Questions asked by Councillors Wright:

1. **Details of the pre Covid and current during the pandemic strategy for cleaning our streets.**

The district is divided into the following routes:

* 5 Areas Teams
* Mansfield Town Centre
* Outer Routes
* Mansfield Woodhouse Town Centre
* Warsop Town Centre.

Each route has a 2 person team and are issued daily work schedules Monday – Saturday.

A 4 person Emergency Team covers the district Monday – Sunday

The litter bin route is covered by 1 operative and takes 3-4 days to complete the district.

4 sweeper drivers cover the district Monday – Saturday on AM/PM shifts.

(At present, we have 2 small sweepers and 1 big sweeper in service. Pre-2018, 2 extra operatives and an extra machine were part of the establishment, the equivalent to an extra 74 hours of sweeping per week. This may be why over the past couple of years it appears that the sweepers have not been present as often.)

During the start of the pandemic, 2 thirds of the workforce were supporting other critical services including Waste & Recycling teams, the Crematorium and the Cemeteries team. This continued throughout the lockdowns with services being reinstated in phases after Christmas.

The Street Cleansing Critical Services are

* Emergency Team – 2 operatives, 2 vehicles
* Litter bin rounds – 1 operative, 1 vehicle
* Public Toilets – Mansfield Woodhouse, 1 operative & Warsop,1 operative

Recovery of ‘normal services’ began in February 2021.

Ad-hoc support is still provided to Waste & Recycling; this is likely to continue until full restrictions have been lifted.

1. **How often are our streets scheduled for cleaning and do some get cleaned more often than others?**

Most residential streets are either on a 4 weekly, 2 weekly or weekly schedule. All streets are on a 12 week rota.

Mansfield Tow Centre is attended to daily.

Mansfield Woodhouse and Warsop are attended to Monday – Saturday.

Outer Routes are attended to Monday - Saturday

Litter bins are emptied 2-3 times per week.

Area teams are on a 12 week cycle. Some streets with higher footfall will be done more regularly than others. For example Bellamy Oak Tree and Ravensdale will be cleaned more frequently than Berry Hill due to the build-up of litter, fly-tipping and detritus.

1. **The number of staff members collecting litter etc pre Covid and currently during the pandemic?**

Litter picking duties during the pandemic were kept to an absolute minimum and were subject to staff availability.

Litter picking and the emptying of litter bins is incorporated into both Street Cleansing and Parks operative duties depending on if staff are working on adopted highway or MDC owned land and green space.

No member of staff solely has litter picking duties – these are combined with other tasks.

Both Parks and Street Cleansing have a dedicated litter bin vehicle (2 in total) which are used to collect and transport bagged waste from street and parks bins.

At the time of writing (March 2021) the number of operatives in each service stands at:

* Street Cleansing – 30
* Parks – 33 + 1 Apprentice
1. **What rules around picking up litter from grass verges etc do the staff have to operate under?**

Street Cleansing Teams operate under Chapter 8 rules (traffic safety whilst undertaking temporary works) using a buddy-buddy system. For example, on a fast stretch of road, 1 person is a spotter/banksman, while the other undertakes the task. Other safety measures whilst litter picking roadsides and verges include signage, cones and hazard light on vehicles/

All staff must ensure they adhere to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 at all times. This includes:

* Wearing the correct PPE – including official uniform, hi-vis, safety boots, gloves
* Using the correct equipment – litter pickers, bags, sharps equipment
* Creating a safe work zone – parking vehicles legally and sensibly
* Being mindful of others – colleagues, the public and other road users

Responsibility is to maintain the public highway. In some situations, staff will litter pick a metre either side of the highway. For example, Oakfield Lane and Peafield Lane have farms on both sides; Jubilee Way North & South has private land either side.

Housing estates such as Bellamy and Oak Tree will be litter picked on the communal areas but not private gardens.

1. **The council's policy around clearing fly tipping and general litter from its own land, for example the land adjacent to Brick Kiln Lane.**

We aim to remove fly-tipping within 24 hours of it being reported to us, although large amounts of contaminated rubbish, such as asbestos, may require specialist removal.

In some cases, if we think there is evidence of the perpetrator, we refer the instance to the Neighbourhood Wardens for investigation. Once they have completed this, Street Cleansing will return to remove it. In these situations, it will take longer to remove the rubbish.

Area Teams litter pick daily, depending on where they are with their schedules will determine how frequently an area is litter picked. We know some areas are more prone to litter than others.

If Councillors or the public notice a build-up of litter that doesn’t appear to have been attended to, we request that details are reported to mdc@mansfield.gov.uk to be logged and passed onto the appropriate team for action.

Please note the because of the pandemic over the past 12 months, the teams have not had always had the capacity to attend to instances of fly-tipping and litter picking in a timely manner.

The fly-tipping and street cleaning data from waste collected during the last year shows a noticeable increase in detritus in the district.

The lay-by on Brick Kiln Lane is litter picked as it is adopted highway, along with a 1 metre width stretch along to Abbot Road.

1. **Why have some areas, Warsop and Mansfield Woodhouse got their own dedicated team?**

Warsop and Mansfield Woodhouse both have a team of 2 beat-sweepers, who operate on foot with a barrow Monday - Saturday. They are also responsible for opening, running and maintaining the public toilets in Warsop and Mansfield Woodhouse. These are the only MDC public toilets and facility outside of Mansfield Town Centre that require a dedicated cleansing resource.

 **7) How often are Mansfield's gateways roads cleaned?**

Gateways are on the same 12 week rotas as the Area Teams and sweepers. On average they are attended to by the sweeper weekly and the litter bins emptied 2-3 times per week.

Town centre gateways (Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse and Warsop) are attended to daily.