

## **Report for Area East Committee on the Performance of the Streetscene Service**

*Strategic Director:* Vega Sturgess – Operations and Customer Focus  
*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 October 2015 – January 2016.

### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to comment on the report.

**The major focus 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**

Over the last few months we have focussed on the normal pattern of seasonal matters such as leaf clearance, rural road litter clearing, ditch maintenance and cleaning around seasonal events.

We are midway through the second spray of the highway weed killing operation and we have delivered the second application in all of the market towns. When the spring arrives we will continue this work and carry out the final weed control in the villages throughout the district. The herbicide that we use is Round-up pro-biactive which carries no hazard classification and when coupled with an approach of spot spraying individual weeds rather than 'blanket spraying' vast areas, does I believe provide the safest cost effective method of weed control available to us when considering the size of the area that we maintain.

As mentioned in the last Area Report, we have fitted weed removal brushes onto the road sweepers and have focussed on removal of soil & weeds that have built up on kerbed areas of the roads around the Area. We have made a notable impression into this work plan so far in the Area we have cleaned the A30 and roads from Sparkford through to Bruton and Henstridge through to Ansford. In addition to these routes, we have swept the roundabouts and splitter islands on the A303. Over the coming months we will continue with this schedule and work along from Somerton to Ansford and Ilchester to Keinton Mandeville.

At Christmas we worked with the Wincanton Town Team and Castle Cary Town Council to carry out targeted cleaning works to compliment seasonal activities. 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 over the year.

<b>AREA EAST</b>	<b>Oct -15</b>	<b>Nov-15</b>	<b>Dec-15</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Abbas & Templecombe		2		2
Alford				0
Babcary				0
Barton St David				0
Bratton Seymour				0
Brewham				0
Bruton	1			1
Castle Cary & Ansford		2		2
Charlton Horethorne				0
Charlton Mackrell	1			1
Charlton Musgrove				0
Chilton Cantelo	1			1
Compton Pauncefoot	1	1		2
Corton Denham				0
Cucklington	1			1
Henstridge	4	1	4	9
Holton				0
Horsington		1	2	3
Ilchester		1		1
Keinton Mandeville				0
Kingsdon		2		2
Kingweston				0
Limington				0
Lovington				0
Maperton	1			1
Marston Magna				0
Milborne Port			1	1
Mudford	2	2	2	6
North Barrow		1	1	2
North Cadbury				0
North Cheriton				0
Penselwood				0
Pitcombe	1			1
Queen Camel			2	2
Rimpton				0
Shepton Montague		0		0
South Barrow		1		1
South Cadbury				1
Sparkford	2			2
Stoke Trister		2		2
West Camel				0
Wincanton	2	2	5	9

Yarlington	0			0
Yeovilton		1		1
<b>TOTAL AREA EAST</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>53</b>

In Area East we find that the levels of tipping between April to the end of July show 53 instances of dumping compared to 66 reported fly tips for the same period last year. This continued improvement in numbers of fly tips removed is very encouraging and we continue to work to reduce these figures even further. 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.

As is usual, the teams spent a number of weeks removing leaves during the autumn and we are investigating ways that we could use what we collect to recycle as mulch.

In the last report we informed members that we were looking to trial a night shift road sweeping round that focussed on sweeping the main roads around the district; while the remaining rounds were re-worked to pick up the cleansing of the towns and villages. After some minor teething issues we have successfully introduced a system that is both effective and acceptable to the staff involved. The results of this change are very encouraging as they are allowing us to sweep major routes around the district that are dangerous to access 'during the day'.

The pavement sweepers that we took delivery of late last year have been deployed in Ilchester and are moving to clean Marston magna, Sparkford and 'The Camels' over the coming weeks.

The rounds are being scheduled to prevent conflicting with refuse/recycling days. We are finding that the quality of cleansing is notably better than from simply litter picking areas.

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 and we are continuing to develop the scheme with more parishes as requests are received.

During early January we held the first meeting of Parish Environmental Wardens at Lufton Depot.

The idea of the scheme is to develop a network of key individuals in each parish which will develop relationships with the service to work with us to address a wide range of environmental issues – from reporting a problem through to working with our teams to deliver locally important projects.

Should members or Parishes be interested in joining this group, please give me a call on the number listed above for a chat or to arrange for us to come and talk with the Parish Council about the scheme.

Our horticultural teams have completed the winter ditch maintenance schedules and are working through the winter shrub bed maintenance and hedge cutting programs. We also completed the maintenance of Public Rights of Way in South Somerset in line with the County Councils work program.

Since the summer period 2015, the team has been working very closely with the Yeovil Cemetery Team and together we are making notable improvements to the delivery of this service. This is a very specialised area of work and there is considerable expertise available within the service. In order to maximise good practice across the district we are available to work with other burial organisations to compare work practices and ensure that best work

and health & safety practice is being followed. Should you be interested in discussing this in more detail, please contact us to arrange a meeting.

Finally, this year we offered free Christmas tree shredding in the towns around the district and we recycled a number of trees in Henstridge, Wincanton, Bruton, Milborne Port and Cucklington. The scheme received a good response from residents and we aim to repeat this next Christmas.

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

- Completion of the main road litter control program
- Completing the second herbicide application of the highway weed control program
- Deployment of the Parish Warden Scheme
- Ongoing development of our depot facilities

### **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