

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

MONDAY, 8th OCTOBER 2018

Question 1: From Mr Webb to Councillor Moring, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure:

In Westborough the two worst roads for road surfaces caused by the numerous potholes that have been repaired time after time in the past 5 years.

Question:

When will the whole road of Westminster Drive and Inverness Avenue been resurfaced and how much will it cost?

Answer:

The Council's planned carriageway resurfacing programme is currently developed using a value management approach (prioritisation) process. The Council uses the independent highway data collected by Gaist, who assess every carriageway in the Borough and every carriageway is placed on a list in priority order. The top twenty carriageways are then visually inspected by the Council's Highways Inspectors, which takes into consideration a range of factor e.g. Visual Appearance, Customer Reports and Maintenance History.

The budget is then allocated on a priority basis, the planned carriageway resurfacing programme, has now identified the carriageways to be completed this year. Neither, Westminster Drive or Inverness Avenue are on this year's priority list. They will be assessed along with all carriageways for inclusion in next year's priority list, however, given the budgetary constraints they would be unlikely to be included in the priority listing due to the high number of carriageways requiring resurfacing.

Question 2: From Mr Webb to Councillor Salter, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities & Wellbeing:

Question:

When a volunteer for the library applies what is the process to see if they have the skills and capabilities to do all the jobs of a librarian and are they appraised every 6 months and given career development programme on course like the staff?

Answer:

All volunteers complete an application form and are then interviewed by a panel comprising Branch Network Team managers. The interview is a standard one, with set questions and model answers. If the volunteer is deemed suitable at interview, they are invited to meet one of the Branch Network Managers or the Volunteer Apprentice. The volunteer will be given a tour of the building and a demonstration of basic shelving skills, they will then be given a selection of books to shelve which is checked for accuracy and further training is given, if necessary.

The volunteer then works alongside the Library Officer at the branch, learning basic shelving, tidying and shelf-checking for reserved items, which is all part of the basic familiarisation training given to all staff working in a Library. Further training on the Library computer system and continued monitoring by the Library Officer and Branch Network Managers. Regular progress assessments are made every 6 months, together with offering career development and relevant training e.g. 'Safeguarding Children' and 'Make Every Contact Count' is offered to all staff including volunteers.