

70/06 – FIXED PENALTY NOTICES - LITTERING: The Scrutiny Officer submitted a written report regarding the current policy on litter dropping which was requested by the Commission at its meeting held on 6 November 2006. The enforcement policy was attached to the report as Appendix 1. The Cabinet Member (Environment) and the Head of Environment were in attendance for this item and highlighted the current good performance on public satisfaction and standards of cleanliness in the District. One Member queried how many staff were employed to carry out the enforcement of litter dropping. The Head of Environment advised that it was a very limited resource within the Environmental Services Section and that there was only a small part of one post to deal with the enforcement and, as a result therefore, the capacity to catch somebody dropping litter and serve an enforcement notice was very limited. To date there had been no penalty notices issued. In light of the limited resources, one Member queried whether Parish Councils could become involved in the enforcement of notices. The Cabinet Member commented that, statutorily, he was unsure of the practicalities but would pursue the issue.

One Member referred to the amenity tip site at Wetherby Road, Harrogate and specifically the problems caused when there were strong winds blowing the rubbish out of the site into the surrounding trees etc. The Head of Environment commented that new working arrangements were in place and that security had improved at the site with new fences erected but he agreed to discuss the issue with NYCC and a review of the new working arrangements be undertaken. One Member queried whether traffic wardens could be involved in the enforcement of penalty notices and it was noted that this would be impractical. It was also emphasised that one priority area identified in a recent district panel would be to raise awareness and educate people, particularly school children.

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That the report be received.

(5.45 pm - 6.05 pm)