

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 February 2023

COUNCILLOR LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For the period January 2023 to February 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Environment and Safety Services

Corporate Health and Safety now sitting with Environmental Services and the organisation has appointed a new Corporate Health and Safety Officer (Alun Lane). This appointment allows for a specific focus on this very important topic.

Kerbside battery recycling collection service launched at the end of January. Good response and uptake in the first week.

The team continues to work with Serco to iron out minor issues remaining from the round re-organisation.

We are monitoring the situation at Serco in respect of media reports of potential industrial action. Serco have not been informed by unions of any planned action at this stage.

Public Protection

First meeting of Sheringham Community Alcohol Partnership was attended. This will see partner agencies working together to tackle alcohol use and acquisition by minors in the Sheringham Area.

Inspection has been arranged at a Dangerous Wild Animal Premises where there are ongoing concerns about safety and welfare.

High volume of taxi applications are being received by the team and allegations of a person operating as an unlicensed taxi have been investigated.

The caravan project is continuing. Sites are being visited and issues are being identified and dealt with.

Joint visits have recently been undertaken with the Police to a number of Scrap Metal sites in the area.

Both licensed zoos in the district have recently been subject to informal inspection.

The team are waiting for the imminent release of the new Botox and Dermal filler legislation so that we can begin to tackle concerns that have been brought to our attention recently.

The taxi test station contract expire in April and work has started to begin the renewal process.

The team have now concluded several complex health and safety accident investigations, and these will be heard by the Magistrates court in the coming months.

There continues to be an investigation into the case of Legionnaires disease at a holiday property in the area.

Env. Protection and Public Protection have recently been working together to deal with a death from Leptospirosis in the district. This has involved undertaking works in default at a property with an extensive rat infestation. The annual report to the Drinking Water Inspectorate is due to be submitted imminently.

Environmental Protection

The Team continues to work with partners across the County on the review of the ASB Community trigger process.

In past month the team have gone out for tender with both the Stray Dog and Public Health Funeral Contracts.

The 2022 Air Quality report has been completed by the team; this indicates no significant change in air quality across the district.

Officers have completed the DLUHC damp and mould growth survey. Alongside this the team have developed an information and advice leaflet on the topic as well as launching webpages and information on social media.

Civil Contingencies

The team continues to monitor and respond to weather alerts as and when issued although there have been several over the winter months, the impact has been significant. Planning activities continue for a national power outage (Operation Mighty Oak) along with another exercise (Operation Merlin) to practice the plans in place for coastal flooding and evacuation.

Climate Change

Building Decarbonisation –

More efficient LED lighting (together with control sensors) now in half the Cromer Office, expected ROI is 2 years and the carbon reduction will be monitored. Work continues on exploring ways to improve the thermal efficiency of the Cromer office.

The Reef Solar car port proposal has been granted planning permission. The business case is being refined and will be presented to Cabinet shortly. The Council has project managed refurbishment works at Sheringham Little Theatre (a leased asset) with energy-saving measures, including low-energy lighting systems, draft proofing and insulation.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure –

A workshop for developing an EV Strategy with the Energy Saving Trust is planned
Investigations are being undertaken into the potential for photovoltaic panels on public conveniences in car parks to support EV roll out

The usage of the first phase of the EVCP installation and the role this has played in the decarbonisation of private vehicles is being monitored.

The 110,000 Tree project –

To-date 108,505 trees have been planted, which already exceeds the population of the District (103,000 in 2021).
Preparations are in place for the planting of a further Miyawaki (tiny forest) site at Warren Woods
The planting of six smaller projects is in progress across the District - that should take us beyond the 110,000 target.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Kerb-side waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) recycling collection service to launch in the next few weeks. This will operate alongside the recently launched battery collections and provide a weekly collection of small WEEE items e.g., toasters, hair dryers etc.

Two tree give a way days at Holy Country Park on Jan 14th and February 11th. These were the final public tree give away days of the 2022/23 planting season. These sessions have proven to be very popular with the public and it's been a pleasure for the team to support residents who wish to contribute to growing the NN tree canopy.

Preparations are being made for a celebration of planting the 110,000th tree.

3 Meetings attended

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership meeting.
Serco waste management contract board meeting
Spoke at the Rural Services Network seminar on Climate Change matters
Tree and NZAP project board meetings
Team meetings and briefings