



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 13th March 2017

Environmental Services Re-Provision

The environmental services re-provision process continues apace. The OJEU notice and associated documentation have now been published. This marks the formal commencement of the procurement process, in readiness for contract award in the autumn.

The public consultation on the re-provision of environmental services has now closed. I am delighted to say that nearly 8,000 responses were received. This is the biggest response the council has ever had to a consultation exercise.

Work is now underway to analyse all the consultation that has been undertaken and to draw conclusions from it that will inform the design of the new service.

The working group established by Overview and Scrutiny Committee is underway. Their role will be to ensure the procurement process is robust. They will also ensure that key messages from the consultation are used to help shape bids from potential service providers.

Improvement Works

Towcester Road Cemetery - During December 2016 and January 2017, a new road surface was laid around the Chapel and approaching roads. The old surface had become severely worn revealing deep potholes and other tripping hazards.

Delapre Abbey Park – A new road surface was also laid over the top of the old one that leads from the entrance of Delapre Abbey Park down to the Model Engineers Club. The Club had been waiting a number of years for the worn out road to be replaced.

Gold Street / Marefair – The broken and bent stainless steel litterbins that have been an eye sore for some time have been replaced with the uniformed Black & Gold Victorian Style type litterbins. They have the cigarette stub and ash tray on the top of the bin to encourage smokers to use the bins and not to throw the cigarette butts on the pavement, which make the streets look untidy.

The Abington Park Aviaries have had their bases refurbished and new drainage installed to enable them to be cleaned more efficiently.

Abington Park Boating Pond – The Pond is currently being dredged to clear years of dead leaves and silt from the bottom. This debris has hindered the enjoyment of the Pond, which is hired by the Model Yacht Club, Water Walking Balls and Paddle Boats.

Tree Maintenance

The enhanced tree maintenance program for this year is almost complete and has been well received by residents, with the tree contractors receiving many compliments on the work. The area covered this year was in Northampton East.

The winter shrub maintenance continues, with crews now working through the eastern part of the town. It is expected that all of the shrub maintenance across the town will be completed by the end of March.

Enforcement Service

Discussions are ongoing regarding the procurement of a service to provide targeted enforcement to address littering and other environmental crime. Work is also progressing to establish a baseline to enable the evaluation of the proposed service.

Air Quality

Work is progressing working with the Scrutiny panel 4 to develop the Action Plan for the implementation of the Northampton Low Emissions Strategy. A range of partner agencies are working together to develop an comprehensive approach to secure cleaner air in Northampton

Park Management Committees

There are lots of projects being developed through the PMCs. Some of which include:

- Abington, Becketts and Eastfield Friends groups have community Litter Picks planned to support the Keep Britain Tidy weekend of 4th and 5th March.
- Through Becketts PMC we are working closely with the University and other partners to create a well-being park, including an application that has been submitted by the Chair of Buddies of Becketts for a projects park officer to Northampton's Community Foundation Well-Being funding pot.
- The parks are working collectively to arrange activities across the parks, on different days during love my parks week in July. As part of the week they will be holding a showcase event on the Market Square, which will be an opportunity for the public to see what our parks can offer.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment