



## Cabinet Member Report for the Environment

Northampton Borough Council

14<sup>th</sup> July 2014

### Environmental Services

The summer planting is now well underway. Hanging baskets and barrier baskets are appearing in the Town Centre as well as in new areas leading from the centre to St James. The wild flower beds are also now in full bloom bringing bright new colourful displays to areas like Sixfields, and additional cleaning resources have now also been deployed in the Town Centre.

One new part time Park Ranger began work at the beginning of June, and another is due to join the team shortly. We have also started the process of recruiting another Neighbourhood Warden. Along with the other Wardens and Rangers they will be carrying out their patrols using an additional new four wheel drive vehicle.

Between 1st April and 12th June a total of 37 fixed penalty notices were served, 19 of which were for littering offences and 15 for waste offences. This administration has a zero tolerance approach to littering and fly tipping, and enforcement measures such as this are an essential way for us to make our town a clean and pleasant place to live and work.

The initial meetings of the Park Management Committees for Delapre, Abington, The Racecourse and Eastfield Park have taken place. The committees are beginning the process of drawing up action plans to bring together their ideas for the future of the parks.

### Bloom

On 9th June the Borough Council and the Royal British Legion unveiled an impressive floral display on St Peter's Way which has been created as part of Northampton in Bloom 2014. The centre of the 5 x 4 metre roadside display, which is a highlight of Bloom, is located on a sloped grassy bank by St Peter's Church and features a single remembrance poppy made out of 16,000 plants.

The theme chosen for this year's Bloom is 'remembrance and celebration' to mark the centenary of the outbreak of WWI and the 825th anniversary of Northampton's town charter being granted by Richard I. The remembrance floral display is a tribute to honour those who lost their lives in the service of our country in World War I. It also serves as a poignant reminder of the bravery of our servicemen and women today.

### Environmental Health

The Borough Council has backed a joint campaign by The Dogs Trust and Keep Britain Tidy encouraging responsible dog ownership and reminding people to pick up after their dogs. 'The Big Scoop' is an opportunity for groups to join forces and remind dog owners to do the right thing and 'Bag it and bin it'. Although the vast majority of dog owners are

responsible and do pick up after their pets, a small minority do not, and the consequence is that pavements, parks and sports pitches can be blighted by dog mess.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June at Bradlaugh Fields The Borough Council launched a summer-long campaign to tackle dog fouling. After the launch the Park Rangers and Neighbourhood Wardens were out and about in our town's parks and public spaces to offer advice to dog owners and issue warnings and fines to those spotted not clearing up their dog's mess.

As part of Food Safety Week (16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June), The Borough Council worked with the Food Standards Agency to raise awareness of campylobacter. With a few simple precautions the number of people who suffer from the most common, and sometimes fatal, form of food poisoning in the UK could be reduced.

## **Licensing**

During May two multi agency vehicle checks on licensed Hackney and Private Hire vehicles were undertaken. A total of 58 vehicles were checked with 36 being compliant. One driver had his licence revoked following an assault on a police officer.

A number of car boot sales have been checked resulting in one organiser being advised to change the traffic entry management system to the site, and to pay closer attention to how many sellers were being allowed in.

Following test purchase operations on betting shops, several betting organisations have put measures in place to tighten up operations where necessary. We intend to conduct future tests to ensure improvements have been made.

Following the introduction by The Government of extra mandatory conditions making the sale of alcohol unlawful below the price of Duty plus VAT, all premises have been written to and provided with an addendum to their licences.

**Councillor Mike Hallam**

Cabinet Member for the Environment