

COUNCIL - 13 JULY 2023

QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1.	<u>Question submitted by Mr Gavin Scott to Councillor Moncur (Cabinet Member - Health And Wellbeing)</u>
	Subject: Cleansing of Bootle Village Area
	<p>I wish to ask why Green Sefton have proactively choose not to put a viable and sensible cleansing and action plan in place to manage the popular Bootle Village area next to Bootle Library?</p> <p>After putting in a formal complaint to Sefton Council, I have been informed by a maintenance office at the council (see attached emails) that the site is only on a 4-6wk mowing schedule (which they do a poor effort with) and actually has no set litter picking or maintenance plan in place. It is only when complaints are made or local community groups help out that any cleaning is done. Even then, it's half baked and doesn't fix the long-term problem.</p> <p>It is astonishing that the site is just ignored, considering it is such a central location in the heart of the town and a real opportunity to create an urban oasis right next to the new flagship Salt and Tar site.</p> <p>I cannot understand why this site continues to be left to become a litter trap and grotspot frequented by day drinkers and suffering frequent flytipping which often spills over onto the Leeds to Liverpool Canal, recently resulting in unnecessary expense for The Canal and River Trust to clear up. There is still some flytipping on the site from last year.</p> <p>I have contacted Cllr Dave Robinson a number of times to request that the site is cleared up and that preventative action is taken to stop the littering and flytipping from reoccurring. I feel that I am just given lip service and that the problem is not taken seriously.</p> <p>It should not be the responsibility of local residents to try and fix the councils mistakes and poor decisions.</p> <p>This area could be a jewel for the community if it was given a little TLC and put on a regular maintenance plan. The shrubbery and weeds need to be stripped out around the steps, the area next to the canal needs cleaning with some benches added and trees pruned back. Then a few more benches and bins added on the hill along with a weekly tidy up would turn it into a destination for local workers and families alike to sit and relax.</p> <p>This is no longer a litter problem, it is a health and safety concern, an antisocial behaviour issue and an eyesore for the community. Nobody wants to go there as it is unsafe and unhealthy.</p>
	Response from Councillor Moncur (Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing): "Officers are aware of this issue, having been in contact with the resident several times. It is unfortunate when people drop their litter rather than use nearby litter bins or ideally taking their litter home with them. We continue to work with Keep Britain Tidy, and other partners, to promote responsible use of our open spaces and neighbourhoods, and have alerted our

	<p>Environmental Enforcement team of this hot spot too.</p> <p>In terms of litter picking, and the arisings from street drinking in particular that is seen on this site, the volume currently overwhelms the available resources within Green Sefton. However, officers have discussed the matter with the Cleansing and Waste Management team, and they will add this site to their town centre routes and rounds with immediate effect, in order to bring the cleansing regime in line with that of the wider town centre itself. Further, efforts will be made in the Autumn/Winter to heavily prune the shrub planting in this area to make cleansing operations as easy as possible”.</p>
2.	<p><u>Question submitted by Mr Michael Brennan to Councillor Doyle (Cabinet Member (Children’s Social Care))</u></p>
	<p>Subject: Residential Children’s Home</p>
	<p>On 22 August 2022 the Liverpool Echo reported that plans to convert a residential dwelling in Maghull into a private children's home had been refused. The reason given was that there is an over-saturation of such homes in the borough. 9 objections were received.</p> <p>On 20 March 2023 the Liverpool Echo reported that a Sefton Cllr had been given permission to open a children's home in the borough. The Cllr's private company was given permission to convert a residential home in Litherland into a children's home. 30 objections were received via a petition.</p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member please confirm why a Sefton Cllr was given permission to proceed, whilst only 7 months earlier a similar application was refused? Would the Cabinet Member also confirm whether there is a need for such facilities in the borough, given the approval of Cllr Killen's application?</p>
	<p>Response from Councillor Doyle (Cabinet Member - Children’s Social Care):</p> <p>“The Maghull application was refused because there was an oversupply catering for children from outside the borough. The Litherland application was approved subject to a legal undertaking to only take Sefton children. That was an identified need”.</p>