



ASSET & SERVICE DEVOLUTION WORKING GROUP

MEETING NOTES MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2024

Present: Jacqui, Jim, Margaret, Martin & Sebastian, & Lisa.

WASTE COLLECTION

Other possible service providers: Glastonbury & Street had both responded that they were not yet in a position to expand their provision as their existing bin collection was limited to just a few on their land. Wells are to get back to us.

Action: 1. LP to contact Shepton Mallet TC & chase Wells;
2. SLH Services to be chased to offer info on a combined grass-cutting and waste collection arrangement.

Quotes: Darren Durbin had provided a quote based on waste collection of 10 bins in 4 open spaces, including charge for disposal of dog waste. The quote was £140 in total. This compared to the legacy estimate of £7.82 per bin provided by Somerset Council, totalling £78.20

Action: 1. LP to try and get an up-to-date quote from Somerset Council and response about bins not on PC- land

Bin usage: Martin had been keeping an eye on bin levels in recent weeks, in an attempt to determine what frequency of waste collection would be needed. Many were half-full. It was mooted that future collections may be different for summer and winter but that weekly collections were likely.

Bin numbers: the Clerk noted that it was still unsure which bins not on SCOPC land but on their Asset Register will continue to have waste collected by Somerset Council, therefore the exact number of bins that will become parish council responsibility is not exact.

ENHANCED HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE (EHM)

Gullies: Lisa relayed Tony's emailed suggestions about gullies- the recent LCN Highways group noting their widespread problems, the impact of farm traffic blocking recently cleared gullies & that the coming winter would be a good time to begin a register of the most notorious.

Gully blockages: Jim identified that there were 2 levels of gully clearance: a more superficial clearing of vegetation near and on the gullies, and a more extensive clearing of silt being washed into gullies and further into pipework. Where localised flooding happened, it was likely caused by the second scenario and therefore required specialist intervention.

Register: It was agreed that a register should be developed with resident & councillor input to identify the ones in need of maintenance. This will be done via the Contact Sheet & media channels.

What happens when the register has lots of input? The EHM Programme in partnership with Kier propose a (week)day rate of £684.71 for skilled specialist operatives to do tasks including gully emptying.

Depending on the number of gullies identified on the register, it was thought that an 8-hr day at this rate could see the clearing of 8-12 gullies in one hit. This was a scheme that St Cuthbert (Out) could potentially pay for twice a year.

Action: 1. LP to get more details as to what the rate offered by Kier actually provides – basic or gold-star gully clearance?

2. LP to contact all village newsletter authors for their input, & parish church magazines & circulate with Community Sheet.

3. LP to produce a ballpark figure of costs for waste collection & gully emptying for Full Council on 28th October, to be passed to Finance & Scrutiny on 6th November, for budget considerations.

4. LP is to improve spreadsheet reflecting potential features that may come under devolved responsibility / EHM programme and establish a) features, b) location, c) quantities, d) unit price, e) frequency of action.

ADMINISTRATION

Terms of Reference: this was accepted with the highlighted amendments, and to be sent to Full Council for 28th October.

Somerset Council update: there wasn't one.

Website user group: seems to be accessible by all group members. Clerk apologised for the very late publishing of agenda & meeting notes on the website.

Devolution as Standing item: it was agreed this should feature on all FC agendas until further notice, even if the item is a short summary.

Action: Jacqui to compile short summary for 28th Oct.

Next meeting: Monday 11th November, 7pm online.

Meeting ended 7.50pm