

Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee
Verbal Updates
8 July 2016

Pothole Blitz

Commercial Service Kent Limited has been awarded the Scheme to deliver a maintenance find and fix programme. They have now tendered the scheme and after a successful mobilisation period, works are continuing to be raised with a total of about £800,000 worth of orders currently issued to the sub-contractors employed by Commercial Services - each district has a number of crews repairing potholes and patching the highway network over the coming months. It should be noted that Amey continue to undertake routine maintenance repairs in line with their Term Maintenance Contract

Drainage

Over the last month we've seen some unseasonable wet weather with up to a months' worth of rain falling over night in some places. Highways have received over 800 drainage enquiries since the end of May including over 100 reports of flooding and displaced sewer covers. Operational Teams have worked closely with each other and key partners such as the Environment Agency, Kent Resilience Forum and Kent Police to keep roads open and ensure an effective, timely response.

Waste Management (Allington Plant)

The Allington incineration plant was unable to accept waste from 14th – 24h June due to a full closure to allow for a 3 yearly maintenance of all three lines. This is the first closure in sixteen months.

The Waste Management team have worked tirelessly to create alternative disposal solution for 1,000 tonnes of waste per day avoiding landfill wherever possible. These include the contingency arrangements offered through the Waste Treatment and Final Disposal contract (Countrystyle and Veolia) where this residual material will be bailed for Refuse Derived Fuel.

This contingency plan has been developed and focussed in minimising operational costs and diverting waste from Landfill but with little practical notice from Kent Enviro Power Limited the contingency arrangements to divert to landfill could not be avoided, with residual waste from seven Districts being disposed of to landfill at Redhill and Shelford, Canterbury.

Waste Management has negotiated that KEL will pay for the haulage and gate fee of waste from Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling as a goodwill gesture in recognition of the short notice though there is no contractual basis for them to do this.

Country Parks – Site Consultations

Public notices have been issued confirming that KCC has decided to retain ownership of five countryside sites we had previously considered for transfer to local organisations interested in taking over their management and operation. The sites are:

- Bluebell Hill Picnic Site, near Chatham
- Dryhill, near Sevenoaks
- The Larches, near Detling
- Parkwood, near Appledore
- Preston Hill, near Eynsford

In taking the sites back, we fully appreciate their environmental significance and recognise that they are highly valued by their local communities.

We have received expressions of interest from several organisations wishing to become involved with each of the five sites, and, we have set up an email account for all stakeholders to send in further ideas for the sites. For information, the email address is countrysidesites@kent.gov.uk.

We have also now introduced Automatic Number Plate Recognition across all sites bar White Horse Woods. This is creating some local complaints as would be expected as people finally cannot avoid paying their car park charge, but overall is rolling out smoothly, and is essential as a way to make the parks more sustainable.