
RECYCLING BANKS AT ST JOHN FISHERS – UPDATE REPORT

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report addresses the issues raised by a Ward Member at the last Committee meeting regarding alleged incidents at the recycling banks at this site.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. At the Community Services Committee on 10th October, 2000, Members considered a report which gave an update on the impact of the anti-climb fence erected around the recycling banks at St John Fisher Playing Field. Noting the detail of the report, the Committee was advised by a Member of a complaint log which he had received relating to the recycling banks.
- 2.2. In light of this information Members considered that the matter should be deferred in order for Officers to fully investigate the allegations made.

3. POLICE REPORTS

- 3.1. The incident numbers (copy attached as appendix 1) were checked against police records to provide more information about each incident and are detailed below: -

<u>Incident No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Description of Incident</u>
816	7 th May	16:10	Children 'messaging' with bottle banks
1247	16 th May	22:02	Children playing basket ball
1312	30 th June	22:57	Children playing basket ball
737	6 th August	14:30	Bottles being smashed
1307	8 th August	—	Related to unlit road works
1091	24 th August	20:27	Bottles being smashed

- 3.2. Work to erect the new fence and remove the existing wooden fence was completed on the 7th June 2000. The removal of the wooden fence was necessary as to leave it in place would have compromised the design of the new anti-climb fence.

-
- 3.3. Only incident numbers 816, 737 and 1091 relate to the bottle banks. Incident 816 occurred before the work to the fence was complete and the monitoring period started. Police reported no evidence of broken glass when they attended.
- 3.4. With respect to incident numbers 737 and 1091, the complainant alleged that children were smashing glass around the site. The police have confirmed that there were children around the site when they arrived but could not find any evidence of smashed glass on either occasion.
- 3.5. Where there is broken glass around banks arrangements are made to remove it. The only recorded incident this financial year relating to this site was on the 1st June 2000, which concerned one broken blue bottle.
- 3.6. Inspector Coady from Essex Police will be present at the meeting to deal with any questions concerning Police records or response.

4. COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL

- 4.1. At the time the work was completed 62 of the nearest households were informed that the work had been finalised and that a 3-month monitoring period had commenced on 7th June. As the monitoring period occurred over the summer months, it included relatively warm light evenings and the long school summer holidays. It is therefore the time when problems are most likely to occur and give rise to complaint.
- 4.2. The Council did not receive any complaints directly during the monitoring period, despite residents being given the 24-hour freephone recycling helpline number.
- 4.3. The only complaints that have been received via the police are from one household and, as explained above, only two of the incidents relate to the recycling banks during the monitoring period (i.e. incident numbers 737 and 1091).
- 4.4. The information provided by the Ward Member suggested that the complainant had spoken with the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive has confirmed that he spoke to the complainant in August, prior to both parties going on leave, about the problem of children throwing crab-apples picked from the trees on the public open space into his property. The crab apples were subsequently removed. The complainant has not contacted the Chief Executive since.

5. VANDALISM

- 5.1. Many of the Council's recycling sites have at some time or another experienced some form of vandalism, ranging from graffiti to glass being smashed around the banks and paper being set alight. These incidents

tend to be infrequent and the overall level of vandalism is similar to that experienced by other authorities.

6. OTHER RECYCLING SITES

- 6.1. Listed below are some of the other recycling sites operated by the Council and the distance these sites are to the nearest residential property.
- 6.2. The list includes three of the busiest sites, which collect significantly more material and three other sites that are located in parks or playing fields, which collect similar amounts of materials.

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Distance to nearest property (in metres)</u>
Southend Road Car Park	20
Golden Cross Parade	14
Pooles Lane Car Park	25
Gt Wakering Sport Centre	7
Fairview Playing Field	25
Ashingdon Playing Field	25
St John Fishers Playing Field (nearest property)	55
St John Fishers Playing Field (complainant)	60

- 6.3. Although some of these sites have experienced vandalism, no noise or nuisance complaints have been received from local residents, in recent years, despite them being closer to residential properties and collecting similar if not greater volumes of materials.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Council's Community Safety Officer has reported no complaints or adverse comments relating to the recycling banks.
- 7.2. The Police Crime Prevention Officer, carried out a review of the facilities at St John Fisher Playing Field and the Police view is that the banks should remain at their present location.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The recycling banks contribute to the Council's recycling rate.

-
- 8.2. Previous investigations have confirmed that the position of these banks does not cause a statutory noise nuisance as defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. Significant officer resources, over and above that for similar sites, have been used in attempting to resolve any concerns at this site.

10. PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. The banks are situated in the Rayleigh Town Council area.

11. RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- 1) To leave the banks in their current position with the new anti-climb fence.
- 2) That the complainant be advised accordingly and that no further action is taken.

G Woolhouse

Housing Health & Community Care

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Matthew Rowland – Jones on (01702) 318069

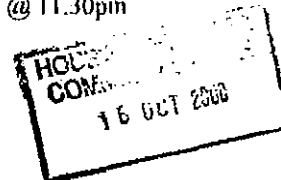
APPENDIX 1

10 OCT 2000

Bottle Bank Nuisance

The fence was erected on 28th April 2000

- 7th May Nuisance reported to Police Incident 816
- 11th May 17 youths on bottle banks. Reported to Peter Webster & Roland Adams
- 16th May Nuisance reported to Police Incident 1247
- 5th June P.C. Hughes visited site
- 6th June Nuisance reported to Roland Adams & recycling officer @ RDC
- 7th June Roger Cornwall & colleague visited site with saws to remove exiting inner wooden fence
- 30th June Nuisance reported to Police Incident 1312 @ 11.30pm
- 6th August Nuisance reported to Police Incident 737
- 8th August Nuisance reported to Police Incident 1307
- 24th August Nuisance reported to Police Incident 1091



These are just some of the incidents which we have reported, more often to the police rather than RDC. Our telephone bill would be horrendous if we telephoned every incident through to either the police or RDC. We are not paid to monitor the bottle banks we thought that was the job of RDC, perhaps they can produce a calendar of dates and times of when they did their monitoring as we feel it unfair that we have to produce evidence of nuisance and RDC produce nothing. If RDC were to listen to local residents and made themselves available when the nuisance occurred, they would find that they would have to be at the site frequently. Unfortunately the nuisance occurs more often outside office hours than in.

In addition to the nuisance of the bottle banks, we have had suffered from youths bombarding the side of our house and our newly built conservatory with apples collected from a tree in a 'medieval hedgerow' adjacent to the St John Fisher Playing Field. We did have a visit from the

park's officer who could not suggest anything constructive other than we made 'apple jelly' from these apples. P.C. Hughes spent many evenings in attendance at our house because of this problem. Incidentally, according to P.C. Hughes, the police were not in agreement in siting the bottle banks in their current position.

What chance do the residence have if RDC go against the local police. Paul Warren was telephoned twice by Mr O'Riley who agreed the nuisance was not acceptable and agreed a meeting should be set up to discuss further. So far nothing has happened.

2.

