

WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Open Spaces Committee

Item 6
4 July 2023

Road Cleaning Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Residents regularly complain about the state of the roads, and SBC appears to be cleaning the roads very infrequently. We have contacted SBC to ask them to confirm their intentions. Parish councils in Swindon are taking different approaches to this issue, but all those who have some kind of road sweeping facility say that it is very popular with residents.
- 1.2 We have been told that SBC has a Schmidt compact road sweeper which is cheaper than HAKO, but anecdotally we have been told that it's off the road being mended/ maintained, more than it's working, and that cheaper can be a false economy.
- 1.3 WPC's current grounds maintenance contractor is Countrywide. Countrywide don't have their own road sweepers, they sub-contract with PMG. Countrywide suggested we go direct to PMG for an estimate as this would be cheaper than going through them.

2.0 Report Details

2.1 Parish Councils Road Sweeping Strategy

Parish	Approach taken
Highworth	Highworth discussed with Central South Swindon before making a decision. They previously had a Green Machine (https://greenmachines.com/) but it wasn't robust enough. They hired a Karcher (https://www.kaercher.com/int/professional/municipal-equipment/municipal-sweepers.html) for a week but it was too expensive. They've leased a compact Hako for 60 months, plus maintenance contract, consumables, fuel etc. They don't use it for their main roads as they consider this should be carried out by SBC. They use it for the shopping area, High Street and smaller roads. They don't intend to use every day as the more hours it's used, the less hours the person driving it is doing other work around the parish. They can get it in and out of most shop doorways. They've had it for 6-8 weeks and they're very happy with it so far. The lease contract is £1,183 +VAT pcm (£14,196 pa which assumes the very smallest machine). They are too far from Waterside to empty it every time it fills up, and they don't use it every day, so they have hired a skip to unload the waste. They will need to pay to tip that waste when the skip is full.

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Haydon Wick	Have a Hako Citymaster 1650. Lease costs are £25,376pa for 5 years. Maintenance is budgeted at £4,324pa. Fuel at £4,800pa. Their machine is cleaned at Waterside at £576pa but that does include all of their vehicles. They prioritise using it as much as possible every day and empty twice a day at Waterside. Steel/ poly combi brushes currently £70 each. Consumables include brushes, hoses and tyres.
Stratton St Margaret	In the process of buying a Hako compact road sweeper – no further details provided.
Central Swindon South	Have 2 HAKOs. They cost a lot to run and ‘are a bit of a money pit’. They are considering replacing them both but with a different make – no further details provided.
Central Swindon North	Do NOT own or lease a compact road sweeper. Instead they contract with IDVerde for a bi-annual sweep of their main and larger side roads, using an HGV road sweeper. This works well in the main, but the contract is under review as they are trying to push back to SBC to do the main, strategic routes. They currently contract with IDVerde paying £22,000 for 3 weeks twice pa. They consider that the fact the contractor assumes liability for any accidental damage to be an advantage of this arrangement.
Wanborough	Use IDverde who are their grounds maintenance contractor. They pay £500 for 2 days which includes travel to and from the tip. The waste is tipped for free at Waterside through Wanborough’s waste account. They provide the contractor with a list of roads in priority order and the contractor will cover as many as possible in the 2 days. If parked cars are in the way, the contractor will try to go back later in the day or the following day.



2.2 Advantages & Disadvantages

Advantages of WPC buying or leasing a compact road sweeper	Disadvantages of WPC buying or leasing a compact road sweeper
The more you use a compact road sweeper: • the more roads you clean. • the better the area looks and people tend to look after it better. • the more satisfied residents will be. • a clean and tidy neighbourhood means people tend to feel safer and have an enhanced sense of wellbeing and the area becomes a more desirable place to live.	The more you use a compact road sweeper: • consumables wear out more quickly, so cost increases. • the more hours it takes a grounds team member away from other jobs which may not be completed OR WPC employs an additional grounds team member to drive the sweeper = further additional cost. • it will be out of use longer being maintained. • WPC can tip for free at Waterside. The more it's used, the more it will need to tip, which means time to drive it there and back which is time it's not being used to clean roads and will also take up additional fuel = further cost.
Small enough to drive along single track roads such as Greens Lane.	• Not a plough so may take up to 5 sweeps to clear compacted mud /weeds in the gutter. • OR buy a weed attachment which should get them out first pass but would cost additional £8,000 spread over a 5 year contract.
Available to use as and when required.	Assumes a member of the grounds team will be available to drive whenever required.
Liability for accidental damage to eg: parked cars or walls would sit with the contractor.	Liability for accidental damage to eg: parked cars or walls would sit with WPC.
	Hako commented the sheer volume of grit and gravel in the road edges would mean that whilst the sweeper would have no issues dealing with this, it would fill up quite quickly in the initial weeks and months of sweeping until all these areas have been covered. Their recommendation would be to look at disposing into a skip initially, once the main volume of debris has been handled, at which point they think we may well find that one trip to Waterside per day would suffice and the skip could be forgotten.



Possible options with costs where known	
Lease a Hako Citymaster 1650 compact road sweeper	Hako has been to Wroughton to assess the state of the roads and pavements. They advise a Citymaster 1650 is the best option based on both size of area, travelling requirements and variety of potential applications. Hako photo album and video: https://photos.app.goo.gl/xXQCXaJfPbVANZ4X8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_hbvLHCzPc&t=60s Hako advise that in some areas with narrower roads there is also a very low curb height meaning the vehicle could probably straddle the curb to sweep. There will also be the option to use the weed brush attachment to clear very narrow areas of pavement with the vehicle positioned on the road. They have offered a free 1½ day demonstration. Whilst they think there may be some areas of the road where none of the above solutions work, they will see what can be done on their demo, and advise that in practice they are confident that the majority of the roads and pavements could be swept in one way or another. Demonstration date awaited. Councillors will be invited to watch on roads which are quiet. On busy main roads (eg: Marlborough Road/ Brimble Hill B4005) where it would not be safe for a group to watch, we and/ or Hako will video the sweeper at work for councillors to watch. Hako estimate costs as follows: For contract rental, inclusive repair and maintenance contract would be priced roughly as below – exact machine specifications may vary the cost but only a few pounds either way. Estimate is based on 1,000 hours of use per annum <u>1 Year Contract</u> Sweeper: £1,020 per week Sweeper + Weed Attachment: £1,120 per week (= £58,240 pa) <u>3 Year Contract</u> Sweeper: £750 per week Sweeper + Weed Attachment: £820 per week (= £42,640 pa) <u>5 Year Contract</u> Sweeper: £535 per week Sweeper + Weed Attachment: £570 per week (= £29,640 pa)



Purchase a Hako Citymaster 1650 compact road sweeper	Verbal estimate of £80,000 plus maintenance/ service contract, plus consumables etc.
PMG	Booking the sweeper for days would be cheaper than per road. Hourly rate: £46.70 per hour, with a minimum hire charge of (awaiting details). The hours include the travel, tipping & washout times. Day rates would be for 10 hours including the travel, tipping & washout times. Day rate: £ (awaiting details) Charge to tip: £84.50 per tonne, minimum of 1 tonne. The amount of waste would vary as this would depend on the conditions of the roads and also the weather. If it's raining then this would add to the weight. The sweepers hold roughly between 5 & 6 tonnes of waste, so depending on conditions, the sweeper could need to tip once or twice per day.
IDVerde	(awaiting details)
SBC's intentions	(awaiting response)

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Arrange a demonstration of the Hako Citymaster 1650 compact road sweeper (indications are this is likely to be the second half of August).
- 3.2 Ask SBC to respond to our request as to their intentions going forward, whether they intend to continue to sweep the strategic routes, and if so, what roads would this include, and at what frequency; or whether they intend to devolve this function to parish councils, and if so, when and would it come with funding.
- 3.3 Full report with all information to follow at Community Assets on 05 September 2023.
- 3.4 In the meantime, the Committee is asked to consider the following:
Taking on road sweeping would come at a considerable cost. This could be funded either by reducing the services currently provided by the Parish Council (not necessarily grounds team maintenance. eg: the lease for the public toilets is due for renewal in 2024) OR by increasing the precept. This cost needs to be considered against the probable increase in residents' satisfaction in having cleaner roads and pavements, and living in an area which is more aesthetically pleasing, an enhanced sense of wellbeing etc.