

REMOVAL OF CHEWING GUM – RAYLEIGH TOWN CENTRE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides Members with details of a method of cleansing of pavement area, initially focused on Rayleigh Town Centre to remove chewing gum and other staining.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Rayleigh Town Centre Sub-Committee on 26 July 2002, concern was raised over the amount of chewing gum and similar substances that existed on the paved areas in Rayleigh Town Centre.
- 2.2 It was agreed at this meeting that a report should be brought to an Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee providing details on the means of removing the chewing gum and the associated costs.

3 CHEWING GUM REMOVAL

- 3.1 The removal of chewing gum from pavements is not included in the Council's Street Cleansing Contract and would require a specialist contractor to provide this service.
- 3.2 Details have been obtained from a company called "The Chewing Gum Removal Company" who would carry out this service and indeed have done so for a number of other local authorities.
- 3.3 The process involves the spraying of hot water at a temperature of 70°C over the specified area requiring cleansing. No chemicals are used in the process and the company also states that it will remove all other stains such as grease etc.
- 3.4 Within their terms and conditions they will re-clean an area free of charge if it does not meet the required standard. They also state that they will reinstate any damage to jointing around paving blocks, if this was to occur.

- 3.5 We have received feedback from the Royal Borough of Kingston, who employed this company, and they were extremely satisfied with the result and are going to repeat the process three or four times a year.
- 3.6 The company is offering to clean an area of 300 square metres free of charge as a “trial” to evaluate the impact of the process with no obligation to then place a firm order with them.
- 3.7 The cost of the service is 70 pence per square metre. Based on cleaning the pavement on both sides of Eastwood Road from Churchill House to the junction of the High Street and both sides of the High Street from the junction with Eastwood Road up to Hockley Road would be an area of approximately 6125 square metres.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLCATIONS

- 4.1 The effective cleansing and removal of chewing gum from the Town Centre pavements would improve the environmental standards existing in that area.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The total cost of the Street Cleansing Contract is £356,300 but as stated earlier the removal of chewing gum would fall outside of this contract. The cost of cleansing the area detailed in section 3.7 of this report would be approximately £4,300 per time, with the total cost dependent upon the frequency of cleansing.
- 5.2 Whilst the area in question has so far been located in the Rayleigh Town Centre, Members may wish to consider whether they would want to extend this cleansing operation to other town centres in the District. This would obviously increase the cost, for which the specific increase would be dependent on the size of the extra areas to be cleansed.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) To note the content of the report and agree to taking up the “trial offer” of cleaning 300 square metres free of charge, in order to evaluate the impact.
- (2) If satisfied with the impact / standard achieved, to incorporate into the draft estimates the cleansing of the area detailed in section 3.7 of this report on a twice yearly basis. (CD(F&ES))

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Jeremy Bourne on:-

Tel:- 01702 318163
E-Mail:- jeremy.bourne@rochford.gov.uk