**Writing framework and appendices: Final assessment**

**1 Enquiry into the citizenship issue (10 marks)**

1. **Choose an issue and say why the issue is important locally and nationally. Attach issue based evidence.**

In class we had watched a several videos about current issues that are relevant locally and nationally (appendix 1). We wanted to work as a large group as we believed that together we could achieve more. Therefore we decided to take a vote on which issue we wanted to focus our project on (appendix 2). Littering was the most popular choice in the vote as it was not only a local issue but one that had national and international consequences.

One of our aims was to investigate what was done to prevent littering in the local area. This is clearly an important local issue and the council have dedicated lots of time and resources to preventing littering in the area. It also introduced us to the different types of problems that the council classifies as ‘litter’ for example Dog waste. (Appendix 3)

We were also concerned with what the government spent on clearing litter nationally as this clearly wasn’t just a problem local to our part of the country.

Although estimates vary, one estimate by BBC Panorama put littering at a cost of £1 Billion nationally per year and believed that littering had increased 500% since the 1960s. (Appendix 4).

There is a department of the government that deals with the issue of littering, among other roles, this is the department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Environment Agency. Their website gives details about how each council is responsible for litter and refuse in the area. It provides information on each of the key areas where there are problems, for example fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles. This has proved a useful resource when identifying how important this issue is nationally. (Appendix 5).

Each member of the group shared the responsibility of conducting local and national research. I looked at newspaper articles and found out about a recent anti-litter campaign that had taken place in a local town supported by several fast food companies (Appendix 6). This led me to some further online research where I found two of the anti-litter posters that this campaign had funded (Appendix 7). Another group member found an article on the national problems of cigarette butts. This particular article was based on the Marine Conservation society’s annual survey which had reported that the problem was getting worse (Appendix 8).

Although we were aware that littering was a global problem, we wanted to take up our social responsibility by doing something in the immediate area. If we could make a difference at our own school, hopefully this would inspire others in the school community to also do their bit, and therefore our message would spread.

**Evidence**

1- Screen shots and comments about the videos we watched in class.

2- The topics my class selected for consideration were; littering; graffiti; pollution; vandalism; and recycling

3- <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/753/Street-Cleaning-Litter-and-Dog-Waste-Bins>

 This is a link to the local council website that deals with litter and related problems. It is a good resource to find out what the council is doing currently.

4- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-24702186> A BBC video on littering in Britain. This links to an episode of Panorama about the topic “one dirty nation” <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03gm10d>

5- <https://www.gov.uk/local-environmental-quality> The website for the government department that deals with littering

6- The Essex Chronicle newspaper, 5th June 2014 – McDonalds, KFC, Domino’s Pizza help launch anti-litter drive in Chelmsford

7- Braintree Council posters with anti-litter message

8- The guardian newspaper, 14th May 2013 - Cigarette butts littering UK beaches doubled in 2012, figures show

1. **Describe how the issue links to Citizenship themes from Unit 1.**

Theme 1: Rights and responsibilities

We cannot claim rights without having responsibilities, as a young person I am frequently reminded of my responsibilities by others while demanding rights for myself.

The newspaper articles show that when people do not live up to their responsibilities then the rights of others are affected. Responsibility lies with businesses as much as individuals and the actions of the local fast food businesses demonstrated that they are taking their responsibilities seriously too.

By dropping litter, you are not only failing to live up to your responsibility to look after the environment but you are harming the rights of other who have to foot the cost of the clean up through council tax, spend their own time volunteering to clean the area, or face living in a spoiled environment.

Theme 2: Power; Politics and the Media

At school, those in a position of power (i.e. teachers) are always reminding students not to drop litter and to clear up after themselves. When it comes to local councils and the government they are doing the same thing.

Those in a position of power are aware of the money being spent to tackle the problem of litter. They are also aware of what benefits that money could bring id it did not have to be spent dealing with this problem. Both the government and the county council collect tax and have the responsibility of re-distributing it to areas where it is needed. It will be a frustrating task to no be able to spend money to make things better when so much is wasted to preventing litter making the environment worse, especially when the media appears only too happy to publicise their failings.

Theme 3: The Global community

As seen in the youtube video from India, littering in not just a problem locally or even nationally. Litter is created everywhere and can cause problems to the local area where this litter is dropped and well as further afield. For example, recently the problem with litter in the sea has come to light through seabirds dying after eating plastic objects.

As we have discovered, the governments of some countries around the world do not have the funds to deal with their litter problems. For example in Loas, there are no public bins and most people just throw their rubbish on the flour or out of the window of their car as they drive along.

My greatest concern is that despite litter clearly being a local problem, there is little in the way of global initiatives to deal with it. As many litter items are not biodegradable, should we all not be doing more to prevent this problem becoming ever worse.