



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 NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 September – 31 October 2019.

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

To report on activity for the period 1 September – 31 October 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.

D3 Grounds Maintenance Enquires

In total 45 grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| Ball Game Enquiries | 2 | 0 |
| Bench or Seat Enquiries | 1 | 0 |
| Bonfire Enquiries | 2 | 0 |
| Complaint Grounds Maintenance | 3 | 1 |
| Enforcement Officer Enquiries | 1 | 3 |
| Fencing Enquiries | 0 | 3 |
| Flower Bed or Bulb Displays | 1 | 0 |
| Gardens Competition Enquiries | 1 | 3 |
| Grass Area Damaged | 1 | 0 |
| Grass Cutting Enquiries | 3 | 0 |
| Grass Cutting Missed Not Cut | 0 | 1 |
| Grass Left on Paths or Roads | 2 | 1 |
| Grounds Property Vandalised | 1 | 1 |
| Hedge Cutting Enquiries | 8 | 2 |
| Manholecover Damaged in Grass | 0 | 1 |
| Public Park Enquiries | 3 | 2 |
| Shrub Bed Enquiries | 3 | 1 |
| Shrub Bed Overhanging Path | 9 | 4 |
| Shrub Beds Not Maintained | 2 | 0 |
| Weeds General Enquiries | 1 | 2 |
| Weeds on Paths or Roads | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 45 | 25 |

Garden Maintenance Routine Works

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

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were 10 garden maintenance related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period.

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| Complaint Garden Maintenance | 0 | 1 |
| Garden Maintenance General Enquiries | 4 | 4 |
| Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut | 4 | 4 |
| Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting | 1 | 1 |
| Garden Maintenance Standard Of Cut | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 10 |

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 77 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|
| Complaint Street Cleansing | 1 | 0 |
| Dead Animals | 2 | 4 |
| Dog Fouled Grass Open Space | 0 | 1 |
| Dog Fouling on Paths/Roads | 3 | 6 |
| Dog No Fouling Sign Request | 1 | 1 |
| Dog Waste Bin New Request | 1 | 1 |
| Dog Waste Bin Overflowing | 10 | 2 |
| Glass on Paths or Open Spaces | 1 | 1 |
| Graffiti Non Offensive | 2 | 0 |
| Graffiti Racist or Offensive | 2 | 0 |
| Illegal Fly Posting | 1 | 0 |
| Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping | 29 | 19 |
| Litter Bin Burnt Damaged | 2 | 1 |
| Litter General Enquiries | 0 | 4 |
| Litter on Paths Roads Verges | 4 | 2 |
| Roadside Memorials or Tributes | 0 | 1 |
| Street Sweeping Enquiries | 10 | 3 |
| Trolleys Abandoned/ Dumped | 1 | 1 |
| Vehicle Abandoned | 7 | 13 |
| Total | 77 | 60 |

Environmental Community Involvement

The team consists of one Senior Officer and three Education/Engagement Officers. We are currently in the process of filling the vacancy for the Senior Officer's position.

The Cleaner Communities team have dealt with various environmental issues relating to enforcement, engagement and education during this 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.

Instances of fly tipping were dealt with during the period. This is a significant increase in the number of enquiries the team are dealing with. The team continue to work with partnership agencies such as housing associations, Woodland Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage and local landowners to obtain evidence and initiate preventative measures. Two Fixed Penalty Notices (£200 fine) have been issued for fly tipping offences.

The team have completed the installation of the Tikspac free dog bag dispenser units with one being placed at Stewartfield Park and one in Almondell Countryside Park. A programme of stencilling and dog fouling sign renewal has also been carried out. The team are currently working along with their colleagues from Waste to deliver joint schools environmental education programme. Community clean ups continue to take place and bookings are already being placed for 2020.

Officers continue to attend local resident and community group meetings and follow up and report back on any issues raised.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Trees and Woodland Enquiries

In total there were 21 Trees and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| Tree Branches Overhanging | 9 | 8 |
| Tree Broken Damaged or Dead | 1 | 2 |
| Tree Conservation Areas | 0 | 2 |
| Tree Dangerous or Unsafe | 1 | 24 |
| Tree Enquiries General | 8 | 13 |
| Tree Leaves Causing Problems | 1 | 10 |
| Tree Roots Causing Problems | 0 | 1 |
| Tree Planting Requests | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 21 | 60 |

Ranger Service Update

The Ranger Service attended the local SCRA (Scottish Countryside Rangers Association) meet up on the 18th September to share knowledge, ideas and best practice. This time focus was on public events, targets and 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.

Broxburn Primary School nurture group enjoyed a sunny afternoon shelter building in the woodlands at Beecraigs.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Open Space Capital Programme

Park View Square, Broxburn – all work is now complete, with only some snagging items to do. Improvements include: new play equipment, refurbishment of existing equipment, new paths and gates, refurbishment and relocation of benches, bulb planting.

Kirkhill – Rough plans are being drawn up before going back out to consultation.

Millbank Place, Uphall – all work is now complete, with some minor snagging items. Improvements include: a new path, bulb planting, new play equipment, a new goal.

Holmes Park has capital spend for this year. Improvements include: upgraded paths, signage and bulb planting. The bulb planting has been done and the paths are in the process of being upgraded. The Town Centre group would like to reinstate a Saugh Tree (willow) which will also be planted in park.

The Open Space Officer continues to advise Broxburn and Uphall Community Councils on Town Centre Fund projects. These include planters and fruit trees/bushes in parks and the designation of a new 'local' park in Uphall.

Open Space Enquiries

There was six open space related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| Children Play Enquiries | 4 | 2 |
| Glass of Litter in Play Areas | 1 | 0 |
| Play Area Property Vandalised | 1 | 0 |
| Safety Issues in Play Areas | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 6 | 4 |

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

In total eight cemeteries related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period in 2019.

| | 2019 | 2018 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| Bench Donations | 0 | 1 |
| Cemeteries General Enquiries | 4 | 6 |
| Cemetery Property Vandalised | 1 | 2 |
| Lair Enquiries | 3 | 1 |
| War Memorial Enquiries | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 8 | 11 |

E. Conclusion

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

The Cleaner Communities team have dealt with various environmental issues relating to enforcement, engagement and education during this period.

The Open Space Officer continues to advise Broxburn and Uphall Community Councils on Town Centre Fund projects.

F. Background Reference

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: none

Contact Person: Eirwen Hopwood, Beecraigs Country Park, 01506 284500
eirwen.hopwood@westlothian.uk

Jim Jack

Head of Operational Services

15 November 2019