

Outer North West Area Committee

Environmental Services Sub Group



Note of 4th November 2013 Meeting 12.00 pm Otley Methodist Church

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**
Paul Hurrell – Housing Leeds **PH**
Jason Singh - Locality Manager Environment & Neighbourhoods **JS**
Rachel Marshall – Area Support Team **RM**

Apologies

1. Introduction and Apologies

No apologies

2. Minutes and matters arising

4.1 RM to confirm full breakdown of requests for service from Locality Team are circulated. Members did not recall receiving them.

4.3 Cllr CI commented on the number of apples causing pavements to be slippery around East Chevin Road.

4.4 GS still to confirm cost of delivering the grit to the bins. He has been unable to gain access to the locked bins and does not know who to contact. RM to speak to Gerry Burnham regarding who has keys for the bins and then letting GS know.

Russell Martin still to confirm final costings for the quad bike.

6.4 Still awaiting proposal for tree maintenance work.

3. Parks & Countryside update

GS gave an overview of activity. Winter work now on going, pruning etc.

Newall play area – work continuing

Holt Park play area has been temporarily closed whilst the bark base is renewed due to the predominance of glass amongst it.

Cllr C asked about the play area at Teal Beck. S106 monies were identified from the housing development on Leeds Road to spend on refurbishing the equipment and advised the group that this refurbishment scheme went back 6 years. GS was unaware of the scheme and told the sub group he had 12 months of work plotted out but this scheme was not on his list. This would need to be flagged up with Phil Staniforth (PS). It was agreed RM would email PS to express Cllr C's concern that this scheme had not yet commenced.

Cllr W asked why seasonal staff could not work on other projects if there were outstanding schemes. GS advised that there were 3 fully qualified teams and that the seasonal staff did not have the relevant training to take on this type of work.

Golden Acre Park speed bumps – work is ongoing to reduce the height of them following complaints and concerns raised.

4. Housing Leeds

PH provided the sub group with a handout detailing work of the Environmental Caretakers during October. (RM to circulate with minutes)

It was remarked upon there had been some considerable graffiti activity in Holt Park and there was not felt to be a great deal of police action to combat this.

It was asked if fly tipping hot spots were being plotted – PH said they were not at this time.

The sub group would like to see a briefing note on the activity of the covert cameras paid for by Area Committee. JS to provide further information at a later date.

Housing Leeds has ordered 5 tons of grit to fill up the 35 bins in WNW.

From April 2014 the Environmental Caretakers will come under the Locality Team.

5. Environmental Services Update

JS provided the sub group with an update on requests for service from the Locality Team from 23rd September – 30th October. (RM to circulate with the minutes)

Members expressed concerns about the high winds combined with heavy rain had caused gulleys to be blocked with leaves and flooding to occur at Pool Bank and Park Road in the past few days. Properties had also been flooded on Back Lane.

JS explained that Continental Landscapes were now carrying out the bulk of the leaf clearing work but had made a slow start. In the first 2 weeks there has been a problem with the mechanical collection and they are having to do the leaf clearing by hand. JS has to make a decision about the vehicle in terms of to repair or not. All the mechanical fleet are being used to clear pavements and roads for the next month or so. JS asked Members to advise him know when they were aware of a problem. To allow problems to be dealt with as quickly as possible JS asked if emails addressed to him were also copied in to the West Priority box and be marked as urgent in the subject box.

Where there had been frequent flooding on the Pool to Otley Road it was noted that signage was not in place but Richard Holdsworth of Highways is dealing with this. It was agreed there still needed to be improved links with Highways, Localities and Yorkshire Water in terms of the blocked gully issues. RM to try and arrange a separate meeting to explore this issue with Cllr A.

Gulleys were routinely cleared over a 18 month program with an ongoing responsive service. JS can provide a wider report looking at other areas that could highlight particular issues in ONW which could then be fed back to Council.

It was queried as to why signage had to be displayed where there are fly tipping cameras. JS explained that if signage was not displayed then there could be no successful prosecution.

Cllr Ca discussed the issues with dog fouling in Otley & Yeadon. 3GS appear to have had a limited impact in ONW areas although some FPNs have been issued. No details as to where.

JS showed the sub group a littering sign that they are considering putting up and there was a general discussion over costs and materials. The sign demonstrated would cost £42 to be fitted and there were plans to erect 2 in each ward but members were in agreement that this was far too few. Signs of a lesser quality could be manufactured meaning potentially more could be erected.

JS then handed out information on the draft model for zonal teams in Localities (to be circulated electronically with the minutes). With the Environmental Caretakers moving to the Locality team in April JS believes there is an opportunity to look at the overall service. There was a suggestion to work more on a 5 day basis but there will still be a small number of shift operatives supporting the 7 day service where that needs to continue. Job descriptions will be considered to allow for greater flexibility and zonal teams consisting of approx. 15 operatives could be created.

Cllr A asked that a workshop be set up in December/January to consider the draft staffing proposals with relevant partners.

6. Any Other Business

None

Actions

- Arrange meeting with Yorkshire Water, Locality Team and Highways. **RM**
- Clarification over the S106 funding in Otley to be sought on behalf of Cllr Ca **RM**
- Staffing workshop for environmental services **RM**

Next Meeting

Monday 9th December 2013 Adel 'The Old Stables'