

Report to:

Council

Agenda
Item

Meeting Date: 8 January 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

HIGHWAYS SERVICES

Highway Drainage Maintenance

Over the past 2 years the team have worked hard to improve maintenance of highway gullies and drains. Regular cleaning of gullies now takes place and many long standing problems have been resolved. The number of complaints now received has reduced, despite the last year being very wet. Problems with ponding of water on areas of land such as Bitts Park and Rickerby Park still need to be resolved in the coming year.

Annetwell Street/Abbey Street Enhancements

Work is now well advanced at the junction of Abbey Street/ West Walls/ Annetwell Street to enhance this major junction using the same materials as Castle Street. To further enhance the area, changes are planned to the parking in the area to enable many signs and yellow lines to be removed to further enhance the historic heart of the City.

Annual Parking Report

Each year the Council is required by the parking legislation to produce an Annual Report which details our policies and how we have performed. The 2010/11 Annual Report was shortlisted in the final 6 for the Annual Report Awards. We aim to further improve future reports.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Clean Up Carlisle

The Education and Enforcement Team are busy in pursuing people responsible for environmental crime. 67 fixed penalty notices have been issued since 1st April 2012 compared to 18 in the whole of 2011/12. Notices have been served for dog fouling, littering, fly posting and failing to keep dogs on leads in designated areas. The Team worked closely with waste services and street cleaning and have secured two successful fly tipping prosecutions, the first recorded under the existing records, and a successful dog fouling prosecution. Further fly tipping and dog fouling offences are being considered for prosecution.

The Team have also been engaging with schools and other groups through the “Love Where You Live” campaign to change behaviour so that communities in the Carlisle area see it as a clean and proud place to live.

Food Safety

On two occasions in the last two months the Food Safety Team successfully removed potentially contaminated food from the food chain by voluntary means. The officers found that ready to eat foods had been vacuum packed on machines that had earlier been used to vacuum pack raw meat. A number of serious Ecoli food poisoning outbreaks have been linked to dual use vacuum packers and the law now requires separate machines for raw and ready to eat foods.

Contaminated Land

In November the Environmental Health Service worked with the Environment Agency to track down the source of an oil spill that had affected Durranhill beck. This was tracked back to a domestic residence. Officers then worked with the occupier and a clean up contractor to ensure the land did not remain contaminated.

GREEN SPACES

Cummersdale Holmes (Denton Holme)

Working together with the Denton Holme Community Association Environmental Group, the Green Spaces Team are carrying out a project to remove the unsightly and ineffective metal gates at the entrance to the meadows off on Holme Head Way.

A total of £3000 has been raised from local community groups and businesses to improve the entrance to this local beauty spot and improve accessibility to the site.

The new entrance will consist of eight mosaic slabs depicting the wildlife of Cummersdale Holmes and bollards decorated with flora found on the site. The new entrance will be welcoming for visitors while also deterring unauthorised access by vehicles.

Carlisle Countryside Volunteer Team

This practical volunteer group has now been meeting for over a year and is growing from strength to strength. The team now meet weekly, every Monday to carry out practical conservation tasks in the green spaces of Carlisle, which would not get done otherwise.

Tasks have included boardwalk construction, wildflower meadow management, coppicing, restoring the bird feeding area at Talkin Tarn to name but a few jobs. Sites worked at include Talkin Tarn, Kingmoor Nature Reserve, Hammonds Pond and Kingmoor North.

A letter from a resident praising the work of the volunteers was recently published in the Cumberland News.

Santa is visiting Talkin Tarn!

Father Christmas returned to Talkin Tarn this December where he was visited by lots of children in his Green Grotto from 10.00am - 3.00pm on the weekends of 8/9, 15/16 and 22/23 December. The cost was £3.50 per child and they each received a present from Santa.

Chances Park

The restoration of the historic Chances Park over the past 3 years has been carried out with the assistance of a £1m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. To mark the completion of the work and to commemorate the Chance family who gave the park to the residents of Carlisle, a sundial was unveiled in the landscaped gardens by Iris Rogan, chairman of the Friends of Chances Park.

WASTE SERVICES

The Team have successfully completed the round reviews for plastic and card and also green waste to improve the collection efficiency and minimise the fuel consumption. There has also been a trial of fuel saving devices on the refuse vehicles and although still in the early stages we are starting to see savings of between 4% and 10%.

Waste services, street cleaning and enforcement are working in a cohesive manner for a more proactive approach towards enforcement and prosecution for persistent offenders.

STREET CLEANING

They have taken delivery of all 8 new vehicles and these are now in action. The review of all rounds has now been successfully completed for all the operations within street cleaning. New replacement bins have been installed in the city centre incorporating cigarette disposal- this has had a positive impact on the city centre.

We have received positive publicity in the local papers regarding the improvement of the street cleaning. Deployment of the rapid response team is having a positive effect on the 'Love Where You Live' programme.