

# **Report for Area East Committee on the 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 August 2017 to February 2018.

## **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.**

- Delivery of the annual work schedules for street cleansing and grounds maintenance.
- Christmas tree shredding

## **Operational Works**

Since the last report, the service is finalising this year's annual work schedule and is also pleased to report that it is on target for completion by the end of this financial year. As part of this, our horticultural teams are currently undertaking the winter mowing operation which will ensure that the impending grass cutting season gets off to a good start.

We are currently focussing on litter picking on our main roads and will finish this work schedule by cleaning the verges of the A303 again.

Recently we have been investigating how to safely clean the central reservation areas of the A303 and looking into the cost implications of the traffic management system needed to fulfil this work. Our enquiries resulted in two very different approaches that were suggested by specialist companies, along with considerable variance in the associated costs. This caused some concern among the team and subsequently we have met with the Highways Agency regarding the cleansing of this road and we are working with them to identify a work method that we can follow with confidence and could become 'standard practice' for authorities carrying out similar duties. We expect to hear from the agency with their suggestions very soon.

Over the last few years the team has focussed on addressing a number of service demands, including:

- Providing additional waste bins by increasing our capacity to accommodate these requests
- Improving road sweeping on our major roads across the district by introducing a night shift sweeping round
- Highway weed control following changes to the County Highways maintenance schedules.

We believe that we have been successful in improving these areas of service and the performance in these aspects of our work is sustainable. The next area of focus that we are looking to improve is the

litter cleaning of all of the small rural roads across the district and we are hoping to coordinate our efforts with voluntary groups to clear litter from the public rights of way. The works will be managed through a series of 'zones' and members will be updated on progress in their areas.

In January the team carried out Christmas tree shredding across the district with all trees processed being recycled as mulch for planted areas. This year we served 47 collection points with tree recycling taking place at Abbas & Templecombe, Bruton, Castle Cary, Charlton Horethorne, Corton Denham, Cucklington, Henstridge, Horsington, Ilchester, Keinton Mandeville, Kingsdon, Milborne Port, Mudford, Sparkford, West Camel and Wincanton.

Again, as in previous years, we were pleased to find a general absence of fly tipping in the collection bays that were set up and very few Christmas trees left in hedges and lay byes.

Once again, the horticultural team supplied naturalising bulbs to parish councils, although this was at a reduced level compared to previous year; however bulbs were donated to South Cadbury, Templecombe and Milborne Port. We will continue with this initiative in the coming financial year in line with demand.

The team continues to engage with voluntary groups throughout the district and in the Area we have worked with the 'Templecombe in Bloom' group and 'The Brue Crew' to help enable them to carry out various environmental improvement works.

The winter maintenance of the flood alleviation schemes was completed prior to the Christmas break and we continue to clear the debris screens to prevent blockages that lead to localised problems. Fortunately we haven't experienced any flooding so far this year, however the team are prepared and resources available should an event occur.

We have been working with the Engineering team to carry out some improvements to the flood alleviation schemes following a successful bid for additional funding. As a result a new trash screen will be installed at Henstridge by the end of March and other schemes will be developed across the district.

Improvements have been made at Wincantons Elm Drive open space, where the park has been open up by removing a hedge and dividing fence, replacing the dividing hedge with trees and replacing the old wooden fencing whilst incorporating a strip of land that runs alongside the park. We will continue to work on improvements here over the coming year.

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 over the last five months. The figures indicate a considerable reduction in occurrences when compared to the same period last year when we cleared 151 flytips across the area.

Across the district as a whole we have found a similar pattern with 494 flytips reported between August to January this financial year compared to 584 for the same period the previous year.

We are continuing to monitor this situation and follow our approach of clearing away the items promptly so we do not allow the fly tips that have been made, to attract more items.

<b>AREA EAST</b>	<b>Aug 17</b>	<b>Sept 17</b>	<b>Oct 17</b>	<b>Nov 17</b>	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Jan 18</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Abbas & Templecombe		2				1	3
Alford							0
Babcary		1					1
Barton St David							0

Bratton Seymour							0
Brewham							0
Bruton	2	3	1		1		7
Castle Cary & Ansford	1	3		1			5
Charlton Horethorne							0
Charlton Mackrell	1						1
Charlton Musgrove							0
Chilton Cantelo		1	1				2
Compton Pauncefoot			1	3		1	5
Corton Denham							0
Cucklington					1	2	3
Henstridge			3	1		2	6
Holton			1				1
Horsington				1		1	2
Ilchester	1	6	4	2	1	1	15
Keinton Mandeville							0
Kingsdon		1	1				2
Kingweston							0
Limington		1					1
Lovington							0
Maperton					1		1
Marston Magna							0
Milborne Port				2			2
Mudford	4	2	2	2			10
North Barrow		1					1
North Cadbury							0
North Cheriton							0
Penselwood							0
Pitcombe			1				1
Queen Camel						1	1
Rimpton						1	1
Shepton Montague			1				1
South Barrow		2					2
South Cadbury							0
Sparkford		2	1		2	1	6
Stoke Trister			2	1		2	5
West Camel	1	1	1	1			4
Wincanton	2	6	3	3	1	2	17
Yarlington							0
Yeovilton			1				1
<b>TOTAL AREA EAST</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>107</b>

As part of the Councils transformation program, Streetscene has been rebranded as Environmental Services and now contains the Waste & Recycling Service and management of the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery, should members wish for updates on these aspects of the service in the future, I will be best placed to provide this information.

In line with these changes, we are working with Somerset Waste Partnership to review the types of material and volumes of potentially recyclable waste that is being deposited in town centre bins. The results of this study will inform us of the potential for further recycling options.

Our findings to date show that approximately half of the waste collected is potentially recyclable, with the main items being plastic, drinks cups, tin cans, cardboard and glass. With this initial data collected, we are now in a position to investigate the various collection options and associated cost implications. We are also leading on a management approach to minimise the use of single use plastics across the district council and updates on progress in this area of the service will be made if requested.

As noted in previous reports, the service is developing an MOT station at the depot, progress continues to be made and the essential electrical works are now finished, staff have been trained and building works are due to start soon. We are on schedule to be functional early in the new financial year.

In the last report we updated members that we had reduced our staff sickness levels to 9.4 days per Full Time Employees (FTE) from the previous year's level of 14 days per FTE and we aimed to reduce this further to a target of 8 days per FTE in financial year 2017/18, so far this year we have further reduced this to approximately 6 days per person resulting in further productivity and we aim to maintain this level of attendance, recognising that there will always be an amount of absence through sickness in a large workforce.

Finally, the team has recently carried out the recruitment of our agency staff provider and we are happy that we have secured a reliable, ethical and cost effective solution to our seasonal staffing needs.

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

- Continued delivery of the annual work programmes
- Development of the workshop as an MOT station

### **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.

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