

Performance of the Streetscene Service

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Purpose of the Report

To update and inform the Area North Committee on the performance of the Streetscene Service in the Area for the period May 2017 – November 2017

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment on the report.

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

- Routine summer and autumn work programmes of cleansing and grounds maintenance
- Annual budget

Operational Works

Since the last report, the service has undertaken this years annual work schedules and once again we are pleased to inform members that this is on schedule as projected. Our mowing and spraying operations are completed although they were progressed further into the year due to a late autumn when things simply kept on growing! We are now carrying out the winter ditch and shrub bed maintenance works on the horticultural side and leaf clearing followed by rural road litter picking with our street cleaning teams.

So far this year we have completed two applications of herbicide to streets in the main towns through the district and one application in villages and on kerbed rural roads. We will complete the spraying of more rural areas in the start of 2018. The system of application is now established and highway weeds are now under control to a point where we receive very little comment on this from our customers.

At this year's South West in Bloom competition, the towns & parishes from Area North were well represented and we would like to congratulate them on the results that were attained. They show a great deal of hard work and commitment from the local communities and our team has, where possible, worked with and supported these groups. We wish them every success in the future.

The results were:

- Ash - Silver gilt award
- Langport - Silver gilt award and the best new entry
- Curry Rivel - Silver award and The City of Bath landscape trophy

As is usual for the service at this time of year, we are preparing for potential flooding operations and we have a number of sandbags prepared, 'gel' bags in stock and equipment ready should we have to respond to any requests. Should your parish have a flood store I would encourage them to review their stocks to ensure they are prepared in case we get a difficult winter.

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 North since the last report.

AREA North	May 2017	June 2017	July 2017	Aug 2017	Sept 2017	Oct 2017	TOTALS	Totals Same period 2016
Aller					2	2	4	4
Ash	1	1	2	1			5	3
Barrington			1				1	0
Beercrocombe							0	0
Bower Hinton							0	0
Chilthorne Domer		2	1	3	1		7	3
Compton Dundon		1		1			2	2
Curry Mallet		1	2				3	3
Curry Rivel	2	1	1		4	1	9	5
Drayton							0	1
Fivehead	2	1			4	1	8	6
Hambridge & Westport				1			1	0
High Ham		2		1		1	4	4
Huish Episcopi					1		1	1
Ilton			1	1			2	0
Isle Abbotts							0	0
Isle Brewers							0	0
Kingsbury Episcopi							0	4
Langport	1	1	1		1		4	1
Long Load					1	1	2	1
Long Sutton		1					1	1
Lopen				1			1	1
Martock					3	4	7	9
Montacute			3	2	3	1	9	9
Muchelney		1				1	2	2
Norton Sub Hamdon				1			1	3
Pitney					1		1	2
Puckington							0	0
Seavington		1				2	2	1
Shepton Beauchamp						1	2	1
Somerton	1		1	2	1	1	6	3
South Petherton	2	2	3	2		1	10	7
Stocklinch	1	1					2	1
Stoke Sub Hamdon	1			2	1	2	6	1
Tintinhull		3	2	3	4	1	13	9
TOTAL AREA NORTH	11	19	18	21	27	20	116	
Total (same period last year)	16	6	11	7	22	26		88

We can see that the number of fly tips that we cleared from the Area during the same period 16/17 was 88 incidents of when compared to 116 for the same period in 2017/18 The main content of which is general household waste (wood, carpet, toys, etc.) and black bags of waste. The size of the tips is primarily a small van load size followed by car boot size of incident and most of the tipping is found on the public highway. We will continue to monitor these incidents to identify patterns of behaviour that will enable us to tackle these offenders effectively.

Earlier this summer, we had an incident at Huish Episcopy involving a fly tip of an unidentified substance which was potentially hazardous and caused some concern amongst the local community. In a case of this nature, we fenced off the area to prevent accidental contact with the substances whilst we organised specialist removal of the waste. We recognise that this process can take some time to arrange, however we believe that this is the safest way to remove potentially hazardous materials safely – for both the public and for the staff involved.

In order to continue to effectively clean the district, we are currently looking at and testing demonstrator models of road sweepers that we aim to acquire in the coming year, in line with our current approach we will continue to purchase machines with the ability to carry out gully sucking should it be required by towns and parishes. We have also purchased a jetting machine and specialist piece of equipment for high level cleaning of gutters and other difficult to reach areas to further enhance our operational capabilities. Should you have a requirement for these applications, please contact us and we will happily meet with your organisations to discuss the works.

In response to demands for mowing areas and removing the clippings to offer a higher standard of grassland maintenance – on football pitches or in play areas for example, we have purchased a ride-on mower that both cuts and collects. We suggest that should your organisations be interested in this aspect of maintenance, the grassland in question would generally benefit from an application of a selective weed killer, and then if the grass is collected, a suitable area on site for the arisings to be left to compost will offer the best value as the cost of the waste disposal can be high.

Once again we are offering a free Christmas Tree Shredding Service should parishes and towns wish us to provide a service in their locality. Last year we visited 43 towns and parishes across the district and shredded and recycled approx. 3500 trees. If you are interested in this initiative, please contact Streetscene and we will work with you to deliver this in your neighbourhood.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that should you, or groups of volunteers in your area be planning to carry out any community clean ups, we do have a number of litter picking kits available through the Lufton depot team.

What's coming next?

- Conclusion of the annual work programmes
- Completion of the workshop as an MOT station
- Replacement of sweeping equipment

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](#).
