



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

03 June 2017

Environmental Services Contract

The sacrificial sacks trial started in Far Cotton on 5th April 2019. The first four weeks have shown an improvement in both the recycling rate and in the general cleanliness of the area.

The trial is currently still in the early stages and we have undertaken a first month operational review which looks very positive.

Within the Far Cotton trial area, recycling has increased by over 10% since the start of communications in March and this continues to increase:-

Far Cotton Recycling Levels in Trial Area	Recycling Tonnage	Increase in tonnes	%
February	25.74		
March	28.50	2.76	10.72%
April	29.78	4.04	14.18%

Street cleansing requests have dropped significantly over the same period:-

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March	28.50	2.76	10.72%
April	29.78	4.04	14.18%

The plan is to expand the trial to a second area of the Borough and communications with the area identified will start shortly.

The Spring/summer grounds maintenance works are now underway with grass cutting well into the third cut, seasonal sports pitches such as bowls and tennis are being prepared and maintained and plans are in place to complete the out of season works to football pitches etc.

The Spring bedding plants have been removed from the town flower beds in order to be replaced by the summer plants. This year we launched a new successful initiative whereby the 'old' bedding plants have been given away to community groups for reuse. This initiative has been very well received.

Fly-tipping

We have also, in partnership with the Northants Waste Partnership launched the 'lets scrap fly tipping campaign'. The communications have included petrol pump adverts detailing the issue and a radio campaign.

Veolia have now re-introduced Kangaroo run's which are targeting known problem area's for flytipping. The first run was successfully undertaken recently and more runs will be undertaken in the future. I will not be widely publicising where the crews are targeting, other than to the area they are going too – as evidence shows that publicising too widely can lead to an increase in the level of fly-tipping in that area.

The trial reduction in bulky waste charge from £25 to £15 came into force at the start of April and will have also increased the number of slots available to book by around 50% - in order to facilitate faster collection times. A review of the impact of the change will be undertaken in July.

Neighbourhood Wardens & Park Rangers

Last year our neighbourhood wardens issued a record number of notices, with 389 Section 46 notices (official information on how to present their waste or face the consequences) to domestic properties.

The Neighbourhood Wardens visited 36 reported cars and removed 19 of them for not having tax or not being roadworthy and dangerous.

The Neighbourhood Wardens currently have two schools on the Junior Warden Scheme and will be actively promoting the scheme throughout the year.

Enforcement Contract

The enforcement contract has now issued over 8,000 fixed penalty notices since the start of the contract. The breakdown by gender:-

	By Gender
Male	66.16%
Female	33.84%

Over half of offenders are between the ages of 20 and 39.

	By Age
20-29	32.72%
30-39	25.15%

The enforcement contract operates across the Borough and the top 3 Wards by FPN's issued are as follows:-

Position	By Ward
1.	Castle
2.	Upton
3.	St. James

Envirogrant Scheme

We have been promoting the Envirogrant Scheme which NBC are delivering in partnership with Veolia. A great deal of interest has been generated and we have already received 6 applications ahead of the closing date.

Food Waste Reduction Campaign

A Borough wide food waste reduction campaign has been launched, stickers have been applied to residual bins advising that food should be recycled and also promoting the NWP 'in to win' scheme.

Parks & Open Spaces

Parks and Open Spaces have started to allocate the budget for 2019/2020 and will be prioritising parks, cemeteries and allotments projects – particularly following the recent Scrutiny Review into cemeteries.

In Bradlaugh Fields a new fence has been installed around part of the sensory garden and the footpath within the sensory garden has been resurfaced. A small bridge over a gorge has had the old timbers removed and replaced with new timbers. Also, the Barn guttering down pipe that feeds the pond has been altered, so that more of the captured rain water from the roof is sent to the pond.

Air Quality

Monthly nitrogen dioxide raw data is being published on the website. The air quality annual status report for 2018 will be submitted to DEFRA shortly and once approved it will be published on the web.

As I have previously mentioned Air Quality is a complex area and I am more than happy to work with anyone with an interest or knowledge in this area. With this in mind I am planning a meeting of various interested parties for 18th June to review the 2018 Air Quality Data. If any Councillors are interested in attending – could they please let me know.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment