

Street Cleansing Policy

Street Scene and Waste Management
2008

DRAFT



Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk



STREET CLEANSING POLICY

SECTION ONE

SWEEPING OF STREETS, ROADS & OTHER SPECIFIED AREAS

1. Areas requiring sweeping can be reported through the CSC
2. The Service operates 5 days a week for 365 days of the year, with a minimal cleansing coverage on Saturday and Sundays in Bromsgrove Town only.
3. There are no out of hours arrangements for this service.
4. The District is divided into zones and these are cleaned to ensure the land is, so far as is practicable, kept clear of litter and refuse to grade A standard as laid out under the Environmental Protection Act (1990, COPL& R see appendix 2).
5. High usage areas (e.g. the town centre) are cleaned daily. Other areas (e.g. roads that the service is responsible for) are cleaned 4 times a year.
6. Mechanical sweeping of the road and footpaths is undertaken routinely on a 13 week schedule.
7. Mechanical sweepers are used to cleanse relevant road and footpaths. Detritus and litter is removed from surfaces to prevent the build up of material in road channels and to prevent road gullies becoming silted.
8. Special arrangements may be implemented during times of heavy leaf and blossom fall or extreme weather conditions where additional strain may be placed on the service.

SECTION TWO

LITTER PICKING

1. Areas requiring litter picking can be reported through the CSC.
2. Litter picking is undertaken on areas of relevant land where mechanical sweepers are impractical.
3. Litter picking activities are co-ordinated with grounds maintenance operations to ensure the unnecessary spread of litter.
4. Where an area cannot safely be litter picked or where the levels of litter are excessive, the Cleansing Supervisor will arrange for the necessary procedures to be implemented for example scheduling for temporary traffic management arrangements under Chapter 8 etc.
5. Where Syringes and Needles are identified by the operative, safe working practise will be followed to ensure they are safely picked up and placed in a sharps box for disposal in the appropriate manner.

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

SECTION THREE

LITTER BINS

1. The service will aim to provide litter bins in all appropriate public places under BDC control.
2. Litter bins are emptied routinely throughout the working week, should bins require an additional empty, residents can report this to the CSC and this will be scheduled for emptying dependent upon the urgency of the incident.
3. Bins are emptied routinely and repaired or replaced as necessary.
4. Requests for the provision of new Litter bins will be evaluated and where found to be justifiable, they will be added to a priority list; the priority list will then be actioned where funding allows.

SECTION FOUR

DEAD ANIMALS

1. Dead animals can be reported through the CSC.
2. Where dead animals are reported to the Street Cleansing Service these will usually be removed within 1 day of the incident being recorded.
3. Some animals that have been involved in road kill situations on public highways or on land that is easily accessible to the public will be removed by this service. This is not intended for the removal of dead animals from a dwelling or for small rodents.

SECTION FIVE

FLY-POSTING

1. Incidents of Fly-Posting should be reported through the CSC.
2. Where Fly-posting is reported to the Street Cleansing Service it will be investigated usually within 2 days.
3. All incidents of fly posting are removed unless permission has been granted by County Council or the local authority.

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

SECTION FIVE

DOG FOULING

1. Dog Fouling incidents can be reported through the CSC.
2. Where dog waste is reported to the Street Cleansing Service, this will be investigated usually within 2 days.
3. Priority for clean up will be given to frontage of schools (and 50m leading up to the entrance), play areas and areas with high pedestrian traffic.
4. Dog Waste Bins (DWB's) are supplied for the disposal of dog faeces only. Dog owners must use these facilities where their dog fouls in a public space. The owner must use caution when using the bins and should report full or faulty bins through the Customer Service Centre.
5. Bins are emptied routinely and repaired or replaced as necessary.
6. Requests for the provision of new DWB's will be evaluated and where found to be justifiable, they will be added to a priority list; the priority list will then be actioned where funding allows.

SECTION SIX

GRAFFITI

1. Incidents of illegal graffiti can be reported through the CSC.
2. Where illegal graffiti is reported to the Street Cleansing Service it is investigated usually within 2 days
3. Obscene or Offensive Graffiti on Council owned property and surfaces will be removed within 1 week. Where graffiti is not offensive, it will be removed as part of the routine cleansing schedule.
4. Bromsgrove District Council do not remove graffiti from private property
5. Where graffiti is located on County Council or local housing authority property BDC will inform them so that they can take action.
6. Where appropriate, photographic evidence of graffiti incidents will be taken. This may be used in the identification of offenders through any identifiable "tags" and this information may be shared with other agencies such as the Police or the Community Safety Team.
7. It should be noted there are incidents of permitted graffiti within the district where arts projects have utilised this form of decoration to deter other obscene or offensive graffiti being illegally applied. Permitted Graffiti Areas are:
 - a. St Chads Rubery Skate Park
 - b. Sanders Park Skate Park
 - c. Charford Recreation Park

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

SECTION EIGHT

FLY-TIPPING

1. Incidents of fly-tipping can be reported through the CSC.
2. Where fly-tipping is reported to the Street Cleansing Service it will be investigated usually within 2 working days.
3. All fly-tipping will usually be removed within 4 working days. Where specialist equipment or specialist service need to be brought in to action a safe clean up, these timescales may differ accordingly.
4. All fly-tipping offences are recorded on Flycapture to allow direct reporting of incidents to Defra and the Environment Agency.
5. Where regular fly-tipping offences are recorded, the Street Cleansing service may consider the use of appropriate measures to prevent further offences or to gather further evidence as to the perpetrator of the crime.

SECTION NINE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. Where street cleansing incidents are reported that require an immediate response, the Hit Squad will attend to the incident.
2. Where reported incidents can be dealt with immediately, the Hit Squad will do so. Where the incident requires additional staff, specialised equipment or other resources, the incident will be dealt with as soon as the appropriate resources are in place. Where the incident may pose a danger to members of the public or staff, the Hit Squad will secure the area until any danger posed by the incident has been removed.

SECTION TEN

ABANDONED VEHICLES

1. Incidents of abandoned vehicles can be reported through the CSC.
2. Where an abandoned vehicle is reported to the Street Cleansing Service, it will be investigated usually within 24hrs.
3. There is no true definition of an abandoned vehicle but the following can indicate that it may be abandoned: No valid tax, flat tyres, broken windows, no number plate, mould and weeds growing on the vehicles.
4. Under Section 3 of the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 and The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, abandoned vehicles on any public land, land in the open air, or on any other land forming part of a highway in Bromsgrove District will be removed.
5. The registered owner of the vehicle will be sent a 7 day notice letter to advise of the situation and they may recover the vehicles at cost.

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SECTION ELEVEN

MONITORING STREET CLEANLINESS

1. Local Environmental Quality and the effectiveness of current street cleansing frequencies are monitored using the method prescribed by National Indicator 195. This indicator has been developed to measure the cleanliness of the local environment, as a member of the public would see it.
2. Grades of cleanliness are recorded by measuring representative transects within the district. 300 transects are required every 4 months to give an annual rating for Litter, Detritus, Graffiti and Flyposting.
3. Grades from A – D are used to grade each transect, those areas of land that receive less than a B grade are used in calculating the percentage of land that is below an acceptable standard of cleanliness.
4. Should annual grades identify an increase in transects of an unsatisfactory standard, the current schedules for cleansing will be reviewed and amended to reflect actual requirements.

SECTION TWELVE

WORKING WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS & ORGANISATIONS

1. In responding to reported incidents or scheduled works, should drug related litter, (or other that may present as a hazard) be identified, this information will be shared with other colleagues.
2. Street Cleansing will also share information with other departments including Legal Services, Planning & Environmental Health. This is primarily to investigate into environmental crimes (flytipping etc) and identify the perpetrator of the crime.
3. Where possible, the service will support community groups and Parish Councils to enhance the removal of litter from their environments; this will usually take the form of loaned equipment for community litter picks.

SECTION TWELVE

SERVICE REQUESTS, COMPLIMENTS OR COMPLAINTS

Residents wishing to make service requests, compliments or complaints should either:-

- **telephone** the Customer Service Centre on 01527 881288
- **email** by sending a message to: worcestershirehub@bromsgrove.gov.uk
- **write to**: Bromsgrove District Council, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, B60 1AA

APPENDIX 1 – DEFINITIONS

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

CHANNEL	That edge of the road carriageway surface abutting the kerb of the footway, which is designed to channel water into drainage gullies
COPL & R	The Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse, issued under Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It contains the core criteria for assessing grades for litter and detritus
DETRITUS	<p>Detritus comprises dust, mud, soil, grit, gravel, stones, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic and other finely divided materials.</p> <p>Note - Detritus includes leaf and blossom falls when they have substantially lost their structure and have become mushy or fragmented.</p>
FLYCAPTURE	National reporting database for all Local Authorities.
FLY POSTING	Flyposting is defined as any printed material and associated items remains informally or illegally fixed to any structure. It includes any size of material from small stickers up to large posters
FLY TIPPING	A single plastic sack of rubbish would constitute fly-tipping rather than fall under the term litter.
GRAFFITI	Any informal or illegal marks, drawings or paintings that have been deliberately made by a person or persons on any physical element comprising the outdoor environment
LITTER	The offence of “leaving litter” (section 87 of the environmental protection act 1990) states that if a person drops, throws, deposits or leaves anything so as to cause defacement in a public place, they could be committing a littering offence. Common types of litter are cigarette ends and materials associated with eating and drinking
RELEVANT LAND	Land which is under the direct control of the Authority and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access
SPECIFIED AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Public highwayCar ParksAreas around recycling banksPublic open spacesFlower beds

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Environmental Protection Act of 1990 Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. According to the Act, there are four grades of cleanliness. These are defined as:

GRADE A : no litter or refuse

GRADE B : predominantly free of litter and refuse apart from some small items

GRADE C : widespread distribution of litter and refuse with minor accumulations

GRADE D : heavily littered with significant accumulations.

Grade A is the standard which a thorough conventional sweeping/litter-picking would achieve. Whilst Grade A is the aim, it is not reasonable to expect that standard to be maintained at all times. A few items on a Grade A surface will not necessarily be sufficient to degrade that area to Grade B. Refer to Appendix 4 for photographic reference.

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

Litter

The photographs below identify the standard used for assessing street cleanliness for litter within the district. These standards are those laid out as per Defra guidelines. Intermediate grades are determined by the assessor using the below standards as reference points.

Grade A



Grade B



Grade C



Grade D



Detritus

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

The photographs below identify the standard used for assessing street cleanliness for detritus within the district. These standards are those laid out as per Defra guidelines. Intermediate grades are determined by the assessor using the below standards as reference points.

Grade A



Grade B



Grade C



Grade D



Flyposting

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

The photographs below identify the standard used for assessing street cleanliness for flyposting within the district. These standards are those laid out as per Defra guidelines. Intermediate grades are determined by the assessor using the below standards as reference points.

Grade A

No Flyposting

Grade B



Grade C



Grade D



Graffiti

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

The photographs below identify the standard used for assessing street cleanliness for graffiti within the district. These standards are those laid out as per Defra guidelines. Intermediate grades are determined by the assessor using the below standards as reference points.

Grade A

No Graffiti

Grade B



Grade C



Grade D



APPENDIX 3– SERVICE STANDARDS FOR LITTER ZONES

STREET CLEANSING POLICY

Zone 1 (Primary Retail areas)

- Clean by 8am each morning;
- Back to clean from “predominantly free of litter” within 6 hours;
- Back to clean from “widespread distribution of litter” within 3 hours;
- Back to clean from “heavily littered” within 1 hour.

Zone 2 (Car parks, industrial areas and High density housing)

- Back to clean from “predominantly free of litter” within 12 hours;
- Back to clean from “widespread distribution of litter” within 6 hours;
- Back to clean from “heavily littered” within 3 hours.

Zone 3 (Housing estates, recreational land)

- Back to clean from “predominantly free of litter” within 2 weeks;
- Back to clean from “widespread distribution of litter” within 12 hours;
- Back to clean from “heavily littered” within 6 hours.

Zone 4 (All other areas)

- Back to clean from “predominantly free of litter” within 2 weeks;
- Back to clean from “widespread distribution of litter” within 1 week;
- Back to clean from “heavily littered” within 60 hours.

If you require this document in large print, Braille, CD
or audio tape please contact:

Customer Service Centre
Telephone: 01527 881288

Or e-mail

worcestershirehub@bromsgrove.gov.uk

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