

Outer North West Area Committee

Environmental Services Sub Group



Note of 10th December 2012 Meeting 12.00 noon Civic Hall Committee Room 1

Present

Cllr Anderson (Chair) – Adel & Wharfedale Member
 Cllr Cleasby – Horsforth Ward Member
 Cllr Campbell – Otley & Yeadon Ward Member
 Cllr Lay – Otley & Yeadon Ward Member
 Andrew Molyneux – Highways Asset Manager
 Russell Martin – Highways Services
 Howard Claxton – Highways Services
 Jason Singh – Locality Manager Environment & Neighbourhoods
 Gerry Burnham – WNW Area Support Team

Apologies

Cllr Wadsworth, Richard Holdsworth, Roger Carter.

Key Issues discussed:

- Grass verge enforcement

Following a request from the Environmental Sub Group Highways Services officers attended the meeting and presented a paper relating to parking on verges (to be circulated with this note). Discussions took place on potential mitigation which included: maximise availability of off-street parking; encourage sensible parking on-street only (with enforcement if necessary); allow footway/verge over-run parking and restrict all parking in the street. The following points were made:

- Responsibility for enforcement is a resource issue and should be considered as a council.
- It is a difficult issue to resolve in policy terms as there are so many different issues
- Highways will give permission for a vehicular crossing at a cost of £25.80. Construction costs are approx £400 Highways do not carry out the work and all costs are picked up by the resident. There are rarely problems connected with services underneath.

Members raised the following issues:

- Discussions are needed between Planning, Highways and Highway Enforcement on to deal with this issue; there is an opportunity within the LDF to deal with this.
- Car ownership has increased by 30% since 1984 therefore the Bye-law is no longer relevant.
- It was felt that a citywide policy would be better than just for this Area Committee.

- Pot / Hole small repairs

Russell Martin Highways Services was in attendance, the following issues were covered:

- There are funding due to the scale of pothole referrals received. £100,000 has recently been taken off the Highways budget. The Government has announced additional funding although it is not known yet if Highways will receive any of this.
- Insurance claims have flat lined however due to the length of time claims take the service is still dealing with claims from 2008/09.
- Members felt that a common sense approach was needed – operatives shouldn't just fill the hole on the referral if there are others in the same vicinity.
- Although Highways has a duty to maintain the highway they cannot be held responsible for something they don't know about. Category 1 (over 40ml holes) should be dealt within 24 hours.
- The service receives 22,000 reports per year. Highways cannot provide an up to date list of pot holes in their area as this would be out of date upon receipt.

- Overhanging vegetation

A discussion took place regarding overhanging vegetation in relation to land owned by Highways and the fact that enforcement action cannot be taken. It was agreed that Environmental Services and Highways Services need to have a clear protocol to avoid conflicting messages when there are issues affecting owner occupiers and council stock.

- Seating on the public highway
The sub group felt that Highways Services do not always take responsibility for seating on the public highway. The service was asked to come up with a policy on seating.
- Gullies / Drains
This issue was discussed a length.
 - Environmental Services are responsible for cleaning the gully this is the grate/pot and is carried out every 12 – 18 months.
 - Wetspots – areas known to be prone to flooding and freezing up are dealt with more regularly and referrals can be made at any time.
 - When the connection from the gully to drain has collapsed this is referred to Highways as this is their responsibility to repair.
 - Yorkshire Water is responsible for the main drain/sewer.
 - Members asked if work was being undertaken to see if sites identified within the SHLAA had adequate drainage. Officers confirmed that the Flood Risk Management Team would deal with this.
- Flooding / Messaging
Roger Carter from Flood Risk Management was unable to attend the meeting however will be at the February meeting to update the sub group on 'Flood Messaging'.
A discussion took place on issues around recent flooding in Pool. Highways Services long term plan is to provide electronic signalling outside of the city centre.
- AOB
20 mph zones – see action 7 below.

Actions

There were no outstanding actions from the previous sub group meeting.

1. Check with ALMO if they hold a document regarding grass verge enforcement. **GB**
2. Scrutiny to be asked to look at parking on grassed verges. **Cllr A**
3. Highways run a search every few months to identify re-occurring potholes. Highways to provide Members with details of when this was last done and when this will be done again. **RM**
4. Highways Services and Environmental Services to agree how they manage issues in connection with enforcement on council land. **JS / RM**
5. Highway Services to develop a policy on dealing with seating on the public Highway. **RM**
6. Dave Oldknow from Flood Risk Management to be invited to the next Environmental Sub Group meeting. **GB**
7. Highways Services to provide costings for a digital flood warning signage on the A660. **RM**
8. Members requested the list of 20 mph zones that Highways Services are working on over the next 12 months. Cllr Campbell specifically asked where Rufford Park was on the list. Highways Services to provide list of Otley & Yeadon Schools. **HC**
9. It was agreed that a further meeting with Highways Services would be useful and the agenda should include grit provision and winter maintenance. **GB**
10. Highways Services to provide details of governments pronouncements on 30mph repeater, speed limit changes etc. **HC**

Next Meeting

Monday 4th February 2012, 12.00 noon Yeadon Town Hall.