The Tidy Britain All-Party Parliamentary Group
“Don’t Be A Tosser” - discussing litter thrown from vehicles
27th March 2018, 5-6pm
House of Commons, Committee Room 14

Minutes

Present
Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Chair)
Victoria Prentis MP (Vice-Chair)
Baroness Pinnock (Vice-Chair)
Jack Brereton MP
Liz Twist MP

Apologies
Kevin Hollinrake MP (Vice-Chair)
Mark Pawsey (Vice-Chair)
Rt Hon Richard Benyon MP

A full attendance list is appended.

17:00 Welcome and introduction
Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Chair of the Tidy Britain APPG

- Jim Fitzpatrick MP welcomed members, external speakers and stakeholders to the Tidy Britain All-Party Parliamentary Group meeting, noting the issue was raised previously by the members Richard Benyon MP and Kevin Hollinrake MP and the purpose of the meeting is to discuss what can be done to change the behaviours of people who throw litter from vehicles.

- Jim also stated that the meeting takes place five days before new regulations come into force that will make it easier for councils to fine those who throw rubbish from their cars by allowing them to issue a penalty charge notice to the registered keeper of the vehicle, regardless of who actually threw the litter.

17:05 The approach taken by Highways England
Mike Wilson, Chief Engineer and Executive Director, Highways England

- Mike Wilson provided an overview of Highways England’s approach on roadside litter and the challenges they face clearing litter from motorways.
and a number of major roads. Key points included:

- Mike outlined Highways England’s approach of working with stakeholders to deliver its 2014 litter strategy to achieve a road network predominantly free from litter, without compromising safety and delivered affordably.
- Mike provided an example of the M602 highlighting the challenges faced on the strategic road network but also improvements being made which benefit traffic and help tackle roadside litter.
- Mike also outlined Highways England’s support for Keep Britain Tidy’s Great British Spring Clean campaign.

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<th>17:15</th>
<th>Working in partnership: the Cleaner Essex Group</th>
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<td>Ros Alam, Marketing and Communications Officer, Braintree District Council</td>
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- Ros presented the partnership approach taken by the Cleaner Essex Group on roadside litter. Key highlights included:
- The Cleaner Essex Group welcomed the new powers to issue Penalty Charge Notices out to the owners of vehicles but raised concerns about the formal appeal process unlike the Fixed Penalty Notice which could have an impact on enforcement.
- The Cleaner Essex Group called for a standard Penalty Charge Notice form provided from Government.

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<th>17:25</th>
<th>Time for a renewed campaign on roadside litter</th>
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<td>Allison Ogden-Newton, Chief Executive, Keep Britain Tidy</td>
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- Allison discussed Keep Britain Tidy’s approach to reducing roadside litter. Key highlights as follows:
- Allison highlighted a study by Graham Moates which will feature in Keep Britain Tidy’s Journal of Litter and Environmental Quality which looked at litter along roadsides and in lay-bys and found that more than 8% of bottles and almost 5% of the cans collected contained the remains of small mammals.
- Allison introduced Keep Britain Tidy’s new campaign on roadside litter, Don’t Be A Tosser.

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<th>17:30</th>
<th>Discussion: sharing experiences and approaches</th>
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<td>Chaired by Jim Fitzpatrick MP</td>
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- Key points raised in the discussion included:
- Concerns that London authorities had powers to issue Penalty Charge Notices to the owners of vehicles for a number of years but a small number
of prosecutions had taken place. Members of the audience argued this related to Penalty Notices having formal appeal routes which slowed down the scheme.

- There is a need to improve use of CCTV to enable prosecutions under the new powers. There is also a need for there to be several high profile successful prosecutions to contribute to behaviour change.

- Concerns that an ability to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to the owners of vehicles would be more useful than the new Penalty Charge Notices and the right to appeal. Local Authorities also recognised a need for statutory enforcement guidelines for litter thrown from vehicles. The Tidy Britain APPG agreed to take this forward.

- Concerns were raised with DVLA being unwilling to provide information that could help lead to a prosecution once a car has been caught littering by members of the public. The Tidy Britain APPG agreed to take this forward.

- Mike Wilson agreed to make a connection between Ashfield District Council and Highways England to discuss working in together across Nottinghamshire.

- The audience and Highways England recognised a need to improve co-ordination between authorities on major roads to enable cleansing to take place with Colchester Council highlighting an example where the council had been unable access a maintenance site for cleansing. Highways England stated its in-sourcing policy should improve co-ordination. The Tidy Britain APPG will monitor this situation and consider taking action if no progress is made.

**17:55  Summary and next steps**

Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Chair

- Jim Fitzpatrick thanked panel members and stakeholders for their contributions. Actions for the Tidy Britain APPG:

1) **The Chair to write to Defra as the agency responsible for introducing the new powers to ask for a set of guidelines on the new Penalty Notice for local authorities.**

2) **The Chair will write to DVLA to clarify if members of the public report a registration plate to a local authority, the authority will be able to access details from DVLA to process a prosecution.**

- The date of the next meeting would be shared to Members by email.
## Attendee list

**First name** | **Last name** | **Organisation**  
--- | --- | ---  
Ros | Alam | Braintree District Council  
Philippa | Anderson | Keep Britain Tidy  
Hillary | Bauer | Keep Britain Tidy  
David | Boot | Highways England  
Richard | Bradbury | London Borough of Camden  
Heidi | Budino | Shell  
Cat | Chapman | Uttlesford District Council  
Samantha | Dennis | Ashfield District Council  
Charles | Edwards | Ashfield District Council  
Peter | Ferguson | Colchester Borough Council  
Alf | Hill | Keep Britain Tidy  
Ricky | Josey | Reading Borough Council  
James | Lees | Keep Britain Tidy  
Dennis | Lewis | London Borough of Brent  
Rebecca | MacSwiney | Headland Consultancy  
Richard | McIlwain | Keep Britain Tidy  
Graham | Moates |  
Allison | Ogden-Newton | Keep Britain Tidy  
Tania | Roberge | Braintree District Council  
Fiona | Sharkey | Manchester City Council  
Peter | Silverman | Clean Highways  
Angela | Smith-Morgan | Keep Britain Tidy  
Rebecka | Steven | British Soft Drinks Association  
Mark | Warmisham | Manchester City Council  
Martin | Watkins | Shell