

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE - 19 MAY 2005

QUESTIONS ARISING FROM 15 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

<u>MATTER RAISED</u>	<u>RESPONSE/ACTION REQUIRED</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
<p>Community Representative Mr Alex Currie drew attention to the poor quality of road patching carried out in Wellwood Street, Muirkirk; and enquired as to the Council's responsibility in this respect.</p>	<p>Councillor Smith advised that it was likely that the work to which Mr Currie referred was carried out by a contractor on behalf of East Ayrshire Council and accordingly it was agreed that the Administrative Officer would pursue the matter with the appropriate Department of the Authority.</p>	<p>John Bryson, Area Roads Engineer has written to Mr Currie advising that the work to which he referred was carried out by East Ayrshire Council's Roads Contracts to repair potholes. This involves cleaning out the hole, infilling with a dense bitumen macadam material and compacting it to provide a temporary repair to infill the pothole to keep the road in a safe condition for road users until a permanent patch can be carried out as part of a future programme of work. Roads Contracts operatives have been reminded of the correct procedures for carrying out the potholing work to ensure the work is completed to the appropriate standards. The permanent patching work is programmed to be carried out within the next few months.</p>
<p>Community Representative Mr Alex Currie drew attention to the failure of the contractor concerned to remove rubble etc from the street following installation of new bus shelters in Muirkirk and enquired as to the responsibility of the Council in this connection.</p>	<p>Councillor Smith advised that while provision of the new bus shelters is being carried out under the remit of Strathclyde Passenger Transport, it may be that the Roads Section would have some input in respect of the carrying out of works within East Ayrshire. Accordingly, it was agreed that the Administrative Officer would pursue this matter with the Roads Section.</p>	<p>John Bryson, Area Roads Engineer, has written to Mr Currie confirming that the issue of rubble being left on site after the erection of the new bus shelters was also raised by members of the public and the Clerk of Works. The Sub-Contractor was instructed to remove it as soon as possible and this has now been done.</p>

<u>MATTER RAISED</u>	<u>RESPONSE/ACTION REQUIRED</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
<p>Community Representative Mr William Lees made reference to the poor condition of a paved area of ground located at the rear of the former Co-op building in Lime Road, New Cumnock, and enquired as to whether the Council were in a position to undertake any action to improve this area.</p>	<p>The Administrative Officer reported that the Housing Service had received confirmation subject to sight of certain legal documentation, that the area of ground in question is within the ownership of East Ayrshire Council and that if this were finally determined to be the case, the Area Housing Manager would be arranging for appropriate works to be carried out.</p>	<p>The Housing Service has now confirmed the position re ownership and arrangements have been made for work to replace broken slabs with tarmac. Anticipated that work will commence week beginning 29 August 2005.</p>
<p>With regard to East Ayrshire Council's arrangements for the uplift/recycling of household waste Community Representative Mr Matthew Burns highlighted the problem of tin cans and paper/cardboard items being blown onto the street either from the black box/blue bin containers or as a consequence of these containers themselves being blown over, and also of these containers, when emptied, being blown about sometimes some considerable distances.</p>	<p>Councillor Smith advised that the Cleansing Section were aware of the difficulties to which Mr Burns referred and that in respect of the emptied containers, he understood that the practice now being introduced was for the empty black box to be placed within the empty blue bin to minimise the possibility of these items being blown about. Councillor Smith also advised that the Cleansing Section were looking at the possibility of the Refuse Collection Vehicle Operatives collecting the waste and recycle containers from within the curtilage of properties (i.e. from within the shelter of a building/fence), rather than from the edge of the curtilage as at present. However, it was agreed that the Administrative Officer would draw the points raised to the attention of the Cleansing Section as appropriate.</p>	<p>The Head of Protective Services has written to Mr Burns confirming that in extreme weather conditions, the black boxes and blue bins may be blown over, however, such situations occurred prior to the introduction of the three bin system when all household waste was collected in wheeled bins.</p> <p>The Head of Protective Services also confirms that refuse collection crews have been instructed to place the empty black box within the empty bins to minimise the possibility of these items being blown about; and that blue and brown wheeled bins and the black box should be placed for collection at the point designated for the collection of the other household waste.</p>

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<p>Community Representative Mrs Jean Smith, following on from the discussion in respect of the previous matter, advised that the current practice of recycle containers being placed by householders for collection could sometimes lead to obstructions for disabled persons where the containers are placed on the footway, rather than within the curtilage of the property.</p>	<p>Noted the point made by Mrs Smith and agreed that this would again be drawn to the attention of the Cleansing Section as appropriate.</p>	<p>The Head of Protective Services has written to Mrs Smith advising that the guidance issued by his Section requests that householders place the brown and blue wheeled bins and the black boxes at the point where the household waste bin is emptied and that if this advice is followed the risk of obstruction should be no greater than that which existed prior to the introduction of the new scheme.</p>
<p>Community Representative Mr William Lees expressed concern at the practice employed by the wheelie bin washer, at least in the New Cumnock area, in that it seemed that dirty water and debris from the cleaned bins was being deposited in the street.</p>	<p>Agreed that the Administrative Officer would draw this matter to the attention of the Cleansing Section.</p>	<p>The Head of Protective Services has written to Mr Lees advising that anyone who is offering wheeled bin washing services in East Ayrshire requires to be licensed by the Council and it is a condition of the licence that all washings are collected and disposed of in a proper manner and that if anyone is aware of this not being done, this should be drawn to the attention of the staff within the Cleansing Section in order that the service provider might be identified and appropriate action taken.</p>
<p>Community Representative Mr William Lees referred to damage/inconvenience which can occur from the current practice employed by Cleansing Operatives who discard the emptied black box recycle containers without due care and attention.</p>	<p>Agreed that the Administrative Officer would draw this matter to the attention of the Cleansing Section.</p>	<p>The Head of Protective Services has written to Mr Lees confirming that the recycling crews have been instructed to place emptied black boxes within either the blue or brown wheeled bins after the glass and cans have been placed in the "kerbsider" vehicle.</p>

<u>MATTER RAISED</u>	<u>RESPONSE/ACTION REQUIRED</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
<p>Community Representative Mr Jim McMillan drew attention to the untidy site of the former Tupp Inn, Cumnock, and unauthorised parking on this site, and enquired as to whether the Council had any authority to act in respect of these issues. Community Representative Mrs Margaret Campbell also expressed concern at the burning of rubbish on this site.</p>	<p>Councillors Menzies and Smith advised that the Council are unable to take any action in respect of the matters identified by Mr Jim McMillan because this was an area of private land. However, the Council may have powers with regard to the issue raised by Mrs Campbell in view of the broader environmental concerns and, accordingly, it was agreed that the Administrative Officer would draw this matter to the attention of the Environmental Health Section.</p>	<p>The Head of Protective Services wrote to Mrs Campbell advising that he had arranged for the Environmental Health Service to inspect the site of the former Tupp Inn and to investigate reports about rubbish being burnt on the site. Where evidence of contraventions of the Environmental Legislation is found, staff will take appropriate action.</p>

Updated: 29 August 2005
SN/SR