

GANAVAN CAR PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the June 2018 Area Committee concerns were raised around on-going issues at Ganavan Car Park and the surrounding amenity area.
- 1.2 The issues raised by the Area Committee included “beach falling into disrepair, weeds, dog fouling, dogs running loose, parking meters not working, caravans not being permitted to park at night, lack of grass cutting and swings being removed from the playpark.
- 1.3 Roads and Amenity Services has a reduced resource as result of budget reductions over several years. The impact of this is a reduced ability to deliver the full service that the public, indeed the Council, would prefer. The Service is not in the position within the allocated budgets to increase the schedule frequencies or to install new facilities. Maintenance schedules have been reduced to a lesser frequency, however, the Ganavan area is still subject to a reasonable level of service and is generally tidy and well kept.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the Area Committee notes the contents of this report.

GANAVAN CAR PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the issues raised in regards to Ganavan Car Park and the surrounding amenity area.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Area Committee notes the contents of the report.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The June OLI Area Committee raised concerns around a number of ongoing issues in relation to Ganavan Car Park and the surrounding amenity area. The issues raised were:
- The beach falling into disrepair;
 - Weeds;
 - Lack of grass cutting;
 - Dog fouling;
 - Dogs running loose;
 - Parking meters not working;
 - Caravans parking overnight;
 - Removal of swings from the playpark;
- 4.2 Successive rounds of budget reductions process had a direct impact on resource level within Amenity Services, including the reduction of operations staff. As a direct result of this, a number amenity maintenance activities have either been stopped or now have a reduced service frequency.
- 4.3 The beach at Ganavan Sands is litter picked every morning, however, due to biodiversity restrictions and, in part, service reductions the beach no longer receives regular cleaning of seaweed deposits. The Service will continue to react once deposits become a genuine issue but this must be subject to resource availability.
- 4.4 Weed-killing operates on a reduced frequency following successive rounds of budget reductions, however, the area around Ganavan Car

Park is treated twice per year. It should be noted that the beach itself is not included within the weed-killing programme in order to prevent the chemicals used polluting the sea.

- 4.5 Grass-cutting also operates on a reduced frequency, however, amenity grass areas are still subject to 15 cuts per year.
- 4.6 The Environmental Wardens carry out patrols and enforcement within the area as considered appropriate. In order to minimise the need for enforcement activities in relation to dog fouling, the Council has erected signs and installed dog waste bins to encourage responsible behavior.
- 4.7 The car park has two ticket meters in place. The older of the two meters was working but a recent software update has caused an issue with the door locking mechanism which prevents the machine from functioning properly. The supplier has been contacted and an Engineer is programmed to attend by mid-September. The second meter is new and is available to use. It should be noted that prior to the new meter being installed there was only one meter in this car park.
- 4.8 The swings were removed from Ganavan Sands a number of years ago due to safety concerns. The safety base for the swings was laid over sand which, combined with continual undermining by rabbit warrens, led to holes forming and the warping of the safety base. In the event that swings were to be reinstated at this location, it would require a hard-standing area to be formed. There is currently no budget available to progress this.
- 4.9 It should be noted that the Service is continuing to support the area as far as possible within the current financial restraints. For example, the toilets are now opened at 8a.m. and closed at 8p.m. by operatives.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Roads and Amenity Services has a reduced resource following the impact of successive budget reductions. The impact of this is a reduced ability to deliver the full service that the public, indeed the Council, would prefer. The Service is not in the position within the allocated budgets to increase the schedule frequencies or to install new facilities. Maintenance schedules have been reduced to a lesser frequency, however, the Ganavan area is still subject to a reasonable level of service and is generally tidy and well kept.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy Following current policy specification
- 6.2 Financial None
- 6.3 Legal None

6.4 HR None

6.5 Equalities / Fairer Scotland Duty None

6.6 Risk None

6.7 Customer Service None

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