

## **Update Report on the Performance of the Streetscene Service**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

To update and inform the Area South Committee on the performance of the Streetscene Service in the Area for the period November 2014 –June 2015

### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to comment on the report

### **Report**

**The major focus of the service so far for this period that affect Area South, are listed below.**

- Routine cleansing and grounds maintenance
- Gold in South West in Bloom & 11 neighbourhood awards
- Highway weed control
- Main Road litter picking
- Working on specific projects

### **Operational Works**

As usual the main focus of the service has been the delivery of routine street cleansing and grounds maintenance across the Area. Our teams have settled following some changes to personnel and the staff have performed consistently well over the last few months. Unfortunately we have recently experienced some staff sickness which has brought with it some operational challenges, however we are working with these members of staff to get them back into action as soon as possible.

One area of work that has received on-going focus has been the highway weed killing operation. The services' quad bikes are now operating and making good progress, to date all of the main towns across the district have been sprayed, and approx. 75% of Yeovil has been sprayed at the time of writing this report. This puts us well on course to deliver two full applications of herbicide across the district as previously planned. The service uses 'Glyphosate Probiactive' herbicide to control the weed-growth. This product has no hazard classification at all, making it, as far as we know, the safest herbicide available to us on the market at this time.

This year we also worked with the community payback groups and we have worked to develop good working arrangements with them. The teams work has focussed on the Hillcrest road / St Michaels Avenue area of the town, which are notoriously difficult to access for our machinery due to traffic congestion.

One area of work that we have recently focussed on has been the litter picking on the A303; as usual, our teams have recently completed the winter clearance of the verges. However, in order to improve the cleanliness of this important route we have reorganised one of our

teams so they will spend two days a week throughout the year, cleaning this and other major roads through the district. One aspect of cleaning the A303 that has always presented a problem, is the central reservation area. This part of the dual carriageway in particular accumulates litter which is very noticeable. In order to safely access and clean this part of the road, we have met with Skanska who are the contractors appointed by the Highways Agency to carry out maintenance of Motorways and major trunk roads throughout this area. We discussed the issue that we are trying to deal with and how best to safely carry out the work. It was agreed that by working together we will be able to deal with the problem and arrangements were made to coordinate our operations with Skanska's maintenance works. This way, our staff can work safely within the traffic controlled areas set up by the Skanska operatives and we can clean sections of the central reservation.

This cooperative approach to the work has already started, with a section around South Petherton being the first area to be cleaned. We are very grateful to the help we are receiving from the team at Skanska and look forwards to continuing to work with them.

In the previous financial year, the service was awarded capital funding to replace the aging pavement sweepers used by the street cleaning team. We are currently testing demonstrators in order to select the best option for us. We will also be reviewing the current pavement sweeping arrangements that we have in place in order to maximise the impact we gain from this equipment.

My thanks to all those involved in making this a success.

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 South over the past financial year.

<b>Area South</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan 15</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Barwick	1	3	1			1				1	1	1	9
Closworth										1		1	2
East Coker	1		2	1	2		1	1	5	2			15
Hardington				1		2	1				1	1	6
Odcombe		3	1			1	2						7
Stoford													0
West Coker			1			2	2						5
<b>Yeovil by Ward:</b>													
Brympton	2	7	5	5	8	4	3		2	5	1	1	43
Central	5	4	4	9	8	6	4	2	1	5	4	10	62
East	4	7	4	5	6	11	5	8	2	5	14	6	77
South	1		7	6	3	5	3		2	1	1	1	30
West	3	3	5	3	4	1	1		2	3	3	4	32
Yeo W/out	5	11	3	3	2	5	2			1	2	2	36
<b>TOTAL AREA</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>324</b>

In Area South we see that the levels of tipping are lower than during the previous 12 months, when 407 flytips were cleared for the same period. We have reviewed the records of what has been deposited and where it has been left.

Our enforcement officers are now focussing their efforts on the locations where most dumping has occurred and signage has been erected and cameras have been deployed in an effort to deter the depositing of the rubbish. A review of the fly tipping records show that the vast majority of these tips are the size of a small van load or less, indicating that most cases are domestic rather than commercial in their source

In addition to the physical removal of the waste, enforcement officers currently we have some cases being pursued through the courts and we expect to hear the outcomes of these very soon.

The Parish Ranger Scheme has continued to develop and the service now employs three Rangers across the district. In Area South we have schemes working in Brympton, Yeovil Without, Barwick & Stoford, Odcombe, East and West Coker, with our newest scheme covering the town centre. All of the schemes are receiving positive comments and we aim to continue to develop the program with more parishes over the coming year.

Our horticultural teams completed last years work schedule and are now well underway with this seasons work.

In our annual work program we aim to deliver:

16 grass cuts on most grassland and 11 cuts of highway verges.

5 applications of herbicide on planted areas

2 applications of herbicide on designated hard surfaced areas

1 or 2 hedge cuts (depending upon plant species)

3 pruning operations throughout the year (depending upon plant species)

Annual maintenance of small trees

Weekly clearance of flood screens

Annual ditch maintenance operations on SSDC controlled flood alleviation schemes

Plus

Other non-routine works and arboricultural works that are carried out as required.

This year the town was awarded a Gold award in the South West in Bloom competition.

In addition to this, both Milford and St Marks Church allotments won gold awards; the Country park won a Silver Gilt award and 11 Your Neighbourhood awards were received.

This was a fantastic result that reflects the commitment and hard work of everyone who took part.

During the winter period the team delivered a number of initiatives in the area with tree planting schemes being delivered at Yew Tree Park, Turners Barn Lane, Howard Road Recreation Ground and in Milford Valley Open Space, where sections of fencing were also renewed.

Arboricultural works were carried out along Preston Road where the existing trees were pollarded & along Lyde Road where diseased Horse Chestnut trees were removed and replanting was carried out.

The team also focussed on improving the condition of the banks alongside the college and into Hollands Walk, linking this work through the hospital underpass, which will be planted later in the year; and through the shrub bed linking Reckleford to Court Ash removing old tired planting, while pruning and cleaning the areas.

We also continued the development work on the tree beds along Bluebell Road and will continue to develop these in years to come.

Not all of our work is high profile, one example of which has been the dredging of the Lufton pond, not a glamorous job, but essential to the smooth upkeep of the location while another would be the erection and clearing of the vintage market in the town centre. These jobs, although low key, are essential in ensuring that problems simply don't arise and residents can enjoy what the town has to offer.

Other work such as supporting the Yeovil half marathon is much higher profile, but again these works contribute to enabling residents and visitors alike to enjoy what the area has to offer.

In 2014 the service was successful in tendering for the maintenance of Public Rights of Way in South Somerset, and we delivered the service as specified by the County Councils Officers, in line with the designated work program. We are delighted to announce that we have again been awarded two of the contracted areas, one of which contains parts of Area South. The first maintenance visit of the selected pathways has recently been completed by our teams.

As well as delivering our operational works, a major focus for the horticultural service will be to improve signage and accessibility on and around our open spaces. These developments will enable greater use to be made of our green spaces for everyone, while making the visiting experience more enjoyable.

### **What's coming next?**

- Summer work programs shrub bed maintenance, hedge cutting, spraying and mowing
- Ongoing development of pathways through Milford Park
- Delivering the maintenance of the recently adopted open space at Wyndham park
- Ongoing developments to the cleaning systems along the main roads and A303 in particular
- Delivery of the Rights of Way contracted works
- Delivering the years highway weed control program
- Development of signage and accessibility in open spaces

The service would like to thank members for their ongoing support and encouragement as it is greatly appreciated by the team.

### **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