

---

**OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

---

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Environment Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
  - (a) **Work Programme 2006/07** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2006/07 and in doing so examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan for particular areas of interest and concern. We continually add to our Work Programme and monitor ongoing items.
  - (b) **Rights of Way Improvement Plan** – We were advised of the process by which this Council was to undertake the production of its first Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), in accordance with requirement made on all Highway Authorities by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW). Details were also given of the timetable for the production of a ROWIP prior to its integration into the Local Transport Plan and of the establishment of a local Steering Group to undertake a review of the existing provision of the Rights of Way network and oversee the production of the Darlington ROWIP. As Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, I have been invited to join the Steering Group and have attended one meeting to date.
  - (c) **Policy Review – Grass Verges** – One of Environment Scrutiny’s Reviews for the Municipal Year 2006/07 is to focus on Grass Verges, our first meeting is scheduled to take place on 13th July where Terms of Reference are to be set.
  - (d) **Policy Review – Financial Incentives to Business** – Following the findings of the Task and Finish Review on Financial Incentives to Businesses, Environment Scrutiny are to undertake a full Review on the topic. The first meeting is scheduled to take place on 6th July, 2006 where Terms of Reference are to be set.
  - (e) **Policy Review – Review of Progress on the Implementation of Recommendations from the Joint Review on Gulley Cleaning** – We received a progress report on the recommendations made by the Task and Finish Review Group at the Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 1st September, 2005. The submitted report highlighted the ten recommendations made by the Group and reported that the majority of the recommendations had been taken on board as part of the Street Scene Review and changes to working practices will be implemented from July 2006 as the new approach to Street Scene is rolled out throughout the Borough. The remaining recommendations are being addressed and will be monitored along with the progress of the Street Scene initiative later in the year.

**Councillor Stella Robson**  
**Chair of Environment Scrutiny Committee**