

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY
21 JANUARY 2015

MEMBER QUESTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 20

Fly-tipping

As the Portfolio Holder will be aware persistent fly tipping has been an issue within St James. Indeed this weekend another episode opposite 'The Tannery' in Well Street occurred and was reported by local residents and myself.

The Street Scene team, as always, reacted quickly to remove the items. However, I was informed that due to staff being moved to other teams and seconded into other posts that currently no investigative enforcement action could occur because the team currently has no enforcement officers - the team was once four strong. As he will be aware enforcement is a vital part of maintaining a clean environment.

Does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that this is a concerning situation, was he aware of the staffing issues facing this service and what steps will he take to resolve the situation?

Answer

I appreciate Cllr Mitchell and residents reporting this instance of fly-tipping to the City Council. I also reported it to the Council myself at the weekend, having noticed it myself when I was in Well Street on Saturday morning.

In terms of issues such as litter and fly-tipping enforcement, environmental health staff, Supervisors/Officers from Waste and Civil Enforcement Officers all have powers to tackle such issues and they carry this out along with other duties.

Unfortunately, it has become apparent from practical experience in the field that the opportunity to connect fly-tipped waste with an address is becoming more difficult as many people are mindful about data theft and placing their address details in their waste – this means that officer resources spent investigating such complaints are not successful in identifying the culprit, in the main. Therefore, it is more expedient to remove fly-tipped waste swiftly in 'one-off' situations and instead concentrate any investigation where there is a chronic problem.