

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

19 MARCH 2018

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIESTOWN CENTRE
CLEANSING AND MAINTENANCE**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide information in regards to maintenance and cleansing including cleansing programmes and highways surface water drainage for the major towns within the borough.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The delivery of Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) maintenance and cleansing functions links to the Priority One Strategy Theme of 'Supporting a Successful Economy' by making the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit and Priority Three Strategy Theme of 'Smarter Use of Resources' by ensuring that its resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible.

3. Background

- 3.1 Since 2010 there has been an ongoing programme of financial savings implemented by the Council to meet reductions in public funding. Amongst these savings have been measures within the Street Cleansing and Highway Services functions that have seen a reduction in staff and service levels to meet savings targets.
- 3.2 Whilst savings and changes to services throughout the county borough have been extensive, the service levels provided to the main town centres has been largely preserved as the importance to the local economy has been recognised.
- 3.3 The following report sets out a summary of most of the services.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Cleaner Streets Team

- 4.2 The street cleansing tables below for Town Centres and surrounding areas is based on a set schedule and rota.
- 4.3 The schedule however, is not set in stone and is often adapted to change the frequency of cleansing and litter picking to ensure that a service is provided in

all areas albeit on a reduced level especially in seasonal cases or where major events are taking place .

- 4.4 Other factors which affect the service schedule are when cleansing and caged vehicles are put out of service coupled with staff shortages through holiday and sickness, which in both cases has a detrimental outcome and therefore cleaning schedules have to be adjusted and frequency reduced.

4.5 Cleaning Schedules

<u>Bridgend</u>	<u>Sweeper</u>	<u>Bins and litter picking</u>
Mon – Friday	06.00 – 09.30	06.00 – 14.00 (09.00-17.00)
Saturday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 - 10.00
Sunday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 – 10.00

Bridgend:

- Mon – Fri: 0600 – 0800, caged lorry, team leader and one operative litter pick and empty BCBC bins in town centre and Council car parks. They then remove fly tipping, empty BCBC bins and litter pick surrounding areas as per the schedule until 1400.
- Mon – Fri: 0600- 1400 - Pedestrian Sweeper also sweeps town, once completed reverts to sweeping surrounding area as scheduled.
- Mon – Fri: one operative 0900 – 1700, litter picks and empty BCBC bins.
- Saturday and Sunday: 0600 – 10.00, caged Lorry, team leader and one operative – Pedestrian Sweeper. Town is cleaned and then lorry empties BCBC bins in surrounding areas and picks as required, sweeper reverts to schedule.

<u>Porthcawl</u>	<u>Sweeper</u>	<u>Bins and litter picking</u>
Mon – Friday	06.00 – 09.30	06.00 – 14.00 (09.00-17.00)
Saturday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 - 11.00
Sunday	06.00 - 09.30	06.00 – 11.00

Porthcawl:

- Mon – Fri: 0600 – 1400, team leader and one operative empty BCBC bins on Promenade, town centre, rest bay and Council car parks plus litter pick.
- Mon, Wed, and Fri: empty BCBC bins and litter pick in surrounding areas.
- Mon – Fri: 0800 – 1600, lorry, team leader and usually one operative empty bin in Porthcawl until 1030 and then litter pick as required by schedule.

- Mon – Fri: 0900 – 1700, one operative litter picks and empties BCBC bins in town centre and surrounding areas.
- Sat to Sun: 0600 – 1100 Lorry, team leader and one operative empty BCBC bins on Promenade, then in to Town to empty BCBC bins and litter pick. Sweeper follows on behind and they brush out as necessary. Sweeper then returns to schedule and lorry empties BCBC bins in surrounding areas.

Pencoed Does not have a schedule like other town centres. 0800 – 16.00 Mon, Wed, Friday, BCBC bins emptied and litter picked. Sweeper visits as required.

Maesteg	Sweeper	Bins and litter picking
Mon – Friday	06.00 – 07.40	08.00 – 16.00 (09.00-17.00)
Saturday	06.00 - 07.40	06.00 - 11.00
Sunday	06.00 - 07.40	06.00 – 11.00

Maesteg:

- Mon – Sunday, 0600 -0740, Town centre with sweeper and a brush man who will also empty BCBC bins. On two weekends in a month it is completed by two men, this normally takes around two hours which is without use of the sweeper.
- Mon – Fri, 0800 – 1600, lorry, team leader and usually one operative empty BCBC bins around Maesteg until 1030 and then litter pick as required by schedule. 0900 – 1700, one operative litter picks and empties BCBC bins in town centre and surrounding areas.

The town centre consists of the main streets, bus station, car parks and surrounding lanes around the main streets.

4.6 Building Relations

- 4.7 The Cleaner streets Team have recognised that in these austere times to be able to maintain a satisfactory service provision, closer working with Town Councils was required. The Cleaner Streets Operations Officer who has been in post now for 10 months has over the past year made himself visible and attended Maesteg, Porthcawl and Pencoed Town Council (TC) meetings and has met with Bridgend TC offering support and ways in which to work together to meet objectives of cleaner towns/streets.
- 4.8 The Council believes that good relations have been forged and in some cases much work has been accomplished with the provision and revamping of litter bins in the Porthcawl area. Porthcawl TC have embraced this working arrangement and provided a budget of £10k to meet their strategy of installing

100 bins with the Cleaner streets Team carrying out all fitting and servicing work to accomplish their target.

4.9 Pencoed TC has recently showed a similar interest and the Council looks forward to working closely with them over the coming year. The Operations Officer will continue his work with Town Councils and aims to attend further meetings in the year ahead.

4.10 Close contacts have also been made with the Garw Valley and Coity Community Councils. Again this will be pursued and developed further over the year ahead.

4.11 Dog Fouling

4.12 Dog fouling has been at the forefront of complaints received coupled with social media comments escalating people's opinions and concerns further, which have increased the demand for more action to be taken: dog foul bins, enforcement, signage etc.

4.13 During the summer period the cleaner streets Team worked with Dogs Trust (GB) and Keep Britain Tidy on a working project in which to assess the scale of dog fouling throughout the country. The Council was one of 6 local authorities who took part in the project and the only Welsh authority to take part in the scheme.

4.14 The aim of the project was to test the effectiveness of dog walking routes, with appropriate bin provision, in reducing instances of dog fouling in public parks and greener spaces.

4.15 From the report evaluation BCBC achieved positive results. The project was conducted at Rest Bay over a 3 month period and showed an overall reduction of 41% in dog fouling.

4.16 There were many useful outcomes from the report and the Cleaner Streets Team will look to use these and adapt these methods to reduce the impact of dog fouling in specific areas over the year ahead.

4.17 TIKSPAC

4.18 Dogs Trust was not the only project that the Council entered into and over a three month period to combat dog fouling further (October to December 2017) the Cleaner streets team trialled two dog fouling posts in the Maesteg and Pencoed area.

4.19 The trial was conducted in partnership with Tikspac, Tikspac is an environmental concept which includes a post station that provides biodegradable dog waste bags for dog walkers, and these stations are placed at selected locations such as footpaths, parks and other public areas and on

routes where there are also litter bins for their collection. Reports from the two areas suggest that these have also reduced the impact of dog fouling and social media such as Facebook have provided positive feedback. Local Councillors have also supported it.

- 4.20 The Cleaner Street's team will now be looking to increase the number of these posts throughout the county borough and are currently identifying key areas for their positioning (at a cost of circa £500 to be found from the street cleansing budget); in addition to the posts the Council will be looking to use elements of the Dog Trust report findings to develop this service provision further.

4.21 3rd Sector working/Volunteering

- 4.22 The Cleaner Street's team are constantly contacted by volunteer groups to carry out the disposal of litter which has been collected by the various voluntary groups in the county borough.
- 4.23 These requests are sporadic and ad hoc, and there appears to be no formal process for these groups when carrying out litter picks within communities.
- 4.24 It is recognised that these volunteer groups can provide a valuable service and assist in cleaning up areas where the Cleaner Street's team would find it difficult to attend regularly.
- 4.25 Recognising that these groups can provide a helpful service the Cleaner Street's team along with Keep Wales Tidy, other Council departments including Property, Coastal Management, Rural Development team and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are working together to meet up with all interested groups with a view of developing an organised and proactive voluntary service to be run by Keep Wales Tidy.
- 4.26 An initial meeting was held on the 7th March at the Kenfig Nature Reserve, where outline Terms of Reference were set out and a framework provided for voluntary groups so that a coordinated and scheduled approach can be administered and diarised.
- 4.27 The voluntary groups would then need to be registered under the Keep Wales Tidy banner for which they will be provided with the appropriate insurance cover, risk assessments and support.

4.28 Other Street Cleansing Team Activities

Cleaner Street's team also provide the following assistance:-

Support public conveniences – cleaning and opening

Assist Enforcement in removal of fly tipping following investigations

Renewal or installation of bins

Removal of offensive graffiti
Removal of dog fouling
Cleaning agreed bus shelters
Additional services i.e. Elvis weekend, URDD, charity or sporting events.
Emergency response i.e. flooding, culvert inspections.
Assist other service areas in removal of fly tipping and waste i.e. Sandy Bay, Education land
Co-ordinate with Probation Services, with removal and clean-up projects.

4.29 Drainage

- 4.30 Checks to highway gulleys are carried out on an 18 month cycle to visit and clean as required. If blockages are identified further work is tasked, such as jetting or digging out of accumulated debris. In instances where this does not resolve the issue a Highway Drainage Officer will instigate further works such as camera surveys or excavation to determine and rectify faults. Apart from the scheduled inspections the teams are also called to deal with ad hoc gully issues when reported through the customer care system.
- 4.31 During adverse weather conditions the Gully and Jetvac machines attend emergency flooding or drainage issues both inside and outside of normal operational hours. In such circumstances calls would be prioritised in conjunction with the on call highway inspector on a risk based approach, as we have only limited resources of one Gully machine and one Gully / Jetvac machine which require a minimum manning of two trained persons per unit. As such any Councillor or public referrals during such events will be investigated and cleared as soon as priorities permit.
- 4.32 Another resource used to manage highway drainage are JCB excavators and hand Hazarding gangs, who deliver periodic maintenance of surface water open grips, channels and Culverts associated with highway drainage. These are maintained upon specific task orders generated by the area inspector. Additionally in severe weather conditions gangs will patrol and clear culverts as required.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 This report has no effect on Policy Framework and Procedural Rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7.1 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this information report.

8. Recommendations

8.1 That the contents of the report are noted.

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Background Documents:

None