



Newton Abbot Town Council

Environmental Enhancements – Devolved Services

May 2024

Project aim

Newton Abbot Town Council have taken steps to fill gaps in provision around environmental enhancement in their town arising from budget cuts in their principal authorities (both District and County). The town council have taken over street cleansing and litter removal, grass cutting and weed control.

Project actions

The Council increased its manual staffing from two to four operatives; leased a tipper truck; purchased a second 'transit' type van; leased a versatile vehicle that will street sweep and street cleanse; and purchased an environmental cleansing machine that will clean street furniture and kill weeds in an environmentally friendly way.

Project costs

Revenue costs in any one financial year are in the region of £250,000. These have been funded by the Precept.

Outcomes

The public's expectations are sometimes unmet as the issues cannot all be dealt with quickly enough. However, there are many examples of positive feedback from the public on social media as each area of the town is improved. It is a huge task initially but will become easier once all areas have been addressed for the first time & future work will just be maintaining the outcome reached.

Key learning

- Budget and plan for all the eventualities. For example, there is a significant challenge and cost attached to the disposal of green waste and wastewater, which had originally been covered by the principal authority.
- Do not underestimate the need and cost of training for staff.
- The challenge of managing expectations on behalf of councillors and the public.