

## **Customer Panel Meeting**

**26 January 2016**

### **Present**

Mrs M Tomlin	Mrs M Duffin
Mr A Tomlin	Mr W Curtis
Mrs M Gray	Mr K Burton
Mrs E French	Mr R Terry

Mrs C Walton - GATC  
Miss A Donald – GATC  
Mr S Cooper – GATC  
Mr L Williams – GATC

### **Apologies**

K Bell, K Woodhams, John Snowball

### **Meeting Notes**

1. Following the retirement of Don Thompson, Works Manager, there had been a reorganisation in the works department. Steve Cooper had been appointed as Works and Environment Manager and Lee Williams as Grounds Maintenance Service Co-ordinator. Steve Cooper explained that he would still deal with environmental matters and some events and work with schools, although work with volunteers would be carried out by other members of staff. Lee Williams would be dealing with allotments, parks, cemeteries and the golf course.

There were a number of questions from panel members. It was explained that the planned new walk at Cobbler's Hall was on Durham County Council land and not the responsibility of the Town Council. The future of grass cutting on the town was discussed. It was explained that all green areas were being checked to see what type of maintenance would potentially be required in the future. It was stressed that no decisions had been taken or agreements made with any other agency, including the County Council, and that any changes in the future would be a decision to be made by the Town Council.

Stephenson Way flower beds were discussed and it was emphasised that any changes to provision and/or maintenance of these would be a Town Council decision in the future.

Flower beds in West Park – these had been prepared and would be planted when the weather improves.

A number of items raised were the responsibility of Durham County Council. It was asked if a County Councillor could attend to answer questions. However, it was explained that protocol would dictate that all local County Councillors would have to be invited and that this would be impractical.

2. Dan Austin, Finance Manager, had prepared an information sheet and update based on responses to the budget questionnaire he had circulated to panel members at the end of 2015.
3. The next meeting would be held on 8 March 2016.