



West Lothian
Council

BROXBURN, UPHALL & WINCHBURGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1st November 2016 – 31st January 2017.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work.
2. Advise of any areas that require further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relates to items 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger & 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Other consultations	None

D1 Terms of Report

Report on activity for period 1st November 2016 – 31st January 2017.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Winter routine maintenance ongoing: All hedge cutting in the ward has been completed for the year and the pruning and cleaning out of shrub beds is ongoing and on schedule for completion early February.

The first herbicide visit will be started earlier to minimize the use of Glyphosate. This should be achieved by applying a residual weedkiller when the beds are clean rather than waiting until Spring with Glyphosate has to be included to kill any weeds that are present.

Grounds Maintenance Enquires

In total 20 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

Ball Game Enquiries – 1
Galaday/Public Event Enquiries - 2
Grass Cutting Enquiries – 1
Grass Left on Paths or Roads – 1
Ground Ownership Enquiries – 2
Grounds Property Vandalised - 1
Hedge Cutting Enquiries – 5
Shrub Bed Enquiries – 1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path – 5
Sports Facility Enquiries - 1

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

Garden Maintenance Scheme to start April 2017

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total 5 garden maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

Garden Maintenance General Enquiries – 1
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting – 3
Garden Maintenance No Longer Required - 1

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

Cleaner Communities staff are continuing to remove litter, fly tipping and debris on roads, footpaths and open spaces throughout the ward.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 72 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

Env. Enforcement Officers – 1
Dead Animals – 7

Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space – 1
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads – 25
No Dog Fouling Sign Request - 1
New Dog Waste Bin Request – 1
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing – 2
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces – 4
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping – 29
Litter Bin Full/Overflowing – 2
Litter General Enquiries – 3
Litter in Grass Open Space – 2
Litter On Paths/Road Verges - 2
Street Sweeping Enquiries – 11
Vehicle Abandoned – 8

All enquiries regarding fly-tipping if suitable evidence is found are investigated and pursued by Enforcement Officers. Dog fouling patrols are also carried out in an effort to identify anyone failing to clean up after their dog.

Environmental Community Involvement

Enforcement wardens are continuing to work with colleagues from Public Transport carrying out school transport checks.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Almondell & Calderwood Country Park

At Almondell the route of the improved off-road path was changed due to the presence of a new badger sett. This and quotations coming back under the estimate have also allowed the very slippery path along the top of the western slope to be upgraded to allow all season use. The construction work is well underway due for completion and LandTrust grant claim in early February.

The tree safety work started last spring is due to be completed shortly.

The Woodland Management Plan for Calderwood has been drafted and is due to be submitted to Forestry Commission shortly.

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

Tree Branches Overhanging – 1
Tree Enquiries General – 6
Tree Leaves Causing Problems – 8

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space

Glebe Park

Allocated capital funding of £63k for 2017/18. The design for improvements is complete and approved. Planned improvements include new seating, repair of entrance features, new play equipment for toddlers, tree planting, and long grass areas. The next stage will be to invite contractors to tender.

Cemeteries Routine Works

Uphall Cemetery

5 year Headstone inspection survey ongoing
Lair reinstatement works ongoing.
Routine works ongoing.
Xmas Wreath removal starts beginning of February

Loaninghill Cemetery

Lair reinstatement works ongoing.
Routine works ongoing.
Xmas Wreath removal starts beginning of February

Cemeteries Enquires

Bench Donations – 1
Cemeteries General Enquiries – 6
Cemetery Property Vandalised - 1
Lair Enquiries – 7

E. Conclusion

Routine works are currently progressing as scheduled.

We have received and dealt with a number of customer enquires relating to various service areas throughout the period. We will aim to maintain our strong performance dealing with enquiries within our target timescales

The design for improvements on Glebe Park are now complete and improved.

F. Background Reference

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Head of Operational Services

16th February 2017