

Meeting Date: 10 September 2013

Public/Private*: Public

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

HIGHWAYS

Car Park Maintenance - Patching and resurfacing works have been completed at Town Dyke Orchard car park and on the entrance to Talkin Tarn car park. The car park will be repainted after 2 weeks to allow time for the new surface to fully harden. Minor patching still needs to take place on a number of other car parks in the near future.

Car Park Security - Police statistics have recently identified that Carlisle is the second safest city in the country to park your car. We were narrowly beaten by Norwich for first place. We had 86 reported parking offences per 10,000 registered vehicles. This compares with Newcastle with 318 offences and Manchester with 505.

Centennial Motorcycle Rally - A major motorcycle rally took place from Friday 16th August to Sunday 18th August based at Devonshire Walk car park. The group organising these events are involved with major motorcycle rallies around the world. These events celebrated the first such event which was held in Carlisle in 1913. Two of the original motorbikes took part in this year's event.

Annual Parking Report - Final work is taking place to complete the 2012/13 Annual Parking Report which must be submitted in September. For the previous 2 years, Carlisle has been among the 6 finalists for the best parking report of the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Pest Control - have been very busy in this summer's hot weather. Last year between the 1st April and the end of July the wet summer meant only 56 requests were made to the Council to deal with wasps nests, during the same hotter period this year the figure was

201. The Council's pest control provides a value for money service to the community controlling pests such as rats, mice, ants, fleas, bed bugs, and of course, wasps.

Clean up Carlisle - is one of the priorities of the Council. The "Love Where You Live Campaign" has been running for a year now with a considerable amount success. Educational campaigns have been run in schools and community groups and a number of litter and dog fouling community clean ups have been supported by the Council.

Along with the educational initiatives the Council has stepped up enforcement action serving a total of 58 litter and 55 dog fouling fixed penalty notices since August 2012. There have also been 7 successful prosecutions for fly tipping and 8 for dog fouling.

Further events are planned for the next year of the "Love Where You Live" campaign and the Council would welcome the support of the community and businesses in running initiatives to keep our great City clean and tidy.

Another bullet point linked to the quality on offer in Carlisle, 92% of food businesses inspected in Carlisle between April and the end of June were broadly compliant with food hygiene legislation. This means that on inspection by our Environmental Health Officers 92% were scoring good or above in the National Food Hygiene Rating System. The Council will deal with the minority of businesses who are not up to standard but a big compliment should go to the vast majority of Carlisle food business who operate in a safe and hygienic way.

CCTV – The Council are still awaiting confirmation from the Police Commissioner on the Police's intentions regarding the City's public CCTV system. The Police account for over 80% of the use of the City Council's public CCTV. The City Council has successfully implemented the changes it agreed last year and new policies and ways of working are benefitting the City Council's Parking and Reception Teams.

GREEN SPACES

The Grounds teams have been busy with summer maintenance, which means cutting grass on the thousands of hectares of land under our management. We are changing the way in which sites are looked after to try and make more them wildlife-friendly – wild flowers and clover are good for bees and butterflies. We are aware of the need to communicate these messages to our communities as they may notice changes in their local environment.

With the football season upon us the grounds team have been preparing the 30-odd pitches under our care. The provision of football pitches makes a massive contribution to the Carlisle Plan in terms of a healthy city. In the Longhorn Youth League alone, over

3,000 young people are regularly taking part in sport using Council facilities. Working with the League Committee and the Cumberland FA, Green Spaces team has provided 5 new junior pitches for the coming season with funding from the FA. To develop the quality of our pitches and prevent cancellations due to waterlogged ground in winter, we have submitted a bid for Sport England funding for drainage works at Keenan Park, Hammond's Pond and Edgehill Road.

Cenotaph - As the centenary approaches, we are working with colleagues to make sure that the Cenotaph and other war memorials are ready for the commemoration services in 2014 to mark the outbreak of World War 1. I am delighted that our application for a War Memorial Grant from English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation has been successful and that we have been awarded the maximum of 75%.

Bereavement Services – Work started promptly on cremators re-wiring work on 27 July and the first cremator was completed on 9 August. This machine will be commissioned and tested for several days to make sure it is operating correctly before the second cremator is shut down. We are pleased to have been able to maintain a seamless service for the community while this important maintenance work is being carried out.

Talkin Tarn - I am grateful for the useful recommendations made by the Economy and Environment scrutiny panel's working group on Talkin Tarn, many of which have been taken up by the team. Income is up on last year, no doubt partly helped by better weather, and new sources of income are being actively pursued. Car-parking income is ahead of target.

A successful rowing regatta was held on the first Saturday in July, hosted by Talkin Tarn Amateur Rowing Club. The annual event brings hundreds of visitors to the Tarn from all across the north of England and southern Scotland and generates significant revenue at the tea-room and kiosk. This year the tea-room manager had to restock the ice-cream cabinets half-way through the day in order to keep up with demand!

STREET CLEANING AND WASTE SERVICES

The weeds within certain areas of the city are still a problem and are making it difficult to clean around them as detritus collects around the weeds. A meeting was held with the County Council officers who advised that a team would be organised to pull up the dead weeds. We have provided a list of the worst areas to target first an update will be given in the next report. The weed spraying is progressing but some areas still remain untreated (Castle way is particularly bad. Photos have been sent to the County)

The Large Mechanical Sweeping Routes have been altered again to realistically reflect resources. We have recently purchased Vac Packs which are being used by the mobile

team to reach hard to get to places to remove leaves, detritus etc. Billy Goats have also been purchased to enable the mobile teams to vacuum clean larger areas such as footpaths.

The litter bins in the City Centre have been replaced, with new bins with integral cigarette disposal.

The Pageant went well and there were no issues with the clean up after the event.

Bring Site Review- The project is still on going and the sites to be removed have been selected and the arrangement regarding the removal of these sites is in progress.

Purple Sack Review- The project is on going. We will receive 1500 bins at the end of September/ beginning of October and a detailed implementation plan has been drafted for the first phase of the bin roll out.

The early start for the refuse crews will come to and end this week and collection times will be back to normal week commencing 26/08/2013. We have received very few complaints regarding noise from the early starts and it has been of great benefit to the health and safety of the crews avoiding the hottest part of the day. We are grateful to the residents for their patience