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Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Dear Mr Deacon,

Thank you for notifying me of the abandoned trolleys in Pinwell Lane. I can confirm these have now been removed by Council staff.

I can assure you the Council does take the matter of abandoned trolleys seriously. The Council established a Clean and Green team in 2006 to tackle a range of environmental issues such as abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, dog fouling, littering and the abandonment of shopping trolleys.

The main focus of the team since inception has been to concentrate upon fly tipping and abandoned vehicles in terms of investigations and prosecutions. Several very successful high profile court cases have taken place and the number of such incidents has subsequently been reduced by 50%.

Shopping trolleys have not had such a prominent focus so far, but I recognise the recent community clean up event held in Lewes has now highlighted this issue and the impact upon the environment and I am more than willing to support the local community to identify a long term solution. The problem does not appear to be so obvious in other parts of the district in that there is no single area of accumulation taking place.

On average the Council collects 3-4 abandoned trolleys a week from across the district. Our approach to date has been to collect them and request the appropriate supermarket/store to then retrieve them from the Council's store. I can confirm we have not issued any fixed penalties to date because the supermarkets/stores have on all occasions retrieved the abandoned trolleys immediately upon request.

Whilst the Council's approach to date has largely contained the problem across the district I agree that it is time to seek to prevent as far as possible the abandonment in the first place. I do however feel there is no one solution to the problem across the district and the cause and impact that abandonment has varies in different areas.

To that end, the Supermarkets and other stores that provide shopping trolleys across the district are being reminded in writing that the Council has adopted the powers to enforce fixed penalties for abandonment of shopping trolleys and intends on all occasions starting from the 1 December 2009 to do so.

I am also shortly about to meet with the Store Managers from Tesco and Waitrose in Lewes in order to specifically address the matter of trolleys abandoned in the Ouse. I am led to believe from informal discussions that it is not necessarily a matter that local store managers may be able to completely resolve at a local level and it may require input from their respective head offices in terms of investment in physical environmental improvements to the management of trolleys to prevent abandonment in the first place. John Crawford has asked that I investigate the feasibility as to what the Council can do directly in relation to trolleys dumped in the River Ouse and this work is progressing and I will keep you informed as it becomes clear what the Council is able to do both directly and what we feel we can require other organisations to do by using powers available to them and the Council.

Many thanks,

Owen Clifford  
Community Services Manager  
Lewes District Council