

### Note of 4th March 2013 Winter Maintenance Meeting 3.30pm Civic Hall

#### Present

Cllr Anderson (Chair) – Adel & Wharfedale Member  
Cllr Cleasby – Horsforth Member  
Cllr Downes – Otley & Yeadon Member  
Russell Martin – Highways Services  
Jason Singh – Locality Manager Environment & Neighbourhoods  
Ben Grabham – Waste Management  
Guy Smithson – Parks & Countryside  
Gerry Burnham – WNW Area Support Team

#### Apologies

Cllr Campbell, Cllr Wadsworth

#### Key Issues discussed:

##### 1. Winter Maintenance

The purpose of the meeting was to look at what more can be done over and above what is being done at present with regards snow clearing and gritting during severe weather. At present all principle roads are gritted as a priority. Although Environmental Locality Team staff and Parks & Countryside staff make themselves available for snow clearing it was felt that this is not the case with the refuse service.

RM informed the meeting that he has recently met with Chris Tomlinson Head of Waste Operations and there may be some practical things that can be done. Historically staff have been given the option to take leave. It was acknowledged that there was no reason why waste management staff cannot be utilised thereby providing additional help and resources to highways during severe weather.

##### 2. Quad Bikes

RM informed the meeting that that he is currently drafting a report to look at the options for purchasing 2 additional quad bikes. A discussion ensued on other uses for the quad bikes. The sub group requested that services develop a project to utilise the bikes which would enhance environmental and highway services for the ONW Area Committee to consider.

**Action: RM / JS / GS**

##### 3. Grit bin Policy

RM confirmed that Highways have set criteria for assessing eligibility for grit bins – based on gradient of roads/streets etc. Members discussed a grit bin policy specifically for outer North West. RM to draft a well-being bid around grit provision in outer north west.

**Action RM**

##### 3. Snow Wardens

RM advised the sub group that there are 2 types of scheme:

- 1) The council provide volunteers with fluorescent vests, snow shovels etc.
- 2) Parish Council Model – the council deliver grit to Parish Council's. The Parish Council's recruit volunteers and organise snow clearance / gritting in vulnerable areas.

Option 2 is the preferred option by Highways Services. RM confirmed that Highways can support a local community group to run such a scheme in areas that are not parished. Neighbourhood Forums and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators were suggested. GB to invite Inspector Coldwell to the next sub group meeting to discuss. **Action: GB**

The sub Group requested that the Environmental Locality Team, Parks & Countryside and Highway Services develop a joint bid around the Winter Maintenance Programme and grit bin discussions held today, for the June Area Committee meeting.

#### 4. Derelict and Nuisance Property Programme Update

GB presented a report on the Derelict and Nuisance property programme which aims to improve co-ordination between services to deliver improvements to Council and privately owned properties across the city. This will deal with the nuisance and eyesore issues relating to properties, making them and the surrounding area a better place for local residents and more attractive to developers and businesses to invest.

Through discussions with Area Support Teams, Area Committee Chairs and Environmental Sub Groups, a list of the worst properties has been created.

To help prioritise actions, work in the first year of the programme has focused on a first tranche of properties. Additional properties are to be tackled over the coming years as more properties are prioritised in further tranches of the project.

The project is supported by rolling budget of £500k from the capital programme. This is spread over 3 financial years, to support work with owners to prepare site appraisals and planning briefs, and progress enforcement action.

The Environmental Sub Group were asked to note the contents of the report and made comments which will be collated and circulated to Members and officers from the Regeneration Service.

#### Summary of actions

- The sub group requested that services develop a project to utilise the quad bikes which would enhance environmental and highway services for the ONW Area Committee to consider.  
**Action: RM / JS / GS**
- RM to draft a well-being bid around grit provision in outer north west.  
**Action RM**
- GB to invite Inspector Coldwell to the next meeting of the Environmental sub group to discuss the possibility of Neighbourhood Wardens co-ordinating snow clearance. **Action: GB**
- The sub Group requested that the Environmental Locality Team, Parks & Countryside and Highway Services develop a joint bid around the Winter Maintenance Programme and grit bin discussions held today, for the June Area Committee meeting. **Action RM, JS, GS**

#### Next Meeting

Special meeting to discuss 'Part Night Street Lighting' Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2.00pm Conservative Group Office.