

Cabinet Member for City Services

30th July 2018

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor J Innes

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Bablake

Title:

Petition – Request for Return of the Grit Bin to Overslade Crescent

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition of 28 signatures has been received advising of residents' concerns regarding the removal of a grit bin in Overslade Crescent.

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety and maintenance are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member had considered this petition prior to this meeting and in response to the issues raised requested that the petition was dealt with by letter (determination letter), rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.

The determination letter advised of the action proposed and approved in response to the issues raised. On receipt of the determination letter the petition spokesperson advised that they did not wish the petition to be progressed by letter and wanted it to be considered at a Cabinet Member for City Services meeting.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

- 1) Note the petitioners concerns.
- 2) Endorse that the actions confirmed by determination letter to the petition spokesperson (as detailed in paragraph 1.6 of the report, below) are undertaken.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Assessment Form for Grit Bin Ref: BA29

Appendix B – Determination letter text

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Report – Petition, Return the Grit Bin to Overslade Crescent

1. Context (or background)

A petition of 28 signatures has been received advising of residents' concerns regarding the removal of a grit bin in Overslade Crescent. The petition asks for its return of the grit bin or the inclusion of all of Overslade Crescent on a vehicle gritting route.

1.1 The petition advises:

Last year the grit bin was taken from the even side of Overslade Crescent, the side which doesn't get the sun until the afternoon. The grit lorries will grit the odd-numbered side of the road but will not grit the even-numbered side. (The road is separated by a large green area in the middle.)

We ask that Coventry City Council either grit both sides of the road or return the grit bin back to where it was.

- 1.2 Overslade Crescent is a non-classified single carriageway road which runs from Mapleton Road to Eversleigh Road, segregated by a large green area in the middle. Traffic levels on this road are low, however there is a bus route that utilises part of the road. There are no steep gradients or sharp bends on any part of the road.
- 1.3 The grit bin in question (Ref: BA29) was assessed on 26th March 2015 as part of the 'Cabinet Member Changes to Grit Bin Services Report' of November 2014. The assessment yielded a score of 30 points from a maximum of 250 (the minimum score required for provision of a grit bin is 100 points). Following receipt of the petition a Council Officer reviewed the assessment form and found it to be correct.
- 1.4 Gritting vehicles are only used on main roads or those that have a strategic value to the transport network, such as frequent Bus routes. One side of Overslade Crescent is a Bus route (the odd numbered side) and is therefore on a gritting route, the other side is not. The vast majority of unclassified roads in the City are not on a gritting route as all available Winter Service resources are at full capacity keeping the key strategic routes open during severe weather.
- 1.5 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to road safety and maintenance are heard by the Cabinet Member for City Services. The Cabinet Member considered the petition prior to this meeting and in response requested that the issue was dealt with by determination letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a meeting, to be able to deal with the matter more efficiently.
- 1.6 The determination letter (copy in Appendix B) advised that there was no justification for reversing the original decision to remove the grit bin or any special circumstances to include additional sections of Overslade Crescent on a vehicle gritting route.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 It is recommended that grit bin BA29 is not returned as it does not meet the specified criteria.
- 2.2 The route gritted by vehicle is not extended, as the additional section of Overslade Crescent does not form part of the key strategic transport network.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The implementation of the recommended proposals would be immediate (no action required).

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

- 5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications of the recommended proposal.

- 5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications connected to this report.

6. Other implications

- 6.1 **How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?**

None

- 6.2 **How is risk being managed?**

None

- 6.3 **What is the impact on the organisation?**

None

- 6.4 **Equalities / EIA**

No specific equalities impact assessment has been carried out.

- 6.5 **Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

None

- 6.6 **Implications for partner organisations?**

None

Report author(s)**Name and job title:**

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Directorate:

Place

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Colin Knight	Director (Transportation and Highways)	Place	03/07/18	14/08/18
Neil Cowper	Head of Highways	Place	03/07/18	12/07/18
Liz Knight	Governance Services Officer	Place	03/07/18	10/07/18
Names of approvers: (Officers and Members)			03/07/18	
Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Place	03/07/18	11/07/18
Rob Parkes	Place Team Leader	Place	03/07/18	10/07/18
Councillor J Innes	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	03/07/18	10/09/18

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Appendix A – Assessment Form for Grit Bin Ref: BA29

Appendix 1

BA29

Grit Bins: Site Assessment Forms

Road Name *Overlade Crescent* Name of Assessor *Justin*

Location Requested by

Ward *Bablake*

Date of Assessment *26/03/15*

1. Gradient of a Carriageway

- a) Less than 1 in 30 (Nil)
- b) 1 in 15 to 1 in 29 40
- c) Greater than 1 in 14 50

2. Carriageway Horizontal Alignment

- a) Sharp Bend 60
- b) No Bend (Nil)

3. Close proximity (25m) and falling towards a main road

- a) Heavily trafficked road (Groups 1) 90
- b) Moderate (Group 2) 75
- c) Lightly trafficked road (Group 3) 50
- d) Lightly trafficked road (Group 4) (30)

4. Number of Premises for which only access (cul-de-sac)

- a) Over 50 30
- b) 20 – 50 20
- c) 0 – 20 (Nil)

5. Disabled or elderly persons in Council or privately operated older persons' Residential homes are served and there is not an existing grit bin provided either privately or publicly

- a) Yes 20
- b) No (Nil)

Assessment Total

Grit Bin Approved

Yes/No (No)

Score *20*

Approval Score to exceed 100

Appendix B – Copy of text of determination letter

I am writing regarding the above petition and your request to return the grit bin to Overslade Crescent or alternatively grit *both* sides of the crescent using a Gritting Vehicle.

The matter was discussed with Councillor Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, who has requested that this be dealt with by way of letter rather than a formal report being submitted to a future meeting.

The grit bin at this location was removed as a result of the 'Cabinet Member Changes to Grit Bin Service' Report of 4th November 2014. All existing grit bins in the City were assessed in accordance with the criteria specified within that Report and those that failed to reach the threshold score of 100 points (out of a possible 250) were removed. The grit bin at this location only scored 30 points and I enclose a copy of the assessment sheet for your information. There have been no material changes to the road layout at this location since that assessment was made and therefore there are no grounds to reverse this decision.

Gritting vehicles are only used on main roads or those that have a strategic value to the Road Network, such as Bus routes. Only one side of Overslade Crescent is a Bus route (the odd numbered side) and is therefore treated by a gritting vehicle, the other side is not. That is the case for the vast majority of unclassified roads in the City as all available Winter Service resources are needed to keep key strategic routes open during severe weather. There are no special circumstances that would justify including this section of Overslade Crescent (the even numbered side) on a gritting route.

I would be grateful if you could please confirm in writing, either by email or letter, that you agree that the petition be progressed by way of this letter. If you do not agree, a report responding to your petition will be prepared for consideration at a future Cabinet Member meeting. You will be invited to attend this meeting where you have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the petitioners.