

Streetscene Service Performance in Area East

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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 April 2015 – September 2015

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment on the report

Report

The major focus of the service so far for this period that affects Area East, are listed below.

- Routine cleansing and grounds maintenance
- Highway weed control
- Rights of Way maintenance

Operational Works

The team continues to focus on the routine street cleansing and grounds maintenance across the Area.

We have recently finished the first spray of the highway weed killing operation. The quad bikes have performed very well and we have just started the second application in Yeovil. This change to the service has not only made the operation more efficient, but has made a visible difference to the look of the district. Some species of plants are showing resilience against the herbicide used and we are tasking out teams with manual removal of these. You may notice these growing in road drains and certain kerbsides, and without changing the chemicals used, we have no other practical way of removing them.

In association with these approaches, we are fitting weed removal brushes onto the road sweepers which will focus on removal of soil & weeds that have built up on kerbed areas of the roads around the Area. We aim to have made a notable impression into this work plan before the winter weather arrives.

During the spring, we had the pleasure of working with the Wincanton Town Team on the initiative to 'spruce up' the High Street area. The weekend involved a wide range of jobs carried out by residents, local shops workers and volunteers supported by the team, our equipment and made a notable difference to the look of the high street area.

We also supported Ilchester Youth Parish Council with a clean-up of their town and with residents of The Mead to assist them in setting up their own flood store arrangements.

Should other towns or villages wish to organise similar types of events, we would be delighted to work with them or simply offer resources to support their work. If members

would like more details about how to progress these kinds of ideas, please feel free to call me to discuss.

We also 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 from April 2015 until July 2015.

In Area East we found that the levels of tipping between April to the end of July showed 65 instances of dumping compared to 85 reported fly tips for the same period last year. This is very encouraging and we continue to work to reduce these figures even further.

AREA EAST	April-15	May-15	June-15	July-15	TOTALS
Abbas & Templecombe	2		1		3
Alford					0
Babcary			1		1
Barton St David					0
Bratton Seymour		1			1
Brewham		1			1
Bruton	2	1			3
Castle Cary & Ansford					0
Charlton Horethorne					0
Charlton Mackrell	1				1
Charlton Musgrove					0
Chilton Cantelo					0
Compton Pauncefoot	1			1	2
Corton Denham					0
Cucklington					0
Henstridge		1			1
Holton					0
Horsington	1			1	2
Ilchester	2	4			6
Keinton Mandeville					0
Kingsdon		2	1	1	4
Kingweston					0
Limington			1		1
Lovington					0
Maperton			2	1	3
Marston Magna					0
Milborne Port	2	2			4
Mudford	3	1	3	1	8
North Barrow		1			1
North Cadbury			1	1	2
North Cheriton					0
Penselwood					0
Pitcombe	2	1			3
Queen Camel				1	1
Rimpton					0
Shepton Montague		1			1
South Barrow					0

South Cadbury				1	1
Sparkford		1		1	2
Stoke Trister	1	1			2
West Camel					0
Wincanton	4		3		7
Yarlington	0				0
Yeovilton	2		1	1	4
TOTAL AREA EAST	23	18	14	10	65

We believe that our approach toward clearing flytips as soon as they are found or reported, while working to maintain the area in the cleanest possible manner is deterring people from dumping their waste which reflects in these figures. We will of course monitor this trend to see if this pattern continues to improve.

As a service we constantly review the ways in which we deliver the service in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of it. Following recent discussions, we are looking to trial a night shift road sweeping round that will be focussed on sweeping the main roads around the district; while the remaining rounds will be re-worked to pick up the cleansing of the towns and villages. We believe that this potentially offers some savings in operating costs and will enable us to access areas of road that are difficult to clean during day time traffic levels.

This year the service was successful in a capital bid to replace its pavement sweepers and we have been considering the various models on the markets to find the best replacement. After various comparisons and field testing we have chosen the Green machine 636 model, and we expect to be receiving delivery of this equipment later in the month.

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

Our horticultural teams are well into their grass cutting schedules, shrub bed maintenance operations and hedge cutting programmes. The season has gone well and the teams are on schedule as expected. We have as part of this work schedule, carried out a range of grounds maintenance, landscaping, arboricultural and deep cleansing one-off projects, for a number of town and parish councils, as contracted works. If any other parish councils are interested in securing the team to carry out works we would be delighted to discuss their requirements with them.

The service was successful in tendering for the maintenance of Public Rights of Way in South Somerset, and so far this year we have completed the first of the maintenance cuts, while the second of these is currently underway, as directed through the County Councils work programme.

What's coming next?

- Leaves! We are currently servicing the machinery in readiness for autumn and developing work programmes. If members have specific area that they would like us to focus on, please e-mail me the address at the head of the page.
- Main road litter control along the main roads and A303
- Delivering the second herbicide application of the highway weed control programme

- Trialling night time road sweeping
- Deployment of the new pavement sweepers

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