

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 1997 08 19

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: Aspenwood

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR. & MRS. G. SMITH

PURPOSE: To respond to the letter from Mr. & Mrs. G. Smith, 8346 Aspenwood Place, Burnaby concerning City maintenance practices in the Forest Grove area.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. & Mrs. G. Smith, 8346 Aspenwood Place, Burnaby BC, V5A 3V3.

REPORT

At the regular Council meeting of 1997 August 11, Council received a letter from Mr. & Mrs. G. Smith concerning several Engineering related matters that require attention.

This report is in response to the issues raised by the correspondents and the follow up actions taken by the City.

1. Curbside Cleaning and Weeds/Leaves Control

In 1994, the City adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program employing environmentally sensitive and non-chemical solutions to vegetation and pest management.

For the management of curbside weed growth problem, a variety of alternatives were tested and subsequently a comprehensive program combining the options of manual weed removal, mechanical removal, and weed burning was developed and adopted for City wide implementation. The streets in the Forest Grove area were swept and removed of weeds in the Spring of 1997. Due to the wet weather in June and early July, the City has experienced an unusual weed regrowth problem on City streets and extra effort has been allocated to control weed infestation in the City. The streets in the Forest Grove area where weed regrowth is significant are included in the list for further action within the next few weeks.

In addition to the weed control program, the City has an annual leaves clean up program whereby the City street sweepers are dedicated to the leaves pick up task during the period from October to November. The Forest Grove area is included in the annual program and the leaves clean up program will be initiated at the conclusion of the weed control program.

2. Snow Removal - Meridian Street

The City has the responsibility of maintaining over 500km of roads. During the winter months when snow/ice accumulations occur, City streets are plowed and salted in accordance with the following priorities :

Priority A :	Arterial Streets
Priority B :	Collector Streets
Priority C :	Bus Routes
Priority D :	Residential Streets with steep grades which have only one outlet.

Meridian Street is a local residential street and is included in the City snow removal network as Priority D. It is plowed in accordance with the established priority. During heavy snowfall periods, it is recognized that local residential streets do not receive the high level of attention that local area residents desire. In such events, all available Engineering resources are devoted initially to the high volume roads to ensure buses and the main arterials are kept in as safe a condition as possible.

3. City-Owned Walkways

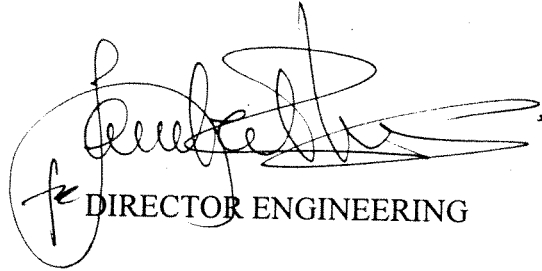
There are several City owned walkways in the subject area. Following the receipt of Mr. & Mrs. Smith's letter, staff have inspected the walkways. Parts of the walkways were pruned and cut back in May this year but it was noted in the recent inspection that heavy regrowth has since taken place. Further pruning has been initiated and will be completed shortly.

4. Street Lights Poles

The City has a pole inspection and repainting program and the poles in the subject area are part of the City infrastructure inventory scheduled for maintenance. Recent inspection of the poles by City staff confirms the need of the maintenance work. The current dry weather and early completion of work in other areas have provided an excellent opportunity of advancing the pole maintenance work in the Forest Grove area. The pole repainting work on Forest Grove Drive started on 1997 August 13 and the comprehensive painting program in the subject area will be completed in approximate two weeks.

Correspondence from Mr. & Mrs. G. Smith
1997 08 19 - Page 3

We appreciate the effort of Mr. & Mrs. G. Smith in bringing the issues to our attention. We believe this report and the actions described above provide the appropriate response to the concerns raised. We recommend that a copy of this report be sent to the correspondents.



DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

LSC:jb

cc: A/Director Recreation & Cultural Services

