

MEMORANDUM

TO: Yardley District Committee – 19 November 2015

FROM: Matt J Kelly, Assistant Director – Fleet and Waste Management

As part of the street cleansing operation, Birmingham City Council provides a leaf clearance service in the late autumn (typically from early November to late December). The teams working on leaf clearance concentrate primarily on those streets with high numbers of highway trees, and which are particularly affected by seasonal leaf fall.

Leaf clearance is carried out throughout the week and as the season progresses and more leaves fall, crews and vehicles may be diverted from normal cleansing as is required to deal with them.

Yardley District has a large amount of trees and while this contributes to making the District a pleasant place to live and work, with changing weather patterns, the precise timing of leaf fall is difficult to predict as it varies from year-to-year and by species to species. Clearing away the leaves is a long and repetitive task. The roads that need clearing are triaged by the worst affected, this usually falls into certain areas. The broad leaved trees that line the streets in Garrets Green, Gilbertstone Avenue and the Cranes Park areas shed their leaves early, greatly affected this year by the changes in weather. Crews will be deployed to these areas as soon as possible, and we would ask that if members are contacted by residents they can be assured that these areas, and ones like these, get prioritised. The cleansing crews will be working through their programmes to ensure the worst affected areas are attended to in order.

As in previous years, the council recognises that a variety of community based groups collect fallen leaves from the highway during the autumn season. The council continues to support, encourage and thank those groups for their contribution to keeping the city clean. On request, the Council will supply all such groups with garden waste collection sacks and make appropriate arrangements for their collection, free of charge. Requests should be made through the Waste Prevention Team on wasteprevention@birmingham.gov.uk.

We politely ask that residents help by not sweeping leaves from their gardens, drives or pavements into the road, as this may block the road gullies and could cause flooding.