

## Item from North Area Panel meeting on 26 October – regarding City Parks

### Response from Alan Griffiths, City Parks Operations Manager to issues raised at the meeting:

- a) *106-112 Newick Road, communal garden. Gardening paid for by service charge from residents. They reported that the grass was not cut under their new picnic bench installed late last year, plus the grass cuttings left behind making a 'mess'. Resident Jacqueline Funnel at 112A Newick has reported it twice and it has then been done as requested each time, but they hope it doesn't have to get reported in order to be done properly in the future.*

I understand from our team that they have cut under the bench but it does seem to grow quite fast there? I have asked the team to check this out next time they are on site and cut if required.

Unfortunately the council cannot pick up the grass cuttings after mowing this is mainly down to cost – the operation of collecting grass trimmings would require many extra hours to do the job, different very expensive collecting mowing machines would be required and we would then have to transport the grass across the city to dispose or compost which then requires further compliance to waste and recycling legislation.

- b) *Verge cutting along Moulsecoomb Way, Birdham Road and Staplefield Drive areas: residents were unhappy that the grass verge was cut when wet and muddy and the grass blasted onto cars which it stuck to.*

We took a complaint about this at the time – we have to continue with grass cutting in the rain to complete the rounds, the grass verges in these roads are banked and difficult to cut – they have to be cut with a strimmers rather than a mower. After the complaint last time the staff have been instructed not to strim these roads if wet and come back at a later dry time!

- c) *Litter is sometimes cut with large mowers, including beer cans which then leave a very sharp edged hazard. This was sighted on the grass on either side of Staplefield Drive.*

Every effort is made not to cut litter if it is a real problem we advise Cityclean and come back later. Our ride-on mower operator will try and avoid particularly tin cans however they can't always be seen particularly in long grass.

- d) *Resident Pete Weston witnessed a member of staff on mower cutting grass knocking down one of the bollards along the grass with the machine mower. He said the mower hit the post and it came out, and is still out. Can this post please be replaced? PHOTOS ATTACHED. (Of note; There are 3 others up the hill, 2 on turn to right, 1 on turn to left, that have been knocked out, but no witnesses to who is responsible for this happening)*

Sometimes in the course of our work we accidentally break things and our operators will report them in. In this case it may be that the operator did not see that on turning his vehicle it had taken out the post. It seems from the photographs supplied that the posts are somewhat rotten and vulnerable to being knocked. We will replace this post as it was witnessed by a resident.

- e) *Resident John Marchant called in to have branches removed from a tree that was cut and left behind on the pavement near the Staplefield Drive bus stop on Birdham Road. Residents feel they shouldn't have to call in to have the job completed.*

We our do our best to make sure staff are doing what they should out there and we do our best our best to put it right when it goes wrong. I agree the job was poorly done and we did something about it afterwards when John notified us. If we are made aware of an issue we will do our best to resolve it.