



Cabinet Member Report for the Environment

Northampton Borough Council

15th September 2014

Environmental Services

The Environment Services team are continuing to work with Housing and Enterprise to install containers for waste from flats. In the last year 1053 flats have been transferred over from waste sacks to containers. Where the transfer has taken place, there has been a marked improvement in the cleanliness of their area and a reduction in fly-tipping.

Environmental Health

The new full time Park Ranger and Neighbourhood Warden joined the team at the end of August. Following a period of training they will join their colleagues in carrying out patrols, carrying out enforcement and working closely with the communities in their areas. This brings the numbers to six Park Rangers and fifteen Neighbourhood Wardens.

The Environmental Crime team have been working with businesses in the Town Centre to ensure that waste is presented in the correct location at the right time for collection. Most businesses have responded positively to an informal approach, however it has been necessary to serve some Fixed Penalty Notices to deal with persistent problems.

Environmental Crime Officers have also been working with Neighbourhood Wardens to take further enforcement action in cases of fly tipping. Simple cautions have been served for two waste offences and three residents have been issued with invoices for clean-up charges. Between 1st April and 14th August a total of 81 Fixed Penalty Notices were served, 39 of these were for littering and 28 for waste offences.

Licensing

During July, three taxi and private hire checks were undertaken with Northamptonshire County Council at schools. Of the eighteen vehicles checked, twelve were fully compliant, with five having minor non-compliance issues.

Parks

On 28th July it was announced that Abington Park and Delapre Park and Abbey had won the prestigious Green Flag Award. The Green Flag Award is made by the charity Keep Britain Tidy, and Abington and Delapre are among just 1,476 parks across the country judged to be of a very high standard. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to visitors that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities. This award is a tribute to the commitment by all the volunteers who are part of the dedicated friends groups that work alongside Borough

Council staff to reach these high standards. Our green spaces are very important as we grow and develop as a town and I am pleased that we managed to maintain the award at Delapre, while reflecting on the feedback from last year and meeting the judges' standards for Abington this year.

On 25th July the Borough Council, in partnership with Upton Parish Council, unveiled a brand new play area in St Crispin's Park. The £45,000 community play area has been funded through agreements made with the developers of the St Crispin's development.

From 25th July to 3rd August a series of events were held as part of Love Parks Week. The aim of Love Parks Week is to encourage people to visit, enjoy and take pride in their local parks and greens spaces, which are essential to healthy, happy and strong communities. Events organised for the week included a litter pick and general tidy up at Delapre Park, Abington Park and the Racecourse, the Bands in the Park concert at the Bandstand in Abington Park, free mini beast and craft activities at the Racecourse, and on 2nd August the dog café, run by our Park Rangers and Big Dog's Walking service, met at the Racecourse to offer dog walkers refreshments and advice.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for the Environment