

## WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: LEISURE COMMITTEE - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2000

SUBJECT: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

FROM: HEAD OF LEISURE AND AMENITIES

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To update members on the current situation with respect to the grounds maintenance contract and the performance of Glendale Grounds Management.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A series of reports have been made available to the Leisure Committee since the 1st of April 1998, with respect to the performance of the contract. These reports have been made available so that members may consider a balanced view of how the Grounds Maintenance Contract is progressing.
- 2.2. Following recent concerns by Members and Officers over the poor performance of Glendale Grounds Management, a number of issues were raised from which resolutions were required from Glendale. Your Officer's worked closely with Glendale and a number of remedies were set into action.
- 2.3. This report details the effects of those actions.

### 3. ARBORICULTURE

- 3.1. Officers are please to report that at the present time, Glendale Countryside Management, responsible for arbouricultural works, are currently achieving the required standards

### 4. BEDDING AND ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

- 4.1. Spring bedding has now begun to establish well and we are expecting a good show in the spring.
- 4.2. Shrub and hedge maintenance are still a concern to your Officers. Payment for this work continues to be retained. Glendale have responded to these concerns by appointing additional staff to help resolve this problem more quickly. A works programme has also been provided. This identifies a completion by early January 2000. Hedges are being dealt with in a similar manner, with completion expected in early January 2000. Your officers will monitor the progress of these works closely to ensure these targets are attained.
- 4.3. Path sweeping continues to be maintained to an acceptable level. Edging also is of an acceptable standard. Leaf sweeping operations are nearing completion.

## 5. GRASS CUTTING

- 5.1. The newly appointed grass cutting supervisor has now been able resolve many outstanding issues. Your officers are pleased to report the grass cutting maintains acceptable standards
- 5.2 The grass cutting season is now over and Glendale have been working hard on a better work programme for 2000. Your Officers are hopeful of a good start to the season.

## 6. LITTER AND CLEANING

- 6.1. The litter cleaning has over the recent weeks has been of an acceptable standard.  
Litter collection is now being reduced to winter frequencies. your officers have been assured by Glendale that general litter is being dealt with and litter in the shrubberies is being attended to.

## 7. FINE TURF AND SPORTS AREAS

- 7.1. At Newbold Comyn Golf Course, the recent wet period has already started to cause problems and we have been close to partial closures due to waterlogging.
- 7.2 Sports pitches are beginning to cut up due to the recent wet weather, but at the moment are acceptable for this time of year.
- 7.3 Winter works are in progress, with some renovation works under way.
- 7.4 The crown green in Abbey Fields is currently having new gully's installed. This work will be completed for the new season.

## 8. CONFIRM - NEW GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE UPDATE

- 8.1 The new software system purchased to ensure Year 2000 compliance is now successfully up and running after a lengthy period of time spent restructuring the base data to achieve greater accountability and effectiveness in work programming.
- 8.2 Glendale have been enthusiastic in their support for this new system and recently agreed to fund an additional module, Works Management, which will enable them to use the data to issue work tickets for their gangs. A direct IT link will be established with their office and faster communication on all aspects of work programming become easily available.
- 8.3 Your Officers are very pleased with both the system we now have, and Glendales commitment to using it effectively.

## 9. KEY ISSUES STRATEGIES

- 9.1. The Ground Maintenance Contract indirectly supports all Key Issue Strategies.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1. Officers are pleased to report the continued general improvement in the standard of service delivered under the Grounds Maintenance Contract by Glendale. .

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and continue to support Officers in securing the level of service required within the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

Darren Bennett - CONTRACT MANAGER

Chris Charman - CONTRACT MANAGER

Background Papers: Previous reports to this Committee relating to the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

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Areas in District Affected: All