

Report to: Council

Agenda
Item

Meeting Date: 13th November 2012

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Elsie Martlew**

HIGHWAYS SERVICES

Abbey Street/Annetwell Street Improvements

Commenced on the 17th September 2012. Work involves repairing the junction using high quality materials similar to those used in Castle Street and is due for completion in January. To minimise disruption to Christmas shopping, work on the scheme will stop during late November until after Christmas.

Verge Improvement

A number of verge improvement works are just starting with work due to be completed in October. Work will take place on Belah Road, Whinsmoor Way and Arnside Road to improve parking provision on the verges.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Enforcement and Education

On Wednesday 18th September 2012 a team from the Environmental Health Service went into the City Centre and served fixed penalty tickets on those seen to be committing offences. Within one hour seven fixed penalty notices were served for littering. Three warning letters were sent out to under eighteen year olds who were also caught littering. Food waste and cigarette ends are litter and should be being disposed of correctly.

The Enforcement and Education Team have also been busy tackling those responsible for fly tipping with one successful prosecution in September and 2 further cases waiting to be heard in the Magistrates Court. This has used a coordinated effort across a number of

teams (Environmental Health and street cleaning and waste services). We are also addressing waste put out too early which causes spillage of rubbish onto our streets.

Since April the Council has served 9 litter fixed penalty notices, 8 dog fouling fixed penalties notices and is pursuing a second prosecution for dog fouling.

Litter, fly tipping and dog fouling spoil the environment. The City Council is keen for residents to love where they live. City Council Officers will be vigilant in tackling those who are responsible for spoiling the environment.

Pest Control

It is the time of year when mice move in from the cold and the City Council has decided to offer a reduced rate for mice treatments. Until December 30th 2012 mice treatments will be at the special rate of £50.00.

Food Safety

Following a successful application Michael Cunningham has been offered a place on the food hygiene for Milk and Dairy Products training course in Brescia, Italy 8 -12 October 2012. The course is organised by the EU's Executive Agency for Health & Consumers. It is part of their training program 'Better Training for Safer Food'.

Training is given to Food Enforcement Officers across the EU to promote consistency in the application of relevant legislation. The program of training covers three subjects: Meat & Meat Products, Milk and Dairy Products and Fishery Products. The Milk and Dairy course focuses on the legislation and best practice with regard to the controls of milk and cheese production.

Other delegates will be travelling from across the EU including Germany, Croatia, the Faroe Islands and Lithuania. Places on this course are extremely restricted, and Michael is expected to be the only UK delegate.

GREEN SPACES

The grass cutting season is drawing to a close. Despite the wet summer the teams have been able to keep to their new programme and have drawn compliments from residents on the quality of the work. This is a result of the 'Lean Systems' approach where efficiencies are gained through the smoothing of the workflow – in other words the teams have a pre-agreed plan and follow it through without being called off to deal with minor 'crises' in different areas of the city. The number of complaints this summer was minimal, reflecting the improved service.

Cenotaph Railings

Work finally commenced in early October after the financial package was finally secured – thanks to Cllr Liz Mallinson for her valuable contribution to the project. The original cast-iron railings will be cleaned and repaired before being re-painted in time for this year's Remembrance Day ceremony. The Cenotaph, in Rickerby Park, was unveiled in 1922 as a memorial to those who gave their lives in World War 1. The centenary of the outbreak of the war will be marked in 2014.

Rural Area - Public Rights of Way

The City Council maintains the network of rural public rights of way under the same 'claimed rights' arrangement as the highways are managed. While the resources for this work are limited, the nature of the individual jobs is such that 'a little goes a long way'. This year's effort has so far been concentrated on Waterhead parish in the far eastern part of Carlisle district.

Bereavement Services

Work on the crematorium extension is progressing well and the timetable of moving the staff from the Cemetery Lodge before Christmas will be met, barring any last-minute problems. The Cemetery Lodge is being looked at by Property Services with a view to renting it out for a complimentary use if possible.

WASTE SERVICES

In response to the growing demand for kerbside recycling on new estates, the team is undertaking a review the waste services recycling and refuse rounds to try and make further efficiencies. We are continually trying to minimise the use of fuel by improving the efficiency of the rounds and reducing the number of trips to the tip. This will help us increase the number of customers we can add on to the recycling rounds with the same resources where capacity allows.

Street Cleaning

Round reviews for the mobile teams and barrow men will commence in October

Three out of the four new street cleaning sweepers have been delivered and the second 7.5 ton sweeper is expected soon. Tenders have been received and awarded for the compact sweeper and the 2 pedestrian sweepers with delivery expected at the beginning of November. The delivery date for the compact sweeper has not yet been confirmed.

A High profile positive press release in line 'with love where you live' with the Portfolio holder, leader of the Council and the some of the street cleaning team has been featured in the Evening News and star.

We have now deployed our 'Rapid Response team' They have a plan of work to ensure they service the areas of greatest need first in addition to our programmed work.

Phase 2 of street cleansing improvements commenced on the 1st October with a team working weekends to backline/edge up the foot paths, litter pick, remove any graffiti and weed spray where necessary. This work has commenced in the City Centre and will work its way outwards in the coming months. Much of this work has not been done for years.