



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 August 2019 – 30 September 2019.

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 August 2019 – 30 September 2019

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Grass cutting and weed management operations have been completed for the year.

The Neighbourhood Environmental Teams continue to be fully utilised removing fly tipping and cutting back overgrown shrubs from footpaths etc.

The most recent LAMs score for the East area was 62, which remains considerably less than the target of 67; however is an improvement on the previously reported score of 60.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 56 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Ball Game Enquiries	0	2
Burns or Watercourses	0	1
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	3	3
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	0
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	0	1
Grass Area Damaged	1	1
Grass Cutting Enquiries	8	2
Grass Highway Verges	3	1
Grass Left on Paths or Roads	2	0
Grounds Maintenance Accident Ins Claim	1	0
Grounds Ownership Enquiries	0	2
Grounds Property Vandalised	0	1
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	10	2
Public Park Enquiries	1	8
Shrub Bed Enquiries	4	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	16	20
Shrub Bed Not Maintained	2	4
Shrub Vegetation Sight Lines	0	2
Sports Pitch Marking Request	1	0
Weeds on Paths or Roads	3	1
Total	56	52

D3 Garden Maintenance Routine Works

Grass cutting work has been completed. Hedge cutting commenced in October.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

There were 14 garden maintenance related enquiry received and dealt with within this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Complaint Garden Maintenance	1	1
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	6	6
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	6	2
Garden Maintenance Standard Of Cut	1	0
	14	9

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

Staff are continuing to deal with enquiries and carry out routine works to empty litter/dog waste bins, lift litter on footpaths, roads and open spaces throughout the ward with the NETs team dealing with fly tipping enquiries.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 122 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2019	2018
Complaint Street Cleansing	4	1
Dead Animals	7	5
Dog Fouled Grass/Open Space	3	2
Dog Fouled Kids Play Areas	0	1
Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads	8	4
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	1	0
Dog Waste Bin New Request	0	2
Dog Waste Bin Overflowing	3	4
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	7	1
Graffiti Non Offensive	0	1
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	0	1
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	49	33
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	1	1
Litter Bin Full Overflowing	1	1
Litter General Enquiries	4	2
Litter In Grass Open Space	0	1
Litter on Paths Roads Verges	9	8
Street Sweeping Enquiries	12	8
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	3	0
Trolleys Dumped in Livingston	0	3
Vehicle Abandoned	10	8
Total	122	87

Environmental Community Action

The Cleaner Communities Environmental team have dealt with various environmental enquiries relating to enforcement, education and engagement during the period.

Abandoned/Nuisance vehicle enquiries have been received and where required vehicles have been removed from streets by gaining compliance following negotiation, verbal warnings, warning letters, official notices served, or WLC contractor removal.

Officers have also engaged in partnership working with various other departments and external agencies on a range of issues affecting communities.

The Education Officers continue to support Community Clean Up events by supplying equipment and removal of waste.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total 33 Parks and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2019	2018
Tree works outstanding for LAC area	n/a	n/a
Emergency Tree Out Of Hours	0	3
Tree Blocking Light	2	0
Tree Branches Overhanging	16	22
Tree Broken/Damaged or Dead	1	12
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	1	43
Tree Enquiries General	8	40
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	3	1
Tree Roots Causing Problems	1	4
Tree Woodland Enquiries	1	0
Total	33	125

Ranger Service Update

The Ranger Service attended the Local Scottish Countryside Ranger Association (SCRA) meet up on the 18th September to share knowledge, ideas and best practice. This time the meeting focus was on public events, targets and there was a talk from Scottish Badgers.

The Ranger Service attended the SNH (Scottish Natural Heritage) Integrating Habitat Networks workshop on the 23rd September with a variety of other organisations.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Livingston North Blue-Green Network (LNBGN) – Howden. Path works are scheduled for the north of Howden Park over the winter. Some patching of asphalt has already taken place on the pathways on each side of Howden House to smooth potholes and trip hazards.

Howden Secret Garden – The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) led a workday in the garden to create four raised beds. Two of these will be used by Homestart and two by the Howden Garden Group. Cedarbank School has joined the partnership of groups working in the garden.

Ladywell - path works are scheduled for Falcon Brae Park over the winter.

Dedridge - Clement Rise ballcourt is scheduled for improvements by March 2020.

The Open Space Officer gave support and advice to groups submitting Town Centre Fund bids.

Open Space Enquiries

There were three Open Space enquiries for this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Childrens Play Enquiries	2	0
Safety Issues in Play Areas	1	0
Total	3	0

Cemeteries Routine Works

Routine grass cutting and weed control tasks have been completed. Winter maintenance works and lair reinstatement and burial duties are ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquiries

There were four Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period in 2019.

	2019	2018
Cemeteries General Enquiries	2	2
Lair Enquiries	2	2
Purchase Plaque For Planter	0	1
Total	4	5

E. CONCLUSION

Grass cutting work has been completed. Hedge cutting commenced in October.

The Cleaner Communities Environmental team have dealt with various environmental enquiries relating to enforcement, education and engagement during the period.

The Open Space Officer has been giving support and advice to groups submitting Town Centre Fund bids.

F BACKGROUND REFERENCE

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

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14 November 2019