



Cabinet Member Report for the Environment

Northampton Borough Council

28th April 2014

Environmental Services

Preparations are in hand for this year's Northampton in Bloom planting, and additional displays are planned for St James and along the road leading to the new railway station. Businesses are being asked to support this year's East Midlands in Bloom competition, and the team behind Northampton in Bloom are rallying businesses to support and sponsor the event.

The theme of this year's Bloom is 'Remembrance and Celebration', as 2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of WWI and the 825th anniversary of Northampton's town charter which was granted by Richard 1 in 1189. To commemorate the centenary of WW1 a number of wild poppy beds are being prepared at various locations in the town adjacent to the main entrance roads and the three main cemeteries have had plaques attached to their gate pillars to indicate they contain war graves.

Environmental Health

The first round of meetings of the new park management committees for our major parks will start taking place from May. The committees will develop action plans to shape the future of our parks and fully involve members of local community. Interviews have recently taken place to recruit two new Park Rangers, who will help put these plans into action.

Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers are working together to take enforcement action to deal with the ongoing problem of dog fouling. Coordinated enforcement operations are taking place across the borough, and one persistent offender in the Phippsville area has already been issued with a fixed penalty notice.

The Borough Council's Neighbourhood Wardens are holding drop-in information and advice sessions in the Guildhall One Stop Shop every Monday afternoon from 1pm to 3pm. The drop-in sessions are being held so that members of the public can meet wardens and raise any issues or concerns they may have about the area they live in or the town as a whole.

Licensing

Vehicle enforcement checks continue, with 28 vehicles being stopped during a recent multi-agency taxi/private hire check. Seven of the vehicles stopped failed the checks.

Three premises licence review hearings were undertaken which led to one revocation, one premises closing down pending new management and one having modified conditions attached to the license.

Carbon Management

Work is underway to replace more of the lighting in our car parks with more energy efficient fittings to reduce the amount of energy used.

Councillor Mike Hallam

Cabinet Member for the Environment