

Summary of problems and response to suggested solution from Northumberland Fire Service and NCC Neighbourhood Services

### **Cigarette Litter**

As you may be aware, cigarette butts (once put out) should be disposed of in the bin, but rather they are stepped on, on the pavement or they lie on top of litter bins. This makes the town centre look unsightly and although we could purchase litter bins with an ashtray included on the side, (although smokers still use the top of the bin even then) it would be better not to go to that expense.

In light of the above, the Clerk asked Chris Fenwick who is a local metal worker, to look at the bins and come up with a possible solution. He came up with the attached drawing which would be affordable and would allow us to simply replace the top of each bin on Front Street where there is seen to be a problem with cigarette litter.

A prototype of the design has been made and the cost would be £65/ per bin.

### **Response from Northumberland Fire and Rescue**

Sarah,

In our opinion this would be a step in the right direction. Whenever smoking materials can come into contact with combustible items there will be a fire risk, however, on this occasion I agree with the proposal as the risk will be reduced as smokers will now have an area to extinguish the cigarette prior to placing it in the bin provided. This will also encourage people to use the ash tray / bin to dispose of their cigarette ends which is a positive step towards cleaning up the streets.

Please let me know if you require any further assistance with this.

Lee Dickinson

Watch Manager

Prudhoe Fire station

### **Comments from NCC Neighbourhood Services**

At first there were concerns regarding the intake of rainwater collecting in the bin bags, however, following having sight of the actual design prototype, they feel the intake would be minimal. There is a suggestion to roughen the stub surface somehow.