

Llantwit Youth Council Litter Report 2018-19



1. Introduction

Llantwit Youth Council (LYC) is a youth council that represents the views of young people in Llantwit Major town. The project works in partnership with Llantwit Major Town Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service to ensure that the voice of young people in the town is taken into account by local decision-makers.

LYC have one elected member that sits on the Town Study Steering Group. The group meet four times a year and this committee has representatives from the town, local organisations as well as councillors and looks at ways of improving Llantwit Major. At the meetings in July and October 2018 the issue concerning litter around parts of Llantwit Town was raised. One of the actions identified was for the Town Council to write to local shops along the Precinct and to all Public Houses to encourage business to help keep the town clean and tidy due to Vale of Glamorgan Council budgets for road cleaning being cut / man hours reduced.

LYC members visit local youth organisations throughout the year to raise awareness of the group, to meet with their local peers to find out what matters to them as well as to encourage new membership. On these visits the issue of litter problems was raised by the 1st Llantwit Scouts with specific reference to the Black Bridge area that needed cleaning up. Members of Llantwit Boys Brigade mentioned that the facilities at Frampton Skate Park needed updating, that the quality of the bin was poor and there was a need for dog fouling bin in the area too. The issue of litter and dog fouling was also raised by members of Llantwit Youth Club. These visits took place between March and May 2018.

Following on from the issues raised at both the Town Study Steering Group and the youth visits, members of LYC felt that they should investigate the litter concerns raised and made it a priority for their annual action plan.

2. What did we do?

After our LYC meeting on 25th October, we discussed the issue of increasing litter and formed a task group to tackle this issue. The areas that were mentioned with the highest concern for rising litter levels are highlighted below. It was agreed that litter investigations would be carried out throughout the up and coming months. The first investigations were carried out late November but due to darker evenings and weather conditions it was agreed by members that investigations would be concluded during February half term.

The areas below were identified by LYC members and youth organisation groups as potential areas where litter is prominent. Evidence of these areas was taken including photographs as listed below.

- Around the shops top end of town / Precinct Area
- Llantwit Major School / Behind the leisure centre
- War Memorial
- Skate Park Frampton
- St Illtyd School field / Youth Centre
- Black Bridge

3. What did we find?

LYC members undertook two litter investigations and the results of what they found are below. The investigations were carried out on the 20th November 2018 and 28th February 2019.

20th November 2018

The litter investigation took place around the Precinct area and behind Llantwit Major School and Leisure centre. In the Precinct outside Boots pharmacy there were chewing gum stains and a rubber glove. Litter was also found in the car park near the Co Op.



A significant amount of removal stains from chewing gum was seen around the leisure centre area and there was also evidence of litter on the fields surrounding that area.

Thursday 28th February

Surprisingly there was no litter in certain areas where more litter was expected as per the list above. These areas included Llantwit beach and the park by the rugby field especially as the litter investigation was conducted during half term during a period of good weather.

The areas around the leisure centre and Llantwit Major School were also litter free, what we did find that whilst there were plenty of bins around the school there were no bins really located around the leisure centre.

A large amount of broken glass was found around the skate ramps at Frampton Skate Park. There was also evidence of rubbish and the bin itself needs updating compared to many of the bins around Llantwit Major Town. Members felt that the quality of the skate ramps was in need of updating and additional lighting could be added. Young people have also raised concerns that the area attracts anti-social behaviour.



The Precinct area and Filco car park was deemed to be one of the worst areas around the town centre. Most of this was located around the car park and bushes surrounding the car park. The area around the shops such as the Co-Op and Greggs were fine. Members raised the fact that there were over seven bins located outside of the Precinct area as a way in which to tackle the litter problems. One bin is located directly outside the shop entrance; could the location of this bin be better suited in the actual car park? Members also found evidence of cigarette buds and chewing gum around the shops.



As we observed the rugby club, we found that there was a consistency in litter. From looking at the litter we found that there was an abundance of cigarette butts and bottle caps a mere foot away from the bin. We also found that this was only around the picnic bench. We would like to suggest to the Town Council that they actually renovate the bin in order to get more people to use it.



Evidence of litter was also located around the youth centre especially around the top of the field. At the back of the youth centre there was evidence of fly tipping where a broken fridge was found as well as evidence of rubbish. On the walk around this area it was noted that there were no bins outside the premises, the field is used as a thoroughfare towards a park and houses.



We went to Llantwit Major beach to gather information on what litter was present there. We discovered that whilst there was a bin at the site in keeping with the style of the beach, it wasn't fit for purpose. This bin was a square and had a group of smaller bins within it where the litter was being held. As a Youth Council we are aware that at other beaches in the Vale of Glamorgan such as Barry Island, they have specific bins for different purposes, for example glass recycling and paper / plastic recycling. We believe that having similar bins put out at Llantwit Major beach would be beneficial in reducing the litter that was present at the beach car park.



Of all the areas we visited in the town, we found that cigarette butts are a particular litter issue. Outside the shops and pubs particularly, there is a high volume of discarded cigarette butts. The bins within the Precinct area have ash trays for cigarettes to be stubbed out; however there aren't any public ash tray areas in the Old Town where cigarettes can be stubbed out. We believe that cigarette boxes should be put up outside of the pubs in Llantwit (like the box which is on the outside of the Town Council building) as they seem to be the areas which have higher levels of cigarette butts litter. The other issue we discovered was chewing gum. There are no specified areas where citizens can dispose of their chewing gum, and so it has been found stuck to the ground around the shops instead.



4. What would we like to do

- Discuss the with the Vale of Glamorgan Council updating bins around Llantwit Town, specifically to tackle cigarette butts, chewing gum and to encourage more recycling. Specific areas include Llantwit Beach, Rugby Club Play Park, Llantwit Major Old Town.
- Discuss with local decision-makers on upgrading the facilities at Frampton Skate Park, to include discussion on lighting, bins and equipment.
- Invite local PCSO to discuss anti-social behaviour and to raise concerns about broken glass / litter within the area.
- Peruse talks with owners of Filco and Precinct area to combat litter problems, LYC members have sent a letter to Ian Hunt in January to invite him to a meeting, at present no response has been received.
- Revisit Llantwit Major School and the leisure centre during school hours to view if there is a recurring litter problem as highlighted by feedback from school council meetings.



Suggested ideas to tackle litter in the town and cigarette butts

5. Appendix – Young person summary document

Litter Investigations



What We Found

- Large amount of broken glass in Frampton Skate Park and bin needing updating
- Precinct area deemed the worst
- Cigarette butts / chewing gum
- Llantwit Major Beach



What we would like to do

- Upgrade bin facilities around the town center
- look at ways to combat cigarette butts / chewing gum problems
- look at introducing recycling bins around the town
- pursue talks with owners of the Precinct to work together to tackle litter problems
- look at improving the facilities at Frampton Skate Park.



Letter to Filco / Ian Hunt



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17th January 2019.

Dear Mr Hunt,

Llantwit Youth Council is a Youth Council with young people aged 11-18 that works with Llantwit Major Town Council and local decision-makers in the town to ensure the views and ideas of young people are taken seriously. As members of Llantwit Youth Council, we are writing to invite you to our forthcoming Llantwit Youth Council meeting.

In our previous Llantwit Youth Council meeting we finalised our annual action plan. As members, we concluded that a key feature of our action plan would be working to improve the litter problem in specific areas of Llantwit Major and work on ways in which this problem can be reduced throughout the town. From the work that we have previously completed, we noticed that one of the areas in Llantwit Major that has a considerable amount of litter is the Precinct and its surrounding areas, Frampton skate park as well as the secondary school and Leisure Centre. For this reason, if you are able to attend the Llantwit Youth Council meeting, we would like to use the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the issue further. Furthermore, all members would like to discuss possible solutions to reduce the amount of litter and present a possible solution that we have already discussed.

As the owner of Filco and the Precinct land which is an important area in Llantwit Major, we think you would be help us as we try to tackle the issue of litter in the town. Protecting the environment is both important to us and the young people in Llantwit Major and we feel everyone has an important role to play in making improvements. The meeting will be focused on this topic and it would be great if you could come along to explore some solutions. The meeting will take places at 17:00 at Llantwit Major Old School on February 28th. We are working alongside Keep Wales Tidy, schools in the local area as well as the town council.

We look forward to receiving your response and hope you are able to attend our meeting.

Yours sincerely, Llantwit Youth Council.