



LIVINGSTON SOUTH 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 NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 November 2018 – 31 December 2018.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

1. Note the work carried out by service within the local area.
2. Advise of any areas that require further information or investigation.

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

The report comments on activity for the period 1 November 2018 – 31 December 2018.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

All hedges in the ward have been cut as scheduled.

Shrub bed renovations are completed on a route that covers the whole of Livingston, with works scheduled to start in the Livingston South ward around mid-February. The latest Land Audit Management score for the East area was 67, which is the target score.

Preparation works are underway to prepare for the delivery of the new Ground Maintenance service standards, with summary information attached in Appendix (i) This will result in changes to some grass areas, in particular in greenways and some road verges.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 22 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2018.

	2018	2017
Bonfire Enquiries	5	1
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	0	2
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	0	1
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	3	1
Fencing Enquiries	0	1
Grass Area Damaged	2	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	1	1
Grounds Ownership Enquiries	1	0
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	2	1
Manholecover Damaged in Grass	1	0
Public Park Enquiries	4	4
Shrub Bed Enquiries	0	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	3	4
Shrub Bed Not Maintained	0	1
Weeds General Enquiries	0	1
Weeds on Paths or Roads	0	1
Total	22	20

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

There have been five grass cutting cycles completed as well as completing the hedge cutting in the gardens in the ward during the reporting period. This work is carried out by a team of four operatives, who also cover 50% of the gardens included on the scheme across the whole of West Lothian. The Garden Maintenance works for the year have now finished, and the seasonal contracts for the garden maintenance staff were ended on 3 November 2018.

Kenilworth Rise - Report of fence down. We have just been made aware of this and today 14 November staff have been out and spoke to tenant and moved the fence back into the garden. We will contact Housing to see about its repair as tenant thinks they reported it a long time ago.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

There was one garden maintenance related enquiry received and dealt with within this reporting period in 2018.

	2018	2017
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	1	1
Total	1	1

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

The ward is covered by a mobile cleansing team consisting of six operatives and one compact sweeper. Dedridge has the additional resource of a street orderly covering the main areas around the town centre and there is a backshift team of three operatives covering school routes, hot spot areas and enquiries throughout West Lothian. There is also a reduced level of staff on at the weekend covering West Lothian. We also have two HGV sweepers that cover the whole of West Lothian.

Staff are continuing to deal with enquiries and carry out routine works to remove litter, fly tipping and debris on roads, footpaths and open spaces throughout the ward.

Within available resources Street Cleansing staff have also been directed towards leaf clearance throughout West Lothian. Leaves are lifted from footpaths and roadways and staff will target known areas of concern and react to enquiries that come in from the public.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 97 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2018	2017
Complaint Street Cleansing	1	0
Dead Animals	9	3
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space	1	2
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads	7	7
Dog Waste Bin New Request	5	0
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	0	3
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	2	3
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	1	3
Illegal Fly Posting	1	3
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	42	31
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	1	0
Litter Bin Full Overflowing	1	1
Litter General Enquiries	2	2
Litter on Paths Roads Verges	3	5
Street Sweeping Enquiries	13	6
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	1	0
Trolleys Dumped in Livingston	2	6
Vehicle Abandoned	5	6
Total	97	81

Environmental Community Action

The team consists of two Senior Enforcement Officers, two Education Engagement Officers and eight Enforcement Officers. They are split into two teams of six officers to cover seven days a week on shifts with one team on shift at a time.

Enforcement Officers have dealt with enquiries in relation to various environmental issues within the area.

Abandoned/Nuisance vehicles have been dealt with and removed from streets throughout the ward gaining compliance on all occasions.

Enforcement Officers continue to carry out audits on School Transport buses and taxis on behalf of Transport Department at St Margaret's Academy, James Young High School, St Ninians and Dedridge Primary School as well as assisting colleagues in Community Learning & Development Youth Services through the positive destinations programme. They also continue to assist colleagues from Licencing on several occasions by checking identification and authorisations of window cleaners, carrying out audits at licensed premises and ensuring the appropriate legal notices are being displayed.

Education & Engagement Officers have facilitated several community and school clean ups throughout the ward and have been working with cleaner communities and waste management services.

Officers have also engaged in partnership working with various agencies such as Police Scotland, Housing Associations, Woodlands Trust Scotland, Forestry Commission, WLC Countryside Rangers, WLC Housing and WLC Waste Services on a range of issues.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total 23 Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period. 4 enquiries were inspected but no works generated. 4 enquiries generated works instructions to programme and 3 works instructions were completed.

	2018	2017
Tree works completed for period	3	n/a
Tree works outstanding for LAC area	91	n/a
Tree enquiries not generating works orders	4	n/a
Tree Branches Overhanging	1	1
Tree Broken/Damaged or Dead	1	0
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	3	3
Tree Enquiries General	5	2
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	13	7
Total	23	13

Tree & Woodland update

As detailed in the last LAC Report various tree diseases are having an impact on trees and woods within West Lothian and a Tree Health Action Plan is currently under preparation. Up to date information can be found on the Forest Health website <https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/forest-industries/tree-health>. For some time now posters advising the public of actions they should take to avoid spreading tree diseases around the country have been put up in the three country parks. The Tree and Woodland Team have been issued with biosecurity kits to disinfect footwear and tools when working particularly in areas known to be infected with virulent pathogens. The proposed Tree Health Action Plan will recommend further action to be taken in combating outbreaks, where possible, through direct action and also education.

Williamston and Bankton Woods

The disease which has affected several mature beech trees in both the Council owned wood and Woodland Trust Scotland's wood adjacent to Williamston Primary School has now been identified as *Phytophthora cambivora*. Advice has been received from the Forest Health specialists and the affected trees on council and Woodland Trust Scotland's land are due to be felled within the next month.

Longterm Forest Plan

Woodland Trust Scotland and the Parks and Woodland Section are continuing to develop a draft Longterm Forest Plan for the woodland areas owned by Woodland Trust Scotland's and the Council across Livingston, and will consult with local communities regarding this in due course.

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	3
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The Ranger Team assessed Core Path WL28, the Nell Burn path for future signage requirements as part of a West Lothian wide access asset assessment (Core Paths, Rights of Way).

Ranger Service patrolled Dedridge and Staunton Ponds and Bankton Mains Park as well as the WL14 Murieston Trail Core Path.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Capital Programme

Livingston North Blue-Green Network (covering some of Livingston South) - The consultant is finalising some additional elements to the masterplan and report. WIAT (Woods In and Around Towns) applications for woodland works are being submitted.

Howden Secret Garden – we had an incident with a local resident locking the gates to the garden and someone else breaking the lock (and part of the gates) before Christmas. There is an underlying conflict between people exercising dogs and local residents (particularly those in Howden House). The situation continues to be monitored.

Ladywell Tennis Court – the Community Planting day on 24th November went very well with approx. 20 people helping to plant up the Hawthorn hedge. The next step is to replace the fencing.

Open Space Officer, Becky Plunkett, attends Community Regeneration meetings for Ladywell and Dedridge, whenever possible, and inputs into community plans regarding parks and greenspaces.

Open Space Enquiries

There were no Open Space enquiries for this reporting period in 2018.

Cemeteries Routine Works

Autumn/winter routine maintenance leaf removal, pruning, headstone foundation construction, grave reinstatement works and burial duties ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquiries

There were six Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period in 2018.

	2018	2017
Cemeteries General Enquiries	3	3
Family History Searches	1	0
Lair Enquiries	1	1
Lair Sunken or Uneven	1	0
Purchase Plaque for planter	0	1
Total	6	5

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCE

None

Appendices/Attachments: Two

- (i) Grounds Maintenance – Service Delivery 2018/19

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