



West Lothian
Council

LINLITHGOW LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

UPDATE FROM NET'S, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES 1 February 2013 – 30 April 2013

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 and to highlight future works planned for the locality.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

Note the work carried out to date and future planned work.

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 Being honest, open and accountable Providing equality of opportunities Developing employees 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

D TERMS OF REPORT

LINLITHGOW ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

1 February 2013 – 30 April 2013

Grounds Maintenance, NET's and Street Cleansing

- Grounds maintenance routine maintenance ongoing, summer hours started 25 February 2013. Seasonal staff being recruited to assist with summer routine works.
- NETs continuing to work in partnership with local groups. Ten new hanging basket columns have been purchased through Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management group and discussions are taking place regarding their locations.
- The cold weather has held back grass/shrub/bulb growth.
- Street Cleansing routine maintenance of litter picking and sweeping ongoing.
- 34 enquiries were received and dealt with in relation to grounds maintenance issues. See attached report detailing locations. (appendix: Grounds280513)
- 8 enquiry was received and dealt with in relation to garden maintenance scheme. The Garden Maintenance Scheme has now been completed for the year
- 68 enquiries were received and dealt with in relation to the Street Cleansing issues. See attached report detailing locations. (appendix: Strcleansing280513)

Environmental Wardens Enforcement Action

- 1 fixed penalty notices have been issued in the ward between 1 February 2013 – 30 April 2013
Dog Fouling x 1 - Linlithgow: The Peel - 1
- 45 enquiries were received and dealt with in relation to Environmental Wardens issues. See attached report detailing locations. (appendix: Envwar280513)

Environmental Wardens Community Involvement

- Environmental Wardens are organising clean ups throughout West Lothian. This year's spring clean campaign is being replaced by the all year round "Cleaner Scotland Campaign". Due to the up and coming sporting events in 2014 such as the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup in 2014 Keep Scotland Beautiful, aim to engage 1,000,000 Scots as part of a national coalition which will include the public, voluntary and private sectors the environmental charity and local authorities, and has announced that it will lead a nationwide mass-engagement campaign called Clean

Up Scotland, which will get underway now and will run until the end of 2014. Burgh Beautiful, Linlithgow beavers/scouts, Linlithgow Bridge Primary, Bridgend Primary, Marine Conservation Society have carried out clean ups to date.

- The Environmental Wardens have been carrying out regular patrols of the ward area in relation to litter, dog fouling, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles.

Beebraigs Country Park - Countryside Services

- Roads & Transportation have completed the road makings at the road junctions improving safety on the rural roads around Beebraigs.
- ❖ Caravan & Camping Site works completed around the new water point and waste disposal area. These improvements now provide our 4 Star Site with a drive over motor home disposal point. Beebraigs is the only 4 Star graded site available throughout the year in West Lothian. The site was graded recently and has retained its 4 Star rating with Visit Scotland and 4 Pennant Award with the AA.
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- Beebraigs Forestry work continues - new path from the Balvormie to Cockleroy has now been completed as has the arboretum.
- The brief spells of good weather have brought with it a number of problems regarding irresponsible use of the Country Parks, fires, drinking, litter etc.
- CTC have run a Mountain Bike construction and design course in Beebraigs Country Park due to the ongoing mountain bike project.
- The Friends group for Beebraigs have met recently and work has been programmed.
- Ranger events have been well attended despite the challenging weather. They have also had a number of groups in working over the last month including Friends Groups, Lothian Conservation Volunteers, D of E, Princes Trust and TCV.
- A partnership guided walk event with Historic Scotland took place over the 27 & 28th of April linking Beebraigs with Cairnpapple with the Rangers and they had 38 visitors attended over the 2 days.
- Interviews taking place for a further 3 WLJF to join the team at the sawmill replacing those who have moved to new jobs.

Further Proposals And Initiatives

- Continue working with all partners within the community.
- Carry out patrols in ward area.

E. CONCLUSION

110 enquiries have been received between 1 February 2013 – 30 April 2013 in relation to grounds maintenance, garden maintenance & street cleansing.

Routine maintenance is being carried out by Grounds and street Cleansing staff, The cold weather has held back growth of grass/shrubs/bulbs while Nets staff continue to work with local groups. Discussions are taking place regarding the locations for ten new hanging basket columns purchased through Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group.

Environmental wardens have issued 1 fixed penalty notices in relation to dog fouling while carrying out regular patrols in the ward area. 45 enquiries were received

between 1 February 2013 – 30 April 2013 in relation to Environmental Wardens issues. They have also been organising clean ups throughout West Lothian. This year's spring clean campaign is being replaced by the all year round "Cleaner Scotland Campaign".

Beechraigs Country Park have been carrying out improvement works in and around the park and working in partnership with various groups, The Caravan & camping site was graded recently and has retained its 4 Star rating with Visit Scotland and 4 Pennant Award with the AA, While a further 3 West Lothian Job Fund staff are to be taken on at the sawmill. The brief spells of good weather have brought with it a number of problems regarding irresponsible use of the Country Parks, fires, drinking, litter etc.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments:

Copy of breakdown of enquiries for Grounds Maintenance, Street Cleansing & Environmental wardens.

Grounds280513

Strcleansing280513

Envwar280513

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Jim Jack, Head of Operational Services

Date: 14 April 2013