

MTC Full Council 21.7.20

Report No 3 Littering in land adjacent to Daniels Well and the fields under the bypass near Baskerville

1. Litter in the street litter collection system has increased significantly following the start of the COVID 19 emergency and there have been increased incidents of litter being dropped and left in open spaces. At a meeting including the Wiltshire Councillor for Sherston, our Community Engagement Officer, representatives from HCM and others it was established that these issues are not unique to Malmesbury and there are no easy answers.
2. Nonetheless we do have a particular ongoing issue of littering by groups of people socialising at Daniel's well and the land adjacent to the bypass. This issue has been significantly increased and exacerbated by the 'lockdown' period, with these locations increasingly be used as an outlet for leisure use. The issue is particularly the result of young people's and young adult's behaviour; although not exclusively according to witness reports. If not addressed it will reduce the utility of both areas to the wider community and as visitor attractions and will have a continuing adverse effect on the owners of these areas.
3. Both locations fall within St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish boundary, and are in private land ownership.
4. In response to this issue, the Council has gifted three bins at these sites over the past few years; two at Daniel's Well and one the bypass.
5. The bins are heavily used by dog walkers for the disposal of dog waste, and to some degree for general litter.
6. Based on current practices Malmesbury Town Council's ground staff spend around 7 hours a week furnishing these bins, and also clearing the litter around the bin. This generates 30-35 bags of waste a week, which are then deposited in our Hills general waste container bins. The weight of these bags continues to take us over our contractual weight allowance.
7. The cost of furnishing these bins we estimate to be in costing us £200 per week (£10,400 per annum) accounting for labour, transportation, and waste disposal.
8. The current provision is proving an additional ongoing cost to the Council, and in itself as a response does not seem to deal with the issue of additional litter being left on the ground at these locations.
9. Given the littering is occurring in the Parish it would be beneficial to seek to agree a joint approach with St Paul Malmesbury without Parish. Options to try and encourage reduced littering include increasing bin provision, introducing additional signage to encourage 'taking litter home', or removing these bins. It would also be timely to seek to negotiate a financial contribution by the St Paul Malmesbury without Parish to the current cost of litter collection and disposal occurring within the Parish.
10. The Council are asked to consider the matter and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

Richard Spencer Williams

Town Clerk.

20th July 2020