

Area East Performance of the Streetscene Service

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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 November 2013 - August 2014.

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment on the report

Report

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

- Routine maintenance operations – horticultural & street cleansing
- Continued reduction in the numbers of fly tips
- Highway weed control
- Rights of Way maintenance

Operational Works

Our street cleaning teams continue to clean the Area on a daily basis and routine work dominates the day-to-day business.

Accompanying this 'core work,' a weed spraying team works to address the issue of highway weeds. This year we have purchased another quad bike sprayer in order to improve on the highway weed control operation across the district, and both machines will work together in order to save transportation costs. Alongside this mechanised spraying, one of our street cleaners is being issued with a knapsack sprayer in order to carry out additional weed spraying in areas while carrying out routine work. We believe that this will make a big improvement to the look of the Area. We have completed one spray in all towns and villages and will soon start the second application of herbicide.

Earlier this year Phil Jones the Enforcement and Street Cleaning Supervisor, retired from the service after 37 years work for the council. Following his retirement, we have appointed Nick Allen to cover the Street Cleaning side of Phil's work, while the enforcement aspect of the service has been merged with Environmental Health's enforcement team under Vicky Dawson, as we believe that this will offer efficiencies and service improvements.

The service is also recruiting to the posts left vacant from the Open Spaces Officer, a Gardener post and an Administrative Assistant. We are confident that when these posts are filled, we will see a further improvement in the service offered by the team.

Fly tipping numbers and locations of fly tips reported in this financial year so far.

AREA EAST	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Totals April – July 14	Totals April 13-March14
Abbas & Templecombe	1	2		1	4	2
Alford					0	0
Babcary					0	1
Barton St David					0	0
Bratton Seymour				2	2	1
Brewham		1			1	1
Bruton				1	1	1
Castle Cary & Ansford	1			4	5	14
Charlton Horethorne				1	1	0
Charlton Mackrell				1	1	1
Charlton Musgrove	1				1	1
Chilton Cantelo		1	1		2	0
Compton Pauncefoot	2	2		1	5	1
Corton Denham					0	0
Cucklington	1				1	1
Henstridge	2		4	2	8	11
Holton		1			1	1
Horsington					0	1
Ilchester	1		2		3	3
Keinton Mandeville					0	0
Kingsdon	1				1	0
Kingweston	1	1			2	0
Limington				2	2	0
Lovington					0	0
Maperton				5	5	2
Marston Magna				1	1	1
Milborne Port	1		2	2	5	3
Mudford	1	4	1	4	10	12
North Barrow				1	1	0
North Cadbury				1	1	0
North Cheriton					0	0
Penselwood				1	1	1
Pitcombe				2	2	1
Queen Camel				2	2	0
Rimpton					0	0
Shepton Montague					0	0
South Barrow					0	0
South Cadbury					0	1
Sparkford					0	4
Stoke Trister		1	1		2	6
West Camel			1		1	0
Wincanton		1	7	1	9	14
Yarlington	1			1	2	0
Yeovilton	2				2	1
TOTAL AREA EAST	16	14	19	36	85	86

This shows that the number of fly tips have remained constant after last year's improvement on previous years.

This year the team tendered for the maintenance of the Rights of Way contracts, let by the County Council. The district was offered as four distinct areas to maintain, and we were successful in winning three of the four areas (the area that we were unsuccessful in bidding for covered Langport through into Sedgemoor) and have acted as their contractor on the paths designated by the County Councils' Rights of Way officers. We are delighted to have brought this operation back within the service and hope to be successful in retaining this work when it is re-tendered next year.

The teams have been busy clearing the designated footpaths, and we have recently finished the last few paths. When the works are completed, we hope to meet with the ROW officers to review the works that have been carried out across the district this year and see if we can further improve the service. Queries regarding the paths that have been chosen for maintenance should be directed through to the County Council officers covering the paths in this area.

The horticultural teams completed the winter horticultural maintenance and ditch maintenance programmes in line with the projected targets. A number of the team, along with the street cleaners, were heavily involved with clearing up trees that were damaged in the winter storms and sandbagging in response to the extensive flooding experienced in various parts of the district and since March have been mowing, hedge cutting and continuing with the maintenance of planted areas.

Also mentioned in the previous report, the team was awaiting the arrival of two new apprentices. As a result we currently have one working on the sports ground team with the other working in our admin support team at Lufton.

What's coming next?

- Spring bulbs will be offered to Parish & Town Councils for naturalising – as we have done in previous years. This year we are moving away from daffodils and are offering a mixture of different species that will provide more variety of interest.
- We are looking to develop working links with the Probation Service in order to access community payback work from offenders.
- We are also looking to install litter bins in the main laybys on the A303 in the Area, to try to combat the littering issues that we experience here.
- The team are looking to work in line with the initiative led by the Friends of the Earth to help save Bees, by developing pollination areas and encourage nesting areas in specific open spaces.

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