

## **1. Introduction**

Sennen Parish Council (Sennen PC) is aware that littering of waste and dog faeces is an issue of concern to local residents. Sennen PC recognises that:

- Litter is an eyesore, spoils the environment and quality of life.
- Litter can be hazardous to wildlife. This is particularly an issue at the coast and in places like Sennen. Litter can get tangled in or ingested by fish, mammals and other wildlife.
- Litter can affect people's health by attracting animals and insects that carry diseases.
- Research shows that high levels of litter can deter economic activity and investment.
- Litter and graffiti can help create a poor local image which can lead to an increased fear of crime.

Travel restrictions introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in increased levels of waste production in the Parish due to an increase in:

- day and overnight visitor numbers;
- numbers of campervans overnighing in the area;
- waste creation due to the need for takeaway food and disposable packaging;
- numbers of B&Bs and Holiday Lets, which may not all have correct facilities for disposal of waste.

It is possible that visitor numbers will remain at an increased level in the long term as people discover UK breaks as an alternative to overseas destinations. Therefore future plans should be based on an assumption of high use and demand for facilities.

## **2. Litter & Dog Waste Bin Provision**

### **2.1 Litter Bin Provision**

Sennen PC does not currently provide litter or dog waste bins in the Parish, it is responsible however for the maintenance and emptying of the bins within the public toilets in the beach carpark. These are emptied twice daily by contract during peak tourist weeks (holidays & half terms) and less frequently at other times.

Cornwall Council (CC) is responsible for providing and emptying litter and dog waste bins across Cornwall. Currently CC provides the bins shown in Figure 1. These bins are emptied daily during the peak tourist season and less frequently at other times.

Regarding the provision of new bins, Cornwall Council website states:

“Installing and servicing a new bin is very costly and we are not currently installing any extra bins on the land we own or manage. Often a new bin will not stop people dropping their litter or dog waste in the area. If a specific area becomes littered please contact us. Our officers will monitor the area to ensure cleansing standards are maintained. If a bin is frequently vandalised we may need to conduct a review before we put a replacement bin at that specific location again.”

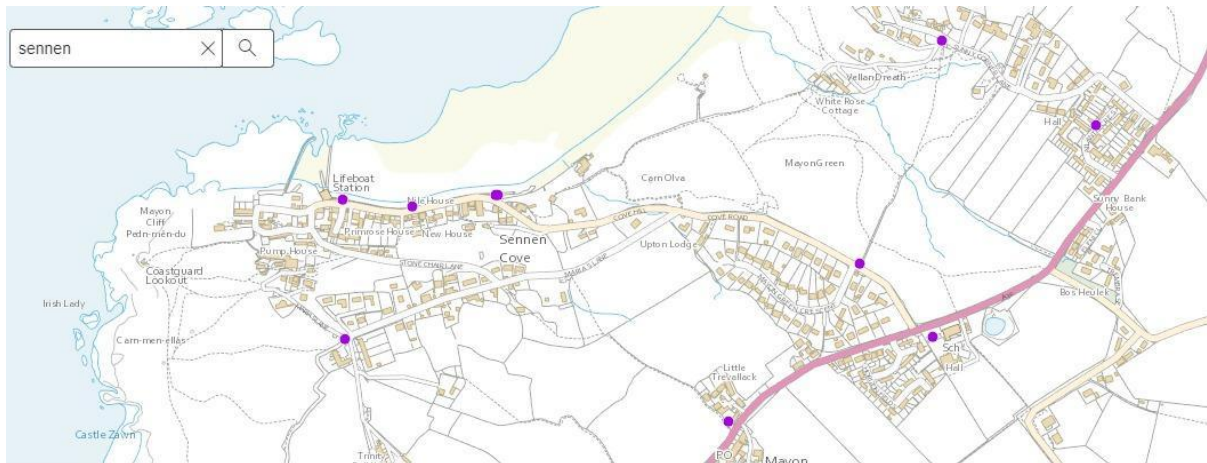


Figure 1:  
Mixed litter & dog waste bins provided by Cornwall Council in Sennen Parish (purple dots)

## 2.2 Other waste provision

Cornwall Council provides & empties several dog waste bins in the Parish. Several other organisations/businesses provide bins for public use in the parish including Sennen Harbour Commissioners who provide the toilets and litter collection for harbour & harbour car park users. The harbour toilet facilities were closed and bin collection reduced for much of 2020 and early 2021.

## 2.3 Enforcement

Cornwall Council encourages members of the public to report littering, overflowing litter and dog waste bins via their website:

[https://secure.cornwall.gov.uk/form/auto/waste\\_bin\\_report](https://secure.cornwall.gov.uk/form/auto/waste_bin_report)

Cornwall Council employs officers who are authorised to issue fixed penalty notices of £150 for littering offences. Contact is encouraged via the website contact form:

[https://secure.cornwall.gov.uk/form/auto/cserv\\_contact\\_us?Service=Waste](https://secure.cornwall.gov.uk/form/auto/cserv_contact_us?Service=Waste)

## 3. Current Issues:

- Several businesses & organisations (Sennen School, 190° West, Sennen Surf Shop) have mixed recycling and waste bins for their own business use (not public) and some report difficulties with abuse of these facilities by the public.
- Sennen PC is aware of a particular concern regarding littering, inadequate provision or misuse of bins in two particular areas: the Harbour car park and near Cost Cutters/190°West.
- The CC mixed litter/dog waste bin provided outside the Lifeboat Station is not as well used as it could be as it is not highly visible and is of a different older design to other provision.

- Left dog waste remains an issue in and around Sennen and the beach. Several areas cause particular concern:
  - Open access land - Mayon Green opposite Sennen School
  - Path from top car park to beach car park
  - School grounds around the Community Centre, playground and playing field
  - Footpath Costcutters to Esther's Field (footpath 118/17/2)
  - Footpath from the Harbour to Pedn-Men-Dhu (footpaths 118/3/1 & 118/11/4)
  - The cycle path/multi use trail between Maria's Lane and Lands End (the sections at each end being particular problem areas)
  - The A30 pavement from Costcutters to Lands End
- The issue of human faeces and paper being left on footpaths and open spaces seems to be increasing.
- The closure of the harbour toilets during much of 2020 and early 2021 significantly contributed to the increased waste and litter in this area.
- Sennen PC is not always made aware of reported problems and complaints tend to be aired via community Facebook pages
- There is limited public awareness of the CC Report-It facility and methods of contacting the Enforcement Officer for the area

#### **4. Sennen Parish Council Policy**

Sennen PC is committed to working with partner authorities, appropriate groups and services, local businesses and the local community to keep Sennen Parish clear of litter and refuse as far as is practicable.

Sennen PC will work to:

- Identify and monitor litter and waste issues in the Parish
- Work with partners and stakeholders to take action to minimise littering and issues caused by littering, toilet & dog waste in the Parish.

Partners could include:

Cornwall Council  
 Sennen Harbour Commissioners  
 RNLI  
 Local businesses  
 SW Tourist Board (SWTB)  
 SW Coast Path  
 Surfers Against Sewage  
 Community Groups  
 Sennen School.

## 5. Action Plan

The following table list actions which Sennen PC will aim to progress in partnership. Some action are achievable in the short term. Others will require consultation and cooperation which will take longer and may not be led by the Parish Council. Whilst these may be aspirational, they are useful to guide and encourage future partnership work. (Short term 6m-1yr, Med term 1-3yr, Long term 3-5yr)

Aim/Objective	Action	Timescale	Estimated Cost	Potential Partners
Identify and monitor the scale of the problem and specific concerns	- Encourage use of the CC report it form & encourage members of public to inform Sennen PC when reporting an issue – via Sennen PC website	Short	Councillor/Clerk time/ web developer cost	NDP Steering Group
	- Consult with public via Neighbourhood Development Plan	Medium	Councillor /clerk time	
Provide additional waste collection facilities and/or separate recycling facilities where a clear need is identified	Petition Cornwall Council for the provision of additional waste collection facilities and/or separate recycling facilities where a clear need is identified	Short-Medium	Councillor /clerk time	Cornwall Council Divisional Member Community Network Panel
	Ensure Cornwall Council are made aware of the scale of the problem & engage with car park attendants regarding overnight stays.	Short	Councillor/clerk time	Divisional Member
	Consider provision of additional waste collection facilities/ dog waste facilities and recycling facilities where a clear need is identified when setting annual budget and precept and identifying aims for use of any: Covid-19 Support Grant Community Infrastructure Levy S137	Annually	Councillor /clerk time	Sennen PC Finance & Governance Committee

Provide useful signage to improve use of existing litter bins and dog waste bins	Consider provision of permanent signage to indicate public bins or the location of nearest bins/dog waste bins & public toilets where an issue is identified  e.g. signage to bins next to lifeboat station and at beach slip opposite Old Success small directional/distance signs to dog waste bins on footpaths	Short	Councillor /clerk time Cost of signage design & production	Cornwall Council Community Network Panel Harbour Commissioners Businesses
Empower the community to have ownership of littering and dog waste issues	Raise awareness in the community of provision & methods of problem reporting via Sennen PC website with links to CC website	Short	Councillor/Clerk time/ web developer cost	
	Display on Sennen PC website mapped location of dog waste bins as well as litter bins	Short	Councillor/Clerk time /web developer cost	
Raise awareness of issues with the aim of changing behaviour	Communication via Sennen PC Website and Facebook Page	Short	Councillor/Clerk time /web developer cost	
	Consider with partners a Parish Tourism Business Award (similar to Plastic Free Penzance) where tourism businesses including holiday lets show they take action to minimise waste and its impacts including for example: - Providing recycling facilities - Providing appropriate waste collection - Providing information to visitors on bins and dog waste bins	Long	Councillor time Volunteer time Staff time Grant funding /partnership probably required	Cornwall Council Local Business SWTB Surfers Against Sewage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing equipment to minimise waste (e.g. portable BBQ, picnic kit)</li> <li>- Providing reusable body boards &amp; discouraging the purchase of polystyrene boards</li> </ul> <p>Work with partners to implement a Clean Sennen/Sennen is Special initiative to include a poster campaign, litter picks.</p>	Long	<p>Councillor time  Volunteer time  Staff time  Grant / Partner funding probably required</p>	<p>Cornwall Council  Clean Cornwall  Surfers Against Sewage  RNLI  SWTB  Sennen School  Sennen Playgroup  Community Groups  Local Artists</p>
Review Litter & Dog Waste Policy & Action Plan	Review this policy and action plan annually and in light of the Neighbourhood Development Plan	Annually	Councillor time	Sennen PC Working Group

**Approved by Sennen Parish Council at the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 (Minute reference 22-81)**