

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

18 June 2013

Item 5 – Public Participation

Questions from Mr Philip Matthews, Mayor of Wilton Town Council

Question 1

Four years ago the A30 section in Wilton in West Street and Shaftesbury was resurfaced .

The materials used were supposed to last for five years but after two years holes started to appear in the West Street section . This situation has now got worse. I understand that this work was under guarantee but will not be rectified until next year. Is this information correct?

Response

The resurfacing of the A30 at West Street Wilton was carried out as part of the surfacing works carried out in 2009/10, which together with adjoining sections of the A30 had been in poor condition. It would be expected that this type of material would last for many years, but this site showed signs of deterioration much sooner than would be expected. Remedial work was carried out to address those areas, but there appear to be other issues at this site.

As extensive works will be required to resurface this road, involving disruptive road closures and diversions it is proposed to prepare a scheme for implementation next year, which will include addressing drainage, kerb and footway issues at this site in one scheme. Consultations will take place with the Town Council as the proposals are developed. In the meantime the condition of the road will continue to be monitored and safety repairs made as necessary.

Question 2

Wilton Town Council has a grounds maintenance contract with Wiltshire Council which has about two more years to run. Was Balfour Beatty made aware of this when the contract between Wiltshire Council and Balfour Beatty was drawn up? During the handover for over two weeks no grass cutting has been done in the Town Cemetery!

Response

Wiltshire Council's new Highway and Streetscene Contract commenced on the 1st June 2013. The contract includes the grass cutting services for all Wiltshire Council's amenity areas.

Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) are the new Wiltshire Council contractor providing the Highway and Streetscene Service. As well as providing Wiltshire Council's grass cutting services, they also provide a commercial grass cutting service for town and parish councils and other customers.

On the 1st June 2013 Wiltshire Council transferred the Wilton Town Council commercial grass cutting contract to BBLP, with all the other commercial grass cutting services. BBLP now provide the service direct to the commercial customers, including Wilton Town Council.

Prior to the commencement of the Highway and Streetscene Contract Wiltshire Council issued BBLP with a full list of all the Council's commercial grounds maintenance contracts and agreements, for BBLP to make arrangements for the continuation of the commercial services.

BBLP will continue to provide the Wilton Town Council contract for grass cutting at the level and the price agreed by Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Council have approached BBLP and expressed the concern of the Town Council with regard to the delay in maintenance at the Cemetery. BBLP have given assurances to Wiltshire Council that this was only a temporary issue.

Whilst Wiltshire Council officers are always pleased to give assistance, as the contract is now between the Town Council and BBLP it is recommended that the Town Council addresses these concerns direct with BBLP as this will speed communication, remove unnecessary additional work and allow the resolution to issues more quickly.