



Cabinet Member Report for the Environment

Northampton Borough Council

19th January 2015

Environmental Services

The winter maintenance programme is progressing, with a major effort being put into pruning shrubberies in walkways and areas close to where people live, and in our major parks.

Planning for the activities on offer in our parks this year is underway ahead of better weather. The Borough Council is now planning a series of activities and opportunities for our town's parks which will be announced shortly.

Environmental Health

The new service for clearing fly-tipping from shared alleyways dealt with 40 service requests during November, and cleared a total of 6.3 tonnes of waste. Between September and November a total of 32 fixed penalty notices were served.

Licensing

The Licensing Department has seen a significant increase in the number of premises licences being reviewed. This has led to strict conditions and suspensions being imposed on some licensees, most notably following the disturbance in Bridge Street on 12th December last year.

The Licensing service was part of the co-ordinated management of the town centre during the busy run up to Christmas focussing on ensuring taxi's and private hire vehicles comply with their conditions.

A multi-agency check of taxis and private hire vehicles was undertaken on 28th November. 29 vehicles were stopped and checked, of which only 36% were compliant. Of the non-compliant there were nine prohibitions. Three were also believed to be claiming benefit fraudulently and reported to the appropriate department.

Carbon Management

Work is underway to upgrade the lighting in our car parks to make it more energy efficient. The work will have the double benefit of lowering the authority's carbon footprint and reducing our electricity usage and therefore the cost to the tax payer.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for the Environment