

From: Thomas Broad Lewes District Council

Date: Monday, 18 April 2016 at 12:49

To: Iain Dreger

Subject: Litter on the XXXX

Dear Mr Dreger,

I'm sorry that you have had to complain about the current level of litter on the A26/27 in the Lewes District Council area.

I am pleased to say that we have now made arrangements with contractors Balfour Beatty to carry out overnight litter clearance on the A26/A27 for 13 nights from Monday 18th April.

Please let me explain as to why it has taken longer than we hoped to get this agreement in place.

You may be aware that Highways England are responsible for maintaining the upkeep of the A26 & A27 while East Sussex County Council is responsible for other main roads. Historically we have carried out cleansing on these roads in line with our own health and safety guidance.

Following a number of recent accidents and near misses across the country during cleansing activities, we had suspended all cleansing on high speed roads using our staff, without a minimum safety zone of one metre or at least a recognised foot path. There are several areas along the A26 for example where there have been several vehicle accidents, where there is no pavement and steep side banks where we simply struggle to operate a litter pick safely from. This decision is in line with national guidance issued by the Department of Transport and other Health & Safety bodies.

What we haven't done though is stopped all cleansing on high speed roads and in some areas such as lay-bys or where there is a safe path, we continue to clear litter. We are already consulting with neighbouring authorities, cleansing crews, national health and safety organisations and other interested parties within the waste sector who face the same issues as we do to find solutions. Very recently we met with our neighbouring authorities, who are in the same situation as us, to try to agree a joined up, cost effective, working together approach.

Since February we have been negotiating with Highways England to find a way forward in clearing roadside litter and only now have we been able to come to an agreement that in the short term they will clear the areas that we have currently suspended cleaning from. However we want to carry on with this work so we are now planning as to what revised training, vehicles etc. we will need to put in place safely and conforming to the HSE guidelines to commence clearing roadside litter thereafter.

Often residents and visitors highlight what we are doing about enforcement action.

Where we can identify any loose refuse that has escaped from a truck, lorry or indeed dumped at a location then we will follow this up. Unfortunately this isn't always easy as in most occasions there is little indication left of identifying where it has come from so unless there is evidence or that it is witnessed then we are often unable to take action. Where it is witnessed and a report is made then do follow this with our enforcement team. For instance recently we issued a Fixed Penalty Notice, and the fine has been paid, to a company in the District as loose waste was witnessed escaping from one of their vehicles along the A26. If you ever see this happening then please let us know.

As litter concerns the majority of us, we produced a webpage explaining the issues faced by the cleansing teams. The webpage also states where some cleansing work has stopped and where we are able to clean safely including the schedule of cleansing. We will continue to update the webpage with latest news and update on our Twitter and Facebook pages so please check in periodically to see what's going on.

<http://www.lewes.gov.uk/waste/24484.asp>

Once again I'm sorry that you have had to complain about the roadside litter but I hope my explanation above goes a little to answer your concerns.

Kind Regards,

Thomas Broad,
Customer Services, Lewes District Council