

Keep Northampton Tidy Town Centre Walkabout



Tuesday 21st October 2014



At the start of the walkabout I parked in George's Row. As you will see, on the steps of All Saints Church someone had been sick. As I walked over the portico of this historic church, it was evident that the street drinkers had been there the night before from the urine and drink stains.



There was obviously evidence of a rough sleeper from the blanket left on the portico of the church.

As I preceded up to the Drapery I observed in the doorway of the newly refurbished JD Shop that there were two rough sleepers in the doorway speaking to two street drinkers. I met with Peter Hackett and the two town centre rangers at the EMS Street Cleansing Depot in Sheep Street.



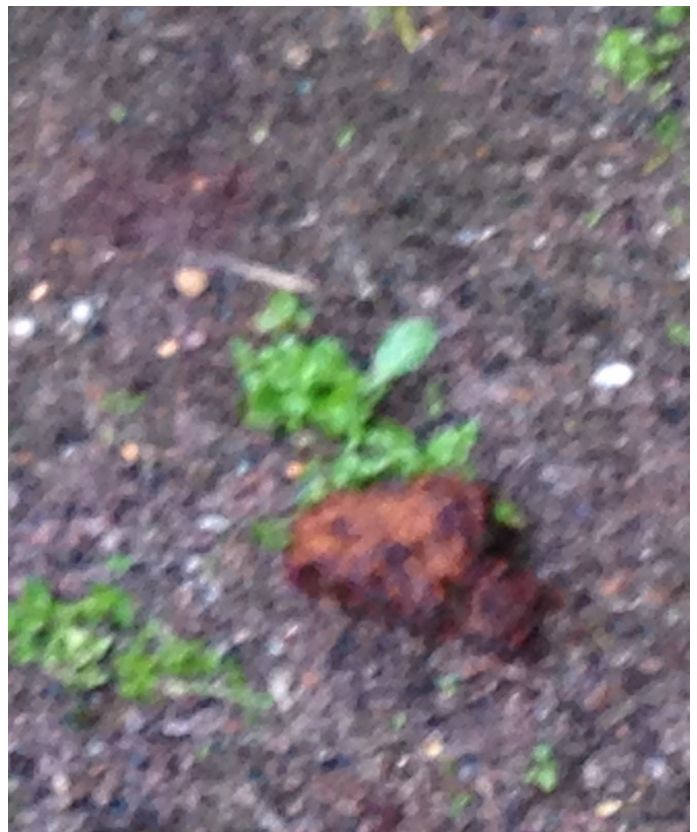
I was notably impressed of how tidy The Wok Inn bins were with the refuse sacks neatly stacked.



Along Sheep Street I did notice a number of empty wine bottles just stood on the pavement.



It is evident from the syringes and wrappers left that the Holy Sepulchre churchyard is being used on a wide scale for drug use.



It is sad to see that one of our most historical churches of the town is being used as a toilet by the undesirable people who frequent it.



As we headed towards Newland there was graffiti on some of the buildings and also by the rear door of the club that backs onto Emporium Walk.



As we walked down Emporium Walk we met the mechanical sweeper coming down the other way.



As we walked down the Drapery I asked Peter Hackett and the two wardens if we could make a detour to Swan Yard as the Council have come in for criticism the week prior to our walkabout for people defecating in this area. I attach a picture of my findings. I have on numerous occasions visited this site myself and have often found this area in a far worse condition.



As we walked down College Street to the rear of JD Sports there were several street drinkers in the door way. I don't know what this businessman thinks of this town as he is about to open his new premises that he has drinkers and rough sleepers at the back and front of his shop. Round the corner in Jeyes Jetty there was a trolley full of rubbish and was informed that this belonged to one of the street drinkers.



As we passed Amber Taxis in Kingswell Street there were numerous cigarette butts on the pavement outside.



As we walked outside Fever Nightclub in Horseshoe Street there was a brick planter. I really do feel some type of conifer tree planted here would really enhance this area.



As we walked through Victoria Gardens there was a floral display next to the pavement which I understand the police had created. There was also a sign on it to say no dumping of rubbish and tyres were used to make this display; I would imagine from the tyre company around the corner. It gave the area a sense of community pride.



St Johns Station Passage looked very clean and tidy. A huge improvement on what was there before the St John's Hall of Residences was built.



As we walked up along Victoria Promenade I noticed a trolley in the park. I understand dumped trolleys have become far more of a problem since Morrison's have done away with charging for trolleys.



As we walked up Spring Borough's graffiti was noticed on the wall.



In one end of Fish Street there were waste containers which gave an untidy appearance to the area. I understand that the removal of these is being looked into and that business users will be required to keep their rubbish in bags within their business premises.



However, on the other side of Fish Street there were no containers outside the properties and the area appeared far tidier.



Drychurch Lane has numerous waste containers and gives a very untidy appearance to this area. I feel this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.



Abington Street underwent a tidy up some while ago. However, as you will see the area around the base of this tree has deteriorated since then and needs repairing.



With almost everyone having a public phone these days I do feel that telephone boxes are somewhat redundant within the town centre and only serve as an advertising hoarding to bring in revenue for BT.



Rubbish left out by a tree, however, I do understand this was to be collected later that day.