

Environmental Services Contract

In the main all services are running well with little or no disruption or complaints though the second lockdown has impacted services due to some Veolia staff (in particular the drivers) being deemed Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and having to work from home or stay home. This has been challenging although temporary drivers have been used.

A decision was made to focus on reducing food waste rounds if staff shortages occurred due to the lower tonnages produced. Effective communications were carried out to ensure that as well as customers, all stakeholders, such as members, parishes and partners were kept informed of both the situation and the reasons for any reduction in rounds.

The garden waste subscriptions continue to see a slight increase. A Tree Policy workshop is being arranged and is scheduled for the 21st of January 2021.

Projects are progressing to refurbish the Racecourse basketball court and improvements to Towcester Road Chapel.

Environmental Services (Direct Services) **Parks and Open Spaces**

We are just about to submit the last of our Capital projects for 2020/2021, which should all be completed by 31st March 2021.

- Auckland Close – Refurbishment of play area, plus a couple of extra pieces of play equipment.
- Helicopter Park, Ecton Brook - Refurbishment of play area, plus a couple of extra pieces of play equipment, repairs to Wetpour.
- Miller Meadow, St Andrews Road - Refurbishment of play area, plus a couple of extra pieces of play equipment.
- Victoria Park – Remove old gym equipment and replace with new gym equipment and a couple of extra pieces of play equipment.
- Repairs to Ladybridge Park bridge - Wheel chair access issues and safety railings

Currently happening:

- Racecourse - Refurbishment of play area, plus a couple of extra pieces of play equipment
- Delapre Park Lake – New permit fishing signs being installed around the lake – Hopefully will help stop some of the poaching going on.

Recently completed:

- Parklands – Refurbished play equipment and a couple of extra pieces of play equipment
- Delapre Park – Two new height restrictors at the bottom car park
- Lingswood Park – New skate park installed
- Racecourse - Additional bollards near the Pavilion to help stop the fly tipping issues
- Dallington Park Car Park – Resurfacing and parking bays being marked out

Ongoing:

- Dallington Park Cemetery Extension

Neighbourhood Wardens

The Neighbourhood Wardens continue to assist with the Covid restrictions but are also still tackling persistent fly tipping!

In April/May time, the DVLA suspended the removal of untaxed cars because of COVID-19. However, they have now lifted that suspension and the Neighbourhood Wardens are now removing several cars a day in catch-up.

Accomplishments for October/November

- Investigations started – 269
- CPW's issued – 20
- FPN's issued – 14
- Notices (S46 & S108) – 240
- Vehicles visited at – 120
- Vehicles seized – 65

Environmental Health

Ongoing regulation of business compliance with coronavirus regulations – dealing with enquiries and enforcement of lockdown requirements during November.

Supporting the investigation of covid outbreaks in a range of commercial and educational settings. EHO with teaching experience providing specialist support to schools, Licensing committee approved putting updated Statement of Licensing Policy out for consultation.

Working with taxi trade to provide signposting to grant payments and to carry out ensure that they are aware of proposed changes to taxi rank on Mercers Row to accommodate changes in bus operation.

Working with contractors to progress the installation of electric vehicle charging points

Dealing with service requests across all work areas.

New Licensing Support and Finance Officer started working with team on 26th Oct.

Ongoing work with all partners to deal with covid outbreaks continues to improve understanding of roles and responsibilities and promotes joined up working

Christmas Flooding

Northampton Borough Council staff and contractors provided support to those affected by the flooding over the Christmas period. Members of the team carried out visits to people affected by flooding in Collingtree Park and St James, providing signposting to sources of support on insurance and recovery. Neighbourhood Wardens and Veolia staff assisted with the removal of flood damaged furniture from properties and the wider team assisted with the emergency response, facilitating reception centres and arranging emergency accommodation for many people displaced by the flooding at Billing Aquadrome

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment