

Royston Town Talk – Wednesday 20th October 2021

In attendance:

Cllr Tony Hunter (NHDC)

Cllr Jean Green (NHDC)

Cllr Gerald Morris (NHDC)

Cllr Fiona Hill (HCC)

Cllr Adam Compton (NHDC)

Cllr Sarah Dingley (NHDC)

Ash Hawkins (NHDC Officer)

MOA – Member of Audience

Tony Hunter chaired the Town Talk and opened the informal meeting at 615pm. Tony welcomed the members of the public and asked for any questions.

There was one member of the Public in attendance at the meeting who had several questions for the Panel.

MOA – Vandalism and graffiti on the increase in the Town in particular Coombes Hole underpass where there is broken glass, graffiti and the CCTV cameras have been damaged.

The issue of graffiti has been reported and logged with Highways. The graffiti has been blanked out. It was suggested by a Councillor in attendance that the Coombes Underpass could be part of a future youth project where the young people create art on the underpass and take ownership of the project. In terms of the glass in the underpass this will be addressed. It is only the town centre that is cleaned on a daily basis and outside of the town centre is monthly. The issue was though reported to Waste Team for investigating. The Waste Team have confirmed that the Coombes Underpass is on a 4 week cleaning cycle but that the area is checked by officers on a regular basis. There is currently not a need for more regular cleaning but the area will be monitored. In terms of the CCTV cameras, these are not operated by NHDC and it is still unknown who is responsible, but the Community Engagement Officer will investigate further.

MOA – Wished to report on damage to bins around the town which have been damaged and thrown around the area. The problem was spotted in Melbourn Road and Newmarket Road.

This issue has been reported to the Waste Team at NHDC for investigating and will also be addressed as part of the Royston Bins Review Audit. It was confirmed that there would be no new bins for the town until after the Bin Audit. The Bin Review Audit is underway in the town and the Waste Team are aware of the vandalism of some of the bins. These have been reported to the Police. The Waste Team are looking at alternative types of bins to replace those that have been vandalised.

MOA – Road drains blocked at various locations around the town including Ring Road near Old Police Station.

Councillors are aware of the issue and have been logged. Members of the Public are also asked to log any issues on the Herts Reporting Website. A councillor advised that drains are on different cycles depending on the severity of the blockages. Drains will be sprayed with a colour to indicate the frequency of cleaning required. It was also stated that it is sometimes difficult to access drains if vehicles are parked across them and also some will require road closures to ensure safety of officers in attendance. Leaves are a common problem causing blockage of drains as is hay from harvesting. Farm vehicles carrying hay are required to have netting to ensure materials do not leave the vehicle and block roads and drains. This can be enforced by the Police.

MOA – Car meets in Royston.

MOA was concerned about car meets taking place around the town and asked what the Police are doing to tackle this on the industrial estate. The MOA was advised that the Police were aware of the car meets and that these are monitored and are not illegal. They take place once a month either on Saturday or Sunday night along York Road.

MOA Missed Food Waste collections

MOA raised an issue about missed Food Waste Collections. The MOA was aware of delays to collection due to Covid and staff absences but the problem was only apparent with Food Waste Collections. The areas that had this problem were Pippin Grove , Barnack Grove and Braeburn Walk. This issue was passed onto the Waste Team to investigate. The Waste Team will be monitoring the situation on these roads over the coming months and have requested that residents contact them if collections are missed.