

## **StreetCare and Veolia NI 195 Meeting**

### **Traunche 3 of 2008/9**

**Laxcon Close Depot, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

#### **Persons Present**

John Rymer (JR), Mark O'Brien (MOB), John Francois Moreau (JfM), Kingsley Onofua (KO), Rad Buchanan (RAD), Preben Hansen (PH), Darren Kelly (DK), Lee Bicknall (LB) and Mick Minogue (MM).

#### **Introduction**

JR explained the importance of the annual BV199 score Brent being 19% or lower and that as a stretched target for Brent it meant extra funding for the Council (£900,000). If any of the stretched targets fail then the funding isn't available. He informed the meeting that the principles of the new NI 195 system and gave the first two BV199 comparable scores as 13% and 21%. This meant that to ensure our annual score was 19% or less we would have to score have a BV199 comparable score of 22% or less on the third and last traunche of 2008/9. The target wards are Queensbury, Fryent, Barnhill, Mapesbury and Willesden Green. There then followed a general discussion on how best to work with Veolia to ensure making the target and improving on the first two scores.

#### **Suggestions**

##### **Maps**

JR stated that detailed maps of the 5 target wards had been produced and these had been provided to Veolia through TP and NP. He agreed to supply some to the Ward Officers for copying and giving to the Village managers and foremen to use. These maps clearly indicate public rights of way that are always used as Other Highway land uses in every survey.

##### **Previous Client Meeting**

Brief details of the meeting held by the Ward Officers from the 5 target wards on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were given to the meeting. Some of these items were used as a basis for discussion at the meeting. Suggestions made after discussions are listed below.

##### **Local Meetings**

It was decided that regular meetings with the Ward Officer, their local manager and Village supervisors to highlight specific problems would be productive. It was agreed that at least one meeting a week was necessary and was probably best held somewhere on the Ward.

##### **Refuse/Recycling Collection Problems**

Waste and recycling items left by collection crews made the work of the street cleaning operatives harder. DK stated that he could inspect a street first thing in the morning at a Grade B to b+ and after the recycling crew had completed their collections a second inspection would invariably show the street to be at a Grade C or even lower. The collections crews need to be brought on board. JR agreed to inform PB and DL of the problem but asked for Ward Officers to liaise with the collection managers whenever they came across a problem of spillage affecting the overall NI195 grading.

##### **Weeds**

Ward Officers agreed to provide a list for the Village manager of specific locations that needed extra attention to remove weeds. JfM agreed that local weed spraying at specific locations could be arranged by the village managers and carried out by the trained operatives. KO stated that he has many alleyways and most of these have weeds along the backlines that need removing.

##### **Alleyways**

Officers agreed to provide a list of problem sites where litter, detritus or fly posting are regular problems. Some of these alleyways get overlooked. JR high lighted that these alleyways fall under other highways land use and always provide poor scores for litter, detritus and graffiti. It was agreed that the lists should show what the problem was and be very specific as to the location of the problem. This would make it easier for the village supervisors to rectify.

### **Mechanical Sweepers**

It was decided that although difficult to use in some high obstruction land use areas mechanical sweepers were very important to assist the barrow beats to keep the channels and backlines clean and free of detritus. JfM informed the meeting that villages should have sufficient mechanical sweepers and after PH discussed pavement sweeping offered MM a Power Flex sweeper to assist with the pavements of some of the very long streets in Mapesbury.

### **Leafing Crew**

JfM advised the meeting that the leafing crew are available for use to work on the 5 target wards and they were being used in all 5 wards. JfM asked that any specific jobs be passed to the village managers so they can organise this extra workforce efficiently.

### **Other Problems**

JR had informed Parks and Highways Ops of the impending survey and asked for their help in keeping the NI195 scores as low as possible.

### **Communication**

Regular daily communication between Ward Officers and Village supervisors was thought to be an important factor to improve cleanliness throughout Brent.

### **Pilot**

JR suggested that the assembled group may be used as a pilot to prepare for future NI 195 inspections by Capital Standards in Brent. The group will need to make sure when the survey is completed that we have a closing meeting to high light what didn't work, what did and where we could have done better.

### **Research**

JR agreed to try to complete more research into making educated guesses where the inspections will take place and to regularly up-date the group with his findings.

### **Group Meeting**

It was decided to hold regular meetings of this group at Laxcon Close depot at 9am every Tuesday, just before the normal weekly contract meeting until the survey was completed. This meeting would be used to discuss and resolve any problems and to share on any good practices, initiatives or ideas. It would also be an opportune time to distribute any findings from research of previous surveys leading.

### **Conclusion**

All agreed to work together and try suggestions shown above. To return next Tuesday at 9am to discuss findings and share any good practices that was found to work well.

**The scores provided by NI195 and the old BV199 is a combined percentage score of the number of transects below Grade B for litter and detritus. Hence, the lower the better.**