

Request by Member for Scrutiny Review

Proposer's Name : Janet Whitehouse **Date of request:** 21/9/05

Supporting Councillors: Jon Whitehouse, Bob Goold, Fergus Maclaine

Summary of issue to be scrutinised

The provision of uniformed neighbourhood wardens to help keep the district's streets cleaner and safer.

The contract with Vinci Park will soon be due for reconsideration and members should have an input into this. That contract deals only with the enforcement of parking. We think the council needs wardens with wider enforcement powers to deal with parking on pavements, litter, flyposting, etc. I understand that there are a number of such powers which councils can choose to exercise.

We would like a panel to look at the possible powers and recommend to Cabinet which EFDC should take, possibly by employing neighbourhood wardens in place of exclusively parking wardens. This would probably involve a reduction in time spent on parking enforcement in order to include the new powers – or there may be other ways.

Public interest justification

Residents, especially those in mobility vehicles or with prams, have complained about vehicles parked on the pavement and blocking pedestrian access. The police are not willing to deal with this and have told me that councils have powers to do so.

Cllr Jon Whitehouse and I receive frequent complaints about litter and dog fouling in Epping.

Research has shown that the presence of uniformed wardens make residents feel safer.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area

The result of the wardens' work should be a cleaner, more attractive district which would be more likely to satisfy residents and attract visitors and businesses to the area.

Unimpeded access along footpaths would also help the independence of elderly or disabled people. I know of at least one person who has lost confidence in going out in his mobility vehicle after an incident involving the pavement being blocked.

Council performance in this area

Performance is not known but this topic relates to the Epping Forest District Community Strategy as follows –

Green and Unique – Improve the cleanliness of our streets and open spaces and encourage a culture that does not tolerate litter.

A Safe Community – Ensure that high visibility uniformed patrols, including police officers, Community Support Officers and other uniformed officials such as forest rangers, are regularly present on the streets and other public spaces.

It also relates to the Epping Forest Best Value Performance Plan 2005/6 as follows –

Medium Term Priorities –

(a) To maintain the special character and advantage of the district, and address local environmental issues

(c) To create safer communities.

Street scene (p12) We recognise that our residents would like to see a cleaner environment in our towns, villages and countryside. The Government is proposing changes to the law which should enable councils to do more to control litter and fly-tipping.

BVPI 199 relevant but not yet available

Keep in context

No other reviews relevant to this issue are known.

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