

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**11 APRIL 2016**

### **1. Question 1 from Mr Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, Waste and Transport – Cllr Martin Terry**

In Westborough we have major problem in fly tipping in large alleyways. Which of the large alleyways are owned by the Council and how often are they checked and cleared a year?

#### **Answer:**

The following service roads (publically maintainable) are included in the Westborough Ward:

- Westminster Drive to Fairmead Avenue (running parallel with London Road)
- Fairmead Avenue – Hildaville Drive (running parallel with London Road)
- Hildaville Dive – Fleetwood Avenue (running parallel with Fairfax Drive)
- Fleetwood Avenue – Ronald Park Avenue (running parallel with London Rd)
- Fleetwood Avenue – Ronald Park Avenue x 2 (running parallel with either side of Fairfax Drive)
- Electric Avenue – North Avenue (running parallel with London Road)

All other alleyways in Westborough ward are private alleyways.

The public maintained alleyways are checked on a weekly basis and are cleared of rubbish and litter as and when it is required to ensure that they are kept to an acceptable standard.

**2. Question 2 from Mr Webb to the Portfolio Holder for Enterprise, Tourism and Economic Development – Cllr Mary Betson**

I was told in a previous answer to a question I asked at council that it is down to Essex, financial, size and ability of the site to hold a book author. Westborough residents wish to have book author for child and adults and face painting for children. Will this happening in the next nine months and at summer, October holiday time?

**Answer:**

A number of author events are held in Southend as part of the Essex Book Festival. As explained in answer to Mr Web's question on 30th November 2015, the venues for the Essex Book Festival are chosen by the independent trust which runs the Book Festival. We actively engage with them and will promote Westcliff to them as a venue for next year's festival. However, the trust needs to be confident that the venue will be financially viable.

The library service successfully holds the Summer Reading Challenge at Westcliff Library each year. This year's will be "The Big Friendly Read" We are currently planning the package of events that will support this and will expect Westcliff to have its fair share of such events, including Face Painting.

## **2. Question from Del Thomas to the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, Waste & Transport – Cllr Martin Terry**

At a recent Local Community meeting Cllr Kenyon raised the issue of thefts from parking meters and how some meters are like a free cashpoint. Roughly how much a year does the council lose due to these thefts?

### **Answer:**

We have had three break-ins during the financial year 2015/16 and the total loss has been approximately £1500. The level of security has continually been improved as manufacturers introduce measures to curb thefts to deter future break-ins. We also share this kind of information nationally which helps to minimise recurrence. The Council ensures regular collections from pay and display machines to minimise the amount of cash held within them.