

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

MEETING 3

25 AUGUST 2016

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Item no 5.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Corbett for answer by the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2016

Question

Given the Council decision to cease providing a repair service for stair-lighting what range of feedback has been received from residents and what action has been taken to address residents' concerns.

Answer

The Council issued 70,000 letters to owners regarding the changes to the stairlighting service. Around 200 enquiries have been received, which is 0.3% of the total. The majority of enquiries have been around the reason and basis for the Council decision. A number have requested that the Council provide Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR), however as the Council has never owned the stairlighting installations these have always been the responsibility of the owners.

Other enquiries have requested details of current fittings and the option to change these. These have been answered to owners' satisfaction. Enquiries have also sought access to the stairlighting installation, people have been advised this can be done by a reputable electrical contractor and for safety reasons this has not been provided directly.

All owners have been signposted to Trusted Traders when seeking to identify a contractor to carry out any Maintenance or Repairs on their behalf.

We have also received a number of letters thanking us for our communications on this matter informing them of the changes in service provision.

Item no 5.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Burgess for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2016

Question

How many complaints have been received about:

- (i) missed waste or recycling bin collections and
- (ii) overflowing bins, over each of the last two years?

Answer

Our systems do not currently allow us to distinguish between missed bins and overflowing bins. As such, any overflowing bins are also classed as missed bins.

Between July 2014 and July 2015 there were 40309 missed bin complaints and between July 2015 and July 2016 there were 53862. The figure of 53862 equates to around 0.2% of the number bins that are scheduled for collection.

It should be noted that duplicate reports are included in these figures. In addition, it should also be noted that the number of bins which are collected was increased significantly through the rollout of the new kerbside collection service over the past 24 months.

Officers are continuing to work to improve this situation and are acutely aware that there need to be significant improvements made in this area. Throughout September, a new route management system will be trialled in waste collection with the aim of contributing towards this reduction.

I have also met Senior Officers to discuss reporting systems and feedback to residents who have contacted the Council re service complaints. I have also requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Transport & Environment Committee on further actions required to improve these systems.

Item no 5.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Main for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2016

On 26 August 2014 Transport and Environment Committee approved changes to the Events Manifesto, including the following paragraphs:

b) space in the Meadows is tendered during the August summer festivals for a period of up to 23 days of performance (plus set up and take down operations); recognising the importance of the location to the City's summer festival activities. However, any applications out with that timescale will be considered on their individual merits.

c) The Council will expect an increased financial return on use of this space, and will invest any additional income secured into the infrastructure, features and facilities of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.

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| Question | (1) What was the financial return on the use of the Meadows for the Festival period in 2015? |
| Answer | (1) Income from the 2015 Festival period was £34,826 for the Circus Hub and £7238 for the Festival Funfair. |
| Question | (2) What investment from the 2015 summer income has been made of the into the infrastructure, features and facilities of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links? Please provide details of the items and the individual amounts invested. |
| Answer | (2) All income as referred to above was invested in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. This income was included in total investment as detailed below. |

- £4,826 to cover overtime for Park Rangers during August.
- £27,500 Wall Repairs
- £75,000 Footpath Upgrades (Jawbone Walk & Coronation walk)
- £75,000 Boroughloch Walk Cycle Path Upgrade
- £1500 New notice board Leamington Walk
- £1000 Bulbs
- £2500 New seats
- £500 Golf interpretation panel
- £7000 Playpark improvements
- £22,361 Tree planting/works

Total = £217,187

Item no 5.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Mowat for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 25 August 2016

Question

Please provide details of when and where weed spraying was carried out in the City in calendar year 2016 and which areas were sprayed.

Answer

As Councillors will be aware the Council has agreed a new structure involving four localities rather than the previous six neighbourhoods. Unfortunately because of this change we have been unable to collate this information from across each of the four localities in a consistent format.

Arrangements are in place to provide details direct to Councillor Mowat by 31 August.