

Executive Summary

- The Opposition is concerned about the current state of Enfield's street scene and parks.
- Fly-tipping has visibly risen making our streets look dirty.
- Litter bins are now frequently overflowing in our town centres.
- Grass verges were left to overgrow as were trees and park areas.
- Overall, our borough's environment has deteriorated.

Recommendations

- Expand the use of cameras at known fly-tip hotspots. There are many locations that have been fly-tip hotspots for years yet do not have cameras.
- Name and shame those fly-tippers who are caught.
- Increase the litter bin capacity in our town centres and high streets.
- Utilise the council's enforcement powers against private estate management companies to keep their estates clean and tidy.
- Work with our tenants and leaseholders on how to dispose of large items.
- Re-evaluate the size of wheeled bins because people are creating more household waste due to working from home.
- Remove the appointment system at Barrowell Green Household Waste and Recycling Centre [the tip].
- A one team approach to tackling the street scene including fly-tip teams, enforcement, housing estate staff, environmental health and waste collection services.

Fly-tipping

- Fly-tipping has increased across the borough.
- Dumped items are regularly left on our streets and parks making areas less attractive to live, work and visit.
- When action is not taken on fly-tipping in certain spots it only increases the amount left.
- Reports of fly-tipping in Enfield have risen every year for the last four years. In 2016/17, there were 1,226 reports made, while in 2020/21, there were 8,719 – a rise of more than 600%. On average last year, it means fly-tipping reports were being made almost every single hour.
- The cost of dealing with fly-tipping incidents has also risen significantly. In 2016/17 the council spent £694,000 clearing up dumped waste, but in 2020/21 this rose to £1.25million.

Opposition Priority Business
Street scene and general environment

September 2021

- The Opposition is pleased that the Administration has finally listened and axed the cost of bulky waste collection. However, we do not know how long this will remain.
- Enfield's Household Waste and Recycling Centre is still operating an appointment system despite all restrictions being lifted. The appointment system makes it even more inconvenient to dispose of items due to the need to book a slot.



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Enfield Council Estates

- The bin areas on our estates are constantly overflowing.
- In addition, Councillors regularly carryout Members Enquiries about the items dumped by the large container bins.
- The bin provision clearly needs to expand but it seems that this has not occurred on many of our estates.

There does not seem to be any strategy to deal with large items such as furniture being left by the large container bins. These items build up and build up making the estates look unclean and untidy.



Enforcement of private estates

- Private estates experience many of the same problems as council stock.
- People dump rubbish and other items in the communal refuse and recycling areas.
- When making enquiries about how we can intervene councillors often receive a response that it is private land so not our problem despite, in many cases, Enfield Council providing the waste collection. However, there never seems to be a linkup between the waste collection teams [that see fly-tipping, sacks dumped on the floor, lack of capacity and rats] and enforcement.

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- The Administration seems to have forgotten its role in terms of Environmental Health as these situations often become places rats and other vermin visit and nest.
- Robust enforcement against management companies must be improved if we are going to reduce the amount of dumped rubbish and fly-tipping incidents.



Litter bins

- Since fortnightly collections started there has been a visible increase in black sacks or other rubbish bags being left or stuffed in litter bins.
- The problem is that if black sacks are dumped too often around a certain bin it becomes a regular hotspot. People add to the number of black sacks originally dumped and larger items start being left as well
- Litter bins are also overflowing in our town centres making a less attractive place to visit. The bins are simply not emptied enough with the amount of rubbish being left.
- It seems that the Administration has failed to take into account that residents have been advised to eat outside in pubs and restaurants, yet the bin capacity has not changed to reflect an increase in waste in our town centres.





Overgrowing verges and trees

- The grass verges were left to overgrow this year.
- The result was our streets looked unkept and it did not give a good impression of the borough.
- The edges of parks have been allowed to overgrow through the railings encroaching onto the pavement, in many cases obscuring road signs.
- Trees and hedges also overgrew making it difficult for people to walk without pushing tree branches out the way. The overgrown trees and hedges created unnecessary obstructions (especially dangerous to the elderly, wheelchair users and those that are partially sighted or blind.).
- The grounds of St Andrew's Church, Enfield Town were left to overgrow. Enfield Council is responsible of its upkeep. The issue with this is that the grounds are part of a gateway to the town centre. The fact that it looked a mess clearly did not give a good impression of our main shopping area.
- The Opposition is aware there were problems when the contract for this service was brought in house. However, it was down to the Administration to organise a smooth transition so that delays in the service did not occur.



Conclusion

- In conclusion, to date there does not seem to be an action plan in place to resolve the problems with the street scene in the long term. Fly-tipping is continuing to blight our streets and is currently only increasing.
- The Administration's failure to deliver a smooth transition when the highways and grounds maintenance service was brought in-house has caused our streets to become an overgrown mess.

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- There has been no review into the size of wheeled bins and bags given the increase in household waste due to homeworking and online shopping or the frequency of collections.
- The Administration has neglected the street scene for the majority of this term and the results can be seen in the images included in this paper. It is now having to fire fight given the state of the landscape which doesn't resolve anything and is the expensive option.
- Residents want action to be taken as they quite rightly want their streets clean, green and tidy. The Opposition hopes that the recommendations are agreed and that a long-term strategy is created to deliver real improvements in our street scene.