

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

16 November 2022

COUNCILLOR LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period October to November 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Environmental Services

The team have been extremely busy following the implementation of Serco's new 'Target Operating Model' involving collection day/week changes for 90% of households from 5 September.

Whilst some teething issues have been experienced, these have improved as crews have learnt areas that they have previously been unfamiliar with. Whilst Serco's performance has at times been below the standard we require, the first 8 weeks have seen just 0.0065% of bins missed by Serco, although both the team and Serco are concentrating on improving this, which has been the case in the most recent period. The team are grateful to Local Members who that have helped the team in resolving issues that constituents have raised. It is hoped that we are through the worst of this service change.

The team continue to work with County Partners on the Mixed Recycling Facility (MRF) negotiations, and it is hoped that these will be concluded shortly. Two members of the team have attended the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Group conference in Birmingham. This provided an opportunity to gain a better understanding of some of the challenges being facing by the industry and new available technologies.

Environmental Protection

The team have successfully defended a Private Sector Housing case at the Residential Property Tribunal. The landlord of a property in Cromer appealed the level of fine issue for non-compliance with a Housing Act notice. They concluded by saying "*that the penalty was set at an appropriate level and that it is payable by the Applicant. We dismiss the appeal accordingly*".

The landlord has since paid the fine of £16,000 to NNDC. This money is ring fenced to be spent on the area/service for which it was served. The excellent file preparation and presentation was noted during the hearing and for the team this is an excellent result, sending out a strong and clear message that landlords who provide substandard accommodation in our district will be challenged.

The team have supported colleagues in the Planning service with an application where residential accommodation was being proposed next door to a poultry farm.

The team are participating in the County wide review of Community Triggers (ASB legislation)

Public Protection and Commercial

Animal Licensing and Dangerous Wild Animal Cases continue to keep the team busy, with the investigation of several unlicensed breeders and welfare investigations. The team continue with legal action in one particular complex case and await another court hearing in late November.

There are several complex on-going health and safety investigations, and the team are in process of preparing further prosecution files and “Simple Cautions”.

Routine Legionella sampling has been undertaken on the Pier and the results were returned as negative.

A productive meeting was held between Coastal and EH to discuss caravan site licensing and Coastal erosion.

Food Safety. Environmental Health Officers continue to meet the Food Standards agency recovery plan targets and have dealt with several problematic premises along the way. The team have also investigated two E.Coli 0157 cases this month.

Resilience

Avian Influenza coordination continues and has taken a significant amount of resource. We are acting as the district lead for Avian Influenza in Wild Birds, there has been some confusion about the responsibilities relating to wild birds and their removal from public land. The team have been raising these issues with Defra and APHA. The Resilience Manager attended the Norfolk Leaders group to update them on this matter and has as a result prepared a letter for the Secretary of State for the Environment on behalf of the Norfolk Leaders.

The team attended the National Power Outage NRF Exercise OpLemur held in October in readiness for national exercise (Mighty Oak) in March 2023. A series of workstreams has been identified to progress this and will require further LA input

The team attended the Cabinet Office webinar ‘Crisis Communications – a behavioural approach’ and are planning to incorporate this into the soon to be revised Emergency Response Plan.

The team have also held meetings with the Senior Flood Wardens and has attend two NRF winter assurance workshops.

Climate Change

Buildings Decarbonisation –

Submission of PSDS bid for funding to replace the gas boilers at the Cromer offices with heat pumps

Advice given to Sheringham Little Theatre and Cromer Tennis Club on building and behavioural changes to lower carbon footprint and energy bills

Solar over car park infrastructure at the Reef has passed load testing allowing designs to progress for a Solar Car Port over the car park

Engagement –

Staff Engagement – launch of environmental tip of the week, slot at staff briefing, staff travel survey and launch of car sharing scheme and EV salary sacrifice scheme.

Community Engagement – looking at the future of the Greenbuild brand and festival, supporting community growing scheme at Fakenham

Business Engagement – looking at options with the Economic Growth team and Norfolk Chamber of Commerce for initiatives with local business community

EV Charging Infrastructure –

LEVI bid in partnership with County Council was unsuccessful. NNDC were hoping to deliver a further tranche of EVCP's under this scheme. The team are now looking at other ways to introduce more chargers in our car parks (project proposal to CLT shortly)

Trees –

Remaining tree planting projects now planned, final trees being sourced to reach our target of 110,000 trees by spring 2023.

Miyawaki forest scheme launched across the district – this initiative came as a result of interest from several schools/parishes. There is sufficient interest to plant 5 further forests

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

There are 3 further tree give away days at Holt Country Park being planned.

10th December, 14th January, 11th February.

3 Meetings attended

Climate change seminar at Holt Church hosted by the Bishop of Norwich

Serco Board meetings

Norfolk Waste Partnership meetings

NZAP and Tree Project board meetings

Climate change meeting with 'About with Friends' Cromer.