

Evidence for Keeping Northampton Tidy

DATE: DECEMBER 2014

BACKGROUND

This report is in response to a request for information from Northampton Borough Council for the Keep Northampton Tidy Scrutiny Committee.

HIGHWAYS CONTRIBUTION TO KEEPING NORTHAMPTON TIDY

“Don’t Be a Tosser” Campaign

Northamptonshire Highways is one of the campaign sponsors and has contributed £1000 towards the campaign. In addition Northamptonshire Highways actively attend campaign meetings and are currently considering whether magnetic A3 campaign posters can be carried on maintenance vehicles during March.

In addition, the variable message signs on approaches into Northampton are used to display/promote messages such “Stop the drop don’t litter” during campaign awareness events.

Sign Decluttering

Over the last year Northamptonshire Highways has operated a county-wide sign decluttering scheme. This scheme looks to remove redundant signs and posts from the highway network. Over the last year in Northampton Borough a number of different sign types and post have been removed, these are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Northampton Borough Sign Decluttering

Sign Type	Description	Numbers Removed
Warning/other signs	Removal of redundant chevron signs on roundabouts and other warning signs within a 30mph speed limit following a review.	26 signs 40 posts
Parking signs	Removal of redundant signs following amendments to parking regulations	81 sign faces 19 posts
Redundant Posts	Redundant posts located within Northampton Borough.	13 posts

Northamptonshire Highways has adopted a “one up two down” policy. When a new sign is erected, wherever possible two redundant signs are to be removed.

Redundant signs can be reported to Northamptonshire Highways through the Street Doctor enquiry system

Sign Cleaning

Cyclical sign cleaning programme is no longer undertaken by Northamptonshire Highways. Signs that require cleaning are identified through planned inspections of the highway or through enquiries from the public. The maintenance crew attending to clean the sign(s) will clean others in the vicinity that require cleaning.

If members of the public believe a sign requires maintenance it can be reported through the Street Doctor public enquiry system.

Sign Replacement

Signs are only replaced when they are no longer fit for purpose (ie faded or damaged) or are missing. These are identified through planned inspections of the highway or through reports from the public. The timeframe for replacement of the sign depends on the sign. Stop, Give Way and Chevrons are replaced with the highest level of urgency.

When signs are replaced consideration will also be given to the sign type and whether it does need to be replaced at all.

Joint Working to Reduce Costs

Historically attempts have been made to co-ordinate the grass cutting and litter picking functions that are undertaken where there has only been moderate on-going success. The co-ordinating of activities to reduce costs (i.e. through sharing traffic management) is an area for improvement

Northamptonshire Highways arranged for additional litter picking and grass cutting to be carried out on a number of grassed verges ahead of Britain in Bloom in 2014.

Targeted maintenance of urban roads subject to 24/7 parking has been undertaken by Northamptonshire Highways. Northampton Borough is liaised with during the planning of these works to allow road sweeping to be carried out.

Enforcement Functions

There is a good working relationship and open communication channels between Northampton Borough and Northamptonshire Highways on the resolution of enforcement issues. These include fly-tipping, graffiti, highway obstructions or vegetation issues.