

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 June 2022

COUNCILLOR N LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period April to June 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Environmental Protection

Two members of the team have undertaken their Certificate of Competence in Environmental Noise Measurement.

A baiting programme has been developed for the East Cliff in Cromer and North Lodge Park, where we have recently seen an increase in rat sightings. The programme is designed to safely reduce the number of rats in these locations.

The team are planning for the return of the Goats to the cliff. It is expected that this will happen by mid-July.

Patrols of dog control areas are being undertaken, signage has been erected across the district, particularly in the resorts indicating where dogs are allowed between May and September.

The team have been involved in arranging two Public Health Act funerals during this period.

The summer peak of noise, bonfire and odour complaints appears to have started earlier than usual. The team will prioritise cases in order of public health significance.

Civil Contingencies

Liaison with public health and county council colleagues continues around Monkeypox.

Liaison re Avian influenza - Mandatory housing measures for poultry and captive birds were lifted across the UK on 2 May. The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) remains in force across the UK until further notice.

Ongoing participation in the Norfolk Resilience Forum's weekly Risk and Information Group meetings (chaired it 20 May) and Risk Assessment meetings

The NRF Bacton Response plan has been reviewed.

Officers are currently developing and exercise Bacton Vanguard (local exercise for Bacton, Walcott and Ostend to feed into FloodEx22)
Two members of the NDNC have attended virtual Loggist Training on 19 May.
This is a critical role in the event of an emergency situation.

Commercial and Public Protection

June saw the departure of Tracy Howard, Manager of the Commercial and Public Protection team. An advertisement is currently open for a new manager who will manage this team and the Environmental Protection Team.

The Licensing Officer also left the organisation, following a successful recruitment programme we have appointment Nicky Davison into the role. Mrs Davison has worked in Licensing Admin for many years at NNDC so provides a continuation of knowledge.

The team continue to catch up on the back log of food hygiene inspections caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

After several months of investigation, the team successfully prosecuted a male for keeping two serval cats without a Dangerous Wild Animal Licence. This enforcement action was successful in removing a very real risk to residents within the District.

Officers continue with the caravan site licensing project and have identified areas of improvement at many locations. They are working with the owners of these sites to develop action plans and to remedy the concerns.

The team supported many successful Jubilee events through the Safety Advisory Group, through offering support and guidance. Officers were also instrumental in the successful and safe delivery of the Mammoth Marathon.

Environmental Services

The team continue to work hard on the general management of Serco's performance and the admin of garden bins and trade waste which Apr/May is peak time for.

Large capacity fuel tanks have been installed in Serco's depot to help mitigate any future fuel supply issues for our waste collection vehicles and to facilitate lower impact fuels when available.

We have received the results of the composition analysis, the team are yet to fully analysis the results but early indications show that food waste is the biggest single element of the residual waste stream.

In recent weeks the team have been working to identify areas across the district which would be suitable for rewilding. Liaison with key stakeholders has occurred and locations have now be finalized with the support of elected ward members.

10 new BBQ bins are now in locations along our most popular resorts to address the increasing trend by residents and visitors to cook on portable bbq's. A social media release occurred to mark this new service which included a plea to dispose of bbq equipment safely and responsibly.

Climate Change

I am delighted to announce that Kate Rawlings started in post on 6 June as Climate & Environmental Policy Manager meaning that there has been no loss of momentum in supporting the wide range of environmental schemes to deliver key corporate priorities.

Following the NZAP adoption which provides the detail behind our goal to reduce the Council's carbon footprint to net zero by 2030, there has been a press release with an associated animation to help explain its purpose and the steps necessary to meet the target. Further work is in progress to roll it out on our social media channels, with town and parish councils and to engage with our own staff internally.

Work is continuing throughout the summer months on the Council's ambitious Tree Planting Project initiatives for the new planting season (2022/23). These may include further mini forests using the innovative Miyawaki method. The trees planted by this method last season are now established and doing well. Conventional planting projects across the district are also being planned with the aim of completing the project during the forthcoming autumn / winter season.

The Council's first live Greenbuild event for 3 years will take place on Saturday 10th September in Fakenham Town Centre as a one-day event. There will also be a number of virtual and satellite events in the week leading up to the main day. Look out for announcements of speakers and organisations contributing to the event coming soon. Thanks go out to Fekenham Town Council for agreeing to host the event.

The team are in discussion with partners to look at accessing funding for some additional EVCPs in coastal locations in the district

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Calculation of carbon footprint for the last period.
Engineering work on capital projects for renewable energy schemes

3	Meetings attended
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Serco Waste Management board meetings Norfolk Waste Partnership
