



## Cabinet Member Report for the Environment

Northampton Borough Council

9<sup>th</sup> December 2013

### Environmental Services

A communal bin scheme to help residents in flats recycle more and keep their neighbourhoods tidier is now being rolled out across the town. Over the past year Northampton Borough Council housing and environment divisions have been identifying blocks of flats that can accommodate communal bins to contain their recycling and household waste. So far around 40 blocks of flats have been identified as being suitable. Communal bins have been delivered to help keep areas tidy by bringing an end to problems associated with split rubbish sacks and help reduce the issue of rubbish put out on the wrong day or fly tipped, as residents can now place their rubbish sacks in the communal bins throughout the week for crews to collect. The projects have been made possible thanks to funding set aside by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2012 to help local authorities improve weekly waste and recycling collections. The Northamptonshire Waste Partnership was awarded £196,212 to improve collections in Northampton.

Up until the 11th November, areas that had been placing out high volumes of black sacks, instead of the two green sacks provided have been issued with Section 46 Notices. These notices give the householder a legal instruction that they can only put out their residual waste in the green sacks. Failure to comply with this notice can result in the householder being fined. The Neighbourhood Wardens are continuing to work within the areas concerned to ensure they understand the new green sack scheme and assist wherever possible. The Wardens will then start to issue fines to those that fail to comply without good reason.

The green-fingered winners of Northampton in Bloom's annual awards were announced at a special ceremony at The Guildhall on 6th November. The awards celebrated and showcase the horticultural achievement and hard work of Northampton's keen gardeners who helped the town scoop Silver at this year's East Midlands in Bloom competition. Community groups, schools, businesses, residents' associations and individual residents were among those who took part in the Northampton in Bloom 2013 award. A record number of entries were received this year for the school garden category and there were also a number of new entrants in the community and commercial premises categories

Year 5 pupils from Ecton Brook Primary School graduated as Junior Community Wardens in a formal ceremony at their school on 7th November. The nine and ten year olds have been taking part in a six-week course that aimed to get them involved in community safety issues and help shape them as good citizens of the future. The course, run jointly by Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire Police, has seen the children get involved in activities to start them thinking about anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and litter, health and well-being and personal safety. During the course they have learned about a range of safety issues on a trip to Hazard Alley Safety Centre in Milton Keynes, been out and about

with council neighbourhood wardens and learned about personal safety from their local Police Safer Community Teams.

### **Environmental Health**

The Borough Council took part in the Chewing Gum Action Group's "Bin It Your Way" campaign during October. Wrappers for chewing gum were handed out to members of the public.

### **Licensing**

The Licensing service has started the newly qualified Hackney Driver Guidance Course, and has had 13 attendees on the first course.

Legal action by the service this month has seen two premises licences revoked after investigations proved they were conducting illicit alcohol sales and one Hackney Driver Licence has also been revoked for involvement in unsuitable activities.

### **Carbon Management**

The recent meeting of the Carbon Management Board considered the progress that is being made with various energy efficiency measures and agreed that further upgrades to car park lighting and improvements to the draft proofing at The Guildhall would be progressed in the near future.

### **Councillor Mike Hallam**

Cabinet Member for the Environment