



HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
8 JUNE 2023

QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(3) AND 7(5)

Questions asked by Mrs A. Hack CC:

“Please could I ask a question as a County Councillor on behalf of the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles, there is a member of the management committee that is a constituent. Whilst I do litter pick and engage with the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles, I am not an official member of the constituted element of the group.

South Leicestershire Litter Wombles have appreciated the wide level of support offered to the wombles from the County Council and District Councils. All wombles care for the Environment and feel that the best way forward is to work in partnership to clear up Leicestershire Countryside so have the following questions:

1. In light of the recent initiative of No Mow May, the Litter wombles are concerned at the potential level of litter that could be trapped in the verges before they are cut. Picking up shredded mowed litter accounts for many hours spent by wombles across the county during the mowing season. Could Leicestershire County Council and the District Councils start working together to do a litter pick before the areas are mowed, preventing shredded litter and the damage to the environment this causes.
2. Who within the authority with responsibility for highways maintenance (including mowing) can support the litter wombles and cross District Council liaison meetings?
3. The level of Highways equipment that is picked each week is always significant, with stray cones and ‘A’ frames. What are Leicestershire County Council doing to reduce the impact they are having on our local environment, and how are sub-contractors managed to take greater responsibility for removing all equipment once highways works are completed?”

Reply by the Chairman

- 1 Prior to each annual grass-cutting season commencing, the Council provides details of grass-cutting programmes to district councils, with links to the Council website where the information is updated throughout the season.

District councils can use this information to ensure that litter picking is co-ordinated with the programmed mowing dates.

2. Representatives from the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles (SLLW) have a regular meeting with Leicestershire County Council Highway Maintenance officers. The Head of Service for Highways & Transport Delivery attends these meetings. If the SLLW would like to rearrange these into a joint meeting with district officers, the same Council officers would continue to attend and support.

If there are any specific enquiries prior to or after liaison meetings, they can be directed through Council's Customer Service and a member of the Environmental Team will respond direct.

3. All works promoters that are authorised to work in the Highway (all the different utility contractors, the many developers and the highway authority) have a duty to remove their roadworks signs at the end of their works. Our internal workforce is constantly reminded of this and following the recent meetings with the SLLW's one of the actions has been for the Council to provide identification on all of its signs to support ownership of any abandoned signs (please see photos below). A further action has been to reinforce this point with utility companies and statutory undertakers at the quarterly liaison meetings.

Any abandoned roadwork signs that are reported to the Council are bought to the attention of the relevant contractor (where known) and they are required to arrange for its collection at their expense. Anecdotally, the SLLW have reported a reduction in roadworks equipment following our actions.

