



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

10th December 2018

Environmental Services Contract

The new contractor continues to provide an improved environmental services contract to the residents of Northampton. Enquiries and reports have reduced to 'business as usual' levels with customer contacts falling to around average levels for the period and a high volume of compliments in relation to the new contractor have been received.

Street cleansing schedules continue to be reviewed in order to target those areas in most need, separate teams continue to empty litter bins and remove fly tips within the prescribed timescales. The transformation (deep clean) teams continue to work their way through the borough, they are currently in Abington and Far Cotton, additional resource is also in place to provide a leaf fall removal service.

Grass cutting operations have now ceased and the teams have started on the winter maintenance schedules, pruning shrubs and hedges and planting bedding and both the trees and woodlands service is undertaking surveys and undertaking works, such as removing epicormics growth around trees, along with planning and executing the enhanced tree programme.

Recycling Statistics

The provisional recycling statistics show nearly a 10% rise in our recycling rates since the move to co-mingled recycling and the rollout of the new recycling wheelie bins.

Month	August	September	October	3-Month Avg
% Household Waste Recycled or Composted 2018	48.67%	53.85%	51.11%	52.21%
% Household Waste Recycled or Composted 2017	43.63%	43.18%	41.34%	42.72%

We are currently scoping the option of a clear sack trial for recycling in those area's not suitable for a recycling wheelie bin. The trial will focus on an initial area of 1,000 houses.

Park Rangers and Neighbourhood Wardens

The Park Rangers and Neighbourhood Wardens are all being issued with new Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras from December following training. Body worn Video equipment forms part of an Authorised Officers personal protective equipment and will support enforcement of anti-social behaviour including fly-tipping. It will be used in an overt manner and officers will give clear warnings to members of the public that video and/or audio recordings may be taken of them and used as evidence if necessary.

Parks and Open Spaces

St Crispin's (Kent Road) Play Area and Ladybridge Park Play Area have both had new safety surfaces installed, so that the equipment can be used safely all year round.

Southfields Park – Additional bollards have been installed in the park to stop unauthorised vehicular access making the park a safer place to play.

Racecourse – The hardstanding has been installed for the future trading of a food van near the football pitches, as requested by the local football teams and supported by the Friends of the Racecourse.

Park Management Committees

Consultation for improved facilities at Thornton Park continues, 90 respondents so far. Procurement of the Skate park facility at Kings Heath continues, contract to be awarded imminently and work will commence in the New Year.

Environmental Health

During December, the food and safety team will be supporting the Food Standards Agency “Seasons Eating’s” Christmas food safety campaign to promote safe food handling in the festive season.

In addition to promotional work and routine inspections, officers from the food and safety team have responded to a number of complaints and enquires about food businesses. Last month they began a number of investigations including cases of reports of raw meat supplied in a chicken kebab and a number of alleged pest problems. The Food Safety Team are working closely with the businesses concerned and will continue to undertake unannounced food hygiene inspections to assess compliance.

The environmental enforcement team have issued 250 fixed penalty notices during November with a total of 6834 issued in total for the year to date.

So far the total breakdown by age shows.

Age	November 2018	Year to Date
20 - 29	27.60%	31.84%
30 - 39	24.00	24.44%
40 - 49	20.80%	16.29%

Fixed penalty notices are not issued to Under 16 year olds.

Gender	November 2018	Year to Date
% Male	69.20%	65.06%
% Female	30.80%	34.94%

The environmental protection team have arranged to donate the stereo equipment seized following the recent noise prosecution to charity.

Air Quality

Air quality monitoring results up to the end of September are now available on the Council website at <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/download/3487/current-nitrogen-dioxide-results>.

This raw data is published on a quarterly basis. Whilst these figures give an indication of trends in air pollution, they can show significant variation due to changes in weather conditions and traffic patterns. The annual figures which can be compared to legal standards will be published in our air quality annual status report which will be published in the summer once approved by DEFRA.

**Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment**