

### Note of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 Meeting 12.00 St Margarets Parish Centre

#### Present

Cllr Anderson (Chair) – Adel & Wharfedale Member **Cllr A**  
Cllr Cleasby – Horsforth Member **Cllr CI**  
Cllr Campbell – Otley & Yeadon Member **Cllr Ca**  
Cllr Wadsworth – Guiseley & Rawdon Member **Cllr W**  
Guy Smithson – Parks & Countryside **GS**  
Wyn Davis – WNW Homes **WD**  
Jason Singh - Locality Manager Environment & Neighbourhoods **JS**  
Rachel Marshall – Area Support Team **RM**

#### Apologies

1. Introduction and Apologies

Andrew Molyneux apologies on leave.

2. Minutes and matters arising

Highways have written to ONW members regarding the inventory for seating.  
Cllr CI has taken the list to Horsforth Town Council for them to do the inventory  
Cllr Ca has not got an inventory as yet.  
Charlotte Richardson is the named contact to be confirmed with Ben Grabham  
Covert surveillance cameras have been approved

3. Parks & Countryside update

GS gave an overview of activity. Summer bedding has been done and hanging baskets are next. Additional staff were employed in Wharfemeadows for Otley Carnival on 15<sup>th</sup> June.  
Cllr Ca asked for it to be noted that Wharfemeadows Park looked very good on Saturday.  
Preparations for the Football pitches are in hand  
Cllr A raised a complaint from a resident over the standard of the pitches at Bedquilts. It isn't known if pitches are being played on unofficially.  
The University are moving down to the Weetwood end, where they have all weather pitches. Parks and Countryside are only responsible for 4 pitches with the rest coming under the University.  
It was noted that the recent wet weather will have adversely affected the pitches.  
Tinshill recreation area should have no more than 2 games played on it per week if they are to remain in good order.  
It was reported a grassed area on Windmill Lane opposite Grange Avenue near sheltered accommodation that has been missed on the grass cutting contract. This has been reported before but the grass cutters have been unable to locate it.  
Springwell Mount has a number of overgrown bushes to the rear  
It was confirmed that there would be a financial penalty for poor grass cutting performance in the King George area.  
GS confirmed that it took time to catch up with the grass cutting with the other work that was taking place at this time of year i.e. planting of bedding plants etc.  
There has been a reduction in some areas of the number of grass cuts carried out by Highways per year i.e. some areas have been reduced from 13-7. However WNW Homes continue to cut the same amount at present.

#### 4. West North West homes Leeds

There have been no graffiti jobs since the last meeting  
81 fly tipping jobs were completed within 24 hrs of reporting  
A total of 271 caretaking jobs took place in May  
1 member of the team has been moved from the team due to medical reasons  
A meeting has taken place regarding the setting up of the locality team

#### 5. Environmental Services Update

JS gave an overview of the report coming to Area Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> June. This consists of a performance summary with areas identified for improvement and SLA agreement. A number of changes are due to take place including the alternative week collection for green and black bins. This will have implications in terms of enforcement and consideration needs to be given as to how this service will be rolled out and what will happen to areas that currently have a bag collection. JS advised in real terms there had been a budget reduction as there has been no cash increase to the budget this year.

Conversations were taking place with the Unions over staff transfer relating to the shift patterns and rates of pay in terms of the Environmental Services integration. ALMO caretakers are graded differently to Environmental Services workers creating a 2 tier staff structure. TUPE transfer will be with pay and conditions.

Parks & Countryside met with Unions this week over loss of shift patterns and allowances. Seasonal working with longer working hours in summer as opposed to winter is seen as offering better value for money and providing a better more effective service. It equates to a £200k reduction in seasonal staff salaries with the additional saving of 1 tractor and 2 ride on mowers.

Cllr CI expressed concerns over agreeing the Service Level Agreement and as an example mentioned problems on Carr Lane, Rawdon, which had not been cleaned for some time. Road erosion was causing problems with detritus. JS advised he was confident he could improve on the service with existing resources and noted the issue for further attention.

A question was raised in terms of the cost implications for missed waste management collections and staff being diverted to support this. It was noted that this was less common since January when the routes were optimised. However it was felt that there was still an issue in particular with brown bin collections and occasional green bin collections. JS acknowledged that whilst improvements had been made there was further work to be done.

It was noted that services need to be more accountable to Environmental Sub Group. Also those agencies needed to work more closely in conjunction with each other i.e. Highways, Environmental Services etc.

With regards to 3GS a question was asked as to why there had been no dog fouling fines issued in A & W. It was acknowledged that the firm would prefer to work in the city centre where there is a higher foot fall as opposed to the out lying areas thereby increasing their chances of catching offenders. This position would need to be looked at and consideration given to the deterrent factor i.e. would it be useful to advertise this initiative through the media.

It was agreed that the problem appeared less prevalent in the summer months when there were regular grass cuts as an added benefit was the dispersal of the dog fouling issue. It was also acknowledged that it was difficult to catch dogs 'in the act'. Yeadon Tarn appears to be worst area for dog fouling problems. Members asked for details of a dog warden representative to attend Yeadon Forum.

Members asked for more details of the 3 Enforcement Officers working in WNW. JS explained that these officers were responsible for information sharing and dealt with more complex enforcement issues that could take some time to complete i.e. drainage issues, overgrown shrubbery.

There was an issue in the Holtdales with trees not being dealt with despite various referrals from Cllr A. Where trees overhang a public footpath these can be dealt with under a S38 from Highways. However overly high hedges can be more difficult to resolve and can cost residents to resolve so they then approach the local Councillors for help rather than paying costs. Forestry deal with all Council trees. It

was also noted that a TPO can be overturned by Planning if there is a need for maintenance on a particular tree.

6. Issues to raise with Councillor Dobson on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September

- It was agreed resources are required to deal with base services i.e. blocked gulleys and there is not enough equipment to deal with the issue.
- Hard to clean streets. A policy is required for streets that are consistently filled with cars. There must be a way to have the cars come off the street at least once a year to allow the gulleys to be cleared out properly and the street to be properly cleaned.
- Alternative week collection vehicles need tracking equipment
- Litter bins – how many are done in a day. There seems to be a lot of effort spent on doing this. An additional litterbin costs £300 but then there are add on costs for this being emptied too. Could an alternative method of emptying them be looked at through the locality team. It was acknowledged that the location of the bins needs to be considered i.e. no point having them directly outside take-aways as people tend to take the food away from the shop to eat it and then dispose of the litter elsewhere.
- Failure of collections and the impact on services and resources
- Lack of information not clear what can be recycled
- Tracking of not only the vehicles but where work is required
- Sponsored litterbins
- The problem of urban foxes becoming more confident and causing problems with bins
- Appears that some areas in certain Wards are always the ones that are missed – why is that?
- What would be the knock on effect if INW discontinued the additional funding it provides for waste management, on other areas in WNW
- Is consideration being given for the 1 bin collection Headingley model in other areas of Leeds.

7. Any Other Business

None

**Actions**

- Members to confirm inventory of seating for Highways
- **Waste Management**  
Confirmation required from Ben Grabham for named contact **RM**
- Dog Warden to be identified to attend the Yeadon forum **RM**

**Next Meeting**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September Greenacre Hall, Rawdon