

# Policy Paper on Designing for Safe Clean and Tidy Environments



# Draft Policy Paper on Designing for Safe Clean and Tidy Environments

## Executive Summary

Keep Wales Tidy recognises the importance of good design in both enhancing peoples' lives and reducing the degradation caused by litter, fly-posting and graffiti. While Keep Wales Tidy does not have a direct role in the design of public places we would suggest that we could use the expertise we have gained through our community projects and LEAMS surveys to influence policy development and the practical implementation of design practice. This would benefit the environment and to contribute towards creating sustainable communities.

From an examination of current policy guidance on design at the local and national level we have concluded that consideration of how to prevent this type of degradation through design is given scant if any consideration. This is despite local environmental quality, e.g. litter, being a key issue in national and local policy documents.

In addition there is a lack of involvement of Local Authority Cleansing Staff in the design process. This can result in, for example, the use of inappropriate materials, street furniture and landscaping, which trap litter, attract graffiti and fly posting and make cleansing difficult, thereby reducing local environmental quality.

Another consequence can be that the design affects how a space is used and owned by people, which can lead to anti-social behaviour and a reduction in how safe people feel.

We are not suggesting that there is one solution, but that the implementation of the following recommendations could lead to improvements, save money and resources and contribute to creating more sustainable communities. We therefore recommend that:

- A review is undertaken of the current planning and design guidance and a new Technical Advice Note 12 is issued which reflects the importance of design in reducing the degradation caused by litter, fly-posting and graffiti.
- The Design Commission for Wales is required to take into account the implications on street cleansing, litter and graffiti as part of their considerations of new design projects.
- Key stakeholders, such as street cleansing staff and communities who have taken part in or have experience of community clean ups and community safety are involved in the initial design process, so measures can be included to prevent or minimise the practical problems occurring once the design project has been completed.

- Keep Wales Tidy works with the Police and Community Safety Partnerships to promote and encourage the implementation of the aims of “Secured by Design” into new and regeneration design projects.
- Research is undertaken to identify the implications and costs of current design practices with regard to litter, graffiti and fly posting and to develop innovative solutions and influence the planning process and urban design courses to raise the profile of this aspect of design.

**“No two places are identical and there is no such thing as a blueprint for good design. Good design always arises from a thorough and caring understanding of place and context.”** From the Ministerial introduction in *By Design: urban design in the planning system*. Department for Communities and Local Government May 2006.

## Introduction

The design of the places where we live, shop and go for leisure activities can have a major impact on how we feel. The introduction to *Delivering Quality Spaces – Urban Design Compendium 2*<sup>1</sup> states “The quality of the places we live in has an impact on all aspects of life. How well they are designed will influence how safe we feel, how easy it is to walk round, whether we have shops, community facilities and schools nearby, whether our children have safe places to play.” Indeed, how clean and well cared for an area appears can affect how many people use the space and their attitude towards it. For example, it could affect whether or not they drop litter. Lots of litter... well one more piece will not make any difference.

The purpose of this paper is to consider how we could improve people’s perception of our urban spaces by using design to reduce the degradation associated with litter, fly-posting, graffiti and weed growth. To quote the advice given in the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (COPLAR) 1999<sup>2</sup> “A bit of careful thought at the design stage could result in a cleaner environment, which may require less in the way of cleaning in due course.”

This paper concentrates primarily on public places in the urban environment, on areas such as squares and high streets that are in public ownership, rather than informal spaces, like street corners in residential areas or green open spaces. Although some of the same problems and issues will also equally apply to the latter.

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<sup>1</sup> *Delivering Quality Spaces – Urban Design Compendium 2* – R Roger Evans Associates for English Partnerships; Housing Corporation. September 2007

<sup>2</sup> Replaced by new Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse for Wales only in 2007

The reason for selecting urban spaces is because a high percentage of the Welsh population lives in urban environments and the problems tend to be worse in urban areas. The concentration of people and activities and the increasing demand for roads and parking, mean spaces are becoming more important for social interaction and mental and physical health. The environment in urban areas can also change at a faster and more extreme rate than in rural areas.

Keep Wales Tidy suggests that there is a need for specific policies in planning and other guidance and strategies about designing for a clean and safe environment. Although this should take into account that the success of any public space is not solely in the hands of the architects, urban designers or town planners, it relies also on people adopting using and managing a space –“people make places more than places make people”<sup>3</sup>. Therefore people need to be involved in the process, particularly in schemes to regenerate areas in local neighbourhoods.

**“Good urban design is essential to deliver places which are sustainable on all counts: places that create social, environmental and economic value. Ensuring that places are well designed should be a priority of everyone involved in shaping and maintaining the built environment.”** Delivering Quality Spaces. Urban Design. R Roger Evans Associates for English Partnerships; Housing Corporation. September 2007

## **Policy Context**

### **The importance of Local Environmental Quality in National and Local Policies**

The importance of the environmental quality of public spaces and its impact on behaviour is recognised in Welsh Assembly Government’s policies and strategies. For example, one of five main themes of the Assembly’s Environment Strategy for Wales 2006 is ‘our local environment’ and this includes nuisances such as litter, fly tipping and graffiti. More recently, in the papers prepared for the proposals for a Government Legislative Competence Order relating to Environmental Protection and Waste Management, the then Minister for Sustainability and Rural Development, Jane Davidson, in her memorandum on the proposal for the order, in June 2007, stated “in particular local environmental quality issues are seen as being central to quality of life and important as a means of engaging people in other environmental issues. Delivering high quality living environments for everyone in Wales where the quality of life is not negatively affected by environmental nuisances is a priority for the Welsh Assembly Government.”

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<sup>3</sup> Ken Worpole and Katherine Knox “Taking into account the social value of public spaces” .research for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

At the local level, a report - Improving our Local Environmental Quality. A Baseline Assessment for Welsh Assembly Government, July 2007; by White Young Green Environmental, showed that, local environmental quality is almost always at the top of any list of concerns raised in public satisfaction surveys, and is often a primary concern for Local Government Members. It also revealed that local environmental quality featured within all the Community Strategies and was almost always at the top of most local authority Corporate Agendas across Wales.

Indeed information in Sir Jeremy Beecham's review of local services - Beyond Boundaries<sup>4</sup> would suggest that there is also an expectation from the public that the quality of the environment will improve. For example, a telephone survey of 1000 residents indicated "39% of respondents expected that the quality of the environment will improve, although 28% expected that it will get worse." The report stated that this is a higher level of expectation of improvement than exists across Britain as a whole.

The state of the environment in terms of cleanliness and safety also has links with the aims of those working in the health sector, who are encouraging people to walk to local facilities and to work. Indeed, in recent reports and research on obesity, such as that undertaken by the sustainable transport charity Sustrans and others<sup>5</sup> it is suggested that walking and cycling could help defuse the "obesity time bomb". However people are not going to walk or cycle if they feel unsafe, due to graffiti or have to go through dirty litter strewn areas.

### **The relationship between Local Environmental Quality and Design**

The importance of environmental issues is recognised in design and in planning guidance produced by the Welsh Assembly Government and others, as described in the reference texts listed on page 7. However, there is a tendency to consider environmental issues and design from the perspective of reducing waste and energy use and the impact on climate change. This means that the cross cutting role of local environmental quality in terms of litter and safety isn't always highlighted.

For example, the Assembly has established a Design Commission for Wales to raise the profile of good design and celebrate Wales's great buildings, spaces and places. The Commission will make an important contribution to the promotion and procurement of good design; the development of design skills, and the dissemination of good design practice. As part of their role they have a panel which advises on planning applications. The panel can, for example, request wind studies, but this is about the energy use of a proposed building, rather than how the design could affect the accumulation wind blown litter. There

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<sup>4</sup> Review of Local Service Delivery: Report to the Welsh Assembly Government. Beyond Boundaries Citizen-Centred Local Services for Wales. Sir Jeremy Beecham, Chair of , the Review of Local Service Delivery

<sup>5</sup> E.g. Physical activity and obesity. *K. R. Fox & M. Hillsdon*. A paper was commissioned by the Foresight programme of the Office of Science and Innovation, Department of Trade and Industry 2007

is potential for this information and other aspects to be considered and to be used to assess the implications with regard to litter and graffiti. The information could then be used to inform applicants of possible improvements, which would reduce any adverse impacts.

Indeed, there would be value in raising the profile of local environmental quality issues in relation to planning applications generally and through the Local Development Plan process. This could possibly be done by introducing the litter and cleansing aspect of local environmental quality into the environmental or sustainable development assessments that are currently being undertaken. The opportunities to do this could be considered as part of the research suggested in recommendation 6 below.

There are also specific documents which influence design and the design process. Some of the key documents have been examined in the development of this paper, to see how local environment quality is considered. The findings are briefly outlined below.

#### **Technical Advice Note 12, Design 2002 - produced by Welsh Assembly Government**

Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12 is recommended for use in determining planning applications either by a local authority or by a planning inspector at appeal and in the preparation of development plans. It recognises that the design of developments in the environment is significant to the quality of our lives and is a major factor in sustaining a positive image for Wales. It states that good design has the potential to assist environmental sustainability, economic growth and social inclusion. For the purpose of this advice note design is taken to mean “the relationship between all elements of the built and natural environment – this includes the relationship between buildings and the streets, squares, parks, waterways and other spaces which make up the public and private domain.”

The advice is concerned equally with the way in which areas function and in the connections between people and places as with aesthetic appearance. It emphasises collaboration at each stage of the design process amongst all those responsible for the delivery of design solutions as well as users and managers of the environment, and the importance of understanding the future implications of design decisions and the need to consider the long term management and maintenance implications of design decisions. Unfortunately those responsible for street cleansing are not specifically listed as one of the professions to be involved at the start of the design process and therefore may not be involved when important decisions are made, for example, re the type of materials to be used.

#### **Manual for Streets – 2007 - produced by a team of consultants on behalf of the Department for Transport, and Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government**

The Manual for Streets (MfS) supersedes Design Bulletin 32 and its companion guide Places, Streets and Movement, which have now been withdrawn in England and Wales. It complements Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing and Planning Policy Wales. MfS comprises of technical guidance and does not set out any new policy or legal requirements. It applies only formally in England and Wales.

Although the MfS focuses on lightly-trafficked residential streets, many of its key principles can be applied to other types of street or public space and it demonstrates the benefits that can flow from good design. It focuses on the place and function of residential streets, giving clear guidance on how to achieve well-designed streets and spaces that serve the community in a range of ways. Some of the guidance given on materials and construction is valid in terms of creating clean environments, for example, it is recommended that all materials meet the following requirements:

- easy to maintain
- safe for purpose
- durable
- sustainable (including the manufacturing process and energy use)
- appropriate to the local character.

Unfortunately litter is only given limited consideration in the manual and the maintenance aspects covered are primarily from highway maintenance viewpoint rather than street cleansing. Again advice provided in the second Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse 1999<sup>6</sup> (COPLAR) seems to have been forgotten – “local authorities and other duty bodies may wish to review their approach and ensure that litter and cleansing issues are considered through out the design process.”

### **Public Safety - Crime and Disorder Strategies**

Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Local Authorities are required to have regard to the likely effect on crime and disorder prevention, of their actions. Therefore in TAN 12 and MfS they are advised to ensure that crime prevention considerations are taken into account in the design of layouts, and of the importance of consulting police architectural liaison officers and crime prevention officers, re design of public spaces.

They are required to produce Crime and Disorder Strategies for their areas and the design and security of all developments should reflect the strategic aims of local crime and disorder audits and strategies. For example, these should deter criminal and anti-social behaviour through appropriate design features that enable natural surveillance and a sense of ownership. This requires consideration to be given to the practical ways in which design can reduce

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<sup>6</sup> The first code of practice was issued in 1991. The 1999 version was replaced by the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and Associated Guidance 2007 and is applicable to Wales only. Unfortunately the new guidance doesn't include any advice relating to design.

opportunities for crime disorder and antisocial behaviour and the competing objectives for privacy, access and achieving security.

Keep Wales Tidy through its involvement in ENCAMS Criminal Damage Programme, in Wales, has been working with some of these partnerships. However, this has been more about preparing action plans and sharing good practice, for example, managing graffiti rather than using design principles as a tool to prevent anti social behaviour.

### **Delivering Quality Places Urban Design Compendium 2 by R Roger Evans Associates for English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation**

This is an important document, because of the influence it has on both educational courses and the professionals working in the design field, including developers, urban designers, planners, architects, surveyors, landscape architects, engineers, building conservationists and a wide range of other people concerned with improving the built environment. Urban Design Compendium 2 (UDAL) brings together professional and membership organisations committed to improving the quality of urban life through urban design, with the hope of fostering greater awareness and higher standards. Like the first volume the second edition of the Urban Design Compendium aims to make a significant contribution to helping developers and other practitioners achieve good design through best practice and creative thinking. Although it is an English document it is anticipated that like the first version which has become an established textbook for urban design courses worldwide the new compendium will also achieve wider application and influence.

The Compendium recognises the importance of site management. It states “delivering a high-quality scheme is only the start of creating a successful place. To succeed now and in the future, places need to be safe, well maintained and well managed. Management issues must be considered from the start of the project. Clear management structures must be identified for each asset in a masterplan. Thinking at an early stage about how and for whom a neighbourhood will be managed opens up the greatest possible range of options and avoids assets becoming liabilities. Working through the design process with stakeholders and capacity building improves the chances of securing a good environment. “

Unfortunately, however the emphasis in the management section is on the management of the infrastructure lighting and highways and issues like water and waste and the management structures rather than issues relating to litter, graffiti and fly posting, except indirectly in terms of fostering community ownership. Whilst issues of safety are considered in terms of having schemes such as: Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Wardens and Community Support Officers.

## **Why current policies and practices aren't working.**

### **No or limited consideration of the effects in the key documents on design of the impact on street cleansing issues.**

An examination of the key documents at the National and local level, show that little if any mention is made of how design can influence and or improve the management of litter, graffiti and fly posting. The consideration of local environmental quality issues is usually related to waste and provision for recycling and if community safety is mentioned the focus tends to be on a solution for the problem, such as Neighbourhood Watch schemes, rather than prevention. Although solutions are important there is a need to consider what can be done as preventative measures and to aid street cleansing and maintenance.

### **The lack of involvement of street cleansing staff in the design process.**

In 2002, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), the equivalent in England to the Design Commission for Wales, produced -Paving the way, a definitive statement on the problems we face with the design, regulation, management and maintenance of our streets. The report was produced with the then Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions and it sets out clear recommendations for change.

One recommendation that is applicable to this paper was:  
“Local authorities should introduce cross-sectoral management of streets with the aim of establishing an integrated approach to the public realm.”

In Transforming our Streets (September 2006) CABE set out to review the implementations of the recommendations. Generally the report concluded re cross sectoral working- “there is still a need for a practice of cross-sector street design rather than the current regime of disconnected street interventions, with different, and sometimes conflicting, objectives. While progress is being made, there is still a long way to go.” Sheffield City Council’s “liveability programme”<sup>7</sup> is quoted as an example where departments, investigate and overcome key barriers to service delivery using a joined-up client group, with representatives from housing, parks and ‘streetforce’<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> The “Liveability” programme was a Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) sustainable communities plan. It committed a total of £201 million over three years (2003–06) to transform the urban environment, and included the sum of £89 million for the new Liveability Fund. The fund tested a new approach to the management and maintenance of public spaces, by providing both revenue funding to undertake improvements to service delivery, and capital funding to either transform or create new public spaces.

<sup>8</sup> Street force responsibilities include Street Cleansing, which covers the following: Road and footpath sweeping; Litter bin emptying, installation and sponsorship,<sup>8</sup> Shopping site cleaning. Manually sweeping areas (a person with a barrow) ,Main road cleaning (gateways) Graffiti and fly-poster removal ,Chewing gum removal .Removal of dead animals, responding to enquiries and complaints ,Enforcement and Legal Action.

Although this research applied to England there is no reason to assume from anecdotal evidence that procedures are any better in Wales. For example, the findings in the report - Improving our Local Environmental Quality A Baseline Assessment for Welsh Assembly Government, July 2007, by White Young Green Environmental, suggest that local environmental quality services are being delivered in isolation by agencies, voluntary groups and individual departments in local authorities.

The report suggests that whilst there are some good examples of partnership and joint working, these are in the minority and in some cases relatively new. Although this study was looking at local environmental quality generally and not the specific design aspects considered in this paper, anecdotal evidence talking to some cleansing staff would suggest that the same could apply to design and the involvement of street cleansing staff. The conclusion is that street cleansing staff are not generally part of partnerships involved in new design or regeneration projects. This is disappointing because it could also have other benefits as their involvement in these partnerships could also improve staff morale in a service which often sees itself as the “Cinderella service”<sup>9</sup>.

The action of involving street cleansing staff in design projects and the advantages that would accrue is an area where research could be undertaken, if funding were available. It could be innovative and have numerous associated benefits. The design aspect would relate to local environmental quality and the increased involvement of staff would improve skills and would comply with the recommendations of Beecham Review –

“The drive for excellence should permeate every level of delivery, and should be celebrated at every opportunity, so that citizens can see front-line staff taking pride in their jobs”<sup>10</sup>.

### **The use of inappropriate materials, street furniture and landscaping**

Designers may want to use a variety of materials or select materials that reflect the character of an area or to demark different uses. However, in selecting these materials they need to consider, for example that gaps in paviers, and brick of granite edging can trap litter especially small pieces like cigarette ends and also harbour weeds. Chewing gum is another problem on hard surfaces and at present the only way of removing it is using jet washers. This can damage

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<sup>9</sup> Improving our Local Environmental Quality A Baseline Assessment for Welsh Assembly Government July 2007 by White Young Green Environmental was that Local Environmental Quality Services reported that moral was low amongst some cleansing staff and they saw them selves as the Cinderella sevrice

<sup>10</sup> *Review of Local Ser vice Delivery: Report to the Welsh Assembly Government.*

*Beyond Boundaries Citizen-Centred Local Services for Wales* Sir Jeremy Beecham Chair, the Review of Local Service Delivery



expensive surfaces and spoil their appearance, which will detract from the original design concept.

Similarly where there is too much street furniture, it is badly located and or is not maintained properly, it can trap litter and dirt and make cleansing difficult. For example, small gaps between utility boxes and walls often seem to attract litter either because someone has put a drinks can on the top of the box and it has slipped down the side or someone has pushed the litter down the back of the box, using it as an improvised litter bin rather than dropping it on the ground.

Inappropriate landscaping can also be an issue. Landscaping is important as outlined in TAN 12 and MfS to protect and enhance biodiversity, assist in pollution abatement and to improve micro climate, provide shade, shelter, privacy, spatial containment and separation. It can also be used to create buffer or security zones, visual barriers, or landmarks and or gateway features. However, when selecting plants and trees the advice in the original Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse 1999 (COPLAR) is still valid that care should be taken to ensure that any litter is able to be picked up from planted areas. For example, litter can become easily caught up and difficult to remove from some varieties of shrubs, in particular those that are fast growing and thorny may retain litter. Deciduous planting can also hide litter throughout summer. Fallen leaves can add significantly to detritus which can trap litter the autumn and add to the uncared for appearance of an area.



This isn't to suggest that deciduous planting should not be used but in certain circumstances, it should be used with care. In particular when trees are planted in the street thought should be given to cleansing – for example if grills are to be used it should be easy to clear litter from them. This is particular problem re the trapping of cigarette end, which are extremely difficult to remove from some types of grill. Our Local Environment Audit and Management System<sup>11</sup> (LEAMS) surveys have shown an increase in smoking related litter since the introduction of the smoking ban on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007. Similar issues also apply to the design of drain covers.



Photograph from  
“Buttcatchers” website

<sup>11</sup> (LEAMS) was originally piloted in Wales by Keep Wales Tidy to help local authorities meet their obligations under Best Value. A new Performance Indicator based on LEAMS was published in February 2007 for the 2007-2008 'Cleanliness of highways and relevant land' (Reference STS/0798/NEW1) under the Environment and Transport – Street Scene Service / Policy area. Keep Wales Tidy has received funding from Welsh Assembly Government to support Local Authorities in the use of LEAMS and the introduction of the Performance Indicator between April 2007 and March 2008.

## **The design affects how a space is used and owned by people and can lead to anti-social behaviour**

Litter, graffiti vandalism can be a problem because the design creates “blind spots” and areas that are not naturally overlooked by the adjoining premises. This can be a particular problem in commercial areas, which are not occupied in the evening or at night. Another example is a large open space with dense shrub beds, which are not overlooked by residential properties or other premises. For example, from our LEAMS surveys we have identified that public spaces in Radburn Housing Layouts<sup>12</sup> which are overlooked by houses tend to be less littered, than those where there is no surveillance or perception of community ownership.

The issues associated with type of lay out have been highlighted in Secured by Design<sup>13</sup>. The initiative aims to design out crime, by making the built environment more secure and a less attractive target for the criminal. It is based on the concepts of:

- creating territoriality, boundaries, barriers, impediments and defensible space
- ensuring that there is no hiding place for intruders - open fronts, low level landscaping, sitting houses in clusters, installing rumble strips, avoiding through routes to the public, obstructed exits
- well lit private areas, clearly visible communal areas and play areas,
- car parking security
- physical security - locks, safety doors, glazing, alarms.<sup>14</sup>

Other approaches to prevent or at least make it easier to remove graffiti and fly posting include:

- incorporating surfaces and using coatings which prevent adhesion into the design of buildings and other structures
- creating areas where people are allowed to paint<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> A planned urban layout, developed by Clarence Stein, applied in Radburn, New Jersey, USA, in 1928, which separates pedestrians from vehicles using an arrangement of 'superblocks' of housing, shops, offices, schools around an enclosed green or pedestrian space. Each superblock has its peripheral ring-roads, of which come service cul-de sacs. The central green or pedestrian space has pedestrian access only, by underground passages or surface walks. Audrey N. Clark The Penguin Dictionary of Geography Penguin Books, London 1998

<sup>13</sup> Secured by Design, 1989 is a police initiative which had the backing of the Association of Chief Officers and the Home Office Crime prevention Unit. Its original purpose was to encourage the building industry to adopt recommended crime prevention guidelines in house and estate design, in refurbishing properties, building car parks and shopping precincts. The principles are set out in the DOE /Welsh Office Circular Designing Out Crime, 1994. Extract from the 2002 Audit of Torfaen Community Safety Partnership Katherine Hughes

<sup>14</sup> Extract from the 2002 Audit of Torfaen Community Safety Partnership. Katherine Hughes

<sup>15</sup> This method has been tried in the Netherlands and London, for more information see Keep Wales Position Paper on Graffiti.

However, it can be that some of the approaches to designing out crime have resulted designing out people. A study undertaken by Ken Worpole and Katherine Knox for Joseph Rowntree Foundation - Taking into account the social value of public spaces, showed that approaches that strip public places of all features make them more vulnerable to vandalism or misuse because of the lack local distinctiveness and public amenity. An example, of good design quoted in TAN 12 is Wrexham town centre, where the attention to detail in design and a sense of security created by natural surveillance help to make successful communal spaces.

A lack of ownership due to insufficient involvement by the local community or intended users can also lead to an area not being used for the intended purpose and can result in anti-social behaviour, in particular leading to problems of fly-posting and graffiti. Graffiti and fly-posting are unsightly and affect the image of an area. To those whose property is defaced by graffiti, the markings are a form of vandalism that is unwelcome, distressing and difficult to remove. Information from the LEAMS surveys we have conducted in 11 Welsh local authorities, so far in 2007, would suggest on average 9% of streets are affected by graffiti and 2% by fly-posting.

The new COPLAR issued by the Welsh Assembly Government in October 2007 recognises the impact that graffiti and fly posting can have on community safety - "Incidents of these types of environmental crime may not be as widespread as those of litter, refuse or detritus, but their presence on the appearance of the local environment can lead to further degradation of the area and an increase in the fear of crime."

Design can't provide the total solution but combined with the use of suitable materials it can contribute to reducing problems listed above.

## **Recommendations**

Keep Wales Tidy isn't suggesting that there is one solution to the problems listed above, but we have identified the following recommendations that could lead to improvements, save money and resources and contribute to creating sustainable communities.

### **We recommend that:**

**1)** A review is undertaken of the current planning and design guidance and a new Technical Advice Note 12 (TAN 12) is issued which reflects the importance of design in reducing the degradation caused by litter, fly-posting and graffiti.

The Welsh Assembly Government could achieve this by setting up a project to look at the current guidance and produce the new TAN12 for Wales. The project would recognise the implications that the design of public places can have on litter, graffiti and street cleansing and could include:

- the appointment or secondment of a project officer to coordinate the production of TAN12
- the setting up of an advisory panel involving all relevant professionals including representatives from street cleansing to assist the project officer
- visits to gain examples of good practice and to develop ideas from local authorities in other parts of the UK
- events and conferences with appropriate professionals interested bodies into raise awareness of the guidance and to help ensure it is put into practice
- the identification of at least three pilot areas across Wales where the effect of the implementation of the guidance will be monitored
- an evaluation exercise to assess the impact of the guidance over a period of 3 to 5 years.

**2)** The brief for the Wales Design Council Panel is extended so it is required to consider issues relating to design which would affect street cleansing and reduce litter, graffiti and fly posting, as well as encouraging the sharing of good practice on this aspect of design. This could be linked with an initiative to raise the profile local environmental quality issues in the fields of design and planning generally.

**3)** The expertise that exists in street cleansing departments should be recognised and utilised in the designing of new public spaces. It should be a priority that representatives from street cleansing are involved in design projects and in discussing planning applications for public spaces in their local authority area. Their involvement should be from the initial design process to the implementation, so that their expertise can be used to ensure design features are included to prevent or minimise the practical problems occurring once the design project has been completed. This would also raise the profile and possibly the moral of staff working in this area.

**4)** The consultations on and involvement of communities in the design and regeneration of public spaces should include groups who have undertaken or have experience of community clean ups and community safety so they can share their first hand experience of the problems that lead to littering, fly-posting and graffiti. This should enable measures to be included to prevent or minimise practical problems occurring once the design project has been completed and to assist in creating spaces that have community ownership. To assist this process Keep Wales Tidy could provide details of community groups that we have worked with on clean up projects as well as providing the expertise and knowledge of our own staff.

**5)** Keep Wales Tidy works with the Police and Community Safety Partnerships to promote and encourage the implementation of the aims of “Secured by Design” into new and regeneration design projects.

**6)** A research project is undertaken, to identify the implications and costs of current design practices with regard to of litter, graffiti and fly posting. This would assist in the development of innovative solutions and help to influence the planning process and raise the profile of this aspect of design. The information could also be included in future revisions of documents, like the Urban Design Compendium, which are used on urban design courses and to so that these issues are is discussed on appropriate training courses and at seminars, etc.