

Standards of Street Cleanliness in Todmorden Meeting with Safer, Cleaner, Greener on 19 February 2020

Calderdale Standards

Calderdale is one of the few councils in the UK to have a monitored grading system in place for standards of cleanliness. Levels of both litter (dropped by humans) and detritus (decomposed matter such as leaves, mud and small aggregate) are audited. This scale ranges from A (excellent) to D (poor) for both litter and detritus. Photographs and definitions explain each of the ratings so the audit can have a standard approach. The 2638 streets in Calderdale are audited on a quarterly basis over the period of a year. The grade seen as acceptable is a B. There are performance indicators that the cleaning team are measured on.

Street cleaning is a statutory service (1990 Environment Act).

Quarterly Audits

The audits and the data collected is entered on a database. Annual reports are provided to the Performance Team. There is a Code of Practice which sets out the response times for actions following a quarterly audit. This varies according to the type of street involved.

Performance on Todmorden Streets over the Last Year

Over the last 12 months in Todmorden:

- 0% of streets were assessed at lower than a B for litter (4% for Calderdale).
- 2% of streets were assessed at lower than a B for detritus (8% for Calderdale).

We need to bear in mind the small number of streets (relatively speaking) in Todmorden. Todmorden came out well in the audits in relation to other areas in Calderdale.

The main streets that can be problematic are:

- Honey Hole Rd
- Longfield Rd
- Bank St
- Nelson St

This is mainly because (with parking) these streets are relatively narrow for the sweepers to get up and turnaround. Nelson St currently has detritus caused by the flooding. The other problematic street (for the last 18 months) is Blind St (which we have on our Register of Outstanding Issues). Environmental Health have been involved regarding the dumping of rubbish in the street.

The street cleaning team have been very receptive to requests for improvements. They also said that the several of the street cleaners live in Todmorden and take great pride/ go above and beyond their immediate responsibilities to keep Todmorden as clean as possible.

If Todmorden Town Council would like to improve street cleanliness further, and have someone present in Todmorden throughout the day, we would need to fund a dedicated street cleaner. Safer, Cleaner, Greener is prepared to hire someone on our behalf, but TTC would need to pick up the cost (annual salary around £18,000 (+ 25% on costs?).

Action: The team has offered to send an information pack about the standards and audits of street cleaning and regular updates of the quarterly statistics to the Assistant Town Clerk. If

any councillor would like to see first-hand how they operate in Calderdale they would be very welcome to join the street cleaning team.

Other Issues

1. Request for additional recycling bins – currently, one person and one dedicated vehicle are available for the emptying all the recycling bins (600) in Calderdale. When the bins are emptied in Todmorden the recycling has to be taken to the transfer Centre in Halifax. There is no potential within this existing capacity to provide and empty additional recycling bins. There may be a possibility, if we have volunteers available to empty the bins, and leave the plastic sacks tied up next to an existing waste bin, and the rubbish collectors in Todmorden could collect the sacks and take them to be temporarily stored at the local depot. When there are enough sacks to justify a journey to the Transfer Site at Halifax, they will be moved.
2. Additional bins with capacity for cigarette butts – the Assistant Town Clerk has requested two additional bins, one for next to the seat outside the toilets on Bramsche Square and another for next to the seat outside the market. Todmorden Town Council has been offered one additional bin free of charge, but the second one would need to be paid for (around £200 + installation).
3. Use of weed killer – Calderdale Cabinet are considering whether to ban the use of Weed killers by the CMBC in March 2020. The Street Cleaning team make limited use of weed killer where weeds cannot be removed by hand, for example around the Town Hall. Currently they can use weed killer where there will be no drift onto green spaces. When they have used weed killer, the street cleaners have been subject to hostility from residents.
4. Annual national 'Keep Britain Tidy' will be supported by Calderdale in March/April 2020 so we should hear more about this in due course.

Actions: Amy Powell-Bevan, the new Volunteer Coordinator will visit TTC office to introduce herself.