers |
| APRIL 14 th , 15 th &16 th | GALSTON NEWMILNS DARVEL All areas. | 2x CEU 1x Outdoor Amenities 3x Police 1x Licensing Officer 4x Community Wardens 3x Pest Control Officers |
| MAY 3 rd – 7 th | TRANSPORT INITIATIVE Buses, trains and stations focused on for littering and smoking offences. | 2 x CEU 2x B.T. Police 2x Licensing Standards Officers 1x Taxi Licensing Officer (<i>2xStagecoach Wardens</i>) |
| MAY 12 th -14 th | GREEN SPACES INITIATIVE Focus on parks and green spaces to address littering and dog fouling | 2x CEU 2x Pest Control Officers 1x Outdoor Amenities |
| MAY 18 th -22 nd | DOG WEEK Focus on dog fouling complaints, problem areas and stray dogs. | 2x CEU 2x Pest Control Officers |

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|---|---|--|
| JUNE 8 th -11 th & 16 th -20 th | GREEN SPACES INITIATIVE Focus on parks and green spaces to address littering and dog fouling | 2x CEU 2x Pest Control Officers 1x Outdoor Amenities 2xCleansing Officers |
| JUNE 24 th | MAUCLINE, CATRINE, SORN All areas | 2x CEU 2x Pest Control Officers |
| JUNE 25 th | KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE Patrol of main thoroughfares. | 2x CEU 2x Police Officers |
| JULY 13 th -15 th | KILMARNOCK AREA INITIATIVES K/K NORTH WEST 13 th K/K CENTRAL 14 th K/K SOUTH 15 th | 2x CEU 2x Police 2x Pest Control Officers 1x Outdoor Amenities 2x Cleansing Officers 4x Community Wardens 1x Public Health Team |
| JULY 21 st - 26 th | GREEN SPACES INITIATIVE Focus on parks and green spaces to address littering and dog fouling | 2x CEU 1x Pest Control Officer 1x Outdoor Amenities Enforcement Officer 4x Outdoor Amenities Staff 1x Public Health Team 2x Countryside Ranger 2x Cleansing Officer 4x Community Wardens 2x Police |
| AUGUST 3 rd -8 th | DOG WEEK Focus on dog fouling complaints, problem areas and stray dogs. | 2x CEU 1x Pest Control Officers 1x Public Health Team |
| AUGUST 21 st -27 th | SECONDARY SCHOOLS Litter issues | 2x CEU 2x Police 2x Cleansing 1x Outdoor Amenities |
| SEPTEMBER 1 st -4 th | SHOP WASTE INITIATIVE Address improper presentation of waste and associated litter problems- Kilmarnock(PILOT) | 2x CEU 2x Outdoor Amenities 2xCleansing Officers |
| SEPTEMBER 7 th – 11 th | DOG WEEK Focus on dog fouling complaints, problem areas and stray dogs. | 2x CEU 1x Pest Control Officers 1x Public Health Team 4x Community Wardens |
| SEPTEMBER 16 th | HURLFORD/CROOKEDHOLM All areas | 2x CEU 1x Police 1x Public Health Officer |

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| SEPTEMBER 23 rd | LOGAN/NETHERTHIRD All areas | 2x CEU 1x Police 1x Outdoor Amenities |
| OCTOBER 21 st | DALMELLINGTON All areas | 2x CEU 1x Pest Control Officer 1xPolice |
| OCTOBER 22 nd | DALRYMPLE All areas | 2x CEU 1x Public Health Team 1xPolice |
| OCTOBER 23 rd | DRONGAN, STAIR, PATNA All areas | 2x CEU 1x Public Health Team 1xPolice 2x Pest Control Officers |
| NOVEMBER 11 th & 12 th | NEW CUMNOCK All areas | 2x CEU 1x Police 1x Pest Control |
| NOVEMBER 25 th | STAGECOACH BUS Stations and Service 11 checks | 2x CEU <i>2x Stagecoach Wardens</i> |
| DECEMBER 1 st -6 th | DOG WEEK Focus on dog fouling complaints, problem areas and stray dogs. | 2x CEU 2x Pest Control Officers 1x Public Health Team 4x Community Wardens |
| DECEMBER 21 st -23 rd | NO-SMOKING INITIATIVE Visits of pubs, premises, hospital addressing smoking and associated littering issues. | 2 x CEU 2x Licensing Officers 1x Taxi Licensing Officer, 4x Public Health Team |