

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

27 April 2022

COUNCILLOR LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For the period March to April 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Commercial and Public Protection

Plans are in place to undertake a caravan site project. The team will focus on coastal sites and those with potential safety issues. Depending on what the inspection findings reveal, the sites may have to undertake remedial works to meet their site conditions or have additional conditions added to their licence in particular for protection of users from risks associated from coastal erosion, gas safety, electrical safety, fire safety, swimming pools and play areas.

The first stage achievement of the Food Standards Agency's recovery plan has been met and the team have undertaken food safety interventions at all category 'A' businesses that were due or overdue by the 31st March 2022.

Officers are finding a slight downward of standards in some of the higher risk food businesses and enforcement action is being undertaken as appropriate. Officers are serving Hygiene Improvement Notices in 0-2 rated businesses.

The 'Love Holt' event has commenced, 30 street traders associated with the event have been given a licence. The first Sunday of the month (excluding June) until the 20th December 2022.

There is an increase in 'Events' coming through the NSAG and the Team play an instrumental role in providing advice to organisers. The headline events included the 'Wild Skies and Butterflies' event in August and will require some officer presence on each day.

Incident (accident) notifications are on the increase particularly in food businesses. Slips and trips, lack of first aid provision and COSHH are some of the topics where businesses are breaching health and safety at work requirements. The team are reactive with these notifications however we will hope that Comms can profile some of the issues that are in the public interest via social media without revealing individual business details.

Environmental Services

Approximately 650m of diseased euonymus hedgerow have been removed in

Cromer and Sheringham. Areas replanted with a variety of tree saplings roughly 5-7 saplings per metre. Assisted by the unpaid work unit from the Probation Service (saving over £12,000) and Climate Change Team.

Biodiversity (Pollinator Action Plan) additional trial sites for re-wilding added at Sheringham x2 and Mundesley in addition to the existing trial site on Fearn's Field, Cromer. Allowing areas to grow 'wild' whilst adding some gentle encouragement in the form of distributing wild flower seeds. Plans in autumn to add further sites with some having soil preparation completed (rotavating) to compare how areas flourish.

Summer litter bins have been put out ahead of the Easter break. The final stages of the 'Binrastructure' project have also seen the recent deployment of 10 BBQ disposal bins at all Blue Flag beaches plus Waxham, Overstrand and Weybourne. This is in addition to the extra Big Belly bins, On The Go Recycling bins and other general litter bins we placed out last year in part as a result of a £14k funding grant from WRAP.

Working with the Broads Authority and Hoveton Parish Council, we have delivered a new facility for waste from boats at the Station Road mooring in Hoveton including new recycling facilities.

In partnership with Eunomia, Natural England, volunteer litter picking groups and other agencies, we delivered a 'Fishing for Litter' project. This involved placing dedicated bins out at various coastal locations where we have fishing activities, for the purpose of collecting marine fishing waste washed up on our beaches. The bins were in situ for approximately six weeks and were then transported to a site for sorting and analysis. The project was a huge success and is likely to lead to the permanent siting of bins at key fishing areas for the purpose of collecting this type of waste, which can then be reused and recycled.

Working between the Climate Change Team, Environmental Services and Norfolk CC we have delivered a Miyawaki project, which has seen three sites in Fakenham, Sheringham and North Walsham have large areas planted up with a variety of trees, with the aim of comparing how the divided sections grow, with one side having no preparation and the other having some pretreatment. This is now complete in terms of the groundworks, planting and fencing as we look forward to seeing the results over the coming months and years.

Over 20,000 direct debit customers were contacted during March with details of forthcoming payments, which were then taken on 1st April bringing in over £1m.

Trade waste end of year process has been undertaken including 2500 customers written to with new pricing for 2022/23 and then dealing with the associated contact following that mailing.

New outlet secured for scrap plastic bins to be recycled and generate an

income from this. 1st load of nearly 3 tonnes collected in March which will be made into new wheeled bins.

Civil Contingencies

A Senior Flood Warden Liaison Group meeting was held on the 5th March this was a good opportunity to keep in touch with our volunteer flood wardens, The Toolkit for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations was outlined at the quarterly NNDC Town & Parish Council Engagement Forum on 28 March Norfolk Local Authorities' Airwave radio contract extension discontinued as of 31 March

Mini communications exercise for Bacton and Walcott pencilled in for end of April has been cancelled in favour of a longer, more comprehensive, multi-agency exercise later in the year provisionally called Exercise Bacton Vanguard (date TBA with Coastguard and volunteers, but aiming to tie in with the national flooding exercise 'FloodEx22' at the beginning of September)

Increasing number of events coming to the Safety Advisory Group.

There may be some emergency planning input into new Lower Tier COMAH site (Albert Bartlett, Worstead) pending response from Health & Safety Executive

NNDC are chairing the Norfolk Local Authority Resilience Partnership meeting on 26 April

Checks will be undertaken to identify communications blackspots and resolve any technical issues in the Bacton and Walcott area. The solution(s) will be tested in Exercise Bacton Vanguard

Environmental Protection

The team have been involved in a licence review of a bar in Cromer. As a result of the review hearing additional conditions have been added to the licence and the team hope that this will have the desired impact of reducing noise nuisance.

Work has been undertaken in the North Lodge Park area of Cromer to gain control of a pest problem in the area. This has involved engagement with several local businesses and the adaptation of some litter bins to include bait stations.

A new laboratory contract has been arranged for private water supply testing. Officers from the team have been heavily involved with inspecting properties under the "Homes for Ukraine Scheme". They are pleased to assist with this valuable piece of work.

Climate Change

The Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) has now been published and is available on the NNDC web site. A project group will shortly be formed to plan and prioritise actions to achieve net carbon zero for NNDC by 2030.

A feasibility study of erecting a solar array over the Reef car park is underway.

Work continues on The Community Renewal Fund projects. Two feasibility studies each addressing major emission sources within Norfolk (on road emissions and domestic/static energy usage). The two studies are focusing on Sustainable Hydrogen Infrastructure for Transport (SHIFT) Study and a Community Energy Kickstarter project. To be completed by 30 June 2022

110000 Tree Project

The 21/22 planting season is now over. A total of 71800 trees have been planted across 64 projects around the district. After a significant effort by the team, over 50000 trees were planted this season. Progress can be followed on the web site.

The team are already making plans for next winters planting season. Members of the public continue to approach the team with new projects for next season.

A final tree give-away day of the season was held on 12th March at Holt Country park. Once again this proved to be a very popular event with people queuing up in advance of the opening time! Further events will be planned for the planting season 22/23.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Planning for Green Build 2023

Analysis of EVCP data and preparations of next steps document

Target Operating Model for Serco – delivery by Autumn 23

Carbon emission measurement

3 Meetings attended

Inaugural Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Mtg
Joint Waste Partnership Mtg