



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

TOMMY SHEPPARD MP

Andrew Midgeley
Store Manager
Asda Superstore
100 The Jewel
Edinburgh
EH15 3AR

13th March 2018

Dear Andrew

Litter at Magdalene Glen

We are writing to you to ask for your support in addressing a major issue of litter and trolleys in the Magdalene Glen area. We share the Scottish Government's vision of a litter-free Scotland, laid out in the national litter strategy, '*Towards a Litter-free Scotland*' which recognises the social, environmental and economic benefits of a cleaner greener Scotland. We want The Range and Asda to support this strategy and have outlined a number of action points at the end of this letter.

Portobello Timebank have done several litter clean-ups in the area over the last few years, and recently undertook a '*Keep Scotland Beautiful*' litter survey that detailed the litter hotspots, types of litter and helped develop some initiatives that look to make a lasting impact for the area. There were two clear results; a marked increase in litter around the location of the two superstores, Asda and The Range. The second finding was the severe problem of trolley dumping in the Glen, the majority of which are from Asda. One of the action points highlighted by *Zero Waste Scotland* is tackling the source of the litter, and for Magdalene Glen the survey indicates that customers using the two superstores are a significant cause of the problem. The City of Edinburgh council are putting in two large litter bins at the two hotspots next to the stores, which will help, but we know from experience there is more that the stores can do to help alleviate the problem and become more responsible for the areas around the store rather than just within their site boundaries.

We strongly believe that "litter breeds litter" and therefore the presence of litter in the form of trolleys, or that of more general litter dropped around the perimeter of the store degrades the appearance of the area, respect for the area and therefore can breed more littering and potentially fly tipping. The initiatives we would like you to support us with therefore include BOTH addressing the source of the litter in particular trolleys, but also undertaking a zero-tolerance policy for litter outside of the perimeter of the stores:

Trolleys - Sadly the Asda trolley dumping issue has been a problem for over a decade, with hundreds of trolleys removed (and largely sent to landfill) over the last decade. The recent litter survey found 18 trolleys in various states in the Glen, and that is after over 100 have been removed or returned to the store over the last year. The cost to the local environment is high as they block streams, trap litter and are eyesores. It would also be in Asda's interest not to suffer the cost of losing so many trolleys.

Initiatives:

- 1) Re-introduce trolleys deposits. The problem has escalated since Asda have removed this feature from their trolleys in 2016. The Range has deposits on its trolleys, and there are very few of their trolleys in the Glen.
- 2) More frequent servicing of trolleys – the devices on the trolleys that prevent trolleys leaving often do not work, this needs to be addressed more often.
- 3) Increase signage that aims to stop people taking the trolleys outside of the perimeter of the site. We would prefer to use more forceful wording such as “Do not remove trolleys from this area”, “Customers that take trolleys beyond this point will be banned from the store” “CCTV is in operation to stop customers removing trolleys from this area” etc. rather than the current “Trolleys will stop working past this point”. We want Asda to focus more on the environmental aspects of this problem than just putting the customer first.
- 4) Daily removal of Trolleys from the Glen by Asda Porters, with a weekly report to local councillors to see if new measures have reduced the problem. This will continue until there is less than one trolley dumped in the Glen per week.
- 5) All trolleys that cannot be removed by the Asda Porters are to be removed within the week by your preferred contractor. Portobello Timebank are very willing to help here and respond timely if necessary, experience shows the Trolleywise are not rapid responders.
- 6) Position a CCTV camera to cover the entrances to spot serial offenders (likely to be very few people), and hopeful highlight the times of trolley removal to allow security personnel to intervene.

Importantly it is worth pointing out the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990 section 99, which states (2) that the local authority may charge for any trolleys collected:

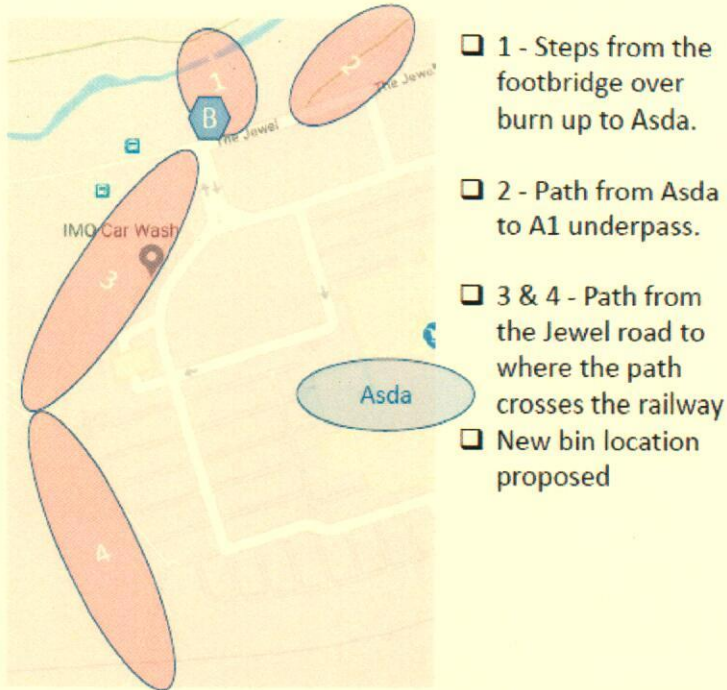
- 3A (1) This paragraph applies where the local authority is entitled to sell or otherwise dispose of a shopping or luggage trolley in accordance with paragraph 3(1)(b).
- (2) If it appears to the authority that a particular person is the owner of the trolley, the authority may charge him a sum in respect of the removal, storage and disposal of the trolley.
 - (3) The charge is payable to the authority on demand.
 - (4) The sum payable as a charge under this paragraph is recoverable by the authority as a debt due to it.

General litter – there is a clear increase in litter around the paths coming from Asda. Many customers are purchasing items from Asda and then dropping the packaging (not always intentionally) as they leave the store. Although the customer is also to blame we believe that a zero-tolerance policy for litter by Asda could improve the situation. If customers respect the area as it is litter free they are less likely to drop litter.

Initiatives:

- 1) Request designated Asda employees to litter pick outside of site perimeter, specifically the paths highlighted below:

Magdalene Glen litter proposal – Asda, The Jewel



We are also very happy to discuss initiatives from Asda to tackle this issue, but we would like to form a concrete strategy as soon as possible so that the Glen is in a much better state in 2018 and going forward, than it has been for the last decade.

Yours sincerely

Tommy Sheppard
Member of Parliament for Edinburgh East

Cllr Kate Campbell
Cllr Mary Campbell
Cllr Maureen Child