

Committee Action Sheet - West/Central Area Committee

Meeting Date: 16/03/23 Updates in red.

1. Minute reference: 22/19/WAC Open Forum Q1
 - Action: Head of Environmental Services to convene a multi-agency meeting to consider the issues being raised around use of e-scooters / e-bikes / e-mopeds on open spaces, with the aim of agreeing some deliverable management actions.
 - Progress: Head of Environmental Services has circulated an email and briefing note requesting initial meeting with representatives from City Council's Community Safety and Streets and Open Spaces services and Police, County Council and GCP. Meeting date being organised to take place between now and Christmas.
 - Progress: the initial multi-agency officer meeting to discuss issue of e-mopeds, e-scooters, e-bikes on open spaces is confirmed for 30th November.
 - Progress: This multi-agency officer meeting took place on 30th November and a note of meeting was shared with Market Ward Councillors Bick, Gilderdale and Porrer.
 - Progress 06/03/23: At the meeting, officers committed to gather further data/ evidence/ intelligence on the issue of irresponsible e-scooter/ e-moped/ e-cycle use in city centre, noting Midsummer Common as the main 'problem site'. Officers also supported proposed trial of behavioural change 'Respect' signage on Midsummer Common; and to pursue the development of a countywide targeted education/ awareness raising campaign, to be led by the Cambridgeshire Road Safety Partnership, as part of its 'Vision Zero' Plan.

A follow up multi-agency officer meeting has been scheduled for 22nd March to review progress on these commitments/ actions.

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2. Minute reference: 22/19/WAC Open Forum Q2
 - Action: Head of Environmental Services to investigate the ability for the Council to acquire powers to enforce against engine idling. Would also look into what could be done regarding education about engine idling.
 - Progress: Still under investigation, nothing to report as yet
 - Progress: 06/03/23: Vehicle engine idling is illegal (Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act (1988)) but only enforceable by police officers whereby a £20 fixed penalty notice can be levied rising to £40 for late payment.

That said, there are powers in the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002, which, on application, would allow local authorities to enforce idling. These regulations allow a local authority officer, or designated person by the local authority, in the area of that authority, to issue fixed penalty notices in relation to stationary idling in that area. These relate to idling offences in Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act (1988), which are prescribed as fixed penalty offences for the purposes of these regulations. Previously only the police had the power to enforce these offences under the Road Traffic Act. For statutory Idling offences the fixed penalty allowed under these regulations is £20. The authorised officer/ designated person has to ask the driver to comply with the law and, if they don't, can then issue the fine, via a fixed penalty notice.

The regulations do mention 'district authorities' as one of the bodies which can use these powers, but clearly for the City Council this would have significant resource implications, in terms of investing in the necessary staff capacity to be able to undertake meaningful enforcement; at a time when the Council is having to make significant financial savings to deliver a balanced budget. Also, the City Council does not currently collect or hold data relating to idling issues in the city, other than a very small number of individual complaints; and, in order to do so, once again, would require significant resource investment. Vehicle idling is also not likely to be considered a local policing priority for Cambridgeshire Police enforcement

Whilst any reduction in vehicle emissions is desirable, studies on idling impacts are thin on the ground and with mixed results. Whilst very local targeted action in areas of high exposure, such as a school might be significant, it is very unclear in terms of national objectives for regulated pollutants, that vehicle idling makes a measurable contribution. The idling issue is also diminishing as 'stop start' technology, hybrid and full electric vehicles (EVs) penetrate the fleet.

So, given the above, City Council officers have committed to investigate how we might publicise and promote better driver behaviour in collaboration with partner authorities, including the County Council and Police, through a coordinated programme of education and awareness raising. This builds on previous work undertaken jointly in the past, by the City and County Councils, on communication and education particularly around school zones, with at least one school in Cambridge adopting an anti-idling banner.

3. Minute reference: 22/20/WAC Environmental Report

- Action: Head of Environmental Services to follow up with the Shared Waste Service why the recycling facility at Adam and Eve Street had been closed and Ward Councillors not engaged prior.
- Progress: Shared Waste Service has provided Cllr Porrer with full email response on 11th October 2022

Action completed and closed.

4. Minute reference: 22/20/WAC Environmental Report

- Action: Head of Environmental Services to pursue additional cleaning programme and business engagement to address cleanliness and anti-social behaviour issue.
- Progress: Head of Environmental Services sent email on 10th October 2022 requesting increased cleansing regime for Hobson's Passage and targeted engagement with businesses to tackle issue of cigarette butts and commercial bin storage; and, through the city's Purple Flag partnership, consideration of opportunities to improve the Hobson's Passage street environment, such as through additional lighting and street art.
- Hobson's Passage is litter picked daily; and the frequency of the surface being pressure washed has increased from a monthly visit to a weekly visit. In between times, the area is monitored/ inspected on a regular basis and additional wash downs will be undertaken as and when necessary.

Action completed and closed.

5. Minute reference: 22/21/WAC Update on City Centre Recovery

- Action: Head of Environmental Services to explore the potential for CCTV camera provision at the junction of Burleigh Street and East Road.
 - Progress: Head of Environmental Services has asked the Council's CCTV and Community Safety service managers to consider the request. Both managers support the value of a CCTV camera at the location and have confirmed a pan/ tilt/ zoom camera supply and installation cost of c£12,000. They are now exploring potential funding sources; and/ or the opportunity to redeploy an existing public space CCTV camera from elsewhere in the city, where it may no longer be providing any real community safety management value, ie. it is a low crime/ ASB area.
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6. Minute reference: 22/28/WAC Open Forum Q1

- Action: That the relevant ward councillors who do not sit on JDDC write to the developers to recommend that the cycle and walking path between Darwin Green and Windsor Road is opened immediately.
- Progress: 24/01/23: Cllr S Smith sent an e-mail to WCAC Members to provide an update regarding the planning and delivery of the temporary and permanent 'orbital' route between Darwin Green and Windsor Road, therefore there was no need for a letter to be sent to the developers.

Action completed and closed.