

Note of 4th February 2013 Meeting 12.00 noon Yeadon Town Hall

Present

Cllr Anderson (Chair) – Adel & Wharfedale Member
Cllr Cleasby – Horsforth Member
Cllr Wadsworth – Guiseley & Rawdon Member
Andrew Molyneux – Highways Asset Manager
Russell Martin – Highways Services
Howard Claxton – Highways Services
Roger Carter – Principle Emergency Planning Officer
David Oldknow – Flood Risk Management
Jason Singh – Locality Manager Environment & Neighbourhoods
Alison Gilliland – Service Manager
Guy Smithson – Parks & Countryside
Paul Hurrell – WNW Homes
Gerry Burnham – WNW Area Support Team

Apologies

Cllr Campbell

Matters arising

Russell Martin confirmed that highways has been given an additional £100k in their budget which made up for the £100k that had been taken from their budget previously.
Details of the

Andrew Molyneux informed the meeting that Highways are undertaking some initial work before considering a policy on seating on the highway. To be included for discussion at a future meeting.

Key Issues discussed:

1. Winter Maintenance / Grit Provision

Discussion included:

Concerns that the elderly population in some outer north west areas are no longer able to get to grit bins as the bins are usually placed at the top of cul-de-sacs etc.

Members acknowledge the contributions made by Highways, the Locality Team and Parks & Countryside in gritting the area during the recent severe weather. However the sub group felt that the refuse service could have done more to assist and agreed this issue needs tackling at a management level. **Noted**

A number of concerns were raised regarding the refuse service which included the service asking the locality team to clear up litter caused due to failed bin collections and also a decision to collect green bins instead if black bins after some areas had 2 and 3 failed black bin collections,

Russell Martin gave feedback on the use of quad bikes for gritting:

The quad bikes came about as a result of some work Highways carried out with the local NHS.

Highways jointly analysed the costs of accidents relating to slipping and falling on the highway.

Following discussions the NHS agreed to fund the capital cost of 4 quad bikes and 4 small towed drop spreaders. Highways have received positive feedback from the public and regard the quad bikes as a success.

To buy each quad bike including towed gritter costs approx £9,000. However for a lot of the year the equipment will stand idle – see action 2 below.

Snow Wardens – are successful in some areas although there are still concerns over insurance and the myth that people can be sued if snow is cleared and someone subsequently has an accident. RM confirmed that if there is a formal agreement between Leeds City Council and a community group Leeds City Council would cover insurance costs. Highways welcome any assistance from Members in recruiting snow wardens.

Cllr Wadsworth commented that he had received a number of complaints about problems with snow clearing in the Shakespear's and asked WNW Homes to work more closely with Highways. **Noted**

2. Flooding 'Messaging'

Roger Carter Principle Emergency Planning Officer attended to request the sub group's support for the following initiative.

Leeds Alert allows LCC to warn or notify people of disruption caused by emergencies via text message straight to their mobile or by email. This is a free service that was launched in November. See www.leeds.gov.uk/prepared for more on Leeds Alert. All businesses across Leeds can register and get generic information applicable to all of Leeds free of charge. If there is a risk of isolation or disruption to the community then people who are registered are made aware of it in advance. Schools, public sector organisations and Parish Councils in the area will be invited to join. The intent is to enable business and organisations in the area to share such information with customers and residents they come into contact with as an information cascade. This would foster a sense of community based resilience. Information would include Met Office or EA warnings, and information on flooding or infrastructure reported in to LCC directly.

The sub group gave their support to this initiative.

A discussion followed on new developments encroaching onto flood planes. Members felt that planning do not consider flood risks when granting applications. The sub group agreed that the cumulative impact of small developments effects flooding and highways. **Noted**

3. Environmental Services Update

Blocked gullies

JS confirmed that he had met with Highways officers and both services recognised that blocked gullies are a key issue. It was acknowledged that there was some fragmentation in the service, talks are ongoing with regards to more joined up working.

AG presented 'request for service stats' for outer north west, for the period 18th November to 31st January. The Locality Team has dealt with 393 requests for service which is a combined street cleansing and regulatory team total. Full details to be circulated with the meeting note.

Other matters covered in the ES update included:

Dog fouling continues to be an issue in the area.

The bad weather has resulted in some cleaning blocks been stood down which will be reflected in the next update report.

W/c 4th February is the last week of the dedicated leafing crew. See action 4 below.

There are a number of staff changes as a result of the recent restructure - details to be circulated with this meeting note.

4. Parks & Country-side Update

The Annual Report for Parks & Countryside is being presented to Area Committee today.

The well-being applications for the site-based gardener in outer north west and the additional staff resources for Otley Wharfemeadows Park and Yeadon Tarnfield Park were not discussed as no Member for Otley & Yeadon was present. Applications to be dealt with outside of the meeting.

5. WNW Homes Update

Paul Hurrell presented information on the work of the Outer North West Neighbourhood Caretakers – details to be circulated with this meeting note.

A discussion took place regarding the relocation of the graffiti team to the west. Members asked that their concerns be noted. PH confirmed graffiti will continue to be removed in the outer north west however the team are no longer based in the area. **Noted**

Any Other Business

1. Cllr Anderson raised concerns that Leeds City Council will be charging for trade waste and also the removal of the bulky waste service. It was felt that these changes will result in major problems with fly tipping. **Noted**
2. Part Night Street Lighting - AM informed the meeting that the service was looking at efficiency savings and considering the possibility of turning off some lighting from midnight until 5.00 or 6.00am. Cllr Wadsworth raised concerns at the considerable cost and effort put into the PFI Street Lighting Scheme and now the council were considering switching them off **Noted**. AM advised that the PFI scheme had not made a great deal of savings due to the rise in fuel costs. Main arterial routes are being looked at. There will be a public consultation in July '13. Cllr Anderson requested a briefing with sub group members and Highway officers to discuss this matter further.

Actions

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

- The sub-group agreed that Highways, WNW Locality Team, Waste Management and Parks & Countryside needed to develop a co-ordinated action plan to deal with the winter maintenance programme. It was agreed a separate meeting should be held to discuss this in further detail. **JS/RM/GS**
- The grit bin placement policy to be looked at. **RM**
- Highways and Parks & Countryside to look into the potential of using quad bikes in parks. GS to speak to Richard Holdsworth. **GS**
- Members are requested to continue with any leaf clearing requests. **All**
- Councillor Anderson asked JS to pass on thanks to the Locality Team for their flexibility and in the work they had undertaken. **JS**
- Member briefing to be arranged with Highway officers to discuss 'Part Night Street Lighting. **GB**

Next Meeting

Monday 25th March '13, 12.00 noon, The Stables, Back Church Lane, Adel, LS16 8DW