

**Danny Davis (Environmental Enforcement Team Leader) Q&A session, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**N.B: It is vital that residents take photographic evidence and report any incidents (eg fly-tipping, abandoned cars, “eyesore” gardens, littering) online <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/report-it>, or by phone (02082153000) as soon as possible – the more complaints received, the more chance of getting issues resolved!**

Q1

Some local households have overflowing bins and numerous bags of litter placed on top of their full bins each week. Is this allowed, or is there a maximum amount of bagged litter permitted per household?

A

Bags on or around household bins won't be collected, although clear bags can be used for excess recycling. Green waste will only be collected from households with green bin permits. Excess waste should be taken to Frizlands Reuse and Recycling Centre. If a neighbour's garden is filled with waste, it should be reported online to LBBB.

Q2

Almost daily we see evidence of people dumping their waste bags illegally (Fly Tipping?) for instance in the former BLESMA's car park – which is private property - and the cut-through between Bath Road and Eagle Avenue. How do we report this and what would be done about it once reported?

A

Fly-tipped waste cannot be collected from private property, although if reported online it will be investigated. There is a fixed penalty of £400 for fly-tipping, and if caught on CCTV, culprits will be displayed on the LBBB “Wall of Shame” video. If there is a high incidence of problems being flagged in one area, a request can be put in for CCTV. *Danny will put in a request for CCTV around Eagle Ave/Bath Road, although this is not his dept.*

Q3

We have a large number of flats and HMOs in the area. Unfortunately, the communal bin areas are often over-filled, with large items dumped at the side of the bins for a considerable length of time. Who is responsible for removing this rubbish, and, as the landlord is often difficult to contact or is unknown, what can be done to resolve this problem?

A

The Private Sector Housing Team can carry out HMO checks, and if necessary will install cameras to identify culprits.

Q4

The increase in fast food outlets has led to an increase in litter being strewn around the streets. What can be done by the Council to resolve this, and to encourage these places to take responsibility for their rubbish?

A

The Street Cleaning dept can increase the area for which a food outlet is responsible, and will take action if people are seen littering (fines).

Q5

Does fly-posting rely on residents reporting this, or can other council officials (eg parking wardens, street cleaners) simply remove anything they see?

A

Street Cleaning dept can remove posters, but no one else. If a company advert is posted, the company will be prosecuted.

Q6

If a neighbour's garden has become an eyesore, can the council deal with the problem regardless of whether the property is council or privately owned? What if the property is privately let?

A

Yes, the Council can investigate front or back gardens. If it is council owned property, the case is passed to Landlord Services. If privately owned, they will seek to identify the owner or occupier – both could be prosecuted under a Community Protection Notice (CPN). Depending on circumstances, the culprit is given 7 days to clear their garden before being fined. Note: knotweed poses a specific problem. This weed, which looks like red bamboo, is extremely invasive, and prevents potential mortgages or sale of the property.

Q7

Which department can be contacted regarding action to be taken when uncut and overhanging bushes or trees restrict access on footpaths for disability scooters or prams or pedestrians to pass safely?

A

This is a Highways offence, and can lead to prosecution.

Q8

What can be done if a car has been abandoned in a street for a length of time?

A

The registered owner will be located and given 14 days in which to claim the vehicle. After this, it can be towed away and destroyed.