

Mike Townley  
Batheaston Parish Council  
Bailrigg  
35 Albert Road  
Trowbridge  
Bath  
BA14 7LP

Cc: Chair of Parish Council

Date: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Mike

## **Parish Sweeper scheme**

I am writing on behalf of Cabinet Members Cllr Bob Goodman and Cllr Charles Gerrish, to formally give notice of the termination of the Parish Sweeper Scheme from the financial year 2019/20 and at the same time provide details of the now approved transitional funding offer. This offer of transitional funding, which has been agreed to help parishes who wish to keep employing a sweeper after the scheme has ended, can be applied for in writing up until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

As you know, following a review, the Council took the decision to end this scheme from the 2019/20 financial year. Our view was that it is no longer sustainable to have a scheme which only applies to 18 parishes and which is not capable of being extended to further parishes. However, to reflect the Parish Charter, our approach has been to work with parishes on the best way of making the transition. To this end, we established a Parish Sweeper working group comprising of parishes and B&NES representatives.

As was reported to the last Parish Liaison Meeting, the group considered that, if the scheme were to end, a transitional funding approach would be the most equitable. We also committed to getting this information to you in time for your budget-setting processes.

In terms of transitional arrangements the Council is offering a phased funding scheme which would allow Parishes to increase their precept to gradually fill the gap. In summary, this means:

### **Category 1**

Parish councils which would need to raise their precepts by 30% or over to cover the costs of the scheme will receive a phased reduction in funding as follows:

- Two thirds of their existing sweeper annual payment in 2019/20
- One third of their existing sweeper annual payment in 2020/21
- No funding from the financial year 2021/22.

Four parishes have been identified as being in this category.

## **Category 2**

Parish councils which would need to raise their precepts by 10% - 30% to cover the costs of the scheme will receive a phased reduction in funding as follows:

- Half of their existing sweeper annual payment in 2019/20
- No funding from the financial year 2020/21.

Twelve parishes have been identified as being in this category. This option will also be available as a matter of choice to those parishes eligible for (1) above should they wish.

## **Category 3**

Parish councils which would need to raise their precepts by up to 10% to cover the costs of the scheme will receive no phased transitional funding. This option is of course available as a matter of choice to those parishes in (1) and (2) above should they wish to leave the scheme completely in 2019/20. This arrangement will also apply to those parishes in 1 and 2 above who choose not to continue to employ a parish sweeper.

All parishes taking part in any of the phased approaches would be required to agree to continue to provide an equivalent parish sweeper service to that currently existing whilst receiving funding and for one year beyond that.

**Our assessment and understanding is that your parish falls into Category 2. This is because:**

- **Your Parish Sweeper funding in 2018/19 is £7,006.05**
- **Your Parish precept in 2018/19 is £45,000**
- **Your Parish precept would have to increase by 15.6%**

For your Parish this would mean you will receive the following Parish Sweeper payments:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Parish Sweeper Payment</b>
2019/2020	£3,503.03
2020/2021	nil

I would be grateful please if you could confirm that you take up this transitional funding offer and also your commitment to continue to provide an equivalent parish sweeper service to that currently existing both whilst receiving funding and for one year beyond that, (i.e. to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. If you have any queries or wish to pursue one of the alternative options, please also contact us.

Please also note that we have provided the above transitional funding in good faith, based on principles agreed by the working group, and using parish precepts in 2018/19. We do however recognise that in some cases parishes may have raised their precepts in anticipation of the scheme ending, and may therefore wish to request to be in a different band to what is proposed in this letter. If this is the case, please contact us directly as we have pledged to consider such cases sympathetically.

The Council will continue to provide a core service (attached) to all parishes not in the scheme in common with the rest of the district. Parish sweepers employed and paid for by the parish council once the scheme has ended will still be supplied with gold bags which will be collected by Bath & North East Somerset Council. Standards in the city centre are enhanced and funded by the Business improvement District (BID).

Whilst I know it is disappointing for you that the Council can no longer afford to fund the scheme in the longer term, this transitional funding should allow you time to put your own local arrangements in place, working with your local communities. If you need any help with this then please do contact Carol Maclellan, Group Manager Neighbourhood Environmental services by email [carol\\_maclellan@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:carol_maclellan@bathnes.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Paul Myers**  
**Cabinet Member Economic and Community Regeneration**

## **This is the service the Council currently provides to all Parishes**

- Weeds - once a year with a contractor spray
- Empty litter bins in Council ownership, and remove some where underutilised (we visit parishes to collect gold bags in most areas already)
- Visit shopping precincts more frequently if public land
- Mechanical sweeping as now

Manage reports through FixMyStreet of:

- Excessive/hazardous litter (eg broken glass or large accumulations)
- Overflowing litter bins
- Graffiti (on public buildings)
- Fly-tipping
- Dead animals
- Abandoned vehicles

These will be prioritised alongside work throughout the whole district. Residents will be asked to phone to report needles so that they can be dealt with as a priority by the Cleansing Supervisors.

We will provide equipment and other support for community – based litter picking