



LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT FOR COMMENT ***Posting of Notices in Lymestone***

For many years, Village organisations have posted notices about their activity on the telegraph poles and lamp columns around the village.

The activity of using Telegraph poles and lamp columns is regarded as 'Fly-Posting' and is illegal. However, the enforcing authority has not taken any action provided that the activity is used moderately by local groups

However, this situation is now being abused. Groups and businesses from outside the Parish post their notices here, notices have doubled in size up to A3 size and notices are not being taken down promptly after an event.

Recommended Good Practice:

1 Only notices advertising the activities of Voluntary Groups or specific events by local businesses in the Parish should be posted.

2 Notices should be restricted to A4 size.

3 Notices should be removed within one week of any event that has been advertised.

Any other notices may be removed at any time.

Volunteers should be recruited to help maintain Notices displayed in this way.

This statement should be brought to the attention of all groups in the Parish

This statement should be posted on the Parish Website www.lympstone.org , on the Parish Council Notice Boards and in the Lympstone Herald at regular intervals.

Please pass any comments to any Parish Councillor or The Clerk

Comment by Clive Wilson
Dear Tony,

I welcome the initiative the PC has taken in publishing in the February Herald its draft 'Recommended Good Practice' on posting notices on telegraph and other poles in the village and providing an opportunity for comment.

My comments are:

1 It should be explicitly clear in the body of the final text that it applies **only** to posters displayed on telegraph/electricity/lamp/posts and not to posters on noticeboards or on private property;

2 It should also be explicitly clear that the guidance relates only to posters for specific events and not , for example, to on-going activities. It might also be helpful to say that posters should not be displayed more than a month before the time of the event in question ;

3 The proposed restriction to '*voluntary groups within the parish*' would exclude advertising by village-based businesses - particularly the local pubs who have traditionally publicised, for example, musical or quiz evenings. This seems unnecessary and to serve neither the interests of local businesses (which the PC indicated in the Parish Plan that it wished to support) nor the local community;

4 The restriction to '*voluntary groups*' would also exclude posters put up by *individuals* to advertise, for example, events, they are organising for, say charitable purposes(some of which have been regularly held for some years and raise considerable sums eg open garden days. This could be avoided if the guidance also covered events organised by individuals for '*good causes*'.

5 If the amendment at 4 were accepted, it would still exclude posters put up by individuals in the villages advertising, eg, garage sales where the proceeds would not necessarily benefit 'good causes'. I have no strong view about that but the PC might wish to consider whether such an exclusion was really necessary.

6 The proposal that '*volunteers*' should be recruited '*to maintain notices*' seems unnecessary especially if the guidance makes it explicitly clear that it is the responsibility of the body putting up the poster to remove it. It's not really clear what any volunteers would be expected to do. I suggest the PC drops this proposal and makes it clear instead that the guidance will only work in practice if groups and individuals respect it. In brief it will rely on self-regulation.

7 '*Village-based organisations*' might be a better term to use than '*voluntary groups*' as it would prevent questions arising about whether, for example, the parish church or the school was a voluntary group.

8 In point one of the draft guidance the wording '*will be accepted*' suggests that someone 'in authority' is going to decide what are or are not acceptable posters whereas I assume the reality is

that the guidance would in practice have to be self-policing. Would it be better to say something like *'should be displayed'*?

I am not making these comments on behalf of any particular village organisation.

regards

Clive Wilson