

## **SUMMARY OF ISSUES COUNCILLORS WERE UNABLE TO DEAL WITH DURING FEB & MAR 2015 CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS**

During the round of Councillor's Constituency Meetings in Feb/Mar 2015, there were certain issues raised by the public that Councillors were unable to answer at the time. Below is a summary of information which Councillors hope will answer questions put forward.

It should be noted that several specific issues have already been dealt with and the relevant persons informed. Some issues have also been overtaken by events such as the reopening of clinics in Half Tree Hollow and Longwood, with Levelwood due to open later this month. SHG press releases have also informed on other issues such as trading on Good Friday etc.

### **CONNECT SAINT HELENA LTD**

- All untreated water, including if testing has indicated e-coli/coliforms, must be either sterilised with tablets or boiled. It is totally unsafe to drink this water without boiling or the use of tablets. If any samples are found to be excessively contaminated beyond the usual level, a further public warning would be issued.
- Many stopcocks being used across the Island are made of brass, with the newer ones fitted with red powder-coated hand wheels (for opening & closing), which are made of an alloy. All stopcocks, as with all other water fittings, are procured based on Connect Saint Helena's material specifications and are not inferior in any way to the older ones used.
- Water supply for Farmers - Connect has made an application, which will form part of the priority funding discussions under the 2016/17 Capital Programme.
- A letter has been written to the Regulator to ask if consideration could be given for the proposed increases in standing charges for utilities to be waived and left static.
- Street lighting is the responsibility of SHG. Connect undertakes the work on behalf of SHG and therefore members of the public should report any faults to the Roads Section in the Environment & Natural Resources Directorate (ENRD).
- The Electricity Ordinance provides for access by Connect to clear trees that interfere or that can potentially interfere with the operation of electricity lines across the Island. As the Ordinance is not explicit in terms of the allowable width for clearing, Connect obtains the consent of landowners to facilitate clearing of trees by way of wayleaves - which stipulate the extent of clearing to be done on a case-by-case basis. The Legal Department of SHG is looking into any implications of having the minimum requirement for tree clearing of 5m on each side of the electricity lines being enshrined in the Electricity Ordinance in future, to simplify the process of access.

### **HEALTH**

- All specialist equipment in the Hospital has a service and maintenance schedule and the Directorate has various regular specialists who visit to service and maintain the equipment. Equipment is not used by a member of staff unless they are trained to do so.

- The triage system will always be improved upon and will always be an ongoing process. As new or revised guidelines are issued, staff update themselves and the system. This is standard practice throughout the world. The hospital cannot have a 'babies first policy' - triaging identifies the sickest first. There is however a principal that all babies under 2 years old will be seen by a doctor regardless of their triage colour, as at such a young age their bodies can mask symptoms. Since the new Hospital Manager has been in post, no doctor has ever refused to come out to a patient who triaged amber or red. The doctors' rota is perfectly adequate and prepared well in advance. Prescriptions are unavailable of hours because the Pharmacy is closed. Nursing staff may be able to dispense certain medical prescriptions outside of Pharmacy hours. Staff are trained in the triage system and the system is audited on a weekly basis.
- All doctors now wear a uniform when attending patients.
- Appointments system - In the event of persons becoming seriously sick overnight, then they should come to the hospital straight away where they will be seen. If their symptoms are abnormal and score red or amber then they will be seen by a doctor. If not, they will be advised of the appropriate action to take in an advance of a routine appointment.
- The doctor on call does not need to be stationed in the hospital for a variety of reasons, including accommodation, the on call rota, and the fact that there is no need to attend every patient as per the triage system. Amber assessments will be seen within one hour and red patients will be seen immediately.
- There are still some job vacancies in the Health Directorate, both local and TC. The directorate has extensive TC recruitment to aid with the training and up-skilling of local nurses and to enable them to achieve their competences with the best support available. The nurses are now at a point that they can cover their shifts at the hospital, without calling on community nurses for support.
- There is an explicit policy on clinical waste disposal. Yellow bags with a black stripe go to the landfill as they present no danger to health. Yellow bags (without a black stripe) contain hazardous clinical waste and are incinerated every week.
- Following the hospital refurbishment, there will be significant improvements in health facilities.
- Nursing is a stressful job. Working shifts around the clock, with other people's wellbeing in their hands is tough. The Hospital Manager now feels that the nurses are happier, working better together and generally more positive about their work. The transport arrangements are satisfactory at the moment.

## **ROADS**

- The Road Rehabilitation Programme will be made available to the ENRD committee shortly. The maintenance programme does change regularly due to unplanned occurrences.
- ANRD does not have a budget to cover improvements to Botleys Road in 2015/16. However the road is listed as a possible project for approval in the event of any underspend.

- Half Way to White Gate is a Primary Road and is due to be resurfaced in this financial year.
- White Gate to Scotland is a Secondary Road and has had some trial repairs, which are being monitored. White Gate to Scotland has also been added to the programme to be resurfaced.
- Princes Lodge Road is a Tertiary Road leading to a district road, and is in a reasonable state of repair, although an asphalt hump needs to be added at the top of the road to stop storm water entering from the main road. This will be done when the main road is resurfaced later this financial year.
- Roads Section is currently procuring batteries for its hazard lights.
- The SHG tractor is being well used, as well as the verge cutter, Island-wide.
- The Haul Road land belongs to SHG, but Basil Read is responsible for it during the construction of the Airport and public access is not permitted. Once it is completed it will be handed over to SHG to manage and maintain as part of the Island's road network. As it is currently not a public road and comes under the Airport project, normal rules do not apply and so a driving licence is not required to currently drive on the Haul Road. However in areas such as Rupert's and Bottom Woods, the Haul Road coincides with the public road and so a driving licence is needed to drive on these sections.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

- SHG is procuring replacements for the existing solar lights, and trials in three positions will start when the lights arrive on Island.
- Plantation House is not a Government Landlord House and is not subject to the same regulations. It is a contractual entitlement of the post of Governor and is owned by SHG, with the running costs largely funded by FCO.
- In 2014/15 there were 17 formal complaints, all of which were followed through and resolved.
- A request was put forward for financial year 2015/16 to offer free removal of decaying cars from across the Island, but unfortunately there was no additional funding currently available.

If there are any specific issues that the public feels have not been answered above then please contact the Councillors Office on Telephone 22590 or email [sec.em@helanta.co.sh](mailto:sec.em@helanta.co.sh).

**LegCo**  
**14 July 2015**