

MEET THE CABINET QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – SOUTH WEST 25 FEBRUARY 2015

FROM	QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>1) Jo Meaney</p>	<p>1. The poor quality of the blue box for recycling. The top of the bin, the flimsy material perishes, blows off, contents blow along the streets etc.</p> <p>2. Traffic speeds on longline. I propose that the resurfacing work planned locally also could address the problem by creating 3 narrow passing points (similarly to endcliffe vale road), thereby traffic will not have a straight run up and down the road. Use the half gate theme to maintain the rural feel. Leisure users of the road will have much safer walks/rides/cycles up and down the road too. Simple solution to an ever increasing danger.</p>	<p>The caps for the blue box can be replaced for free by calling 2734567 (option 1). Due to the significant financial pressures the Council is currently facing there are no immediate plans to change the box for a bin.</p> <p>Thank you for your request for traffic calming on Long Line</p> <p>As you will be aware the Council is facing difficult financial times at present and the budget for highway works is extremely limited.</p> <p>The Council's Streets Ahead programme of road maintenance will see the vast majority of roads and footpaths in Sheffield brought up to an improved standard. However the Streets Ahead programme in itself only replaces and repairs what is already there, so any modifications or alterations have to be funded separately by the Council.</p> <p>Our contractor (Amey) has divided the city into 108 zones and we are therefore looking to coordinate all new highway works with this "zoned" maintenance work. This means that new requests will be assessed and prioritised to align with Amey's programme unless unusual or urgent circumstances indicate the need for immediate action.</p> <p>Your request will be added to our city wide list of requests for transport improvements. However, although Long Line is due for Streets Ahead maintenance later</p>

		<p>this year, we have by now already assessed and prioritised those requests we are able to build next year, this did not include Long Line, so regrettably we will not be able to make your requested changes at this time. Our normal course of action is then to defer such requests until the end of the core investment programme when the process for prioritising requests will be considered again.</p> <p>I am sorry we cannot be more helpful at the present time but please be assured that accident statistics are constantly monitored city wide to ensure that the most hazardous locations are prioritised for road safety funding.</p>
<p><b>2) David Heward</b></p>	<p>Members of the Cabinet are probably aware of the of the following issues in the High Storrs/Greystones area; 1) roads and pavements that require cleaning, 2) blocked drains that should be cleared and 3) the damage to an increasing number of grass verges.</p> <p><b>Question.</b> Are there programmes to deal with these problems on a regular basis?</p>	<p>Members of the public are urged to report any highway issues to the Council via our usual customer contact channels so we can make any defect good as soon as possible. We really appreciate it when the public take their time to let us know about problems as that helps us provide a high quality service and keep our roads safe. There are programmes for what we call cyclic maintenance including road sweeping and drain cleaning but on top of those programmes we respond to reports.</p>

<p><b>3) Jason (Non-Residential Carer)</b></p>	<p>In the light of the proposed changes to Direct Payments; that of removing funds to allow part or whole of the support to pay for cleaners, do the Cabinet agree with taking away a person with disabilities ability to have a clean house, washed clothes and washed pots and therefore the health benefits of a clean home environment?</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>Direct payments are a personal budget given to people with disabilities, so that they can choose how the money is spent to care for their individual needs. Local government has now decided that anyone using the money to keep a house, clothes or washing up pots clean will have their funding reduced or removed. Seemingly the argument is that being able to have a clean house, clothes and washing up pots does not constitute care for an individual.</p> <p>I am a non-resident carer for a person with disabilities. I have had to give up a computing career to care for this person on the pittance of financial reward which is Carer's Allowance. To receive Carer's Allowance of around £55 a week I have to care for the person for at least 30 hours. Of course, as with most carers, I'm on call to care 24/7 and attend the person with disability far more than 30 hours a week. As a proud and rather shy person the person I care for dislikes strangers attending to their personal care, especially anything to do with toileting and washing. I literally have to run this person's life, deal with anything that happens and do anything that this person is unable to do. To ease my workload and because I also have my own house and life to run, the Direct Payments</p>	<p>When we assess or reassess a person or a carers needs for adult care and support we do consider their ability to complete domestic tasks. In relation to carers we consider the impact their caring role is having on the carers ability to carry out domestic tasks</p> <p>Where the person or carer is eligible for support with domestic tasks we will meet that need. The need will be met by either the Council arranging that support or making a direct payment to enable that need to be met.</p> <p>The amount of support provided will vary based on the individual circumstances.</p> <p>If the person asking the question wants specific information regarding his case he should contact the manager of the team responsible for assessing his and the person he cares for. If he does not know the managers name and contact details he can contact the services duty number 0114 2734977 who will be able to advise him or put him in touch with the relevant manager.</p>
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were used to keep the house, daily washing of clothes and daily washing of pots clean. The person with disabilities is susceptible to infections and has breathing difficulties, therefore a clean house, clothes and cook/table ware is essential. I managed to find a cleaning company that would do exactly what was needed. The company was run by a single mother who employed one of her friends to help out. I was told a few weeks ago that funding will stop for any support involving cleaning. I was told that it was inferred that I, as the carer should do the cleaning duties. As the money had stopped immediately I had to cancel the cleaners immediately. I was then told later, that after an emergency meeting the cleaning could continue for a month while a review take place. I have found out that the person who will conduct the review is not an independent social worker who will fight for the actual needs of the person with disabilities, but a pseudo social worker deliberately sent out to find where cuts can be made. In fact every time these so called social workers have been out to conduct a review, 100% of the time it has meant cuts or an increase in the amount of contribution the person with disabilities has to make each week to their own care. This increase in the disabled person's contribution was even imposed when Council Tax charges were imposed on the person with disability, bedroom tax came into force and only a 1% increase in benefits; which with inflation all amounts to a cut in income! I tried to put the cleaners, I cancelled, back in place for the month, but was told the single mother who is expecting another baby has had to go on benefits and has effectively shut down her business; of course the lady she employed has had to the same.

In conclusion, the cost cutting exercise of the local government to stop cleaning as a part of someone's care package has the potential, and in cases, already, put

	<p>people in danger due to an unclean personal environment, put small companies who provide support out of business and increased the number of people out of work and now claiming benefits. The local government can congratulate themselves of a change of policy that is truly one of the worse backfiring, inept, illogical &amp; ill thought out policies I have ever heard of!</p>	
<p><b>4) Jason (carer of person with disabilities)</b></p>	<p>The disability adaptations unit have a policy of only paying for/installing one access ramp to an adapted property. Eg If an access ramp is provided for access to the front door no such ramp will be installed to allow access to a garden area at the rear of a house/bungalow regardless of other issues like fire evacuation. A general housing policy of not adapting gardens also applies to people with disabilities who are unable to physically or financially sort out a garden landscape for themselves.</p> <p>Do the cabinet think that it is OK, that because of their policies on adapting gardens, during days when they are too ill to go out but able enough to sit in their back garden and enjoy fresh air, nature and good weather, people with disabilities are stuck in their own adapted house/bungalow with restricted fire evacuation routes?</p>	<p>Access to the garden was not covered by Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) legislation originally. In the review of this legislation in 2008 councils were asked to consider access <b>to</b> gardens although there was no new funding to pay for this.</p> <p>The guidance gave examples of what would constitute a garden area and this included a small patio or front garden area.</p> <p>Following this guidance the Equipment &amp; Adaptations Service reviewed its policy and now considers access to a garden area as part of their assessment of Sheffield residents.</p> <p>In practice this might mean we will ensure that a ramp to the front access might also allow access onto a path to get access to a garden area.</p> <p>There are properties where a second ramp might be desirable for instance to provide access to a back garden area, our staff will assess if this is <b>reasonable and practical</b> and do on occasions provide more than one ramp to a property. We do this rarely but do provide a second ramp especially in cases where there is a child</p>

		<p>or parent with disabilities to support access to family life. There are properties where it is not technically possible to ramp the property at all, including to get access to a garden.</p> <p>We apply this interpretation across all tenures so this includes Council properties even though they are not covered by DFG legislation.</p> <p>Finally, it is important to realise that while we will consider access to a garden area as described above access <b>within</b> the garden has always been considered the responsibility of the tenant or home owner. The Equipment and Adaptations Service do not provide additional adaptations for fire escape. Many properties in Sheffield only have one access and if this is ramped it will provide reasonable access/egress to the property.</p>
<p><b>5) Alison Thorpe</b></p>	<p>Although I'm unable to attend this evening's meeting due to transport difficulties, I would like the Cabinet to consider a couple of issues and respond by email.</p> <p>The first issue is the lack of a suitable footpath (ie, not a mud filled ditch) adjacent to Fulwood Lane from Porter Clough car park towards Ringinglow Village, a distance of approximately one third of a mile. This portion of Fulwood Lane forms part of Sheffield's Round Walk and is very narrow - only 5m wide in places and much used by pedestrians, horse riders, bikes and vehicles of every category. Fulwood Lane is now part of Sheffield's unofficial outer ring road and is extremely busy. I understand money is tight, but as the Council has funds</p>	<p>The request for a new/improved footpath will be added to the list of similar requests for consideration.</p> <p>Enforcement of the HGV restriction, currently being introduced in the Mayfield Valley, is in the hands of the police. The Council has no resources to monitor the situation but if we are informed abuse is taking place with details of when and where and if possible the operator of the vehicles then we can pass this on to the police. They will have to make a decision about deploying their own resources to undertake enforcement. We could if we know who is doing it, contact them directly and tell them that their details will be passed onto the police and <u>Traffic Commissioner</u></p>

	<p>to send out 2 tractors to cut back a few dead stems of grass ( and nascent daffodils &amp; crocuses) along Fulwood Lane at the end of January, followed 2 weeks later by a road sweeping vehicle which had precisely no effect whatsoever, I can't help feeling money could be available.</p> <p>The other point I would like to raise, not entirely unconnected with the foregoing, is what steps the Council might take to ensure the new 7.5 tonne vehicle weight limit is adhered to on the roads connecting the A57 with the A625?</p>	<p>(issues operators licences) if they continue to abuse the regulations. This might act as a deterrent to further abuse.</p>
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