

Report on the Performance of the Streetscene Service

Assistant Director: Laurence Willis - Environment
Lead Officer: Chris Cooper - Streetscene Manager
Contact Details: chris.cooper@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462840

Purpose of the Report

To update and inform the Area East Committee on the performance of the Streetscene Service in the Area for the period January to August 2016

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment on the report

The major focuses of the service so far for this period that affect Area East, are listed below

- Routine cleansing and grounds maintenance
- Highway weed control

Operational Works

Since the start of the year, the service has been busy delivering the core service with the end of the winter work programmes being completed and the 'spring rush' taking over and being the main focus of the teams. We have now passed our peak growing season and have settled down to a more normal work load which will continue until the autumn.

This financial year we have delivered a complete application of herbicide as programmed through the highway weed killing operation and we have just started the second spray for the 2016/17 season. Alongside the chemical control that we use, we continue to use our 'weed scrubbing' brushes on the street sweeping machines that remove weeds from kerb edges on an ongoing basis.

We are also working with Glastonbury to investigate non-chemical options of weed control using a hot water system and I will update members on developments as they occur.

One aspect of the service that has always been an area of demand has been the calls for additional bins around the district. In response to this we have reviewed our service and made changes that have resulted in an increase in capacity. We are therefore, able to accommodate some additional requests should they be required to address litter and dog waste issues across the district. As a result of this, we have been able to work with Wincanton, Bruton, Sparkford, Mudford, Limington, Milborne Port, Queen and West Camel, Stoke Trister / Bayford, Keinton Mandeville, Templecombe, Kingweston and Shepton Montague to provide a better level of service in their parishes.

As always, we continue to focus on managing the number of flytips found in the district, the chart below shows the numbers of fly tips collected from Area East since the last report.

| AREA East | Jan | Feb | Mar | April | May | June | July | TOTALS |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Abbas & Templecombe | | 3 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Alford | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Babcary | | | 1 | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Barton St David | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Bratton Seymour | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Brewham | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| Bruton | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Castle Cary & Ansford | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | 11 |
| Charlton Horethorne | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| Charlton Mackrell | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Charlton Musgrove | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Chilton Cantelo | 1 | | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Compton Pauncefoot | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Corton Denham | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Cucklington | | | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Henstridge | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | | 5 |
| Holton | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Horsington | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Ilchester | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 3 | 4 | 11 |
| Keinton Mandeville | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Kingsdon | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Kingweston | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Limington | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Lovington | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Maperton | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| Marston Magna | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Milborne Port | | 2 | 1 | | | | | 3 |
| Mudford | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 18 |
| North Barrow | | | | | | | | 0 |
| North Cadbury | | 2 | | 4 | | | 1 | 7 |
| North Cheriton | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Penselwood | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | 4 |
| Pitcombe | | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | | 6 |
| Queen Camel | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 |
| Rimpton | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Shepton Montague | 1 | | | 1 | | | 2 | 4 |
| South Barrow | | 1 | | | | | | 1 |
| South Cadbury | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Sparkford | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Stoke Trister | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | | | 6 |
| West Camel | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 5 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Wincanton | 3 | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 13 |
| Yarlington | | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| Yeovilton | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| TOTAL | 22 | 30 | 22 | 23 | 16 | 12 | 20 | 145 |

I am delighted to inform members that we are finding a reduction in numbers of incidents across the district as a whole, during 2015/16 we cleared 1,079 flytips which compares to the previous years figures when we cleared 1253 tips across the district. Having analysed the figures, we believe that the reduction is due to the street cleaning teams collecting single black bags of rubbish as routine litter rather than recording it as small fly tips. We recognise that dumping on private land is not included in this recording and in certain locations this is a problem for members of our community. We will be working to develop ways in which we can assist landowners to address these issues over the coming months.

Earlier this year the team supported the Clean for the Queen initiative that was taken up by a number of parishes and towns throughout the district. In Area East we had a very positive take up, working with North Cadbury, North Cheriton, Redlynch, Babcary and the Mill on the Brue at Bruton. My thanks go to all of the groups who were engaged with this great initiative. Should any other towns or parishes have cleansing or environmental initiatives, we would be delighted to work with them if they are interested.

We have also been reviewing the business plan for the Lufton vehicle workshop and we are currently developing the facility to enable it to undertake MOT testing for Class 4 and Class 7 vehicles. We are confident that this will not only make efficiencies to our current working practices, but will also open up new avenues of business to us in due course.

The Parish Rangers employed by the team have been very busy and feedback on the contribution they have made to their respective parishes continues to be very good. We are continuing to develop the scheme with more parishes as requests are received.

Finally, even though we were fortunate this winter not to suffer as badly from the flooding that has affected the area in the past; we have however focussed on training our staff to work in and around water in order to meet our health and safety responsibilities. This training has presented some challenges to the way that we have always traditionally operated and we are currently reviewing our working practices to ensure that we can operate as safely as possible in response to flooding and other water related works.

What's coming next?

- Continued delivery of annual work programmes
- The second half of the highway weed control program
- Completion of the review of working in water practices
- Development of the workshop as an MOT station
- More Christmas tree shredding

Financial Implications

All of the matters highlighted in the report have been achieved within service budgets.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

- Continue to deliver schemes with local communities that enhance the appearance of their local areas
- Continue to support communities to minimise floodwater risks.
- Maintain street cleaning high performance across the district.

Background Papers

Progress report to Area Committees on the Performance of the Streetscene service
