



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

4 Nov 2019

Environmental Services Contract

The Environmental Service delivery continues to improve, the number of service requests is down and complaint levels have reduced significantly, recycling rates continue to improve, missed bin collections continue to decrease and nearly 50 engagement and education activities have taken place since June 2019.

Street cleansing standards continue to improve and improvements in the weed spraying operation is now beginning to be noticeable.

The warm and wet weather is still causing the grass to grow and therefore having an effect on the grass cutting operations but this is now slowing and preparations for the winter maintenance programme are now commencing.

We are currently also preparing to transfer approximately 3,000 properties from sacks to bins in October/November – this will introduce wheeled bins to those properties that were previously not included in the bin roll out under the previous contractor.

Work is also underway on producing both a Cemeteries and graveyard and refuse/recycling collection policy.

Parks and Open Spaces

The MUGA at Victoria Park has been re-lined, as the basketball and football markings had worn off. Also, the adjacent tarmacked area has had a children's train track and hopscotch game permanently marked out.

Victoria Park has also had new "Welcome" signs installed at the main entrances.

The Racecourse has had a replacement bird's nest swing installed after the original one was damaged.

St Crispin's Allotment – A low level fence and gate has been erected within the allotment to create an enclosure adjacent to the residential home. This is so the gardening group with in the home are able to be part of the allotment. The works also include a new footpath.

Thornton Park has had a new footpath at the entrance A508/Harborough Road and Welcome signs have now been installed.

Upgraded swings in Abington Park including new safety surface.

Neighbourhood Wardens

The Neighbourhood Wardens are still as busy as ever and have carried out the following:

- They have investigated 124 incidents
- They have issued 189 Statutory notices
- Issued 13 Community Protection Notices
- Issued 13 Fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping
- Issued 5 fixed penalty notices to businesses under the Environmental Protection Act - Duty of Care, for not having the appropriate documentation for their waste disposal
- They have removed 23 illegal vehicles off the road

Environmental Enforcement Contract

During September and October the environmental enforcement officers issued a total of Fixed penalty were issued.

Use of CCTV

At the Scrutiny meeting held on 30th September, I was able to brief scrutiny on the trial of a new CCTV camera that we have been trialling in the Borough. The camera has a long life battery so does not need to be wired into mains electricity and whilst the location it is deployed here has clear signage saying CCTV is use to capture potential fly-tipping offenders – the camera itself cannot be seen. Following an analysis of the trial, we have now moved into purchasing extra cameras with funding coming from our contractor Veolia, we will be updating our policy and procedure to ensure compliance with current legal requirements, offenders caught will now be prosecuted and we are looking at potential other locations within the Borough to extend the use of this type of technology in tackling fly-tipping. During September the top three areas for reported fly tips outside of Castle ward are Talavera 126, Billing 60 and Semilong 60.

Climate Change Forum

The next meeting of the Climate Change Forum is booked for the 12th November at 5.30pm. An officer forum has also been established when any interested officers can come together and discuss ways in which we can achieve our overall objective.

Work is being progressed with the installation of the electric vehicle charging points with surveys being undertaken to determine which potential sites have suitable power supplies available and key milestones agreed with the Project Team.

Air Quality – The Annual Status Report (ASR) for 2019 has been uploaded to the Councils website as per the motion passed at the last full council meeting. The report has now been appraised by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and formal feedback has been provided. I am happy to advise that DEFRA are satisfied with the overall findings of the report and have approved the actions we are currently taking to improve air quality within the borough.

Raw nitrogen dioxide data up to the month of August has been uploaded onto the Councils website.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment