

North Somerset ALCA AGM 2015

Responses from the Chief Executive Mike Jackson to questions raised by Councillors at the AGM.

1. Notification of Licensing Applications

From 17 July the Licensing Team will send a list weekly of applications to both Parish Councils and Ward Members and will be happy to talk through any which are them deemed to be of interest or contentious. The Street Trading/Street Café legislation is different in that ward members and parish Councils are statutory consultees and will already automatically be contacted for applications in their remit. The Licensing Team will however include a district wide list of these for reference, in the above weekly correspondence.

Contact: Sioux Isherwood, Senior Licensing Officer: sioux.isherwood@n-somerset.gov.uk

2. West of England Spatial Plan

The West of England authorities are currently working together on two integrated work streams; a new strategic planning document (the Joint Spatial Plan) for the period 2016-2036, and a Transport Study looking at new infrastructure requirements to 2036. Consultation will take place in October/November 2015 on both the JSP Issues and Options and stage 1 transport options at which time it would be a good opportunity for ALCA to actively engage with these important projects.

3. Review of safety on 'B' roads

Casualty data from across North Somerset is reviewed annually and geographical clusters / target groups are prioritised on the results of that review. Casualty clusters have been primarily centred on our A-roads and within our urban areas so there has been no detailed review of casualties on B roads.

Contact: John Painter, Principal Engineer: john.painter@n-somerset.gov.uk

4. Lack of committee sites

Case officers visit all application sites that go to committee and make notes/take photos for file records

For committee cases, Councillors are encouraged to view sites themselves from public land and/or via Google Earth as a first resort.

For some major cases, a Committee site inspection is held where members of the Committee visit the site with officers to view the proposals on site. Wherever possible we try to hold these visits in advance of the committee to prevent deferral at the meeting and subsequent delay. These inspections are generally for members only although in we have also invited representatives of applicants/residents groups/parish councils as observers. This process was reviewed and reconfirmed by P&R in December (see attached report).



Committee site
inspection proc...

Contact: Jason Beale, Performance and Customer Service Manager:

jason.beale@n-somerset.gov.uk

Highway Maintenance and Parish Gangs

We currently have a number of 'parish gang' type teams working across both streets and open spaces and highways operations, these include:

- an environmental response team (as part of the Glendale contract);
- a 'Green Team' (part of a social enterprise contract) who undertake service requests received on an ad hoc basis;
- 'Smart Gangs' who work alongside the Area Officer team dealing with mainly reactive maintenance requests; and
- there is an intention for Glendale staff, in liaison with town and parish councils, to start to undertake vegetation management, ie verge/hedge maintenance in the near future.

Contact: Paul Smart, Area Manager: paul.smart@n-somerset.gov.uk

5. Community Access Review

This is two-year programme of work which is due to be considered by NSC Executive in the autumn. Engagement with town and parish councils is included in the action plan. We will ensure we attend ALCA meetings periodically throughout this time to engage the town and parish councils to get their feedback as the project progresses.

Contact: Mandy Bishop, Assistant Director (Operations): mandy.bishop@n-somerset.gov.uk

6. Budget Consultation

Malcolm Coe, Head of Finance and Property, would be happy to attend an ALCA meeting as part of our budget consultation in the autumn.

Contact: Sue Bullock, Business Support, Finance and Resources: sue.bullock@n-somerset.gov.uk