

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday 27 October 2014

at 9.30 am

in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Ainslie, Barclay, Dawkins, Gibbon, Jackson, James, Loynes

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record of the meeting held on 22 September 2014 (*previously circulated*)

4.1 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS

No items

5. KEY DECISIONS

- 5.1 Review of Concessionary Travel Rates for Home to School Transport Provision – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*



6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Action to Reduce the Number of Abandoned or Incorrectly Stored Wheeled Bins – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*
- 6.2 Warrior Drive Bus Shelter Request – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*
- 6.3 Fulthorpe Avenue Verge Tarmacking – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*
- 6.4 Loyalty Road Area 20mph Limit – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*
- 6.5 Studland Drive Area 20mph Limit – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*
- 6.6 Kildale Grove Area 20mph Limit – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints Awards – Innovator in Animal Welfare Award 2014 – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*
- 7.2 RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints Award – Gold Award Stray Dog Footprint – *Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Date of next meeting – Monday 17 November 2014 at 9.30 am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: REVIEW OF CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL RATES
FOR HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT PROVISION

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Key Decision. Test 'ii' applies. Forward Plan Reference No RN27/14.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform Members of the recommendations of the Internal Audit report on the Integrated Transport Unit, Child and Adult Provision, in relation to the Concessionary Travel fees for Home to school transport. The report will detail the proposals to review the fare and bring it in line with current market rates and seek approval for the implication of such.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide Home to School Transport:

- To all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16) if their nearest school is beyond two miles for those below the age of 8, or beyond three miles for those aged between 8 and 16.
- Make transport arrangements for all children who cannot reasonably be expected to walk because the nature of the route is deemed unsafe to walk.
- Where pupils are entitled to free school meals or their parents are in receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit, if the nearest suitable school is:
 - Beyond 2 miles for children over the age of 8 and under 11
 - Between 2 and 6 miles if aged 11 – 16 and there are no more than three suitable nearer schools
 - Between 2 and 5 miles and is the nearest school preferred on

– the ground on religion and belief (aged 11 – 16)

- 3.2 Pupils qualifying under the statutory duty will be provided with free travel assistance either in the form of a seat on a dedicated school bus or through a travel pass to access a Public Transport service.
- 3.3 Where the provision is through a dedicated school bus service, once all pupils entitled to statutory transport have been accommodated the Authority can offer a Concessionary seat to pupils who do not meet the statutory entitlement.
- 3.4 In December 2013 an Internal Audit Report recommended that the calculation for Concessionary seat fees should be reviewed to ensure that the cost of the seat is fully recovered. The current daily cost of a concessionary seat is £0.79 (£50 per term) and has not been reviewed for a number of years. Market testing of the commercial sector and other Local Authorities has shown that this cost is significantly lower than being charged in other areas.

4. MARKET TESTING AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY PROVISION

- 4.1 A number of Local Authorities across the Country offer concessionary travel arrangements, with charges varying widely. Below is a summary outlining the arrangements in Authorities in the Teesside and Durham areas

Local Authority	Provision	Comments	Price per day
Hartlepool	£150 per academic year	£50 per term	£0.79
Redcar & Cleveland	£450 per academic year		£2.36
Stockton	£300 per academic year	Charged £100 per term	£1.57
Middlesbrough	-	Do not offer Concessionary seats	
Darlington	£285 per academic year	Pupils pay £1.50 per day, the School pay any difference in fare rate if it is higher	£1.50
Durham	£285 per academic year		£1.50

- 4.2 The average fare for a child under the age of 16 on Public Transport is currently £0.75 per journey (£1.50 return). Alternatively those under the age

of 19 can purchase a VIP Ticket for Stagecoach services, this entitles them to unlimited travel across Tyne & Wear and Teesside, prices are:

- 1-day VIP tickets cost £2.30
- 7-day VIP tickets cost £7.80 (£1.11 per day)
- 28-day VIP tickets cost £30.00 (£1.07 per day).

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The provision of home to school transport is supported by the home to school transport budget. The average annual cost of a home to school bus service is at £23,859 per annum. The table below details the average seat cost per day:

	Cost per day	Cost per term	Cost per annum
Average cost of a seat on a Home to school transport service	£1.97	£125.00	£375.00

- 5.2 Income from the sale of concessionary seats is offset against the Home to School Transport Budget. At present there are approximately 23 students travelling on a concessionary seat pass across all school services generating an annual income of approximately £3,450.
- 5.3 As Passenger Transport Services provide more home to school transport routes it is important that the cost of the provision is adequately covered, this will become more imperative from September 2015 as students accessing denominational schools will no longer be entitled to transport on the grounds of religion and belief. Failure to recover the cost of a seat will place a pressure on budgets and will result in some bus routes having to be removed. If the above criteria is not met Passenger Transport Services will have to review the operational capacity of the yellow bus fleet in order to ensure budgetary targets are met
- 5.4 There are a number of options for consideration; however it is important to ensure that the charge for a concessionary seat is brought in line with current costs and market provision:
- No change to charges; or
 - That the charge be brought in line, from September 2015, with the current average fare on public transport - £1.50 return journey (£95 per term); or,
 - That the charge be increased in a staged approach detailed in the

table below to eventually cover the actual cost per seat

Staged Increase	Cost per day	Cost per term	Cost per annum
September 2015	£1.02	£65	£195
September 2016	£1.50	£95	£285
September 2017	£1.97	£125	£375

Note: The above are based on current costs and may be influenced by inflationary factors over the period of the staged increase

- That the charge be raised from September 2015 to reflect the actual cost of a seat on home to school transport of £1.97 return journey (£125 per term)

6 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Failure to review the Concessionary travel arrangements could set an unrealistic and unsustainable charge which would not cover the cost of a seat.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There will be no direct consultation as the take up of home to school concessionary seats is a parental choice and is only made available if spare seats remain once statutory obligations are met.
- 7.2 Review of service provision is discussed with the associated schools advising of the benefits of utilising a dedicated school bus service; staff are fully trained in the provision of home to school transport, the vehicles are designed for the transportation of children and are fitted with seat belts and CCTV.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no Equality and diversity considerations to this report.

9. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no Section 17 considerations to this report.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that Members approve the staged increase of the charges, as outlined in Item 5.4., for Concessionary travel rates to bring them in line with the current market.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Internal Audit Report – Integrated Transport Unit, Child and Adult Provision December 2013

12. CONTACT OFFICER

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods
Civic Centre
Victoria Road
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY
Email alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk
Tel: 01429 523301

Mike Blair
Technical Services Manager
Level 4
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523252

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: ACTION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF
ABANDONED OR INCORRECTLY STORED
WHEELED BINS

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non Key Decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval to commence an initiative aimed at addressing the problems associated with the incorrect storage and abandonment of wheeled bins. These problems include arson, theft and issues around domestic household waste littering the streets of Hartlepool.

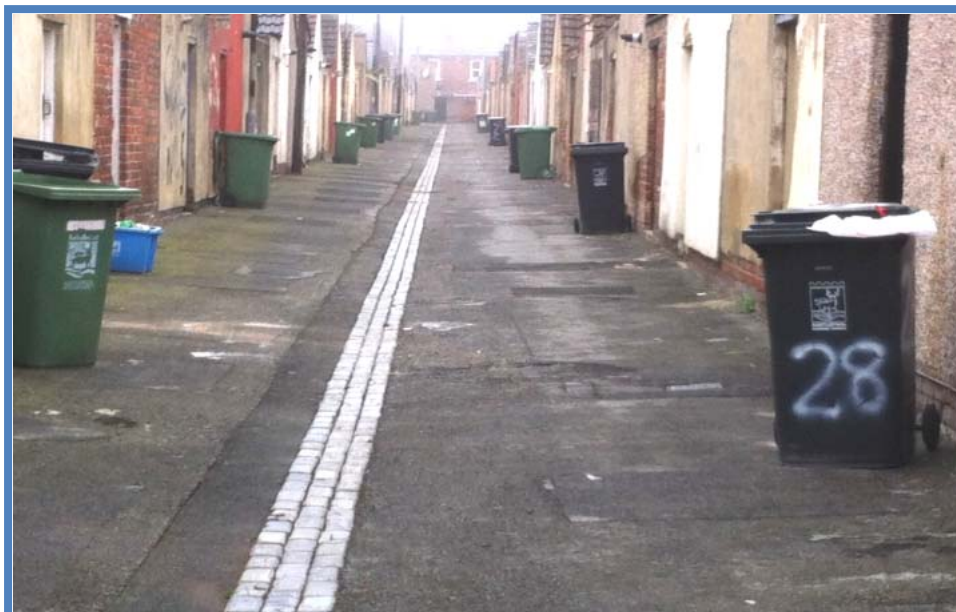
3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Hartlepool Borough Council policy for the storage, presentation and collection of waste is as follows;

- Household waste must be placed into the supplied receptacle; Brown Wheeled Bin, Green Wheeled Bin, Grey Wheeled bin or blue box and placed for collection on the specified day.
- Receptades must be placed within the curtilage of your property except on normal collection day.
- Bins should be presented for collection by 7.30am on the day of collection.
- Receptades should be placed at the kerbside no earlier than 7.00pm on the day prior to refuse collection. This should be the part of the kerbside adjacent to the public highway, nearest to your property (or any other point agreed by the Council).

- Receptades should be retrieved as soon as possible after collection and no later than 7.00pm on that day.
 - The Council has provided bins and blue recycling boxes to all properties free of charge.
 - It was agreed by Members on the 4th October 2009 that lost or stolen bins will be replaced at a charge of £25.
- 3.2 The Thirteen group ensures that all properties have sufficient bins at the start of each tenancy and provide additional ones if required, the Council is looking to introduce a similar strategy with other housing providers and private landlords.
- 3.3 Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 gives local authorities the power to issue a 'Section 46 notice' to residents. This requires that the occupier places the waste for collection in receptades of a kind and number specified. Failure to comply with the Section 46 notice will result in a £60 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued. In Hartlepool a total of 46 FPN's were issued in 2013/14 for failure to comply with a Section 46 notice, and from April 2014 until August 2014, 10 FPNS have been issued.
- 3.4 Wheeled bins that are being stored in the streets permanently or which have been abandoned by residents have been identified as an issue. In July 2014, following complaints from ward councillors and residents, a survey of the number of bins left in back streets was undertaken in a trial area of the Victoria ward. The survey was conducted in the eleven back streets extending south from Hart Lane/Stephen Street to Wilson Street/Grange Road. At the time that the survey was carried out, there were a total of 35 refuse (green) bins and 44 recycling (grey) bins. Further research has shown that these figures are representative of the number of bins left in back streets across the Victoria ward and other areas.

Four days after collection day many bins are being left in the alley behind Stephen Street



- 3.5 In 2013/14, a total of 775 wheelie bins were replaced throughout the town at a cost of £19,375, with significantly more being replaced in the Victoria and Burn Valley wards. This can be broken down as follows;

Bin type	Townwide	Victoria	Burn Valley
Green	340	48	48
Grey	268	42	50
Brown	167	8	7

- 3.6 In May 2014 the recycling service was included in the 42nd Viewpoint survey. As part of the survey, respondents were asked if they had any comments about the recycling service. Many residents asked if the council could stop or fine their neighbours who put their bins out too early or leave them out after collection.
- 3.7 Bins abandoned/stored in the back street cause an obstruction and prevent the street cleansing teams from being able to sweep the back street areas effectively, leading to complaints from residents and a decline in local environmental quality. It also becomes a significant fire/arson risk and a magnet for anti-social behaviour. Bins have been used by thieves to gain access to properties, and are more likely to be stolen or vandalised.

Rubbish dumped in back street



Bins stored/abandoned in a back street block access for cleansing vehicles



- 3.8 Bin fires are a serious risk to residents, as they can easily spread to adjacent fences and even the property itself. Each bin fire costs Cleveland Fire Service around £2,000 to attend, and ties up an appliance and crew which could be needed elsewhere.
- 3.9 Since April 2014 there have been over 20 wheeled bin fires (at a cost to the fire service of over £40,000). Cleveland Fire Service has expressed concern that this practice seems to be increasing significantly, as this figure already exceeds the total of 17 fires in 2013.

Burned outbins in Tunstall Avenue



Wall damaged by bin fire –Steven Street

- 3.10 Recycling Bins (grey) stored out in the street regularly become contaminated as opportunists may place general refuse or other items into them making them unacceptable for collection for recycling. Contaminated bins cannot be emptied by the recycling vehicle therefore the general refuse vehicles have to return to the area to empty them. These behaviours cause inconvenience and expense to both residents and the Council, and impact upon the local authority's ability to run an effective service and to meet statutory recycling targets.

Non-recyclable plastic paddling pool in a grey recycling bin

- 3.11 In response to increasing concerns with regards to this issue, the Waste and Environmental Services section is looking to raise awareness and to effectively use the legislative powers available in order to bring about a reduction in the number of abandoned and incorrectly stored bins.
- 3.12 In August 2014 the Council was approached by Cleveland Fire Service to run a joint fire safety campaign in the town aimed at reducing the number of avoidable fires in wheeled bins. A similar joint campaign is running in Stockton and Cleveland Fire Service hope to deliver these in all of their districts.
- 3.13 The Council's Anti Social Behaviour Unit and Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been consulted on the campaign and have expressed their support for the initiative.

4. PROPOSALS

The Council and Cleveland Fire Service propose that a pilot campaign should be considered to address this issue. This would initially take place in an agreed target area in order to assess the effectiveness of the work prior to expansion townwide. The suggested area for the pilot includes the following streets:

- Hart Lane / Stephen Street
- Suggit Street / Harcourt Street
- Harcourt Street / Topcliffe Street
- Brafferton Street
- Roseberry Mews
- Cundal Road
- Welldeck Gardens
- Cobden Street
- Bright Street
- Wilson Street / Grange Road
- Welldeck Road
- Zetland Road
- Rosebery Road
- Duke Street
- Dent Street
- Derwent Street
- Byron Street
- Sandringham Road
- Collingwood Road
- Christopher Street
- Laburnum Street
- Grosvenor Street

These streets were selected as the issues are particularly problematic in these areas and the Council has received numerous requests from the ward councillors for abandoned bins to be removed.

4.1. Awareness raising and enforcement campaign

It is suggested that the campaign will be a 5-step process:

Step 1 – an initial letter drop would be carried out to all properties within the target area (see **Appendix 1**). The letter will explain the campaign and would also outline the Council policy for bin presentation.

Residents would be reminded that they will be expected to remove their bins as soon as possible after they have been emptied. The letter will also have some fire safety advice for residents from the fire brigade on the reverse.

Step 2 – in the days following waste collection, all bins which remain in the street/back lanes after the collection day, will be 'stickered' with a highly visible reminder outlining the risks regarding this practice, e.g. arson, theft. This will be done in partnership with Cleveland Fire Service (see **Appendix 2**).

Step 3 – Following the letter drop and application of the advice sticker, any bins still remaining in the street will be removed by the local authority within 3 days.

Step 4 – residents who have had their bins removed can request a replacement bin which will be provided and delivered **free of charge** provided they are logged with Customer Services within 14 days of removal.

- On return of the bin, a Section 46 notice (Environmental Protection Act 1990) will be issued to the occupier of the property. This notifies the resident of their responsibility to adhere to the refuse collection policy (see **Appendix 3**).
- the bin will be numbered (with the house number) and the bin serial number recorded and retained. This will enable residents and the council to clearly identify where the bin belongs.

Step 5 – Any repeat incidences of abandonment/storage of the bins outside of the curtilage of the property may result in the following actions;

- Bins would be removed and any further replacement bins may incur the usual replacement bin fee of £25 per bin.
- A Fixed Penalty Notice of £60 will be issued to the occupier for a breach of the Section 46 notice.

4.2 The intention of the initiative is first and foremost to raise awareness and to try to influence a change in the practice of incorrectly storing wheeled bins by highlighting the issues that it causes.

- 4.3 The campaign will be promoted in the local press via a joint press release with Cleveland Fire Service and on the Council's social media sites and website.
- 4.4 This is a pilot scheme that will continue for a duration of 12 months. Following this 12 month period, a further report will be compiled for Committee detailing the outcomes of this initiative.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Whilst replacement bins will be returned free of charge on the first occasion, subsequent replacement bins could potentially incur the standard £25 replacement fee. If the occupier is found to have been in breach of the Section 46 notices then a £60 Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued.
- 5.2 Each bin fire currently costs Cleveland Fire Service around £2,000 for an appliance and crew to attend. To date this has equated to around £40,000 since April 2014.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Section 46 notice (Environmental Protection Act 1990) would be issued to the occupier of the property. This notifies the resident of their responsibility to adhere to the refuse collection policy. Failure, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the requirements of the Notice is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 46, and punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale. The current maximum fine is £1000 and is subject to alteration by order. Alternatively, a Fixed Penalty Notice (£60) may be issued to those failing to comply with the conditions of the Notice.

7. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no staff considerations, as this initiative will be undertaken in partnership with Cleveland Fire Service, Cleveland Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour team using existing officers.

8. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The wheeled bins issued to properties remain the property of the Council.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The Council offers an assisted collection scheme to residents with sight or mobility problems who meet certain criteria (such as being in receipt of a blue badge, being registered blind or being over 80 years old). This means that those residents who might otherwise struggle to put their bins out (and so who may have chosen to store them in the back alley for convenience) can have their bins collected, emptied and returned to their property free of charge by the waste operatives. Elderly or disabled residents may be particularly at risk from fires in the home and so will benefit from a campaign to reduce such fires.

10. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The scheme aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Bins abandoned or stored in back streets are magnets for crime and anti-social behaviour including arson, being used by thieves to gain access to properties and (in the case of the grey recycling and brown garden waste bins) becoming contaminated by neighbours and passers-by putting incorrect items in the bins causing delays to collections. They are also often stolen or damaged causing inconvenience and expense to residents.
- 10.2 The proposed scheme would only remove those bins which have been abandoned by their owners. Residents who store their bins correctly on their property would not be affected by the scheme.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 It is recommended that members approve the delivery of the awareness and enforcement initiative to reduce the number of wheeled bins abandoned and incorrectly stored which lead to arson, theft, anti-social behaviour and a general decline in the local environment.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Residents and Ward Members have requested decisive action is taken to address the problems caused by the incorrect storage and abandonment of wheeled bins.
- 12.2 The issues caused by incorrect storage and abandonment of wheeled bins have serious implications for residents in the area and are a further strain on the resources provided by Cleveland Fire Service, the Police and Hartlepool Borough Council.

- 12.3 Failure to implement an effective strategy will result in continuous problems, which have a negative impact on the environment and ultimately contribute to the social decline of the area.
- 12.4 To address the problems associated with the practice of incorrect storage and abandonment of wheeled bins. These include arson, theft and issues relating to domestic household waste littering the streets of Hartlepool.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

14. CONTACT OFFICER

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523401
E-mail: alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Craig Thelwell
Waste and Environmental Services Manager
1 Church Street
Hartlepool
TS24 7DS

Tel (01429) 523370
E-mail: craig.thelwell@hartlepool.gov.uk



Wheelie bins in back streets

Fire safety campaign

Bins left out in back streets have:

- been set on fire
- stopped street sweepers cleaning your back street
- been used by burglars to climb into yards
- been stolen, vandalised or abused

Any bins stored/abandoned in the back street after collection day could be removed to reduce these risks to residents

Look after your bin

1. Your bin day is _____ - put your bin out by 7.30 on _____ morning
2. If you need to put your bin out the night before don't do it before 7pm
3. Bring your bin back onto your property as soon as possible after being emptied
4. Do not leave or store your bin in the back street outside these times



If your bin has been removed...

Call Customer Services on 01429 523333 within 7 days of removal

PLEASE NOTE: a replacement bin will be provided free-of-charge after the first removal. Future replacements will be charged at £25 per bin

HELP STOP FIRES



Secure your wheelie bin & rubbish

- Put your wheelie bins out on the day of collection
- Bring in your bin as soon as possible
- Keep your wheelie bin in a secure place
- Never put hot ash in your wheelie bin



f /clevelandfb

t @clevelandfb

Protecting local communities

www.clevelandfire.gov.uk/safety



**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990
SECTION 46 NOTICE - RECEPTACLES FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE**

To:
The Occupier of

COLLECTION AND CONTAINMENT OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE

This is to notify you that Hartlepool Borough Council, the waste collection authority responsible for the collection of your household waste, requires that you follow the requirements as laid out below, in accordance with the above Act

1. You must put your household waste into your supplied receptacle (s) – **Brown Wheeled Bin, Green Wheeled Bin, Blue Box** and place for collection on the appropriate week.
2. Your receptacle(s) must be placed; **within the curtilage of your property except on your normal collection day which is a** **when the receptacle(s) should be placed no earlier than 7.00pm on the day PRIOR to Refuse Collection at the kerbside adjacent to the public highway nearest to your property (or any other point agreed by the Council). Please retrieve your receptacle as soon as possible after refuse collection and no later than 7:00pm that day.**
3. The Council; **will provide the receptacle(s), should you not have them at the property. Lost or stolen bins may be charged for in the future.**
4. You may put the following into your receptacle(s); **Brown Wheeled Bin – green garden waste, Green Wheeled Bin – domestic waste (non recyclable), Blue Box – glass jars & bottles, Grey Wheeled Bin - cans & tins, paper & magazines from the property, plastic bottles & cardboard. Textiles (in separate bag)**

You must not put the following into your receptacle(s); clinical, commercial, industrial or special wastes (including medicines). Household wastes which may damage the receptacle(s) or may result in damage to the bin hoist or refuse collection vehicle.

Failure, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the requirements of this Notice is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 46 and punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale. The current maximum fine is £1000 and is subject to alteration by Order. Alternatively, a Fixed Penalty Notice (£60) may be issued to those failing to comply with the conditions of the Notice.

Signed:

WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER

Date:

Enquiries should be addressed to; C Thelwell
Waste & Environmental Services Manager
1 Church Street
Hartlepool
TS24 7DS

NOTES ON APPEALS (see overleaf)



Protecting local
communities

FIRE INCIDENTS
Hartlepool District
1st April – 30th September 2014

Risk & Performance

Report produced 22/10/2014

Introduction

This profile has been prepared to provide a concise report of secondary fire incidents occurring within Hartlepool District during the analysis period 1st April to 30th September 2014. It has been prepared to specifically address the occurrence of refuse and wheelie bin fires within the area.

Incident Analysis

During the analysis period there were 252 secondary fires within Hartlepool District, of this 181 (72%) of fires were refuse related. This figure is an increase from the same time period in 2013 which saw 242 secondary fires with only 109 (45%) being refuse related.

The below table breaks down Hartlepool District's Refuse fires by subtype and compares figures from the same time period in 2013/14. It can be seen that as well as total refuse fires increasing, Wheelie Bin fires have increased from 0 in 2013/14 to 18 in 2014/15.

REFUSE FIRES	2013/14	2014/15	Variance
Refuse/rubbish tip	8	2	-75% (6)
Small refuse/rubbish/recycle container (exc wheelie bin)	24	14	-42% (10)
Other outdoor items including roadside furniture	0	2	-% (2)
Large refuse/rubbish container (e.g. skip)	10	12	20% (2)
Wheelie bin	0	18	-% (18)
Cables	1	2	100% (1)
Loose refuse (incl. in garden)	66	131	98% (65)
Total Refuse Fires	109	181	66% (72)

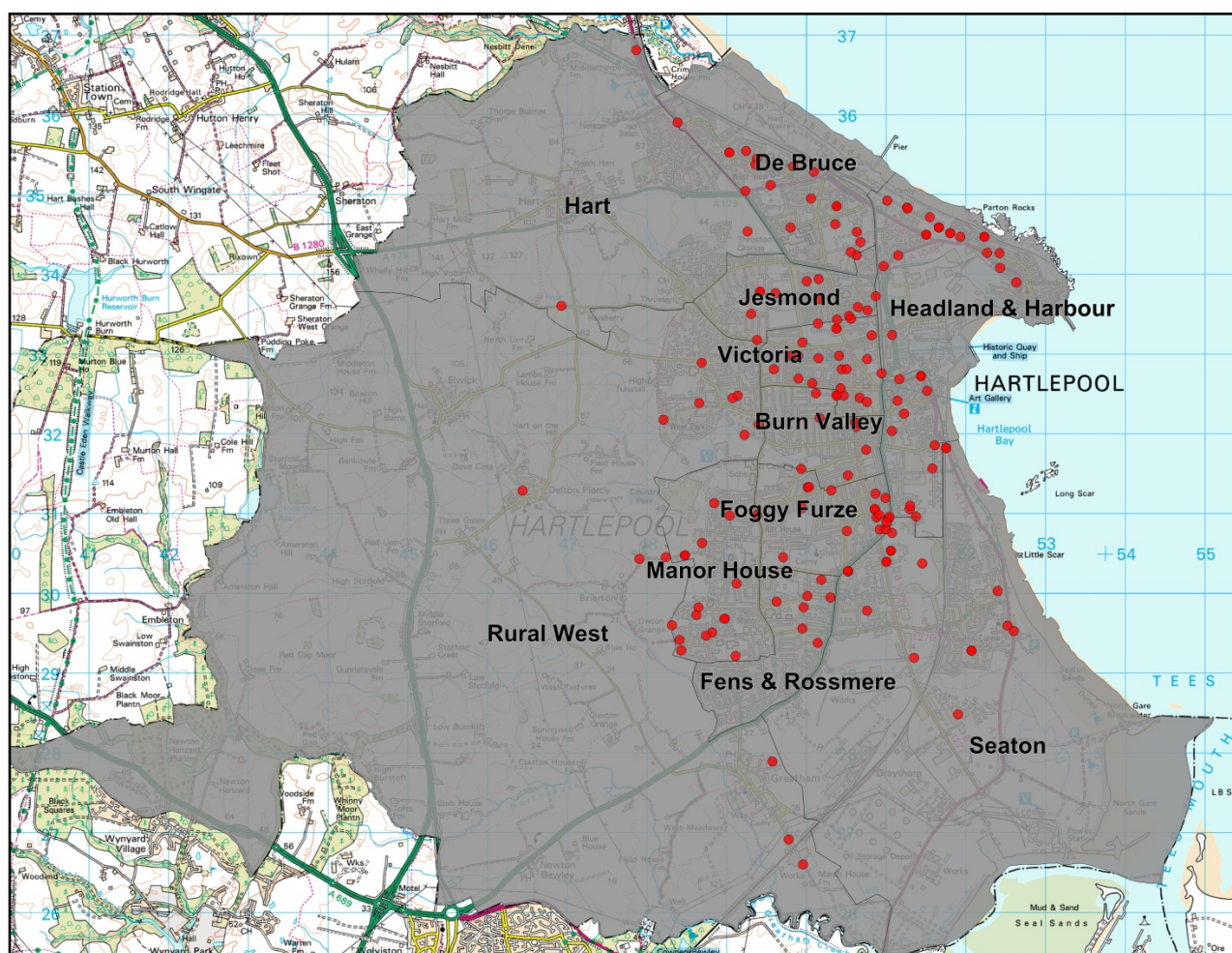
The below table looks at fires that have occurred this calendar year within the dates 01st January and 30th September 2014 and compares the figures to the same time period in 2013.

HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT	01/01/2013- 30/09/2013	01/01/2014 - 30/09/2014	Variance
Secondary Fires	294	301	2% (7)
Refuse Fires	138	219	59% (81)
Refuse Fires as a % of Secondary Fires	47%	73%	26%
REFUSE FIRES			
Refuse/rubbish tip	8	3	-63% (5)
Small refuse/rubbish/recycle container (excluding wheelie bin)	30	21	-30% (9)
Other outdoor items including roadside furniture	1	3	200% (2)
Large refuse/rubbish container (e.g. skip)	12	15	25% (3)
Common external bin storage area	0	1	-% (1)
Wheelie bin	0	28	-% (28)
Cables	1	2	100% (1)
Loose refuse (incl. in garden)	86	146	70% (60)

Location of Incidents

It can be seen from the table below that Headland and Harbour has had the most refuse fires while Victoria Ward has seen the most Wheelie Bin fires.

	All Secondary Fires	Refuse Fires	Wheelie Bin Fires	Small Refuse Container eg. Litter Bin	Large Refuse Container eg. Skip
Burn Valley	11	10	2	1	2
De Bruce	26	14	1	0	0
Fens and Rossmere	10	9	2	4	0
Foggy Furze	23	18	2	1	3
Hart	8	3	1	0	0
Headland and Harbour	59	47	2	1	2
Jesmond	17	15	0	1	3
Manor House	24	12	0	1	0
Rural West	21	12	2	0	0
Seaton	29	19	0	3	0
Victoria	24	22	6	2	2
TOTAL	252	181	18	14	12



Time of Day

The tables below demonstrate the occurrence of refuse fires by time of day, by day of week across the whole reporting period. For example, in the reporting period on a Monday during the hours of 21:00-21:59 there have been 7 refuse fires in Hartlepool District.

HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT								
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL
00:00 - 00:59	0	1	2	2	4	1	1	11
01:00 - 01:59	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	7
02:00 - 02:59	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
04:00 - 04:59	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	5
05:00 - 05:59	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
06:00 - 06:59	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	5
07:00 - 07:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
08:00 - 08:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
09:00 - 09:59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
10:00 - 10:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11:00 - 11:59	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	4
12:00 - 12:59	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
13:00 - 13:59	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	5
14:00 - 14:59	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	4
15:00 - 15:59	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	6
16:00 - 16:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
17:00 - 17:59	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	6
18:00 - 18:59	4	3	1	0	1	4	3	16
19:00 - 19:59	3	4	3	3	1	4	2	20
20:00 - 20:59	2	6	5	2	1	2	4	22
21:00 - 21:59	7	4	4	3	6	1	6	31
22:00 - 22:59	3	2	0	0	2	4	0	11
23:00 - 23:59	2	1	3	0	2	3	1	12
TOTAL	28	26	25	21	29	28	24	181

HEADLAND AND HARBOUR WARD								
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL
00:00 - 00:59	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
01:00 - 01:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
02:00 - 02:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
04:00 - 04:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05:00 - 05:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00 - 06:59	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
07:00 - 07:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
08:00 - 08:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09:00 - 09:59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
10:00 - 10:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11:00 - 11:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12:00 - 12:59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
13:00 - 13:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
14:00 - 14:59	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
15:00 - 15:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
16:00 - 16:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17:00 - 17:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18:00 - 18:59	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
19:00 - 19:59	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	9
20:00 - 20:59	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	5
21:00 - 21:59	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	6
22:00 - 22:59	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	4
23:00 - 23:59	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
TOTAL	8	4	5	6	8	11	5	47

VICTORIA WARD								
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL
00:00 - 00:59	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
01:00 - 01:59	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
02:00 - 02:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00 - 04:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05:00 - 05:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00 - 06:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
07:00 - 07:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
08:00 - 08:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09:00 - 09:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10:00 - 10:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11:00 - 11:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
12:00 - 12:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13:00 - 13:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14:00 - 14:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15:00 - 15:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16:00 - 16:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17:00 - 17:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18:00 - 18:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
19:00 - 19:59	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
20:00 - 20:59	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
21:00 - 21:59	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4
22:00 - 22:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
23:00 - 23:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	3	3	5	2	3	1	5	22

SEATON WARD								
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL
00:00 - 00:59	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
01:00 - 01:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02:00 - 02:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00 - 04:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05:00 - 05:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00 - 06:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
07:00 - 07:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
08:00 - 08:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09:00 - 09:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10:00 - 10:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11:00 - 11:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12:00 - 12:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
13:00 - 13:59	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
14:00 - 14:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15:00 - 15:59	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
16:00 - 16:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17:00 - 17:59	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
18:00 - 18:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
19:00 - 19:59	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
20:00 - 20:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
21:00 - 21:59	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
22:00 - 22:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23:00 - 23:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	3	2	4	1	4	2	3	19

FOGGY FURZE WARD								
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL
00:00 - 00:59	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
01:00 - 01:59	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
02:00 - 02:59	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00 - 04:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
05:00 - 05:59	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
06:00 - 06:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07:00 - 07:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
08:00 - 08:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09:00 - 09:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10:00 - 10:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11:00 - 11:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12:00 - 12:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13:00 - 13:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14:00 - 14:59	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
15:00 - 15:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16:00 - 16:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17:00 - 17:59	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
18:00 - 18:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19:00 - 19:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20:00 - 20:59	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
21:00 - 21:59	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
22:00 - 22:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23:00 - 23:59	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	1	4	3	2	4	1	3	18

JESMOND WARD								
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	TOTAL
00:00 - 00:59	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
01:00 - 01:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02:00 - 02:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03:00 - 03:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00 - 04:59	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
05:00 - 05:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06:00 - 06:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07:00 - 07:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
08:00 - 08:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09:00 - 09:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10:00 - 10:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11:00 - 11:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12:00 - 12:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13:00 - 13:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14:00 - 14:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15:00 - 15:59	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
16:00 - 16:59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17:00 - 17:59	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
18:00 - 18:59	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
19:00 - 19:59	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
20:00 - 20:59	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
21:00 - 21:59	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
22:00 - 22:59	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
23:00 - 23:59	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	3	4	0	3	4	0	1	15

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: WARRIOR DRIVE BUS SHELTER REQUEST

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To report the result of a recent consultation exercise, relating to the possibility of installing a bus shelter at an existing bus stop in Warrior Drive (south-west bound), adjacent to 1 and 9 Courageous Close (as shown at **Appendix 1**).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The origin of the request was via a ward Councillor on behalf of a local resident.

4. PROPOSAL

4.1 To install a bus shelter at an existing bus stop in Warrior Drive, adjacent No's. 1 and 9 Courageous Close.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 A consultation was undertaken with residents at 6 properties in Forester Close (No's 1 – 6) and 11 properties in Courageous Close (No's. 1, 2, 8 to 11 and 38 to 42), which are all adjacent to Warrior Drive, and closest to the existing bus stop. The 3 local ward Councillors were also provided with copies of the consultation letter. The outcome result showed that 6 are in favour of the proposal and 4 are against the shelter installation (concerns relating to anti social behaviour, litter, additional damage to property walls / fencing and spoiling the appearance of the local area).

- 5.2 Although there were more respondents to the consultation in favour than against (6 to 4), however the residents who would have the shelter closest to their houses are against the proposal. A complaint of anti-social behaviour has already been received, and damage to a fence and wall has previously occurred due to people congregating at the bus stop. Consequently, this is not a straight forward decision from the consultation responses received.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The estimated cost of the scheme will be approximately £3,000, and would be funded from the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements project.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

8. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members consider the content of the report, however it is recommended the installation of a bus shelter should not go ahead.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Following the consultation exercise, which determined that anti-social behaviour and damage to property has occurred previously.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Members will be provided with copies of the consultation replies and plan, for consideration.

12. CONTACT OFFICER

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Level 3
Civic Centre

Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

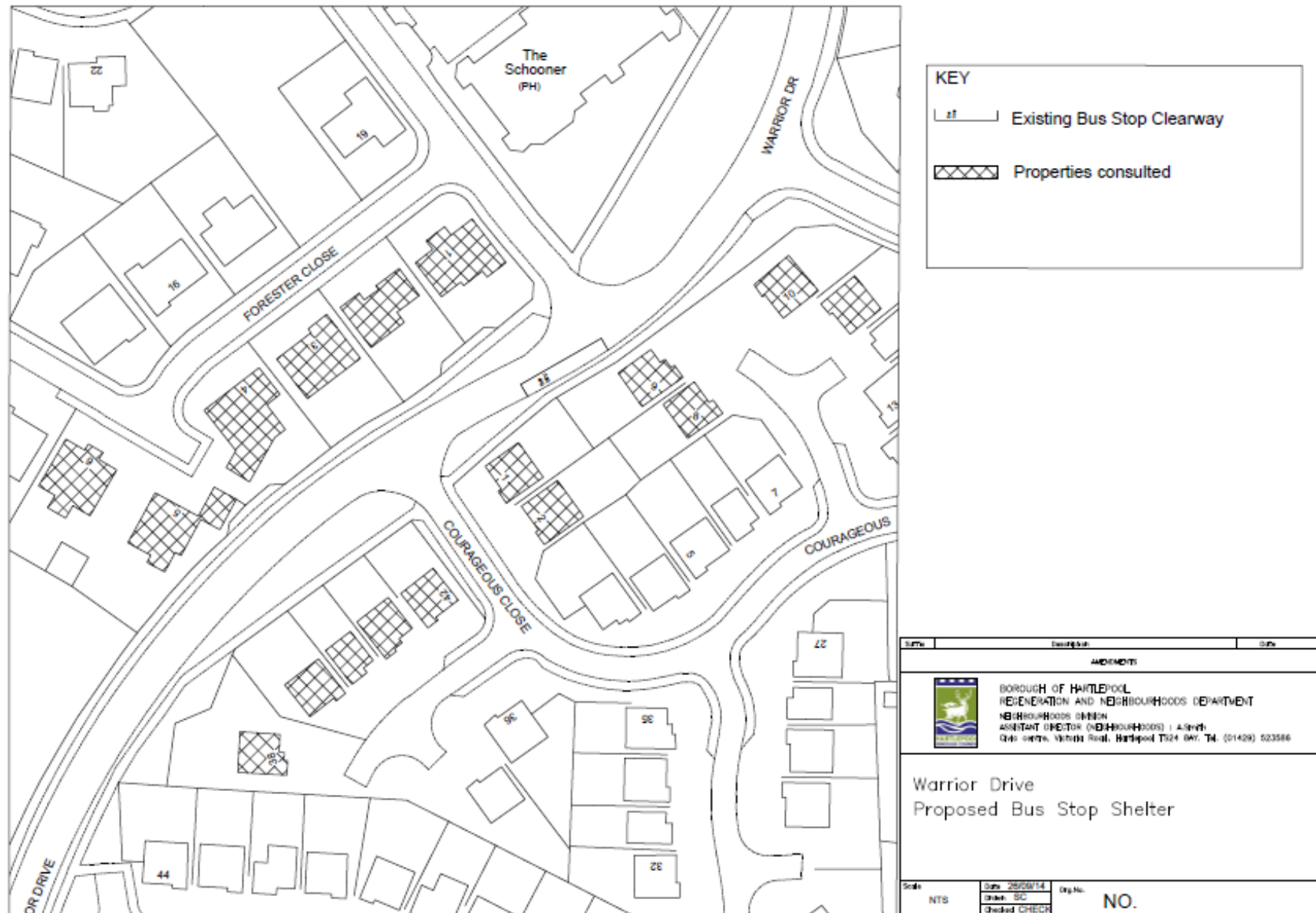
Tel: (01429) 523401

E-mail: alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Peter Frost
Traffic and Transport Planning Team Leader
Civic Centre
Hartlepool

Tel: (01429) 523200

E-mail: peter.frost@hartlepool.gov.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: FULTHORPE AVENUE VERGE TARMACKING

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-Key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To advise Members of the Committee of the consultation results of a proposed scheme to convert a grass verge in Fulthorpe Avenue to tarmac.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council regularly receives complaints, town wide, concerning grass verge damage resulting from parked vehicles and driven vehicles mounting kerbs etc.

3.2 Since January 2010 the Highways section has been in receipt of 10 such complaints directly relating to the damaged grass verge in Fulthorpe Avenue. A subsequent inspection of the area reinforced these concerns.

3.3 The stretch of road is used by delivery vans travelling to and from the local shops and it is of concern that the condition of the verge will deteriorate over the winter months to the point that the surrounding footpaths will become dangerous for local residents, as well as being unsightly.

3.4 As is the case for similar situations in other areas of the town it was proposed to convert the grassed verge area to tarmac with the hope of alleviating such problems before they occurred.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 After initially receiving communication from residents both for and against the scheme a consultation letter was issued on the 26th August in order to gauge their views on it.

4.2 Twelve letters were sent out (house numbers 1 - 12) and 10 replies were subsequently received on or before the 12th September deadline. The result of the consultation was four in favour and six against.

4.3 Some of the reasons for objecting to the scheme (***and responses to them***) include:-

- **Unsightly** - Tarmac would spoil the 'look' of the area.
- **Delivery vehicles to the shops cause part of the problem.**
- **Parking lay-by** – would prefer the creation of a parking lay-by to allow residents to safely leave their vehicles by the roadside – *Some residents do park on the verge at times, and this could continue once the verge is tarmacked.*
- **Parking issues** – Such a scheme will only encourage residents to park their cars by the roadside rather than paying to have a driveway/ drive access constructed – *Some properties have more than one car, so parking can be problematic.*
- **Children** – a verge converted to tarmac would encourage the parking of vehicles and would thus be dangerous for the local children running in between them while playing – *This would be no different to the existing situation.*
- **Yellow lines** – would prefer the introduction of double yellow lines and regular visits by the camera car would discourage residents from roadside parking – *Would be unpopular in a residential street, and unlikely to be supported by the majority of residents.*

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 The scheme is estimated to cost between £5000 and £6000 and would be funded from the Council's Local Transport Plan.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

7. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Members consider the content of the report, however it is recommended the scheme does not go ahead at this time.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The consultation results show that there are 4 residents in favour and 6 against. It is also hoped that in the future a scheme can be introduced to extend the bus lay-by on King Oswy Drive, at the shops. Part of this area could then be used for deliveries, reducing the need for large vehicles to access the rear of the shops. At this time the grass verge scheme in Fulthorpe could be re-visited, as delivery vehicles are one of residents' main concerns.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers.

11. CONTACT OFFICER

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523401
E-mail: alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Peter Frost
Traffic and Transport Planning Team Leader
Civic Centre
Hartlepool

Tel: (01429) 523200
E-mail: peter.frost@hartlepool.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: LOYALTY ROAD AREA 20MPH LIMIT

1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval from the Neighbourhood Services Committee, for the implementation of a 20mph speed restriction for the area shown in **Appendix 1**.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following requests from residents via local Ward Councillors, a consultation took place regarding the potential implementation of a 20mph speed restriction, covering the full length and roads joining onto Loyalty Road. The appropriate 20mph signage will be placed at both entrances to the area, with additional (smaller) repeater signage installed within the 20mph area itself.
- 3.2 Consultation letters were hand delivered throughout the Loyalty Road area in the week commencing 18th August. Copies were also sent to the three Ward Councillors.
- 3.3 From a total of 180 consultation letters, 80 replies were received (44%). The response was positively in favour of the proposal, with 71 replies (89% of those responding) supporting the scheme, and 9 replies (11%) against it.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The scheme would be funded via the Council's Local Transport Plan, and the estimated cost will be approximately £750.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Subject to approval of the scheme, traffic regulation orders will be advertised, in accordance with the statutory legal procedures.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

7. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Neighbourhood Services Committee approves the proposed scheme.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The scheme would improve road safety and encourage slower speeds in the area.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 There are no background papers.

11. CONTACT OFFICER

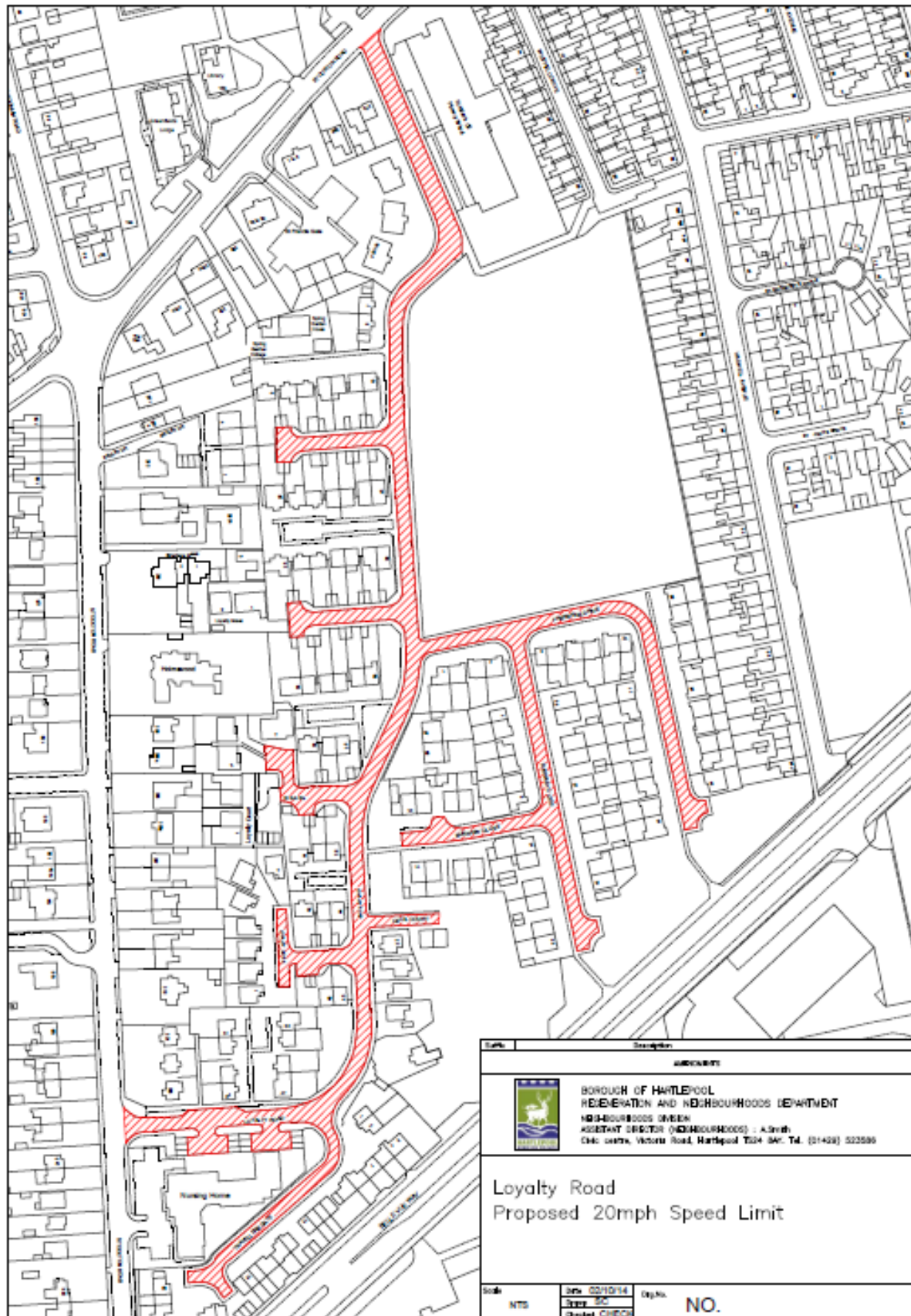
Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523401
E-mail: alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Peter Frost
Traffic and Transport Planning Team Leader
Civic Centre
Hartlepool

Tel: (01429) 523200
E-mail: peter.frost@hartlepool.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: STUDLAND DRIVE AREA 20MPH LIMIT

1. TYPE OF DECISION / APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To seek approval from the Neighbourhood Services Committee, for the implementation of a 20mph speed restriction throughout the Studland Drive area. **(See Appendix 1).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following requests from local Ward Councillors, a consultation took place with residents regarding the potential implementation of a 20mph speed restriction covering the roads accessed from Bournemouth and Weymouth Drive. Concerns had been expressed about speeding motorists, particularly on Sandbanks Drive and Studland Drive. The appropriate 20mph signage would be placed at both entrances to the area, with additional (smaller) repeater signage installed within the 20mph area itself. There are no proposals to include additional traffic calming measures within the scheme.
- 3.2 Approximately 190 letters were hand delivered, copies were also sent to the three Ward Councillors.
- 3.3 From a total of 190 consultation letters, 73 replies were received (38%). The response was positively in favour of the proposal, with 60 replies (82% of those responding) supporting the scheme, and 11 replies (15%) against it. Two replies (3%) were neither for nor against.
- 3.4 Some residents had indicated that they thought the implementation of a 20 mph speed limit was a waste of resources and the 20mph signage would be ignored by some drivers, and that the new speed restriction would not be

enforced. Many of the residents have indicated that inconsiderate parking was the main issue in the area.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The scheme would be funded via the Local Transport Plan budget allocation, and the estimated cost will be approximately £1,000.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 Subject to approval of the scheme, traffic regulation orders will be advertised, in accordance with the statutory legal procedures.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

7. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Neighbourhood Services Committee approves the proposed scheme.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The scheme would improve road safety and encourage slower speeds throughout the area.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 There are no background papers.

11. CONTACT OFFICER

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool

TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523401

Peter Frost
Traffic and Transport Planning Team Leader
Civic Centre
Hartlepool

Tel: (01429) 523200

E-mail: peter.frost@hartlepool.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1



NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th October 2014



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: KILDALE GROVE AREA 20MPH LIMIT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To report the outcome of a recent consultation exercise (September 2014), relating to the proposed introduction of a 20mph speed restriction along Bilsdale Road, Commondale Drive, Egton Drive, Goathland Drive, Kildale Grove, Lingdale Drive, Roxby Close and Westerdale Road (see attached plan, **Appendix 1**).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The request for a reduction of the 30 mph speed limit was made by a local ward Councillor, on behalf of residents who live in the area, as defined at (2.1).

4. PROPOSAL

4.1 To introduce 20mph speed restrictions within the area of the 8 streets listed above. Carriageway access to this area, from Elizabeth Way, is possible via Kildale Grove and Westerdale Road. The appropriate 20mph signage will be placed at the junctions of these 2 locations, with additional (smaller) repeater signage installed within the 20mph area itself. There are no proposals to include additional traffic calming measures within the scheme (speed cushions etc).

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Letters were sent to 430 residential properties and Ward Councillors.
- 5.2 Resident responses totalled 243 out of 430 (56.51%) – 221 are in favour of the proposal (91% of the responses), with the remaining 22 against the scheme (9% of the responses). The attached table (**Appendix 2**), illustrates these results, and provides a more detailed breakdown of the preferences for each of the 8 features.
- 5.3 Several of those who support the scheme have, however, expressed concerns as to how the 20mph limit would be enforced, and others stated that they would never agree to any future proposal to install speed humps, or speed activated signs etc. Some are also of the opinion that although not all drivers will observe the new speed restriction, they may (possibly) reduce their speeds to below 30mph.
- 5.4 Comments from those who are not in favour, also includes enforcement concerns (so it would be a waste of funding as drivers would ignore the speed limit anyway), with other residents saying there are no issues with speeding motorists in the area (volume of parked vehicles slows down traffic speeds, so even 30mph is not achievable), and comments stating that additional calming measures would be required to slow down motorists, as the signage would be ignored.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The estimated cost of the scheme will be approximately £1000, funded via the Council's Local Transport Plan.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications.

8. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998 CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Committee approves the implementation of the scheme.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Following a significant percentage of responses (56.51%), with 91% of these in favour, it is apparent that the scheme has the support from the majority of local residents who replied.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 There are no background papers.

12. CONTACT OFFICER


Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523401
E-mail: alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Peter Frost
Traffic and Transport Planning Team Leader
Civic Centre
Hartlepool

Tel: (01429) 523200
E-mail: peter.frost@hartlepool.gov.uk



TITLE Westerdale Road Area – Proposed 20mph speed limit		
 HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL Department of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods): Alastair Smith	DRAWN SC	DATE August 14
	SCALE NTS	
	DRG. NO.	

APPENDIX 2

6.6

Neighbourhood Services Committee – 27.10.2014

Seaton Carew - proposed 20 mph speed limit scheme Sept 2014

<u>Street / Feature Name</u>	<u>Responses</u> <u>In Favour</u>	<u>Response</u> <u>% In Favour</u>	<u>Responses</u> <u>NOT in favour</u>	<u>Response</u> <u>%</u> <u>NOT In Favour</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Responses</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Letters</u> <u>Sent</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Responses</u> <u>Returned</u>
Bilsdale Road	25	71%	10	29%	35	78	44.87%
Comondale Drive	26	93%	2	7%	28	44	63.64%
Egton Drive	19	100%	0	0%	19	27	70.37%
Goathland Drive	26	96%	1	4%	27	44	61.36%
Kildale Grove	64	97%	2	3%	66	122	54.10%
Lingdale Drive	26	87%	4	13%	30	47	63.83%
Roxby Close	4	80%	1	20%	5	16	31.25%
Westerdale Road	31	94%	2	6%	33	52	63.46%
TOTALS	<u>221</u>	<u>= 91%</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>= 9%</u>	<u>243</u>	from <u>430</u>	<u>= 56.51%</u>

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE



Report of: Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: RSPCA COMMUNITY ANIMAL WELFARE
FOOTPRINTS AWARDS – INNOVATOR IN ANIMAL
WELFARE AWARD 2014

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee that the Waste and Environmental Services team have been awarded the prestigious “Innovation Award” in the 2014 annual RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints Awards for the Illegally Grazed Horses project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Community Animal Welfare Footprint Awards were set up by the RSPCA to promote the good work being done by local authorities and housing providers in the field of animal welfare. The prestigious scheme is backed and endorsed by the Local Government Association, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and the Trading Standards Institute.

3.2 The aim of the Footprint awards scheme is to recognise and promote those organisations that have gone beyond basic service requirements to achieve higher animal welfare standards in the delivery of services. The Innovator Award is for those organisations which have tried something different and achieved excellent results when tackling an issue related to animal welfare. This Award recognises the hard work and achievement of public service providers and their employees in an area that is often criticised and rarely rewarded.

3.3 Entrants are invited to put forward a submission, either in one of the Footprint areas (stray dogs, housing, contingency planning or animal welfare) or in any other area of animal welfare work. The Council’s Waste

and Environmental Services team put forward a detailed bid outlining the work done on the Illegally Grazed Horses project.

4. OUTCOMES

- 4.1 A report previously submitted to the Neighbourhood Services Committee outlined the scale of the problem and proposed the implementation of the Illegally Grazed Horses Strategy to try and tackle the problem. This proposal was accepted and the Strategy has been used to implement a “Zero Tolerance” approach to the practice of “fly grazing”. This has had a great effect in reducing the numbers of horses grazing on both public and private land without permission within the Borough.
- 4.2 The proactive approach taken by the team has seen the number of horses grazing without permission in Hartlepool be reduced from around 200 animals in early 2013, to approximately 30 equines by September 2014. Of these remaining horses, all of them are on private land and the majority now have the consent of the landowner. The number of calls and complaints from residents, landowners and the police relating to horses has also shown a corresponding reduction.
- 4.3 The aspect of the approach taken by the Waste and Environmental Services Team which makes this project most unique is the range of partnerships developed by the team. Partnerships developed with other organisations include with Cleveland Police, the RSPCA, the British Horse Society, and our approved equine bailiff; but the team have also worked very hard to build relationships within the horse owning community in order to build co-operation and to avoid provoking conflict. This has been effective not only in reducing the numbers of problem horses in the borough but also in raising the welfare standards of those horses that remain.
- 4.4 Lenny Rolles, the RSPCA's Senior Parliamentary Adviser for Local Government, praised the team's submission by saying that “Hartlepool Borough Council fought off fierce competition in their category to receive a prestigious 2014 RSPCA Innovator Award. The Council have developed a strategy for the fly grazing of horses, nationally there is an equine crisis and it is fantastic to see Hartlepool Borough Council tackling the problem in such an innovative way working with multi agency partners at a local level. In the current tough economic climate it is encouraging to see some local authorities who continue to provide and invest in services to improve animal welfare. Everyone in Hartlepool should be very proud of this achievement.”

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That Members note the achievement of the Waste and Environmental Services team in winning this prestigious award.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints Award: Innovator in Animal Welfare – Supporting Evidence
- 6.2 Innovator Award Certificate

7. CONTACT OFFICER

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523401
E-mail: Alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information:

Helen Beaman
Team Leader (Waste & Environmental Services)
1 Church Street
Hartlepool
TS24 7DS

Tel: (01429) 523358
E-mail: Helen.beaman@hartlepool.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE



Report of: Alastair Smith, Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)

Subject: RSPCA COMMUNITY ANIMAL WELFARE
FOOTPRINTS AWARDS – GOLD AWARD STRAY
DOG FOOTPRINT

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee that the Dog Warden Service have been awarded the Gold level in the 2014 annual RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints Awards in the Stray Dog category.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Community Animal Welfare Footprint Awards were set up by the RSPCA to promote the good work being done by local authorities and housing providers in the field of animal welfare. The prestigious scheme is backed and endorsed by the Local Government Association, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and the Trading Standards Institute.

3.2 The aim of the Footprint awards scheme is to recognise and promote those organisations that have gone beyond basic service requirements to achieve higher animal welfare standards in the delivery of services. There are 4 Footprint Awards: Stray Dogs, Housing, Contingency Planning and Animal Welfare Principles.

3.3 The main aim of the Stray Dog Footprint is to set a level of good practice for stray dog provision by acknowledging local authority services that have mechanisms and policies in place to ensure dog welfare, provide staff training and promote responsible dog ownership.

3.4 The Stray Dog Footprint is open to all local authorities in England and Wales which provide a stray dog service and entrants are invited to put forward a

submission outlining their service provision. The Council's Waste and Environmental Services team put forward a detailed bid outlining the work done by the Dog Warden Service and our contracted kennels providers (please see appendix 1 for a copy of the submission).

- 3.5 The Dog Warden Service has submitted an entry for the Stray Dog Footprint award each year since 2012 and has achieved the Silver level in both 2012 and 2013, so achieving the Gold level this year demonstrates the continuing development of the service and is testament to the hard work and dedication of the officers, kennels staff and volunteers involved.

4. SUMMARY OF AWARD SUBMISSION

- 4.1 The entry submitted by the Dog Warden Service gave detailed information about the service, and how the welfare of the stray dogs in the Council's care is at the heart of operations. Evidence was given on the following:
- the training given to officers involved in the handling of the stray dogs to ensure that the dogs are handled safely and humanely
 - the information given to dog owners on preventing their dog from straying, and the benefits of micro chipping and neutering
 - the promotion of animal welfare messages to the public including their Duty of Care under the Animal Welfare Act 2006
 - how the dogs' needs (as defined under the Animal Welfare Act 2006) are met during their stay at the kennels
- 4.2 The bid also outlined the policies and procedures in place to ensure that dogs are treated efficiently and humanely; are identified and recorded to enable them to be reunited with their owners wherever possible; that dogs to be rehomed are assessed to match them with suitable owners.
- 4.3 Details of the partnership working carried out by the dog warden service were included in the bid. Partners include local veterinary surgeries, RSPCA inspectors, Dogs Trust, the PDSA, housing providers and others involved in dog issues. As well as information on the education programmes for the public, including the PDSA Pet Checks and the Planet Toxicara schools activity.
- 4.4 In recognition of the good level of service provided by the Dog Warden Service the team received a certificate and logo to use to promote the award (see appendix 2 for the certificate and appendix 3 for a photo of team members left to right: Kate Ainger (Environmental Projects Officer), Helen Beaman (Team Leader Waste and Environmental Services) and Alison Carberry (Dog Warden)).

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That Members note the achievement of the Dog Warden Service in winning this prestigious award.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints Award: Stray Dog Gold Footprint Award Submission and Supporting Evidence

7. CONTACT OFFICER

Alastair Smith
Assistant Director (Regeneration)
Level 3
Civic Centre
Hartlepool
TS24 8AY

Tel: (01429) 523401
E-mail: Alastair.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information:

Helen Beaman
Team Leader (Waste & Environmental Services)
1 Church Street
Hartlepool
TS24 7DS

Tel: (01429) 523358
E-mail: Helen.beaman@hartlepool.gov.uk



RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints Stray Dogs Footprint



Supporting Evidence Hartlepool Borough Council

**Community Animal Welfare Footprint Awards 2014
Hartlepool Borough Council Submission – Supporting Evidence**

Introduction

Hartlepool Borough Council changed the format of its dog warden service in October 2013 upon the retirement of the contracted dog warden Joan Hunter. Joan was proprietor of Low Fallowfield Farm Kennels and had held the contract with us for 10 years to provide collection, transportation and kennelling services for the stray dogs.

In October 2013 the collection and transportation side of the service was brought back in-house and is now delivered by officers from the Council's Environmental Enforcement team. The kennelling side of the service is still contracted out and is currently held by Stray Aid Rescue Centre.

As part of the time period covered by this submission is held with each contractor we will answer each question for both to ensure a full and accurate answer.

1. Do you provide basic dog handling and behaviour training for all officers responsible for stray dog collection?

2. If you use a sub-contractor for this services, have its staff been trained in dog handling and behaviour?

Staff at Low Fallowfield Farm Kennels hold a National Diploma in Animal care. In addition, all casual staff have either achieved or are working towards this qualification. All full time staff at the kennels have been trained to micro chip dogs by Dogs Trust. All staff also attended "Calming the Conflict" training with Dogs Trust.

All council staff involved in the handling of the stray dogs received basic dog handling and awareness training from Dogs Trust in May 2013. This included understanding body language, catching a loose dog, and dealing with threatening/aggressive behaviour.

Stray Aid are not responsible for the collection of the stray dogs, however, staff and volunteers have attended a number of courses run by Dogs Trust. One of the team also holds a Diploma in Canine Behaviour and training, whilst another is a former prison dog handler with responsibility for ensuring that new volunteers are familiar with Stray Aid's policies.

3. Do you have a procedure in place to treat injured and sick stray dogs efficiently and humanely, including those found by the public?

Please see attached procedures – appendix 1 and 2

We endeavour to minimise the length of time that any stray dog has to wait for treatment for illness or injury. We aim to attend to collect a stray dog within 1 hour from 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Low Fallowfield had close relationships with local vets and arrangements were in place for stray dogs to receive veterinary care where required. There was also a member of staff living on site so sick dogs could be monitored around the clock if required. A 24-hour telephone service was also offered to give advice to members of the public finding stray dogs (including those that may be ill or injured) including the out-of-hours contacts for local vets.

Stray Aid has a vet and veterinary facilities on site, which reduces any delay in a dog receiving treatment. If a dog picked up by the dog warden is too sick or injured to travel to the kennels at Coxhoe, arrangements will be made for it to be taken to a local veterinary surgery.

All stray dogs collected or received by the dog warden service are assessed for signs of illness or injury immediately upon collection/receipt. The dogs held in the kennels are also continually monitored for signs of illness or injury such as lack of appetite, excessive sleepiness, reluctance to be touched in a certain area, lameness, etc. If any signs are discovered the kennels have a qualified vet on site who can advise/treat where required.

Treatment

Every stray dog which arrives at the kennels is assessed for any injuries or health problems and any dogs showing injuries or health problems will be treated immediately by the vet. Both our kennel providers will treat dogs for worms and/or fleas if required and also before a dog is made available for adoption.

Housing

The facilities at Low Fallowfield Kennels included an isolation kennel, separated from the main body of the kennels, where any dog considered to ill or aggressive to be housed near other dogs can be placed. To identify the possibility of serious infection the kennels have on site a number of special kits which can identify in less than 30 mins if a dog is suffering from the fatal disease Parvo-virus. As a consequence immediate action can be taken to have the dog taken to the vets to be put to sleep in a humane manner.

Stray Aid have a dedicated separate isolation block on site for dogs with certain infectious diseases. They also routinely test for Parvo-virus using a SNAP test which gives results in 8 minutes. Where Parvo is found the dog can be immediately euthanised to reduce the likelihood of disease transmission. As Parvo can be infectious for 2-3 days before symptoms appear all dogs are assumed to be potential carriers until proven otherwise.

Disinfection

Low Fallowfield Kennels had a disinfection procedure for instances where contagious infection have been identified including the use of specialist “air-bombs” which can be used to disinfect the whole kennel premises and transport vehicle.

Stray Aid have vigorous anti-infection procedures in place at all times, including the use of disinfectant footbaths between the stray kennels and the rehoming kennels.

4. Is there a written procedural policy to scan (and check for other identification) all stray dogs collected or received by the local authority?

Please see attached procedure – appendix 3

All dogs collected or received by the local authority are scanned for micro chips immediately upon collection/receipt. This includes a full body scan to ensure that any instances of the micro chip migrating to other parts of the body can be identified. In addition, a record is made on the Stray Dog Collection Report Form of whether the dog is wearing a collar, harness or identification disc as well as any distinguishing marks or tattoos. The dog is also photographed.

Contacting owners

In instances where a collected dog is micro chipped efforts are made to contact the original owner. If the registered owner cannot be contacted by phone at the time the dog is collected, then the dog warden will make a home visit to the registered address. If there is no answer, the dog will be taken to the kennels and a seizure notice posted out. The notice explains where the dog is being kept and how to claim it back.

If it is possible to identify and contact the owner immediately (and it is the first occasion that the dog has strayed) then the dog will be returned directly to the owner without being taken to the kennels and without a financial charge for the owner. This reduces distress for the dog and the owner.

Where a micro chipped dog is handed in directly to the kennels by a member of the public, the kennels will attempt to contact the registered owner by telephone for up to 7 days.

Seizure notice

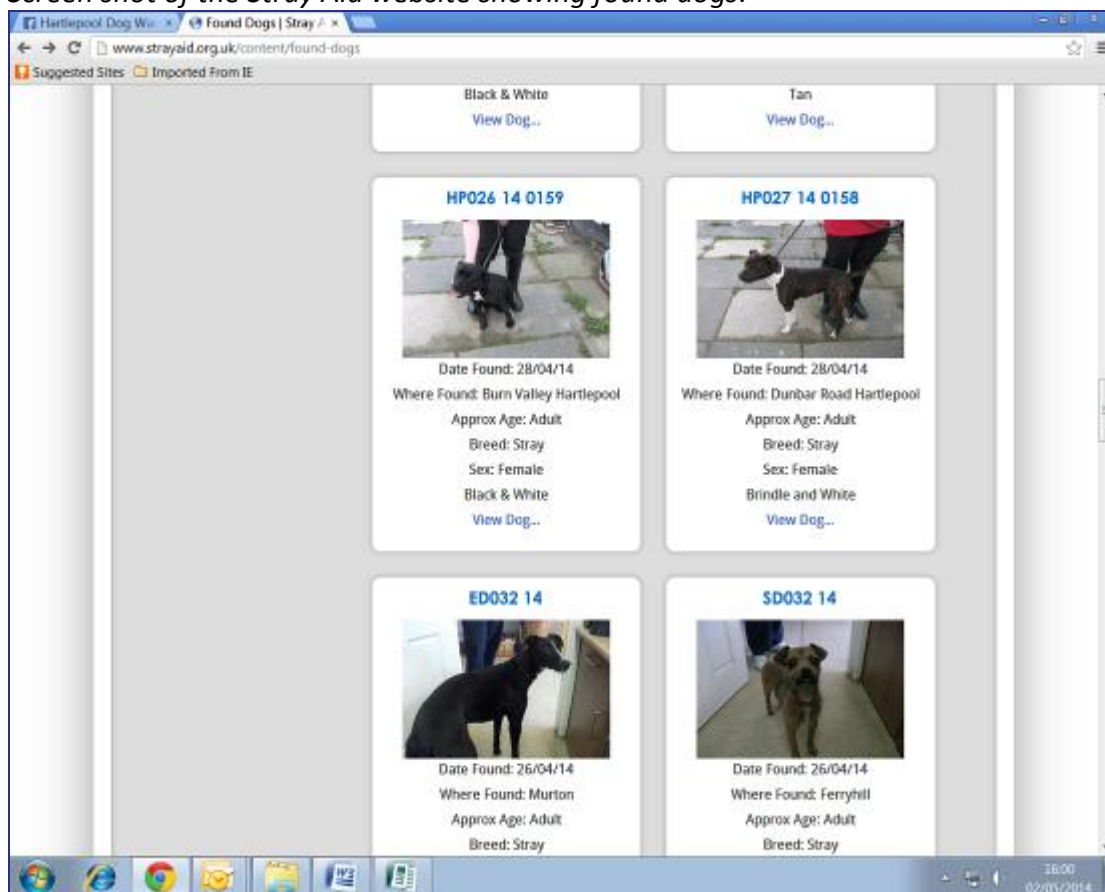
REF NO:	NOTICE OF SEIZURE OF STRAY DOG		
	Seizure of stray dogs Section 149 Environmental Protection Act 1990		
Owner of dog:		
Address:		
Issuing Officer:		
An authorised officer of: HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL has reason to believe that on			
DATE:	<input type="text"/>	TIME:	<input type="text"/> HRS
A dog which has been identified as belonging to the resident of this property was found to be straying in a public place or on any other land or premises.			
Description of dog:	<input type="text"/>		
Place of seizure:	<input type="text"/>		
As is a requirement of Section 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Hartlepool Borough Council hereby gives notice that the above dog has been seized and is currently being kept at the address below:			
Stray Aid Rescue Centre Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe, Co Durham, DH6 4EJ.			
0300 999 42 47			
Your dog will be held at the above address for a period of 7 days from the date of this notice. Please be aware that if it is not claimed within this time then the dog will be re-homed or disposed of in accordance with the above act.			
A person claiming to be the owner of a dog seized under section 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 shall not be entitled to have a the dog returned to them unless they pay all the expenses incurred by reason of its detention.			
Allowing a dog to stray, without a collar or tag in a public place or on the highway, in contravention of the Control Of Dogs Order 1992, may result in prosecution under Section 72 of the Animal Health Act 1991, the maximum penalty upon conviction is 6 months imprisonment or a fine not exceeding £5000 or both."			
Signature of authorised officer:.....		Date:.....	

During 2013/14 309 stray dogs were collected/received by Hartlepool Borough Council. Of these 61 were able to be returned directly to their owners without the need for kennelling due to being micro chipped. 140 of the dogs collected/received were micro chipped, which represents 45% of all dogs handled by the dog warden service.

Publication of details of stray dogs

Prior to October 2013, photographs and details of all stray dogs were posted on our Facebook page to try and reunite them with their owner. Details of unclaimed dogs were also publicised to encourage adoptions. Since October, the photos and details of the dogs are now posted on our kennel's website (see below).

Screen shot of the Stray Aid website showing found dogs.



5. Do you scan and check dead dogs for micro chips and other forms of identification?

Please see attached procedure – appendix 4

On the occasions when Hartlepool Council collect, remove or receive dead dogs these are taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre/Waste Transfer Station. The facility has a micro chip scanner on site and all dead dogs are routinely scanned for micro chips and checked for other forms of identification. If the dog is able to be identified the owner is contacted and enquiries made as to whether they would prefer to collect the remains or for the Council to dispose of them. Freezer storage is available on site to store the dog until the owner claims it or it is disposed of.

The dog warden service and the Waste Management Service are both part of the StreetCare Section at Hartlepool Borough Council.

6. Do your, or your contractor's, stray dog kennels and out-of-hours reception centre have facilities, protocols and procedures that ensure that the 5 welfare needs defined under section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 are met?

The need for a suitable environment

Our former kennels provider had facilities for 24 stray dogs. Every dog is housed in an individual kennel. Each kennel has a raised sleeping area, out of sight of the

kennel on either side to allow the dog to hide from other dogs if required. Each kennel also has an individual heat source and the dogs are provided with clean bedding, food and water. The kennels are cleaned out on a regular basis throughout the day. The staff also take time to play with and reassure the dogs.

Our current kennels facility has capacity for 95 stray dogs. Of these 71 are for local authority stray dogs, whilst the remainder are for veterinary or isolation purposes. They are also planning to construct a further 100 stray kennels on site. Our kennels provider also takes dogs from the County Durham dog warden service so the number of dogs in kennels at any one time is usually quite high; however, every dog receives individual attention during its stay.

Every dog is housed in an individual kennel which has an indoor section for sleeping and feeding and an undercover outdoor section for fresh air. The dogs are provided with baskets and bedding in their sleeping area. Nervous dogs can be provided with a “pod” which is a covered cage which provides them with a dark, private area within the kennel to hide themselves away if required. The kennels report that these pods have been successful in calming fearful dogs.

In the outdoor area the dogs are protected from the elements by a roof but the front of the runs are open to the air. The dogs are provided with toys and treats to enrich their environment. The dogs access their sleeping quarters via a hatch which can be closed to keep the dog on one particular side if required (e.g. for cleaning the kennel).

The dogs are provided with clean bedding, food and water and the kennels are cleaned out on a regular basis throughout the day.

Photo showing the outdoor run side of the kennel facility



Photo showing the outdoor run of a kennel with the hatch through to the sleeping quarters



The need for a suitable diet

Dogs are provided with adequate feed per day based on their size, breed, any medical conditions/veterinary advice, etc. The dogs are fed high quality dog food to ensure that all dietary requirements are met. On any occasion that a dog has a reaction or goes off its food the vet will investigate.

Stray Aid staff and volunteers carry out hourly water checks to ensure the dogs have plenty of clean, fresh water always available. A feeding board records each individual dog's dietary needs and instructs volunteers to seek advice from the on-site vet if any health issues are spotted. In addition, the dogs are weighed weekly to monitor their weight so adjustments can be made if necessary.

The need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns

At Low Fallowfield Farm kennels safe and secure outdoor exercise facilities are provided on site where the dogs can be exercised each day. This helps to keep the dogs fit and healthy as well as reducing boredom. Where dogs are "known" to each other they are exercised and allowed to socialise together. The kennels staff and volunteers also take the opportunity afforded by the exercise periods to play with the dogs and assess things like whether the dog pulls on the lead, is happy to be exercised with other dogs or is aggressive with its toys. This information can help to identify suitable new homes for the unclaimed stray dogs.

Stray Aid provide an off-lead exercise area where dogs can run around, stretch their legs and indulge in normal behaviour such as rolling, scratching and sniffing smells. They also have a dedicated behaviourist on the team who is on-hand to assist with any behavioural issues which are found. They can also provide advice and support to new owners after rehoming one of the dogs.

The need to be housed with/apart from other animals

Low Fallowfield Farm Kennels

On collection/receipt of each stray dog it is assessed to establish whether it can be housed with the other stray dogs. The majority of the stray dogs are housed together in one large building which is subdivided into individual kennels. Isolation facilities exist on site for dogs which are either too sick, injured or aggressive to be housed in the main kennel building with the other stray dogs.

The kennel staff are experienced in dealing with difficult or aggressive dogs and have the knowledge and skills to deal with such dogs safely and humanely. Low Fallowfield Farm Kennels also holds a contract with another local agency to handle banned breeds and dangerous dogs. In the event of a dog being too aggressive to handle an approved restraining pole is used to transport and move the dog safely.

On occasion dogs are collected which are clearly known to each other. In these instances the dogs are housed next door to each other in the kennel block so that they can see their friend. They are also exercised together and every effort is made to rehome them together.

Stray Aid

Where it is found that individual dogs will benefit from company they can be housed in pairs to enable dogs that come in together to stay together. Conversely, dogs which find the company of other dogs too stressful are provided with “pods” (indoor cages covered with blankets to create a dark and cosy hideaway) where they can hide themselves away. These pods have proved very successful in rehabilitating frightened dogs.

The need to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease

All stray dogs that are collected or received by the dog warden that are in need of first aid or have visible signs of a life threatening condition are referred to a veterinary surgeon. Stray Aid have a veterinary surgeon on site so any conditions found on arrival, or that develop later, can be assessed and suitable treatment provided.

Where the dog warden picks up a dog that is clearly sick or injured they will seek the advice of the service manager or the vet at Stray Aid as to whether the dog is fit to travel to see the vet at the kennels. If the dog is deemed to be too poorly to travel then it will be taken to a local vet in Hartlepool. The dog warden service has good working relations with all 3 local veterinary surgeries.

In addition, good hygiene measures are practised at the kennels, including the use of disposable gloves and regular cleaning of the kennels, transport van and equipment using specialist cleaning products, to prevent the spread of infection between dogs. The kennels also have a strict quarantine and assessment procedure on site, including the use of disinfectant foot baths between the strays and rehoming sections of the site.

Stray Aid hold unclaimed stray dogs for the statutory 7 day period plus an additional 3 days to ensure that there is no risk of the dog harbouring any incubating diseases such as parvo before it is rehomed. During these 10 days, dogs are assessed by 3 different kennel assistants. Any behaviours or health problems are noted and

reported to the centre manager. When the dogs are through their statutory period, any reported health or temperament issues are discussed with the centre manager and the vet. If a dog shows aggression towards humans it is destroyed.

If a dog has health problems that can be managed in such a way as to give a dog a comfortable life then it receives the treatment it needs. If this end result cannot be achieved then the dog is put to sleep.

7. Does your out-of-hours kennels/reception centre have staff on the premises at all times?

Low Fallowfield kennels had a member of staff living on site providing cover for the reception centre out of hours. This allowed the kennels to offer a 24-hour reception centre.

At Stray Aid, the reception is open from 9am to 9pm every day. Outside of these hours the kennels are closed to the public, however, the owner of the boarding kennels, whose site is shared with Stray Aid, lives on-site and so can attend to an emergency (e.g. fire, flood, etc.) .

8. Is information provided to owners reclaiming stray dogs on how to prevent the animal from straying again?

Please see attached Lost Dog leaflet – appendix 5

Prior to October 2013 when a stray dog was reunited with its owner, the owner was given a guidance leaflet entitled “Lost dog: don’t let this become your dog”. The leaflet contains information on why the dog may have strayed in the first place, how this could be prevented and provides advice on micro chipping and what to do if the dog goes missing again. Owners are also advised, where necessary, on the benefits of neutering to reduce the urge to stray.

Since October, this leaflet is made available on our website but is no longer handed out to owners.

9. Are records kept and regularly updated of all strays received and how they were disposed of, including those reclaimed, rehomed, euthanased on health/medical grounds, or euthanased after the seven day period?

Screen shot of stray dog record spreadsheet

	B	D	E	G	J	L	M	O	P
	Dog type	Impound date	Disposal date	No days in kennels	Total price	Outcome	sex	Chip No.	collar
13	Staffy	06/04/2013	14/04/2013	9	£55.44	gifted to kennels	M	985170001175335	
15	Staffy					Returned to owner direct	F	966000000065879	1
17	Staffy				£0.00	Returned to owner direct	F	958000001567161	1
21	Staffy			9	£55.44	gifted to kennels	M	968000005431915	
23	Staffy			9	£0.00	gifted to kennels	F	945000000378894	
36	Staffy	07/05/2013	07/05/2013	0	£0.00	Finders dog	M	958000001557378	1
37	Staffy	07/05/2013	15/05/2013	9	£55.44	Gifted	M	968000005251388	1
40	Staffy	07/05/2013	09/05/2013	3	£18.48	reclaimed from Kennels	M	968000001602754	
47	Staffy	13/05/2013	14/05/2013	2	£12.32	reclaimed from Kennels	M	968000005531482	1
51	Staffy	20/05/2013	20/05/2013	1	£6.16	reclaimed from Kennels	M	968000005617234	
60	Mastiff Cross	30/05/2013	07/06/2013	9	£55.44	Gifted	M		
62	Staffy	30/05/2013	01/06/2013	9	£55.44	Gifted	M		
79	Staffy	17/06/2013	25/06/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	M		
81	staffy	20/06/2013	24/06/2013	4	£24.64	reclaimed from kennels	F		
83	Rottly	25/06/2013	03/07/2013	9	£55.44	gifted			1
95	staffy	15/07/2013	23/07/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	M	968000001396310	1
98	Staffy	19/07/2013	27/07/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	F		
99	staffy	19/07/2013	27/07/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	F		1
101	Staffy	24/07/2013	24/07/2013	1	£6.16	reclaimed from kennels	F		1
102	Staffy	26/07/2013	03/08/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	F	9660000000065879	1
103	Alsatian	26/07/2013	03/08/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	F		
109	Alsatian	01/07/2013	09/07/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	F		
113	Staffy	03/07/2013	11/07/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	F		1
117	Akita	04/07/2013	05/07/2013	2	£12.32	reclaimed from kennels	M		1
119	Staffy	08/07/2013	16/07/2013	9	£55.44	gifted	M	985120026536365	
123	Staffy	09/07/2013	09/07/2013			returned direct to owner	M		1
130	Husky	01/08/2013	01/08/2013	2		reclaimed from kennels	M	985170000848304	1
132	Rottly	01/08/2013	16/08/2013	9		gifted	F		
133	Akita	02/08/2013	10/08/2013	9		gifted	F	985121003736345	

Hartlepool Council maintains a public register of all the dogs collected/received including details such as breed, colour, whether chipped or not and how many days the dog spent in the kennels. Each stray dog is allocated a unique reference number so we can track its progress and history throughout the time it spends with us. We also record the “outcome” of the process, i.e. reclaimed, returned to owner or whether it was gifted to the kennels for rehoming.

We also collect data such as the breed/type of dog, location found, whether it is chipped or wearing a collar, etc.

Outcome	Count of Number of dogs
Gifted to kennels for rehoming	103
Put to sleep	4
Reclaimed during statutory kennelling period	68
Returned to owner without kennelling	61
Total number of dogs collected/received	309

10. Do the stray dog kennels that you use have a clear rehoming policy to ensure all dogs to be rehomed are assessed – behaviourally and physically – and permanently identified, and that potential new owners are vetted?

Low Fallowfield

All dogs collected or received by the kennels are assessed on arrival for physical/health issues and to establish temperament and any behavioural issues.

When a dog is adopted by a new owner it will be micro chipped with the new owner's details. They will also be given a free neutering voucher if required. Home checks were carried out by volunteers from the Rescue Aid for Animals (RAFA) charity.

Potential new owners are vetted to establish a suitable match with a stray dog. This procedure includes establishing whether any other pets are already living in the house and whether the family has young children. The member of staff responsible for the rehoming process will not hesitate to refuse a dog to anyone deemed unsuitable. They will also offer advice on settling the newly adopted dog into the house hold including advice on feeding, exercise and socialising to enable the adoption process to be as smooth as possible for the dog and for the new owner.

In addition, new owners are required to sign a declaration that they shall adhere to the following:

- ensure that the dog will not be sold or supplied for the purpose of vivisection for own use or to any other person
- that the owner has not been convicted of any relevant offence
- that the owner is not facing prosecution under any relevant legislation
- that the owner has not ever been summonsed for an offence under the relevant legislation

Stray Aid

During the 10 days that a dog is held at the kennels it is assessed 3 times for behavioural, temperamental or physical issues which need to be taken into account in finding the dog a new home. Any issues raised are discussed with the centre manager and vet before the dog is released for rehoming.

Vetting of owners is done via the adoption forms (see attached) and the observations of the kennel staff when the prospective new owners are interacting with the dogs on site. Stray Aid ask that all family members are present during the introductions, and also any other family dogs. They also have leaflets provided by Dogs Trust to cover a range of potential problems, and include a "10 Commandments for a Rescue Dog" leaflet in their rehoming pack (see attached).

When adopting a dog from Stray Aid the new owners are given a 7 day period to check that they are happy with the dog and that it settles in. If not, it can be returned up to 7 days after adoption. This is to ensure that a suitable match is made.

Where a dog is not chipped or a chipped dog has not been claimed, Stray Aid will chip or update the details for the new owner free of charge. The dog will also be neutered before rehoming (provided that it is old enough and not in season, if this is the case, advice is given on when to have the dog neutered).

Advice is also given on settling the dog into its new home, establishing a vaccination and worming programme, diet and house training (see attached).

11. Is there active promotion through the Council's website and leaflets of micro chipping and/or other methods of permanent identification, as well as neutering and the duty of care under section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006?

Screen shot of our Facebook page showing one of our regular dog chipping events

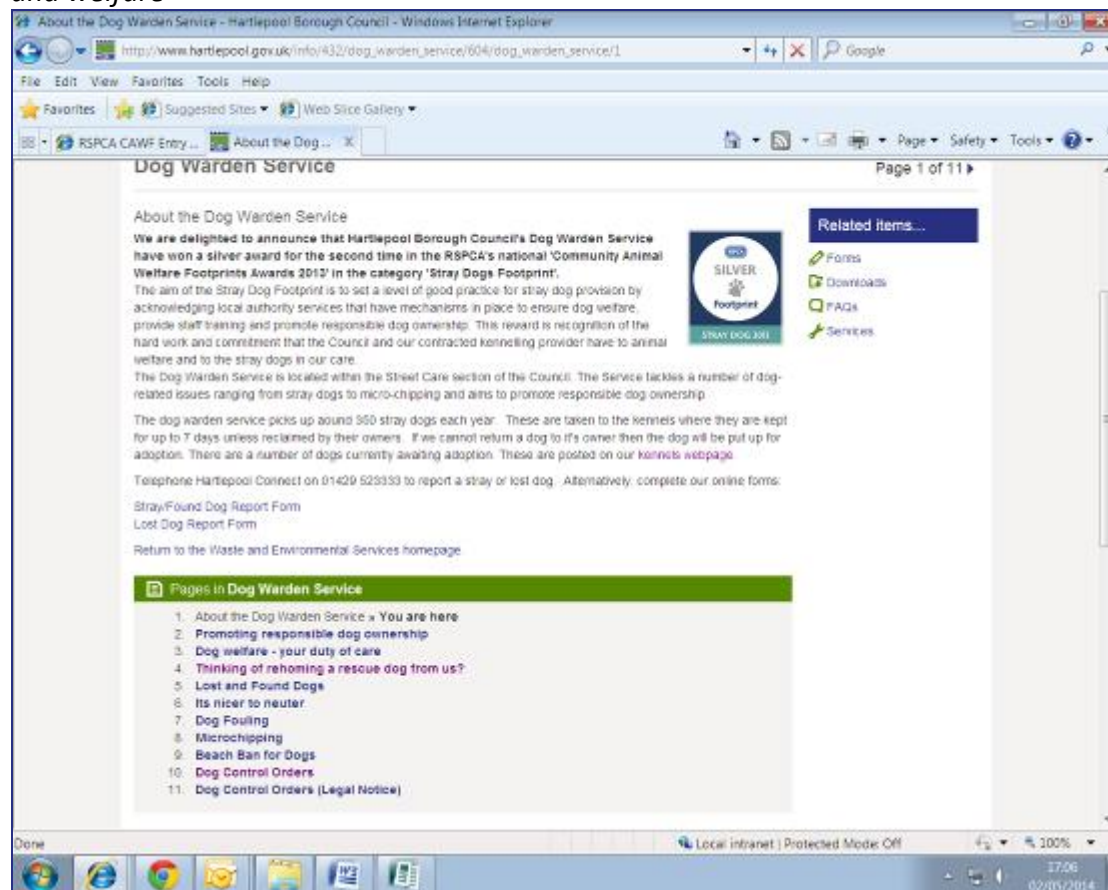


We run regular micro chipping events throughout the town at community venues and often provide chipping as a service at community events to make it easier for residents to get to a session near their homes. We have also been provided with a number of micro chips by Dogs Trust, which enables us to offer the service free of charge to all residents on proof of Hartlepool address. Dogs Trust have also offered to come to Hartlepool to deliver chipping sessions for us. They have run one session so far this year and we are currently trying to schedule further sessions in.

Chipping sessions are promoted on our Facebook page and also via the local press and radio. Housing Hartlepool often support the delivery of these sessions and send information to their tenants to promote the events.

For the general public, information on dog welfare is published regularly on our Facebook page including suggestions for protecting pets from fireworks, reminders to always make sure dogs wear a collar and tag, promotion of the benefits of neutering, and advice for dog owners experiencing problems such as straying or excessive barking. We also have a dedicated webpage on the Council website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk/dogs which contains a range of information on various aspects of responsible dog ownership particularly focusing on the legal aspects of dog ownership such as the duty of care under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the dog control orders in place in Hartlepool.

Screen shot of the Dog Warden Service webpage showing information on dog care and welfare



12. Is there adequate provision of an out of hours service for local circumstances to ensure animal welfare?

The in-house stray dog collection service operates between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours members of the public are able to drop off found dogs direct to the kennels between 9am-9pm 7 days a week.

The kennels also have a set of secure “drop off” kennels for use by the police and RSPCA inspectors finding dogs after 9pm at night. These are accessed via a key pad system and provide a safe, secure holding area until the following morning.

13. Is micro chipping or other permanent identification offered to all stray dogs before being returned to owners or rehomed?

Yes, all stray dogs are micro chipped with the new owner's details before being rehomed. This service is offered free of charge. Where a dog is already chipped but we have been unable to trace the owner, or the dog has been gifted to the kennels, the kennels will change the details for the new owner.

Where unchipped stray dogs are reunited with their owners, the owners are also offered the free micro chipping service. This can either be done by the kennels before the dog returns home or they will be given the details of the next free public micro chipping session which they can attend.

14. Is there regular proactive work to encourage responsible pet ownership?

PDSA PetCheck Weeks

Hartlepool has now hosted 5 PDSA PetCheck Weeks. This is a roadshow offered by the PDSA where owners have the chance to have a free health check for their dog including checking its weight, skin and coat, teeth, ears and eyes, and general fitness. Owners are also given leaflets and information about micro chipping, neutering, and health care. The PetCheck roadshow lasts for 4-5 days and each event has been very well attended with around 200 dogs receiving free health checks each time.

PDSA PetCheck Week Poster March 2014

The poster features the PDSA logo at the top right, with the tagline 'for pets in need of vets'. Below the logo is a row of five cartoon dogs. The main headline reads 'FREE wellbeing checks for dogs' in large, bold letters, with a sub-headline 'By a PDSA Veterinary Nurse (inside our PetCheck vehicle)'. The poster lists four dates and locations for the events: Tuesday 25 March 10am-5pm at Seaton Carew Coach Park, Tees Road, Hartlepool; Wednesday 26 March 10am-5pm at the same location; Thursday 27 March 10am-5pm at Summerhill Country Park, Summerhill Lane (off Catcote Road), Hartlepool; and Friday 28 March 10am-5pm at the same location. A photograph shows a PDSA veterinary nurse attending to a dog in a white van. A speech bubble from a cartoon dog says 'You can purchase preventive products and services today'. Below this, it says 'On busy days, an appointment system will be in place.' At the bottom, a blue banner states 'If you have a serious concern about your pet, please seek advice from your vet'. Below the banner are icons for Environment, Diet, Behaviour, Companionship, and Health. The footer includes social media links for Facebook (www.facebook.com/pdsa), Twitter (@PDSA_HQ), and the website (www.pdsa.org.uk/petcheck).

FREE wellbeing checks for dogs
By a PDSA Veterinary Nurse (inside our PetCheck vehicle)

Tuesday 25 March 10am-5pm
Seaton Carew Coach Park
Tees Road, Hartlepool

Wed 26 March 10am-5pm
Seaton Carew Coach Park
Tees Road, Hartlepool

Thursday 27 March 10am-5pm
Summerhill Country Park, Summerhill Lane (off Catcote Road), Hartlepool

Friday 28 March 10am-5pm
Summerhill Country Park, Summerhill Lane (off Catcote Road), Hartlepool

You can purchase preventive products and services today

On busy days, an appointment system will be in place.

If you have a serious concern about your pet, please seek advice from your vet

Environment Diet Behaviour Companionship Health

www.facebook.com/pdsa @PDSA_HQ www.pdsa.org.uk/petcheck

Photo of some of the dogs and their owners taking advantage of the PDSA pet checks in March 2014



Joint working

Hartlepool Council and Cleveland Police work together in a joint initiative aimed at tackling environmental crime. Under this initiative the Council's environmental enforcement team and local PCSOs team up to carry out joint patrols across the town. The patrols are primarily intended to issue fixed penalty notices to people dropping litter or flouting the dog control orders in place in the town. This initiative has been highly publicised to push the key message that we don't want to issue fines to irresponsible dog owners who spoil our beaches and green spaces for others but where people insist on allowing their dogs to foul we will take a zero tolerance approach. Although dog fouling may not appear to be a welfare issue it spreads diseases and parasites to other dogs as well as being a nuisance to public health. Also, encouraging dog owners to be responsible in this regard may have a knock-on effect of encouraging responsible behaviour in other areas.

As well as the Police the Council has a strong working relationship with the RSPCA. Most of our work with the RSPCA relates to horses or animals on allotments, however officers are always on hand to provide support to RSPCA inspectors when required. The dog warden service has also been able to provide RSPCA inspectors with supporting evidence in welfare cases involving stray dogs and, on occasion, has been able to identify owners whose dogs have been mistreated.

Dogs on allotments

We have also been targeting the dogs housed on the Council's allotment sites. In April 2010 we began to phase out the keeping of dogs on allotment sites as we believe that it is not possible for owners to meet their duty of care under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 by keeping their dogs in this environment. Dogs that have been housed on allotment plots since before April 2010 must be micro chipped and registered with the Council so we can monitor their welfare. We have provided free micro chips for all the dogs permitted to remain on the allotment sites, for example

on the Nicholson Field site 70 dogs were chipped. No new dogs are to be brought onto any of our sites and we rigorously enforce this.

Information on the rules regarding the keeping of animals on allotment plots, and general information and advice on animal care and welfare, is well publicised to allotment holders via their Allotment Rules and Regulations of Tenancy booklet, the allotments website www.hartlepool.gov.uk/allotments and the twice yearly allotment newsletter. As well as promoting micro chipping and welfare information, we also include details about any enforcement action taken against tenants who break the rules or fail to look after their dogs correctly to encourage better standards of dog care.

After two high profile cruelty cases around dogs on allotments, in which the RSPCA were successful in prosecuting the owners, and the hard work of the allotment team in monitoring and tackling problem dogs, the number of complaints regarding dogs on allotments has vastly reduced. The phasing out of dogs being kept on allotments which began in 2010 is continuing and the number of dogs kept on allotments appears to be slowly reducing.

Tackling dog fouling

We also work with the local community to tackle dog fouling on streets, beaches and green spaces. We run two activities for schools which aim to teach children that being a responsible dog owner involves cleaning up after their pet. These are “Planet Toxicara” and the “Clean Streets Assemblies” (see below).

In addition, signage and banners (designed by local children) have been installed on the promenades at Seaton Carew and at the Headland to remind dog walkers to pick up. We have also included dog fouling as an action in the monthly Neighbourhood Action Day programme. Large yellow signs are placed around the target area on action day warning of dog fouling patrols. This helps to remind people that fouling is an offence and also that owners face a fine if caught. We also have a stencil which can be applied in areas where fouling is a problem, which is an eye catching way of getting our message across.

Photo showing dog foul stencil image



Yellow warning sign in situ during a Neighbourhood Action Day



Planet Toxicara

The Planet Toxicara Scenario is part of Hartlepool Council's annual schools Environment Roundabout event. The event engages around 500 year 5 pupils each year. The scenario has been developed and is delivered in partnership with Dogs Trust. As part of the scenario the children meet a real dog from Dogs Trust, learn about the health risks associated with dog fouling and how to keep their pets healthy through establishing a regular worming routine. The activity involves the children putting on a short comic play about the importance of cleaning up after their dog and features the characters of a doctor, environmental enforcement officer and dog owner.

"Paws up for poop scooping!" at the end of the Planet Toxicara scenario



Clean Streets Assemblies

The interactive Clean Streets assembly was developed from Planet Toxicara and involves learning about the importance of worming and cleaning up after their pet and how to stay safe around dogs. It concludes with the children being set the challenge of designing a poster to be put up around the school perimeter fence reminding parents and dog walkers of the importance of picking up after their dogs, particularly near schools.

During 2013 we received funding from a number of ward councillors from their ward members budgets to pay to transform the children's artwork into eye-catching banners and durable signage which has been put up near participating schools to enhance the message further.

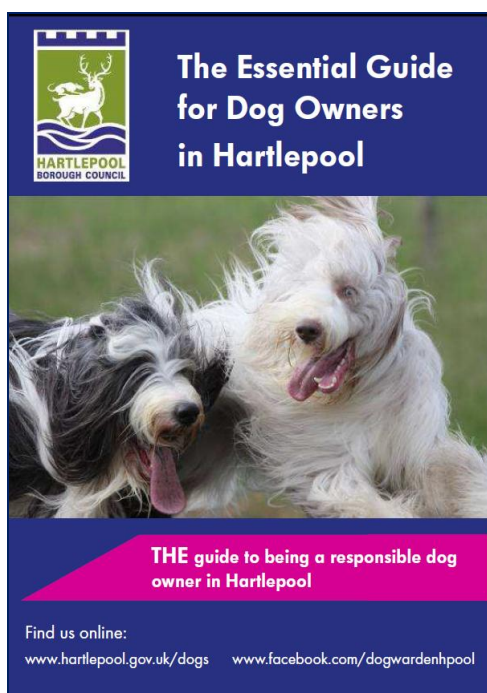
Children from Lynnfield Primary School with council staff and the banner designed by the children



Anti dog fouling poster designed by a pupil at Jesmond Road Primary School



Essential Guide for Dog Owners: The Guide to Being a Responsible Dog Owner in Hartlepool Leaflet



We have also published an Essential Guide for Dog Owners leaflet which gives information on dog-friendly places to visit in Hartlepool, dogs on public rights of way, and safety tips for dog walkers. It also explains in simple language all about dog control orders including what they are, why they are needed and an at-a-glance map to show the dog-on-leads, dog-exclusion and free exercise areas. This leaflet has been distributed round public buildings, visitor centres and can be downloaded from the Council's website.

Please see attached copy of the Essential Guide for Dog Owners leaflet – appendix 9

Communications

In addition to the measures to promote responsible pet ownership outlined above Hartlepool Borough Council's dog warden service also enjoys a positive relationship with the local press. The Hartlepool Mail has a recurring feature promoting the rehoming service and often runs stories on our responsible ownership messages. Our local radio station Radio Hartlepool also invites officers in on a regular basis to speak about our micro chipping campaigns, pet events and rehoming service.

In addition, the Facebook page currently has over 4,000 followers and is proving to be a very vibrant and active online community.

Stray Aid activities

Stray Aid have an excellent group of volunteers, each with individual strengths which they are happy to share for the benefit of the dog population. Some volunteers carry out school visits, whilst others give talks to community groups. The team also regularly attend dog shows and community events with their fundraising and

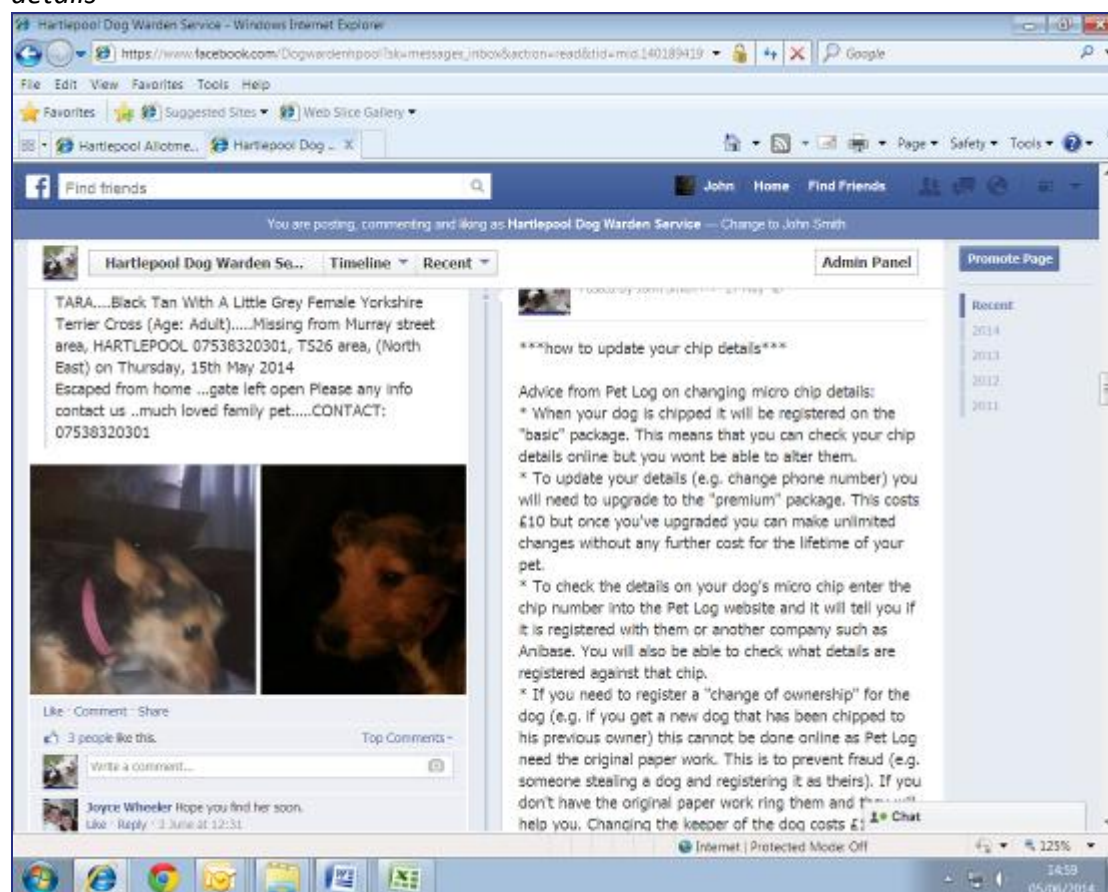
information stall. They have a range of leaflets and information sheets which can be handed out at events.

15. Do you have evidence of policies and procedures that have been implemented to reduce stray dogs in your area?

As outlined above Hartlepool Borough Council is a very proactive advocate of micro chipping for dogs (currently around 45% of dogs handled by the dog warden service are micro chipped) to reduce the number of strays and to make reuniting lost dogs with their owners easier. We hold regular free chipping sessions throughout the town which are advertised in the local press and on our Facebook page.

We also take part in the yearly National Micro chipping Month campaign to raise awareness of the advantages of chipping. We also regularly post reminders for people to check their details as well as instructions on how to change these where required as it is vital that owners keep their details up to date or we cannot contact them if the dog ends up at the kennels.

Screen shot of our Facebook page showing information on how to update your chip details



Furthermore, the back streets in Hartlepool are covered by a “dogs on leads” dog control order. This means that residents cannot use the gated back street areas as unofficial dog exercise areas thus cutting down the risk of dogs escaping or being accidentally let out and straying.

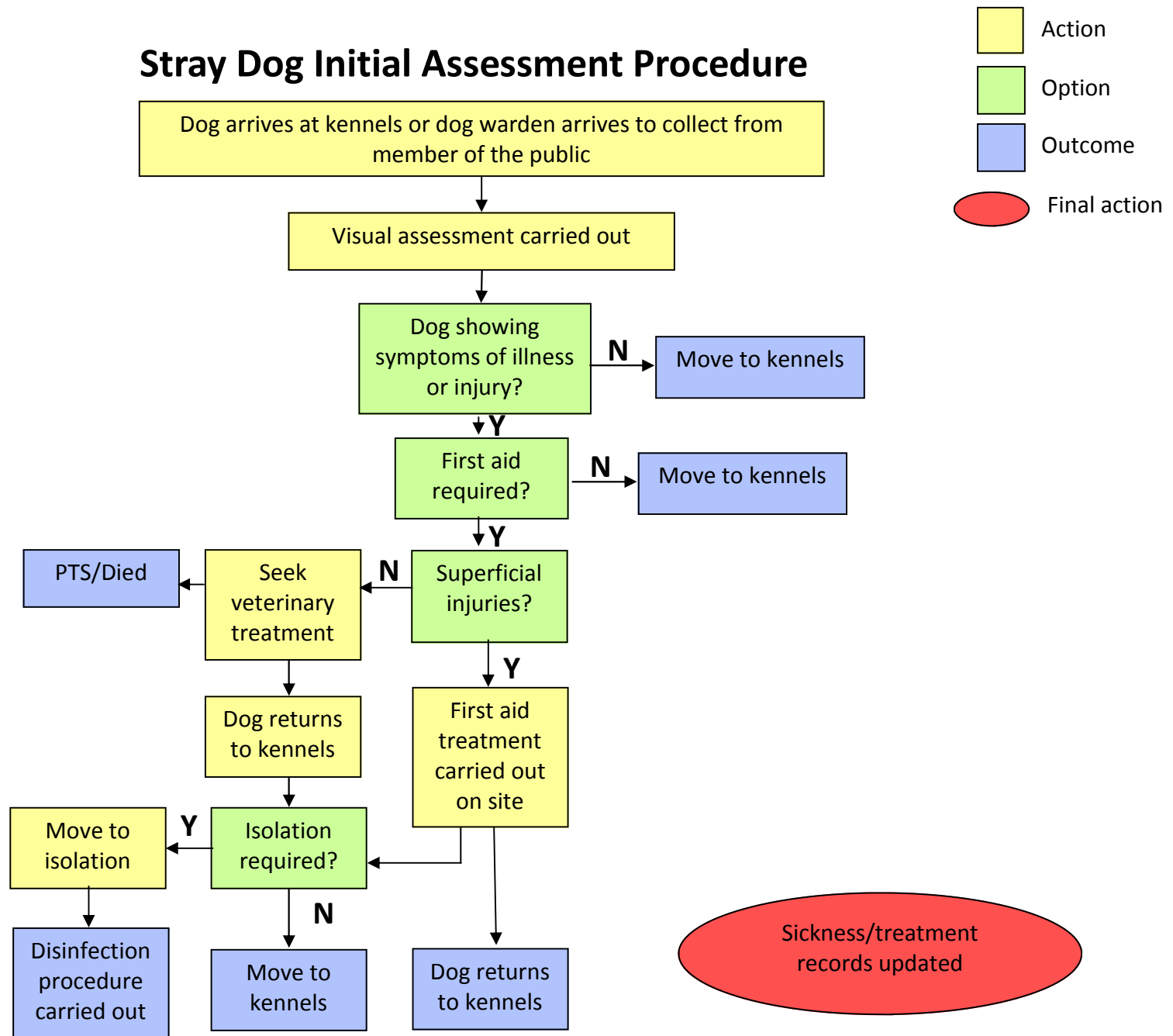
We also promote neutering to reduce the number of unwanted litters and the likelihood of animals being dumped. Last year we ran a neutering campaign through our Facebook page where the council purchased 75 neutering vouchers from Dogs Trust and gave them away to the first 75 dog owners to “like” and “share” our post promoting the benefits of neutering. Not only did this get vouchers out to people who may otherwise not have access to schemes (i.e. many of our residents are on low incomes but not all are in receipt of benefits), but it helped to raise awareness of the need to neuter pets.

***** The End *****

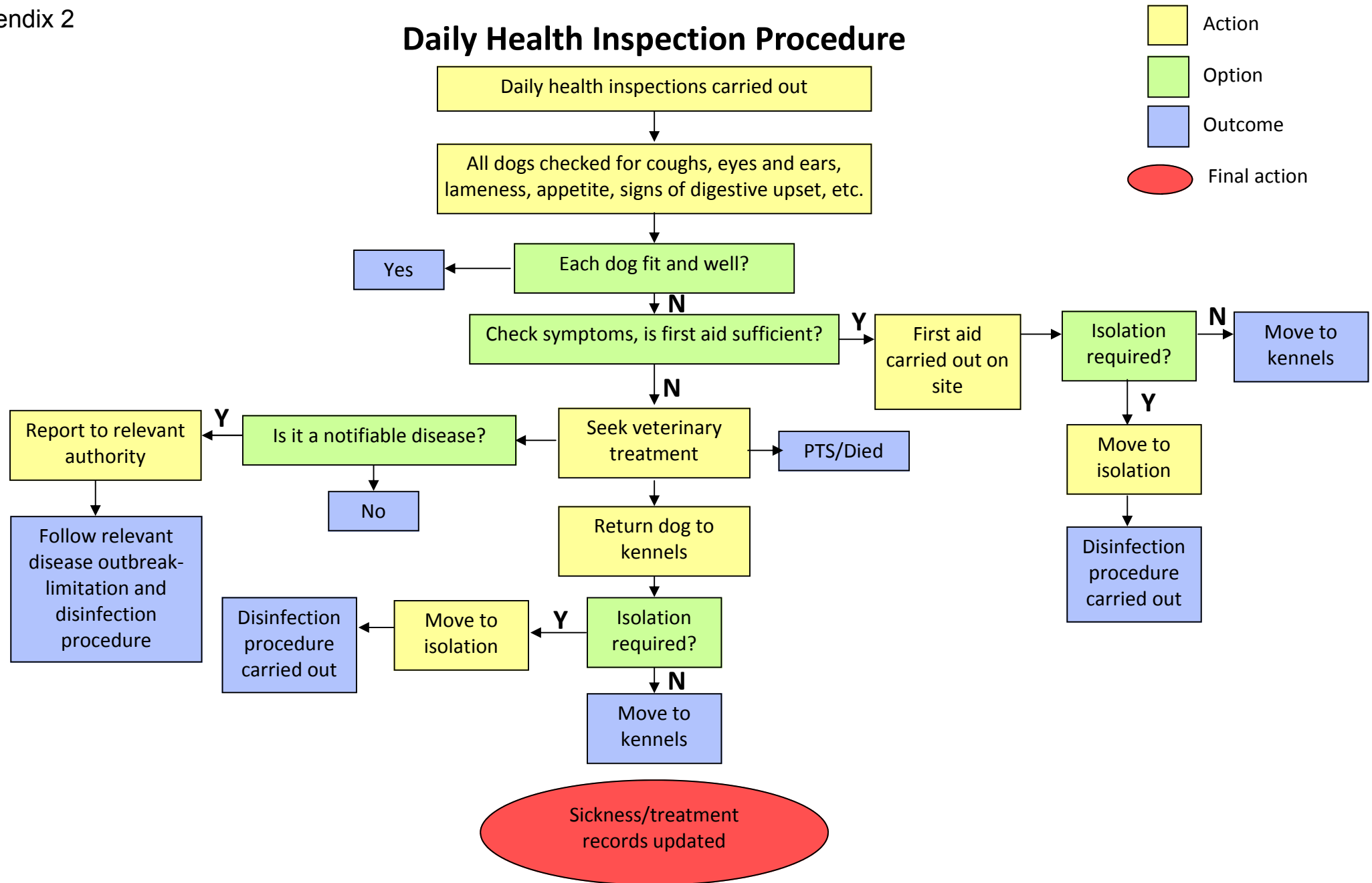
List of Appendices

1. Stray dog initial assessment procedure
2. Daily health inspections procedure
3. Procedure for identifying stray dogs
4. Procedure for identifying dead dogs found on the highway
5. "Lost dog: don't let this be your dog" leaflet
6. Stray Aid adoption form
7. "10 Commandments for a rescue dog"
8. Stray dog information sheet
9. "Essential guide for dog owners: the guide to being a responsible dog owner in Hartlepool" booklet

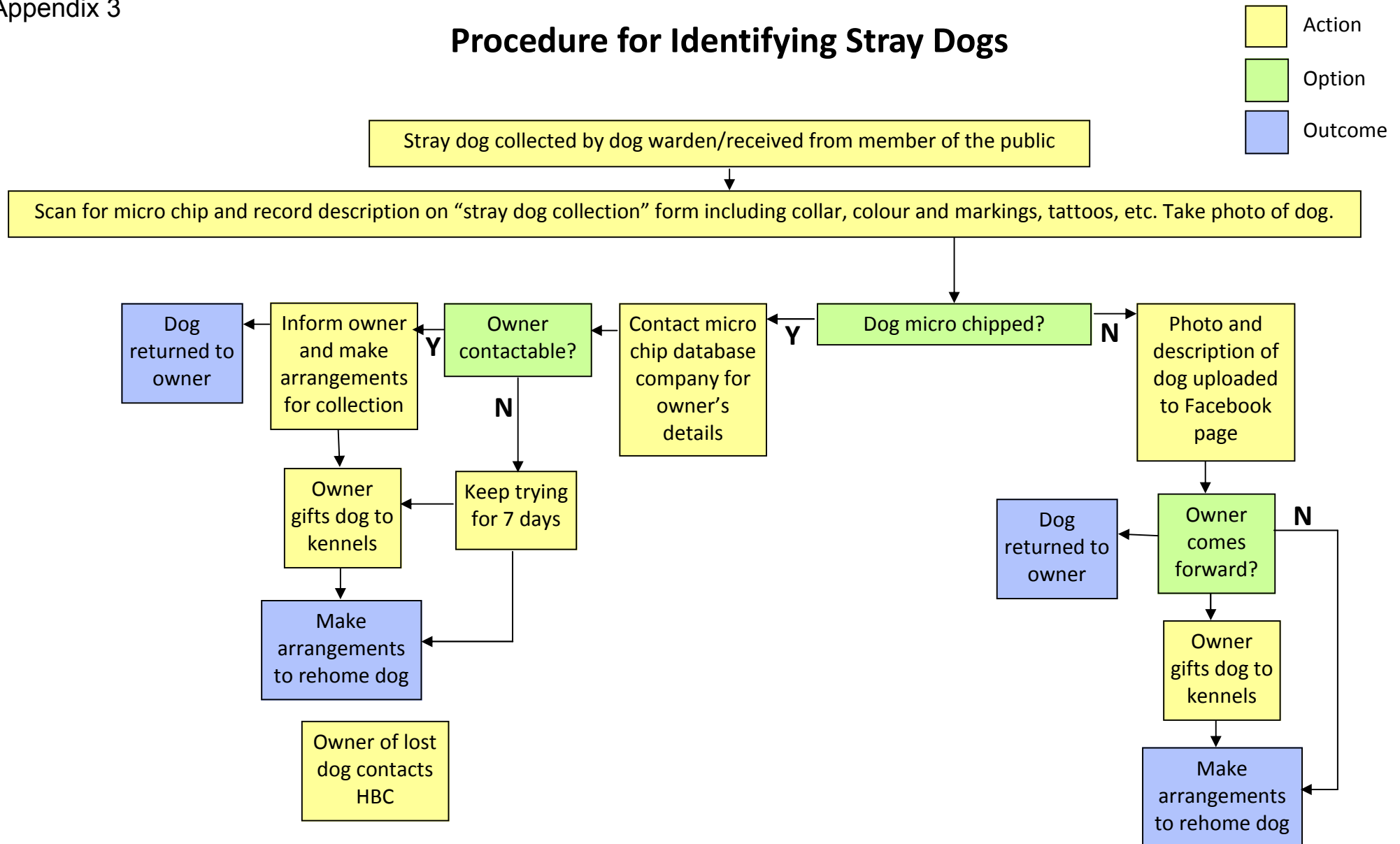
Stray Dog Initial Assessment Procedure



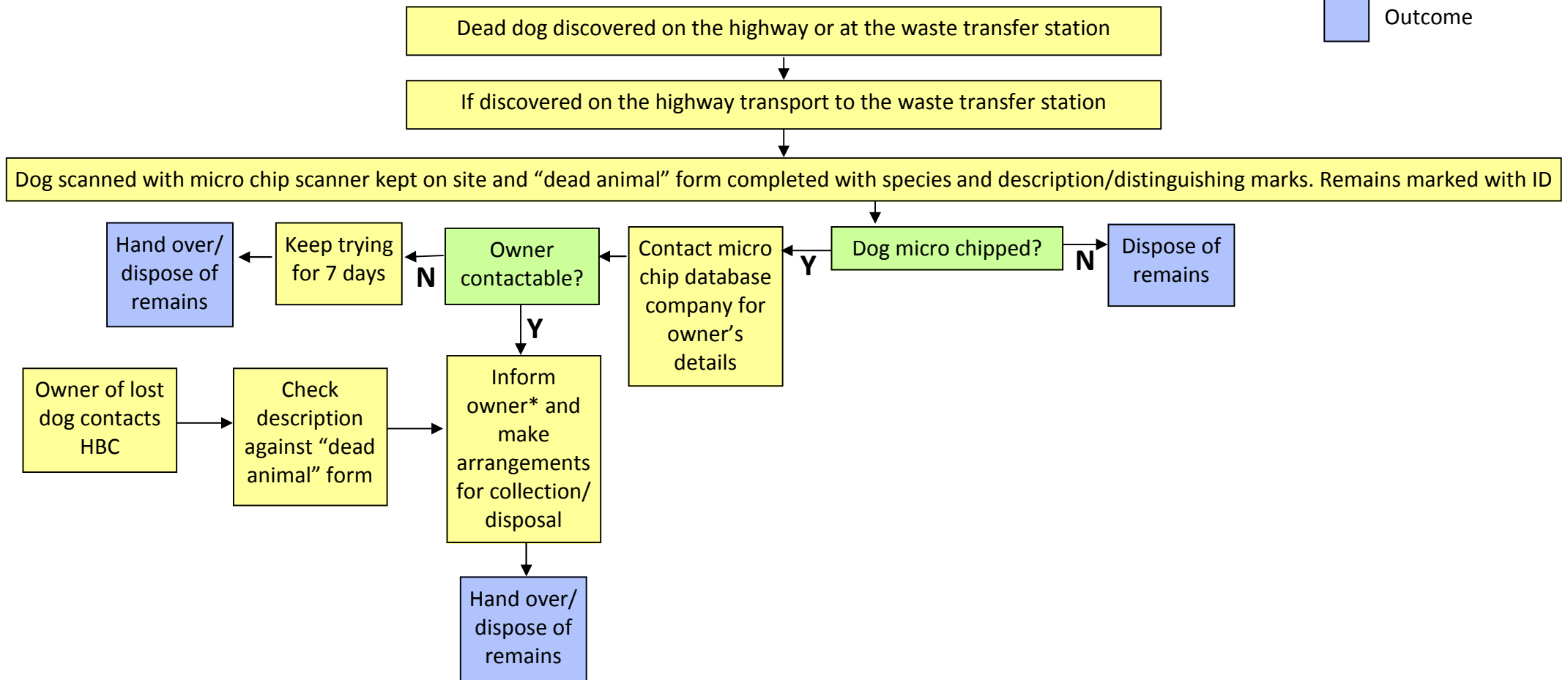
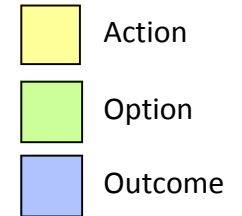
Daily Health Inspection Procedure



Procedure for Identifying Stray Dogs



Procedure for Identifying Dead Dogs Found on the Highway



* Sensitivity should be used when contacting owners of dead dogs as they may become distressed to find their pet has been killed. Owners should be asked whether they wish to collect the remains or whether they would prefer the Council to dispose of them. A freezer unit is available at the waste transfer station for storage until collection or disposal. Disposal is by incineration at the pet cemetery.

Keeping your dog safe

There are lots of things that can cause your dog to run off and get himself lost...

There's someone at the door!

Before you answer the door, take a moment to check if your dog is secured? Some dogs will make a break for freedom the second the door is opened.

Born to run

Is your dog getting enough exercise. If he's not getting enough then he may choose to stretch his legs without you.

In the mood

Has your dog been neutered? If not then he, or sometimes she, may try to escape to find a mate.

BOO!

If your dog is young or particularly timid, loud noises or scary situations might cause him to run away. Try and get him more accustomed to the different things he might encounter on your walks so he doesn't find them so scary.

Back to school

If your dog doesn't come back to you when you call him try some basic training. There are plenty of books on dog training that can help or sign up for some classes. Remember, never hit your dog if he doesn't come when you call - would you want to go over to someone who hit you?

Useful Contacts

Report a lost/found/stray dog (office hours)
Hartlepool Borough Council - 01429 523333

Report a lost/found/stray dog (evenings and weekends)
Out of hours contact number - 07932 039647

Low Fallowfield Farm Kennels
0191 526 1829

LOST DOG

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DOG?



Don't let this be your dog!

Here are 3 simple steps you can take to help make sure that if your dog goes missing he can be returned to you as soon as possible.

1. Ensure he wears a collar with an ID tag

Not only is this a legal requirement but it means if a member of the public finds him they can contact you. Remember most members of the public won't have micro chip scanners so a visible ID tag is a must.

2. Get him microchipped

A micro chip is a permanent way to identify your dog even if he slips his collar.

3. Keep your micro chip details up to date

Your dog's micro chip will be useless if you don't keep your details up to date. Check your details today and update if necessary.

www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool
www.hartlepool.gov.uk/dogs



What to do if the worst happens

If the worst happens and your dog goes missing try not to panic. Dogs found roaming in Hartlepool usually get picked up by the Council's dog warden service where they will be held for up to 7 days before being rehomed.

As soon as you notice your dog is missing you should contact us on **01429 523333** (during office hours) so the dog warden can look out for your dog. If your dog goes missing on an evening or weekend please use our out-of-hours service on **07932 039647**.

If you have access to the internet you can now post a picture of your dog along with details of when and where it was lost on our dog warden service's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool. We will also check strays against the lost dogs posted on the site.

You could also try leaving details of your dog at local vets, pet shops, and police stations.



Updating your micro chip details

If you move house or your details change it is important that you update the database in case your pet goes missing.

If your dog was micro chipped by Hartlepool Council it will be registered on the "Anibase" database. You can contact Anibase on 01904 487 600.

If you don't know which company your dog is registered with contact your vet for advice.

The other main company is "Pet Log" - 0844 463 39 99.

Getting your dog micro chipped



Getting your dog micro chipped is a simple and relatively painless way to protect him. The best news is that for Hartlepool residents' dogs it can even be done free of charge!

Hartlepool Council hold regular micro chipping sessions throughout the year at venues all across the town. These are publicised in the local press and via our Facebook page. There is no need to book, simply bring your dog along, and proof of Hartlepool address, to get him chipped for free.

Micro chipping is a simple procedure that involves injecting a micro chip into the scruff of your dog's neck. It doesn't hurt your dog and lasts for life but please remember to keep your details up to date.

Sheet 1



Stray Aid Ltd (Registered Charity No 1117372)
 Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe, Durham, DH6 4EL
 Tel: 0191 3772415, e-mail: admin@strayaid.co.uk – www.strayaid.co.uk

DEDICATED TO THE WELFARE OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS

Adoption Application

Title:Forename(s).....Surname.....Tel:.....

Address:

Post Code.....e-mail address.....

PLEASE TICK IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE EMAILS

☐

Dwelling Type: House ☐ Bungalow ☐ Other ☐ please state:.....

Are you allowed to keep pets in the property: Yes ☐ No ☐ if yes, state how many.....

Have you any other pets on the premises: Yes ☐ No ☐ if yes, what are they.....

Do you have children Yes ☐ No ☐ if yes, what ages.....

Are you planning to increase your family Yes ☐ No ☐ if yes, how soon.....

Any other changes due, e.g. holiday, moving Yes ☐ No ☐ if yes, when.....

Have you adopted a pet before Yes ☐ No ☐ if yes, give details.....

If adopting a cat, will it be kept in or out In ☐ Out ☐

Will your new pet be exercised regularly Yes ☐ No ☐ if no, give details.....

Is your garden/yard escape proof Yes ☐ No ☐ if no, give details.....

Are you able to give strict attention to feeding, grooming, and veterinary care Yes ☐ No ☐ if no, give details.....

Name of your Veterinary surgeon

How long will your animal be left on it's own during an average day.....

Where did you hear about Stray-aid and our animals.....

Please state any other information relevant to this application.....

Please Note: "Always take great care when introducing a stray dog into your household, It takes time and lots of patience"

Terms and Conditions apply: Please read the details over the page prior to signing

Signature:_____ Print Name:_____ Date:_____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Your donation to the registered charity contributes towards the cost of preparing the dog for rehoming whilst it has been in our care. Any monies received are not in any way a payment for the dog but a contribution towards the overall running costs of the rescue kennels. We are very grateful for your donation and the kennels could not operate without your generous contributions.
2. All responsibility for the dog passes to the new owner on completion of the adoption paperwork, and thereafter no liability whatsoever attaches to Stray Aid
3. Under certain conditions Stray Aid may consider the return of a dog, but only within the period of 7 days following the date of adoption. After this period the dog cannot be returned free of charge to Stray Aid. The return of the dog will be at the sole discretion of Stray Aid.
4. If Stray Aid has accepted the return of a dog within the seven day period from adoption, a refund may be applied for. The request for a refund will only be considered on receipt of a written application addressed to the trustees of the charity. The letter of application must explain the circumstances under which you wish the charity to refund your generous donation. Processing of the refund takes at least 28 days.
5. **The maximum refund will be no more than 50% of the total donation.** Any refund will be at the sole discretion of the trustees.
6. Refunds cannot be given on donations of £20 or under.
7. By signing the adoption document you agree and accept the terms and conditions stated above.



Stray Aid Ltd (Registered Charity No 1117372)

Stray Aid Rescue Centre,
Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe, Durham
DH6 4EJ

Tel: 0300 9994247, e-mail: admin@strayaid.org.uk – www.strayaid.org.uk

Here at Stray Aid we pride ourselves in trying to find our dogs the right home. Every effort is made to match the right personality and character of our dogs to the right family before you take home your lovely new friend.

Rehoming can be a stressful experience, full of fear and anxiety for your new friend, so we thought we would give you a few ideas and hints that might help you to create that fantastic lifelong bond between your family and your dog. If however you do experience any behavioral problems it is important that you contact a professional as soon as possible, to ensure that both your family and your new friend remain happy, content and safe.

We can offer help and support to all families rescuing one of our dogs. If you would like some free advice, please contact **CHRISTINE KIPLING** on **07894449580**

We wish you and your family a long and happy life with your new friend and look forward to receiving regular updates and photographs of your adventures.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for supporting Stray Aid

10 COMMANDMENTS FOR YOUR RESCUE DOG!

- Thou shalt not feed me before your family, and definitely not from your table; I have my own bowl and my own food!
- Thou shalt create a quiet and comfortable place for me to relax and escape from your busy family life, preferably somewhere where I can stretch out in the sunshine!
- Thou shalt promise to exercise me at least 3 times a day, until my tongue hangs out and I need a nice long drink of cool water!
- Thou shalt sign up to a training program with a professional person so that I can learn to behave appropriately in public places and not be a nuisance to other less dog friendly people!
- Thou shalt provide me with a collar and identity tag, which I need to wear at all times, so it is impossible for me to become lost and alone ever again in my life, because it's not nice and very frightening!
- Thou shalt create lots of interesting games for me to play with you and your family so that I learn to interact with people in a positive and friendly way, I love to learn new things and I am very intelligent, Try me!
- Thou shalt let me interact with my own kind, it is most important that I can communicate and play games with someone that speaks my language, doggie coffee mornings are always a good idea, and doggy sleep overs for my friends makes me feel all warm and secure inside!
- Thou shalt not smack or shout at me, I am sensitive and respond well to praise and encouragement, I don't always understand what you're asking me to do, so be patient and consistent, and give me a chance to get the hang of the human language!
- Thou shalt promise to never leave me alone for long periods, where I have no access to the toilet area, or food, drink or company, I get very frustrated, anxious and worried about being alone after all I have been through. I don't want to make a mess or chew anything but I might have to, if you don't spend enough time with me through the long days!
- Finally, Thou shalt promise to love, honor me and play with me until I reach a grand old age when it is time for me to cross the Rainbow Bridge, you must promise to remember all the good times and smile when you think of me as I loved you very much and will always be grateful to you for giving me a second chance in life.

Dog's Name



Stray Aid Ltd (Registered Charity (1117372))

Rescue and Rehoming Centre, Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe, Durham, DH6 4EJ

Tel: 0191 3772415, e-mail: admin@strayaid.co.uk

*DEDICATED TO THE WELFARE OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS***Acceptance Agreement**

Title :.....First name(s).....Surname.....

Address:

.....Post Code.....

1st Contact No.....2nd Contact No.....

It is agreed that the following animal is to be Adopted by the above applicant subject to the following declaration.
This agreement is necessary to ensure, as far as possible, a happy future for all Stray Aid animals

Dog / Cat's name.....Breed.....Colour.....

Approximate AgeSex

Existing medical conditions

Applicant's Declaration

1. I am over the age of 18 years
2. I agree to the acceptance conditions as stated on the Adoption Application Form
3. I accept all responsibility for any damage or injury, which may be caused, accidentally or otherwise, to any person or property, by the animal, while in my care. All reasonable steps will be taken by me to guard against any such occurrence.
4. I promise to make every effort to ensure the physical and mental well-being of the animal, and give strict attention to feeding, grooming, exercise and veterinary care when necessary.
5. The dog, cat, puppy or kitten, if not already neutered, must be neutered by the date below, and I will notify Stray Aid of these arrangements in advance.
6. **I understand that the animal can only be returned free of charge within 7 days from the date of acceptance, and that a full refund will not be given** (for terms and conditions, see over)

Signature:.....Date

Donation of :

Received

☐

Neutering date (if applicable)

Stray-aid witnessDate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
☐

Receipt issued

☐

4 Weeks Free Pet Health Insurance Issued

☐

Vaccination Card Completed

☐

Photocopied Acceptance Agreement and filed

Sheet 4

STRAY DOG INFORMATION SHEET

Thank you for adopting a Stray Aid animal!

Please make sure you have collected your pet's 4 week free Pet Health Insurance. When you continue your insurance with Pet Plan, Stray-aid receives a donation direct from Pet Plan.

It is important to understand that your new pet will be in a strange environment and may not know how to behave properly at first and may require a lot of time and patience to help your animal settle into their new home. We list a few tips that may help in the first few weeks.

HOUSE TRAINING – Please make sure that you take your dog out frequently at first, until a routine has been established. If your dog has been sitting quietly then wanders off, this may indicate that he needs to go out. Mistakes will happen so please **do not** tell him off, just praise him when he gets it right, be consistent and he will soon learn.

DIET – your pet will have been fed mainly on dry food, possibly with a little donated tinned food mixed in, try to maintain this, feeding 3 small meals daily for a few days, as a combination of excitement and over-eating of rich food too soon can lead to diarrhea. Being strays they will not be used to rich food so introduce it gradually.

VACCINATION – your new pet may require further vaccinations. Please check with our re-homing coordinator, if needed, we recommend this be carried out at one of Wilson Veterinary Group's three fully equipped surgeries, at Bishop Auckland, Spennymoor and Newton Aycliffe. Please telephone 01388 602707 to book an appointment and this will be carried out **free of charge**. The animal can be taken to a vet of your choice but you will be responsible for the cost in full. **It is important to remember**, that your dog is not protected against serious diseases such as Parvo until 10-14 days following the 2nd vaccination so should not be taken for walks until then. A booster is required 12 months from the 2nd vaccination date (see certificate for date), then yearly after that.

FLEA & WORM TREATMENT – your dog has been treated for fleas and worms. We recommend worming every 3 months, and regular flea treatment to be carried out.

NEUTERING – your pet may have already been neutered, unless it is too young or recently been in season. If your pet is not neutered, you **MUST** agree to have it carried out within the next three months, or if a puppy, when it reaches 6 months of age. Neutering will be carried out by Wilson Veterinary Group.

MICROCHIPPING – it is recommended that your dog is micro chipped, if not already chipped. Your dog may be entitled to a free chipping service, please check with your local council or ring Stray Aid on 0191 3772415. If the dog is already chipped, details will be transferred to you within 4 – 6 weeks. Your dog must, by law, also wear an identity disc with your name, address and phone number (not the dog's name). Cats are not routinely micro chipped by Stray Aid.

Some useful contacts

www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool

Hartlepool Borough Council's Dog Warden Service has a Facebook page. "Like" us to keep up to date with everything dog related in Hartlepool.

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/dogs

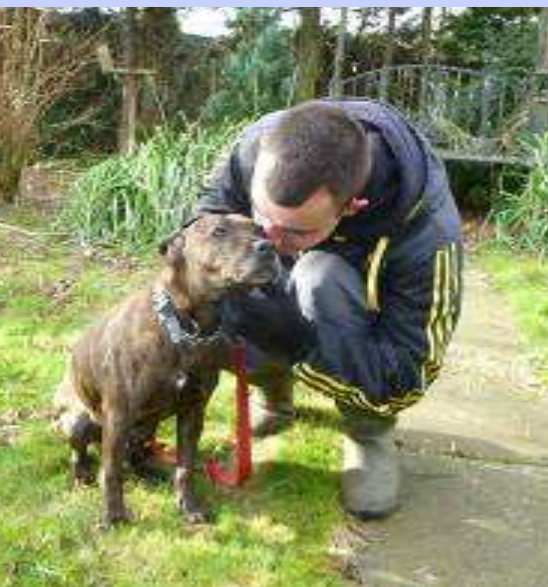
Find information on the Council's Dog Warden Service and dog legislation.

www.dogstrust.org.uk

Dogs Trust is a nationwide charity devoted to caring for dogs. Find information about adopting a dog as well as downloadable fact sheets covering all aspects of dog ownership.

www.thekennelclub.org.uk

The Kennel Club is the UK's largest organisation dedicated to the health and welfare of dogs. Visit their website for information about their responsible dog ownership campaign.



Thank you to the staff and stray dogs at Low Fallowfield Farm Kennels for appearing in this booklet.

Low Fallowfield Farm Kennels is where Hartlepool Borough Council's dog pound is based. The kennels receive around 350 stray dogs a year. Many of these are reunited with their owners and we work hard to find new homes for the unclaimed dogs.

If you would like to adopt a dog from us visit www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool for up to date details of all the dogs looking for new homes.



The Essential Guide for Dog Owners in Hartlepool



THE guide to being a responsible dog owner in Hartlepool

Find us online:

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/dogs

www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool

Contents

Introduction	3
Places to visit with your dog	4
Dogs on public rights of way	6
Safety tips for dog walkers	7
Dog walking your responsibilities	8
Map	12
Some questions answered	14
Some useful contacts	16



Does the Council provide help with micro-chipping costs?

There are regular events across Hartlepool where residents can bring their dogs to be chipped free of charge (proof of address will be required). For details of where these events will be held please contact Hartlepool Connect on 01429 523333 or visit www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool.

There is an illegal dog fight taking place, how do I report it?

If you suspect a dog fight is taking place please dial 999 with as much information as possible.

If you have information regarding illegal dog fighting please contact the Police's non-emergency number on 01642 326326, the RSPCA's 24 hour cruelty line on 0300 1234 999, or Hartlepool Borough Council on 01429 523333.

What are the rules about dogs on allotments?

If you are visiting an allotment with your dog, you must keep it on a lead and not allow it to cause a nuisance. Dogs cannot be kept on allotments overnight unless you have permission from Hartlepool Borough Council and the dog has been registered with the Council. Only dogs registered prior to April 2010 will be allowed to stay on the plot.



For more information on the rules regarding dogs on allotments, please check your allotment rules and regulations handbook; or visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk/allotments.

Some questions answered

What should I do if I come across a stray dog?

If you find a stray dog you should report it to the dog warden service by calling Hartlepool Connect on 01429 523333 or 01429 868424 out of hours.

We aim to attend all reports of stray dogs within one working day.

What should I do if I come across a dog that appears to be dangerous?

If you come across a dog that appears to be dangerous, do not approach it or try to catch it yourself. Report it immediately to Hartlepool Police on 01642 326326 or to the dog warden service on 01429 523333 (01429 868424 out of hours service). If there is an attack dial 999.

I've lost my dog how can I find out if the dog warden has picked him up?

Photos of all the lost dogs picked up by the dog warden are posted on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool along with details on



how to reclaim your dog. If you don't have access to the internet contact Hartlepool Connect on 01429 523333 for information on how to reclaim your dog.

Who can I report dog fouling in my neighbourhood to?

If you have a problem with dog foul in your neighbourhood, please report it to the Environmental Enforcement Team on 01429 523333. Please give as much information as possible to enable the Environmental Enforcement Team to investigate, such as the times and dates it is occurring and the precise location.

Introduction

This leaflet is an essential guide for all dog owners. You can use this guide to find out about some of the great places in Hartlepool to take your dog for a walk, including parking and transport information and things to see. There is also a section about staying safe on your walks.



The Guide also explains what your legal responsibilities are as a dog owner. These are enforced through legislation called Dog Control Orders. This guide aims to de-mystify these Dog Control Orders, so you and your dog can enjoy walking in Hartlepool.

Also included are some useful contacts for more information on all aspects of dog ownership at the back.

We hope you find this leaflet useful. To keep up to date with everything dog-related in Hartlepool log on to our Facebook page and "like" us at www.facebook.com/dogwardenhpool.

Places to visit with your dog

Part of being a responsible dog owner is making sure you know where you can freely exercise your dog and areas where dogs need to be kept on leads, or may not be allowed.

There are lots of areas where you can take your dog and let them off the lead to exercise freely including:

Hart to Haswell Walkway LNR*

A beautiful disused railway line extending north from Hart Station to Haswell. The site contains a mosaic of habitats including woodland, butterfly glades and ponds. It forms part of Sustrans National Cycle Network and is accessible by bike or on foot.

Limited on-road parking is available on Ocean Road in Hart Station, which is located just off the A1086 as you travel north out of Hartlepool. Visitors are asked to park with respect for local residents.

Seaton Common and Dunes LNR*

Seaton Common is home to a vast number of resident and migratory wading birds, as well as invertebrates and mammals. The Common holds much historical interest including the relics of the once thriving salt industry, ridge and furrow and the old sea wall. Across the golf course are Seaton Dunes, one of the largest dune systems between Lindisfarne and the Humber, providing a rich and varied habitat for many plants and animals including fox and short-eared owl.

Seaton Common is located south of Seaton Carew just off the Tees Road. Parking is available at the North Gare Car Park and Seaton Coach Park. The site can be accessed on foot, by cycle or on horseback along Seaton Bridleway from Seaton Carew.

*LNR - Local Nature Reserve

No Dogs Allowed (Dog Exclusion Areas)

1. Seaton Carew Beach Summer - 1st May-30th Sept
2. Headland Fish Sands Summer - 1st May-30th Sept
3. Headland Block Sands Summer - 1st May-30th Sept
4. Burbank Community Garden
5. Seaton Paddling Pool
6. Mill House Skate Park & Multi-Use Games Area
7. Visitors Centre, Field Study Area & Play Area at Summerhill
8. Headland Old Putting Area
9. Clavering Play Area
10. Play Area & Visitor Centre at Ward Jackson Park
11. Tennis Court & Play Area on Town Moor Recreation Ground
12. Play Area at Rossmere Park
13. Play Area at Burn Valley Gardens
14. Headland Paddling Pool & Play Area
15. Tennis Courts & Multi-Use Games Area at King George V Recreation Ground
16. Cricket Pitch at Grayfields
17. Tennis Court & Play Area at Seaton Park
18. Play Area on King Oswy Drive
19. Play Area in Greatham Village
20. Fens Field

Dogs Allowed on Lead (Dog On Lead Areas)

All gated back streets across Hartlepool

21. Ward Jackson Park excluding play areas & visitor centre
22. Burn Valley Gardens excluding play areas
23. Rossmere Park excluding play areas
24. Seaton Park and Recreation Ground excluding play areas & tennis courts
25. West View Cemetery
26. Stranton Cemetery
27. Headland Lower Promenade excluding play areas & paddling pool
28. Summerhill Rope & Boulder Park & BMX Track
29. Rift House Recreation Ground
30. Grayfields Recreation Ground
31. Central Park Recreation Ground
32. Staby House (Foggy Furze)
33. King George V Recreation Ground
34. Croft gardens
35. Headland Town Square
36. Redheugh Gardens
37. Thornton Street Linear Park
38. North Sands winter - 1st Sept-31st March

Dogs Allowed to Exercise Freely

39. Hart to Haswell LNR*
40. Seaton Dunes LNR*
41. Greatham Beck LNR*
42. Hart Warren Dunes LNR*
43. Summerhill
44. Seaton Carew Beach winter - 1st Oct-30th April
45. Headland Fish Sands winter - 1st Oct-30th April
46. Headland Block Sands winter - 1st Oct-30th April
47. Family Wood

*LNR - Local Nature Reserve



Greatham Beck LNR*

One of Hartlepool's best-kept secrets is the lovely wildlife corridor that runs along the western edge of the Fens Estate.

From Catcote Road, turn into Mowbray Road then Spalding Road to join Newark Road. Limited on-road parking is available and visitors are asked to park with respect for local residents.

Hart Warren Dunes LNR*

Situated south of Crimdon, this beautiful area of grassland and dunes supports many rare plants and animals. The dunes are prized for their wildlife value and also for the extensive sea views.

Hart Warren Dunes is accessible on foot from the Hart Station end of the Hart to Haswell Walkway on Ocean Road.

Summerhill Country Park

Summerhill is a 100 acre Country Park located on the western edge of Hartlepool, transformed for the benefit of conservation, outdoor sport and recreation. Dogs are welcome on most of the Summerhill site, but please keep your dog out of the children's play area and the visitor centre.

To reach Summerhill, head down Summerhill Lane, just off Catcote Road. Parking is available in the car park next to the Visitor Centre.

Family Wood

This tranquil woodland area links Summerhill to the Burn Valley Gardens. The variety of trees and woodland plants make it a rich wildlife haven. Spot butterflies, birds and small mammals amongst the trees.

Family Wood is accessible on foot or by cycle from the Burn Valley Gardens, or from Summerhill by crossing over Catcote Road. There is a small car park on Elwick Road.

For information on public transport links to any of these sites please visit www.travelinenortheast.info.

For more information about Hartlepool's countryside visit www.hartlepool.gov.uk and search for "Countryside".



Dogs on public rights of way

Public rights of way can be found in towns, villages and the countryside. They provide many opportunities to enjoy the natural environment. Some paths may be surfaced and many are tracks across countryside owned by farmers and landowners.

Hartlepool Borough Council has 100km (60miles) of public rights of way that you can explore and enjoy with your dog. Here is a bit of information that may help you along your way:

Always act responsibly and clean up after your dog. Dog fouling is still an offence on a public right of way and a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued. Don't spoil the footpaths for others.

If your dog does wander off the path, it may disturb ground nesting birds and other wildlife. Eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents.

When walking your dog through a field with livestock keep your dog on a lead so it doesn't "worry" (chase or attack) the animals. By law, farmers are entitled to shoot a dog that injures or worries their livestock.

Be aware that farm animals may also chase your dog, especially if they have young to protect. Consider your safety, and that of your dog, and keep it on a lead and away from livestock. If you and your dog are chased by livestock, don't put yourself in danger, but let your dog off the lead so it can run away.

For more information on the Countryside Code, please visit www.naturalengland.org.uk and download their leaflet "You and Your Dog in the Countryside."

Follow the paths where possible to avoid damage to crops, fields and fences. Don't forget to leave gates and property as you found them.

Are there areas of the town where dogs cannot go?

Some "Designated Dogs Exclusion" areas:

As explained earlier in this booklet, some areas need to be kept dog-free to protect people (especially children) coming into contact with dog foul. As a rough guide this covers all play grounds, bowling greens, sports pitches and multi-use games areas in Hartlepool. It also covers Seaton Carew Beach and the Headland Fish Sands between 1st May and 30th September each year.

"Excuses - we've heard them all!"

Here are some of the most common excuses given for not complying with a Dog Control Order:

"There are not enough dog bins/the dog bins are not emptied often enough."

If you double wrap your dog's mess (i.e. put it in two carrier bags) you can put it in a normal litter bin. If you cannot see a litter bin or dog bin nearby then please dispose of it at the next available bin or take it home. Dumping used poop bags is just adding more litter.

"It's not my dog it belongs to someone else."

It does not matter if you are not the owner of the dog. If you are in charge of the dog then it is also your responsibility to ensure that you clean up after it and that you follow all other requirements of the Dog Control Order.

"I do not have a pooper scooper or any plastic bags on me."

Not being prepared for tidying up after your dog is not a valid excuse for failing to pick up any dog mess. You can still face a fine if you are caught not picking up after your dog. It is a good idea therefore to always carry some plastic bags or a pooper scooper on you when you take your dog out.

"I was not aware that my dog fouled" or "I didn't let him foul he just got out."

You can still face a fine if you have not picked up after your dog, even if you were unaware that your dog had fouled. The Dog Control Order states that not being aware of your dog's mess is not a valid excuse for failing to pick up after your dog.

How do I know if I'm about to enter an area covered by a dog control order?

There are a few places where access for dogs needs to be controlled but there are many, many more places where dogs are welcome!

You may find when you take your dog to certain areas in Hartlepool that the location is a "Designated Dog on Lead Area" or a "Designated Dog Exclusion Area".

Dog Control Orders are designed to protect an area.

These areas are designated after careful consideration and consultation with the public, so there will be a good reason for the orders.

Please follow the instructions on the signs when entering an area covered by a Dog Control Order.



Why might an area be classed as a "Designated Dogs on Leads" area:

- There may be ground nesting birds which you cannot see hidden in the grass but which, if disturbed by your dog, may abandon their nest.
- The site may be a working cemetery and relatives will get upset to see dogs disturbing or fouling the graves.
- There may be a lot of other dog walkers, foot traffic or people on bikes where a loose dog could cause an accident
- All gated back alleys are designated dogs on leads areas

Remember it is an offence not to put your dog on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised officer.

Safety tips for dog walkers

- Try not to walk your dog in an unfamiliar area in the dark.
- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs.
- If possible, walk with a friend or someone you know.
- Tell someone where you are going on your walk and what time you expect to be back.
- Take your mobile phone with you, in case you get into trouble.
- If you do need to use your mobile phone, be careful not to be distracted and try to keep focused on your surroundings.
- Keep control of your dog, especially near busy roads, livestock or in "Dog on Leads" areas.
- Make sure your dog is micro chipped and is wearing a collar and tag with your contact details on in case it gets lost.



Dog walking: your responsibilities

Walking our dogs is one of life's pleasures but are you aware of the legal responsibilities you face each time you take your dog out?

The following section aims to de-mystify these responsibilities.

What is a dog control order?

In order to keep Hartlepool safe and clean for dog owners and non-owners alike, there are some rules you need to know.

Dog Control Orders were introduced in Hartlepool in 2008, by way of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005, as fixed penalty offences. They replaced the previous system of by-laws for the control of dogs and the *Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act* of 1996.

The Dog Control Orders now cover the following offences:

1. Failing to clean up and remove your dog's mess immediately
2. Allowing a dog off its lead in a designated "Dog on Leads" area
3. Not acting on instructions from an authorised officer to place a dog on a lead
4. Taking more than 4 dogs per person out at any one time (thereby failing to be in proper control of the dogs).
5. Allowing a dog in an area that has been designated as a "Dog Exclusion" area

The Dog Control Orders in Hartlepool cover "all land in Hartlepool which is open to the air and to which the public has access, with or without payment". This means all outdoor public areas such as beaches, parks, recreation grounds, school fields, public footpaths, streets, and even places you might not have thought of like back alleys.

Why do we need dog control orders?

Put simply, dog control orders are here to:

- reduce the problem of dogs fouling public places
- ensure that dogs are kept under control to prevent harm to the public and other dogs
- protect vulnerable wildlife in certain areas

Dog Control Orders were introduced to encourage the safe and responsible ownership of dogs. They are not intended to discriminate against dogs or dog owners within Hartlepool.

We know that the majority of dog owners are very responsible. Unfortunately, however, there are a minority of irresponsible owners who fail to keep their dog under control or to pick up after their dog.



Remember...

It is important that you pick up your dog's mess whenever you take your dog out in Hartlepool. Failure to do so may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice which has an on the spot fine of £80.

The maximum fine for committing an offence under a Dog Control Order is up to £1,000 in a Magistrate's Court.

A Question of Balance...

Whilst there needs to be lots of places where dogs can be exercised. It is also important that some areas, such as children's play areas and sports pitches are kept dog-free to ensure they are clean and safe for people to use.



STRAY DOGS 2014

This certifies that

Hartlepool Borough Council

has shown sufficient evidence of policies and procedures
with regard to Stray Dogs to achieve a Gold Footprint
in the RSPCA's Community Animal Welfare Footprints 2014.

Lenny Rolles

Senior Parliamentary Adviser – Local Government

Michael Tomlinson

Chairman, RSPCA Council

SUPPORTED BY:



Stray Dogs 2014

COMMUNITY ANIMAL WELFARE FOOTPRINTS: REWARDING GOOD PRACTICE

www.politicalanimal.org.uk/cawf



11/SEP/2014