

Meeting Date: 18 July 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

Highways Residual Agreement - To clarify who does what following the termination of Claimed Rights, a Residual Agreement is being drawn up. This will detail the work the City and the County will each carry out. For example, the City will continue to cut grass verges in the urban area and the County Council will contribute financially towards this work. The agreement will remain in place for 3 years with the option for it to be extended if of mutual benefit.

- South Lakes Parking Agreement - The City Council and County Council have now finalised a Parking Agreement under which the City will deal with the processing of On-Street Penalty Charge notices issued by the County Council in South Lakes District. This work is being carried out by the in-house team who also deal with all parking enforcement and processing in Carlisle and Eden District.
- Car Park Maintenance - Arrangements are being made to carry out maintenance work in the car parks at Union Lane, Brampton, at Upper Viaduct, Town Dyke Orchard and Swifts Bank. Failed areas are to be patched and surfacing will take place in Upper Viaduct and Town Dyke Orchard. This will provide an opportunity to remark the spaces to allow more space for the larger cars now being used.
- Annetwell Street – Recent press publicity has highlighted that the double yellow lines on Annetwell Street are unenforceable due to there being no valid traffic order to cover this street. As a result of the publicity many drivers are now parking on both sides of the street and are causing difficulties for large vehicles to proceed along the street and those wishing to pass each other.

The City Council first became aware of this issue some months ago and no PCN's have been issued on the street since then. Officers are taking steps in conjunction with County Council colleagues to prepare a traffic order to bring some control back to the

street as soon as possible. This problem highlights the abuse that can take place when a system of proper parking enforcement is not in place.

- Illegal and Dangerous Tattooing - Following a complaint from a member of the public the Environmental Health Service applied to the District Judge for a Court Order to prevent illegal tattooing from a domestic property. The Environmental Health Service and Police Officers executed a warrant at an address on Ridley Road in Currock on Tuesday 21 May 2013 and seized a large amount of tattooing equipment. The Council is considering further enforcement action against the tattooist.

The unprecedented action by the City Council comes following an increase in reports of unregistered tattooists and the major health risks associated with using them. We are particularly concerned that school children are being tattooed by unregistered tattooists and are working with Cumbria Police, Public Health England and Cumbria County Council to develop a strategy to address this. Registration ensures tattooing is carried out legally and hygienically. Along with poor workmanship unregistered tattooists can leave people with skin infections and blood borne diseases. The Environmental Health team are currently investigating allegations of illegal tattooing against five individuals all thought to be operating from homes.

- CCTV: Discussions were held with the Police and Crime Commissioner office in April on the potential of a county wide system. All the existing 63 cameras will continue to run and record until the 31st March 2014 when the existing BT fibre optic contract terminates. From 1st April 2014, unless otherwise agreed, the City Council will only maintain the 9 cameras in the Civic Centre and the car parks. The last member of the CCTV team left the Council in June 2013. A revised procedure for requesting CCTV images is being drafted for implementation in July 2013. From the 1st April 2014 decommissioning of redundant cameras will begin subject to any proposals coming forward to provide a County wide service.
- Clean Up Carlisle - The Education and Enforcement Team are continuing to work hard on your behalf for a "Cleaner Carlisle." A resident who failed to correctly handle and store his waste prior to collection was fined a total of over £950 by the Magistrates Court. The gentleman who was throwing his domestic waste over a wall into the street failed to take action despite two Statutory Notices being served on him by the Education and Enforcement Team.

Since 1st April 2013 four people have been successfully prosecuted for allowing their dogs to foul and failing to pick up, total fines given by the Magistrates ranged from £210 to £370. Since 1st April 16 fixed penalty notices have been issued for dog fouling.

Two successful prosecutions for littering resulted in total fines of £290 and £165 respectively. Both littering offences were for dropping cigarette ends which continues to be a significant source of littering requiring cleaning up by Waste Services. Since 1st

April 16 notices have been issued for littering and incorrectly presenting waste for collection.

- Gulls - Since January over 200 landowners have been written to informing them of the action they can and should be taking to control Gull populations. A leaflet and press releases have supported this initiative. Follow up visits have been made to over 20 premises. Officers are generally pleased with the constructive action taken by many landowners. However, we are concerned that some landowners who were contacted are continuing to permit large numbers of gulls to nest and breed on their land. A leaflet is being drafted for developers to encourage them to either design out nesting sites or install proofing measures during the building phase.
- Bereavement Services - The contract for re-bricking of the cremator linings was let in June, with work expected to commence in late-July. The two cremators are both due to be re-lined with special fireproof bricks. The work will be phased so that one cremator will always be operational meaning we can continue to provide services throughout the period, which is expected to take up to 3 weeks. The cremators were installed in 2007 and the linings are at the end of their working life, showing signs of degradation caused by constant heating (to temperatures approaching 850C) followed by cooling.
- Allotments - The first allotment to sign up for self-management was Thorny Flatt, off Scawfell Road, where the documents were signed and sealed in early June. A number of other sites will follow in the next few weeks, meaning the tenants of these sites will be in full control of their management and operation. The allotment associations will set and collect rents (within limits), banking the funds to use for maintenance and improvement of the site.
- Hammonds Pond and Talkin Tarn - A new franchise has been agreed for the operation of rowing boats at both Talkin Tarn and Hammond's Pond. Visitors will be able to hire a range of craft, from the traditional rowing boats to Canadian canoes and single-seat kayaks. Instruction courses in the correct use of these boats will also be on offer.

Visitor numbers and tea-room income at the Tarn are up slightly, no doubt due in part to the better weather compared to last year. Visitor numbers at Hammonds Pond cafe are as expected.

- Cenotaph project - The schedule of work for this project has been amended slightly at the request of the War Memorials Trust following our application to them for a grant. The amended grant application has been resubmitted and is now being considered. The rules have changed slightly and we have now applied for a 75% grant instead of 50%. The programme of work has been arranged to suit the revised landscaping proposals and building work is scheduled to start in March 2014.

- Green Spaces - The regular seasonal work programme is well underway, with grass-cutting and summer bedding taking up the Grounds Team's time. Grass growth was sluggish in the early part of the season after the cold Spring weather but has now caught up rapidly with warmer, damp conditions.
- St James' Park - After a number of years in the control of CLL, St James' Park (Denton Holme) was formally handed back to Carlisle City Council's Green Spaces team on 1 April 2013. A programme of improvements is already underway, including replacing railings in the children's play area and resurfacing paths and steps in the park. Funding has been agreed with sponsors for renovating the two ball courts behind the bowls pavilion and overgrown shrubs have been cleared from the park frontage to prevent them being used for anti-social purposes.

Two bowling clubs use the bower and agreement has been reached over membership fees and use of the building. The clubs have expressed their delight at the standard of the green after some intensive work by the Green Spaces team.

Cllr McDevitt has secured funding for a new 'basket swing' for use by children of all ages and abilities to be added to the play area.

Finally, the Green Spaces team has commenced work with the Heritage Lottery Fund on a 'Parks for People' grant application. After a very encouraging visit to the park by HLF officers in late June, the signs are positive that we may be able to secure a significant grant towards some major improvements to the park's infrastructure.

- Willowholme - In the week before the Appleby Horse Fair a number of travelling families set up camp on Council playing fields behind the new Sainsbury store, just off Willowholme Road. It is not clear how they gained access but the gate had previously been secured with a padlock and chain.

When they finally vacated the site 8 days later, they left behind a morass of domestic and trade waste which made headline news in the News & Star.

Led by Green Spaces staff, a multi-disciplinary task force was assembled to clear the site. This required a range of assets including a refuse vehicle (for quick collection and disposal of domestic refuse) and a cage van (for safe disposal of empty gas canisters). With a combined team of Grounds, Street Cleaning and Waste Services staff picking and loading, the site was cleared and all waste materials safely disposed of. This was an example of how the Council's front-line teams can be relied on to deal with any situation professionally and efficiently as the need arises. The staff involved did the Council and the City of Carlisle proud!

Weeds on the roads and pavements have been subject of complaints in the local press but are now the responsibility of the County Council, to whom all service requests are being re-directed. The weeds are starting to make the city look untidy and are also

causing detritus to collect around the weeds. The County are implementing the weed spraying-which was scheduled to commence on 1st July 2013. A letter will be sent with photos to the County to illustrate how unsightly the weeds look and the problems they are causing the street cleansing team.

Spring Clean continues plus the installation of 20 replacement new street bins in the town centre. These are fitted with proper cigarette bins so encouraging proper disposal of cigarette butts.

We have put in a programme of works to clean the CNDR route within the resources available.

The waste team worked hard on bringing together and evaluating the proposed consultation responses regarding proposed changes to the bring site and purple sack services. The response rate from the public has been excellent and it shows just how interested people are in the Waste Service. Feedback on the bring site service will be available via the website in July and the Purple Sack Review will be considered by the Executive on 5th August.