

Local issues raised - Hetton Town Council meetings - Summer 2020

Cllr R Coulson: reported that the steep footpath leading from Summer House Farm Estate to A690 was covered in moss growth.

RESPONSE – The Council have identified the footpath in question and have made arrangements to have this cleaned.

Cllr K Rowham: requested that details be sought from SCC re the policy for the investigation, identification and prosecution of fly tipping offenders.

RESPONSE - Please see attached Environmental Enforcement Policy – please note this is currently being reviewed and updated.

Cllr Rowham added that she had concerns about fly tipping in rear lanes throughout Hetton, including site on unadopted road off Front Street, opposite Hetton Post office.

RESPONSE - Reported requests for Service for the Hetton Ward for the last 3 months.

Hetton	2020
Jun	51
Jul	51
Aug	38

The Environmental Enforcement Support Officers have attended each incident and conducted a search of the waste. Where evidence or witness information is available, then the matter would be referred for investigation. Where evidence is not secured the waste is removed and no further action taken.

As a result, the following enforcement actions have been taken for the periods shown above:

2020

June	1 x investigation leading to 2 x Enforcement Notices being served
July	6 x investigation leading to 3 x Fixed Penalty Notice's &, 2 x Community Protection Warnings being served
August	1 x Enforcement Notice

Cllr M Hopper: expressed concern at a general lack of feedback from SCC and requested that a representative from the customer service team attend a future meeting.

RESPONSE – Requests to Local Services Members Reports are either logged via an electronic reporting form where one exists which follows workflow rules and presents the job to the relevant service team or are sent to the relevant service area via email. Very few requests will be immediately resolved but if they are CSN will be able to provide a full response. In all other circumstances it is the service delivery team that provides the response. It is disappointing to hear that Cllr Hopper's experience via Local Services Members Reports has not matched expectations and the relevant service delivery managers and officers involved in the process have been advised of the need to provide timely responses to members enquiries.

Cllr S Waterston: reported concerns about Irwin Street allotment site including large fires being lit and horses being kept on site for breeding.

RESPONSE - Any specific issues regarding allotments should in the first instance be reported to the Allotments Office, Norman Atkinson at norman.atkinson@sunderlnd.gov.uk, this will allow the matter to be investigated.

Breeding of horses is not allowed on any allotment site and where evidence supports such activities formal action will be taken against the tenant.

In regards to fires on site, following investigation tenants are made aware of their responsibilities and when appropriate the matter is forwarded to Environmental Health to consider possible legal action & when necessary the Council will seek to remove allotment tenure.

Cllr K Rowham:

Expressed concerns about parking congestion at Hetton Lyons Country Park due to car park access gates being closed.

RESPONSE - The Environmental Enforcement Manager, responsible for Hetton Lyons Country Park, has advised that the gates to the park giving access to the car park are not closed.

Cllr K Rowham:

Expressed concerns about ongoing parking congestion / parking on pavement at Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate, Unit 6 near Dove Building Materials premises - obstructing pedestrian access.

RESPONSE - Any vehicles parked on the footway that prevent pedestrians from passing is classed as obstructive parking.

Unless waiting or parking is restricted, as indicated by yellow lines, motorists can park on the highway so long as they do not cause obstruction or danger to other

road users. In the absence of waiting restrictions the Council has no powers of enforcement when such situations arise. It is likely that there would be heavy objection to such measures from the units if these proposals were suggested

Therefore, in these cases, enforcement action can only be carried out by Northumbria Police who may take action against offending drivers. I would advise you to any instances of obstructive or inconsiderate parking directly to Northumbria Police by calling 101 the non-emergency helpline.

Cllr S Waterston:

Expressed concerns on behalf of residents relating to speeding in Richard Street and Caroline Street, Hetton le Hole. The 20 mph speed limit signs are regarded as ineffective, and Councillor requests speed humps are introduced at both locations.

RESPONSE - Caroline Street has recently had traffic calming introduced along with a 20-mph zone. Any enforcement should now be undertaken by Northumbria Police. We would not introduce any further measures in this road.

In relation to Richard Street, this narrow street is generally heavily parked, and it is unlikely that speeds are reaching any significant level.

As with Caroline Street, this should also be enforced by Northumbria Police if their resources allow.

Cllr R Elvin:

Seeks progress update from SCC on the removal of parking restrictions outside Tesco, Hetton to help facilitate local shopping.

RESPONSE - Works for removal of the loading bay, limited waiting bays and disabled bays are part of the current group order and is currently going through the process for completion. There is no removal of waiting restrictions as part of this order. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, our works had been delayed. Officers are now back working with the group order and schemes will be implemented shortly. Unfortunately, I cannot give an exact date, but it is our intention to hopefully have the work completed by the end of October and will be weather permitting.