



courier.co.uk

At the heart of all things local

Kent and Essex
Courier

East of Kent
Courier

SEVENOAKS
CHRONICLE

TRADERS BEAR BRUNT OF FILTHY STREET SCENE

HAS ANYBODY else noticed the disgusting state of the High Street in the mornings before the shops and businesses open?

Cigarette ends littering the pavements and shop front doorways, empty wine glasses and vomit on doorsteps and, latterly, human excrement, all having to be dealt with by shop staff before they can even begin to start trading.

Although the environmental health department has been contacted, to date a personal response has not been forthcoming.

Unfortunately the problem is noticeably worse towards the weekend because the volume of people increases dramatically after an evening's drinking and dancing.

Would it be too much to ask for the pavements to be cleaned daily prior to businesses opening?

Perhaps the council could install metal bins at intervals along the High Street for safe cigarette disposal?

As we have CCTV cameras already installed along the High Street is there any monitoring or policing in evidence to stop people loitering in shop doorways?

It would be interesting to hear if other towns in Kent have the same problem and how their councils respond to it.

Bernadette Forrest
High Street
Tunbridge Wells

Gary Stevenson, head of environment and street scene services at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, said:

"The town centre is thoroughly cleaned every morning before the start of business by the council's street cleansing teams and the council provides litter bins that can be used to stub out and dispose of cigarette ends. I agree with Ms Forrest it is unfortunate that a very small minority of people do not respect the local environment and other people's property. The High Street is covered by CCTV and we are working with the Community Safety Partnership to tackle this anti-social behaviour."

Insp Jon Kirby said:

"We have a team of neighbourhood police officers and Pcsos who patrol the town centre, including the High Street, especially on weekend evenings when they are joined by dedicated teams of Special Constables. Anyone found to be drunk and disorderly should expect to be arrested. People urinating in shop doorways can expect to receive an on the spot fine of £80 or be reported for summons to attend court. The licensed premises in Tunbridge Wells work hard, through Pubwatch, with the police and the borough council, to minimise the noise and litter that this produces in various ways including providing bins for cigarette ends and preventing customers from taking drinks outside. Those premises that have door supervisors also work hard to control the behaviour of their customers while they are outside."