

Meeting Date: 5 November 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

CITY ENGINEERS

Work has begun to install the Winter Lights and the Festive Lights. The Winter Light display has been extended to illuminate 24 trees and installation is complete with switch on due on the 26th October. Festive light installation is still ongoing with switch on due on the 17th November. The display will be extended from previous years to include St Cuthbert's Church yard trees. Sponsorship is being sought from local businesses to help defray our costs.

Town Dyke Orchard Car Park - The resurfacing of the car park was completed last month and work to repaint the parking bays has now been completed. As with the Civic Centre and Bitts Park car parks which were resurfaced last year the parking bays have been made wider to reflect the increased width of modern vehicles. It should make parking much easier.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Following changes to the Regulators Code the Environmental Health Service has been active in looking at the support and advice it can offer to Carlisle businesses. A Strategy is being developed which seeks to improve the contact with businesses. The Service is also supporting business events in the District and actively engaging with those organisations who represent the business community.

Carlisle City Council is to host a national event on introducing a Tattooing Hygiene Rating System. Julie Barratt the Director of the Chartered Institute in Wales will be outlining a system introduced in Wales. Many authorities are having issues with unlicensed tattooists – 23 authorities are attending the event, a total of 30 delegates. The Environmental Health Service licenses tattooists to ensure correct sterilisation and hygiene is undertaken when carrying out this risk activity.

Environmental Health has served its first Abatement Notices for insect nuisance from flies at a poultry farm. Poor housekeeping meant that a large amount of flies were breeding at the farm and affecting nearby properties. The problem was brought to the attention of Environmental Health by 3 separate complainants and the Parish Council. Insects became a specific "Statutory Nuisance" in 2006 simplifying the legal controls where excessive numbers were occurring.

GREEN SPACES

With the football season now in full swing the Council's pitches are in regular use. Teams have been reminded of the need to clear up their own litter (drinks bottles, sock tape etc) after every game and the message seems to have been heeded. We now have around 35 pitches under our management, in 3 different formats of the game (11v11; 9v9; and 7v7) as required by the Football Association for different age groups. The Grounds team have put a lot of effort into improving our pitches during the summer and so far this season no games have been called off due to the ground conditions.

Unfortunately there was very sad news from the Green Spaces team in September with the sudden death of Graeme Farish, supervisor of the Cemetery Grounds team, at the age of 49. Graeme gave the city of his birth over 33 years of dedicated service and was an inspiration to those he worked with. A memorial bench will be placed in the grounds of Carlisle Cemetery, close to Graeme's favourite tree.

Cenotaph Project - The contract with English Heritage for grant funding has now been signed. The Council's share of funding was approved by Executive on 30 September and is now to go to Council on 5th November for further approval. The repair and cleaning work to the Cenotaph is likely to be carried out by Askins & Little of Carlisle. Work to the smaller memorials will be carried out by a combination of the City Council's own workmen and local firms. The conservation architect required by English Heritage is Johnson and Wright of Carlisle. Green Spaces team have produced several options for landscaping for consideration.

STREET CLEANING AND WASTE SERVICES - Resources are being diverted to the clearing of leaf fall from October to December. The scheduled bin replacement is now complete.

The street cleansing teams are clearing some of the back lanes that have been identified as suitable for wheeled bins as a result of the consultation from the purple sack review. Letters have already been sent to the areas concerned to allow the residents the opportunity to clear the lane of any valuables or raise any objections they may have. The team have been advised not to clear any lane if approached by a resident objecting on the actual clearance day.

The 'Billy Goats' that have been purchased to enable the mobile teams to vacuum clean larger areas such as footpaths have been a useful time saving addition to the street cleaning equipment

The first phase of the bin roll out is scheduled for 26th October 2013. Those residents that are scheduled to receive a bin and have specifically called the Council to voice their concern have either already been revisited or are due to be visited this week. On the second visit where it is confirmed that the resident cannot have a bin due to access they will be added to the gull sack collection.