

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 March 2023

COUNCILLOR LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For the period February to March 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Public Protection

The team are making good progress towards achieving the Food Standards Agency's "Post Covid Recovery Plan". As of 01/03/23 to meet the "Target" we need to complete food safety inspections on 6 Category B food businesses and 51 newly registered food businesses. The team are working hard to achieve this.

The team have taken part in a national microbiological sampling survey relating to smoked fish.

Enforcement action has been taken to prohibit the use of unsafe bakery equipment.

The sentencing of the Dangerous Wild Animal prosecution case and the Pet Shop Licensing case have been rescheduled for June by the Magistrates court.

Environmental Protection

Environmental Protection are finalising the renewal of the assisted burial contract and the dog kennelling service.

Evidence was presented to the residential property tribunal in a Private Sector Housing case relating to excess cold, impacting on a property in Cromer. The team await the result of this hearing.

The team have served a noise abatement notice relating to a barking dog case.

Both Cromer and Fakenham temporary stopping places are currently occupied.

Environment and Safety Services

The commencement of kerbside battery collections went well. Good take-up in first few weeks (no tonnage data as yet).

Kerbside WEEE collections launched in February. This is being rolled out across the district round by round in order to manage volumes, as like batteries, the launch phase can result in much higher uptake from residents. Planning mitigation for industrial action.

Preparation for new financial year, Letters sent to 2500 commercial waste customers advising of updated pricing for 2023/24. Preparing mailings for c. 21,000 garden bin customers who pay by Direct Debit.

Industrial Action affecting the Waste Contract

Members of the Unison who are in dispute with Serco over pay, took strike action for a week commencing on the 13th March affecting the North Norfolk and Breckland parts of the waste contract. The strike affected Unison workers across the full range of services provided by Serco.

Serco had put contingency arrangements in place and were able to deploy the majority of rounds each day. Some resources were shared by KL and Breckland Councils to assist North Norfolk. A proportion of the rounds were deployed with one less loader on the crew but in spite of this the majority of rounds were able to complete each day with the remainder being substantially complete. Crews returned for outstanding work not been completed the following day, with the exception of recycling missed collections where residents were advised to present their bin on the next schedule collection day with any additional recycling which wouldn't fit in the bin at the side in clear or transparent bags.

Serco will run catch up rounds, on Saturday, for any residual missed collections from Friday. It is anticipated that rounds will be caught up ready for a normal collections on Monday.

Some other services such as street sweeping were also affected but saw minimal impact on overall quality.

There has been no further notification of intended strike action, at the time of writing, although it remains a possibility unless an agreement can be reached between Serco and Unison members

Civil Contingencies

The Resilience Manager continues to be away from the organisation on long term sick. However key aspects of the role are being covered by the wider the team. Support is being given by Norfolk County Council and neighbouring LAs.

Officers attended a multi-agency exercise to plan and practice evacuation in the event of flooding. This was a useful experience, and some learning will be translated in NNDC plans.

There has been engagement in the planning for power outages and the team are working with partners and other LA's on this topic of national importance.

Climate Change

Building Decarbonisation –

We have secured a grant from Sport England for some consultancy on further decreasing energy demand at our leisure centres.

In partnership with Everyone active we have purchased covers for the pools at Victory and the Reef which will reduce heat loss and lower heating bills from the pool areas outside opening times.

The funding and award of the build contract for the Solar Car Port at the Reef leisure centre was agreed on 6 March. The scheme, which already has planning permission, should be able to commence immediately with completion for the summer.

We continue to explore the possibility of solar PV and mini wind turbines on public conveniences and in car parks

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure –

A workshop for developing an EV Strategy with the Energy Saving Trust takes place on 23 March. We are also working in partnership with Norfolk County Council (who obtained a grant) to access some funding to increase North Norfolk NNDC EVCP provision.

The 110,000 Tree project –

The tree project was successfully completed with 115,820 trees and hedgerow being planted since 2019. Planted together, at 2m spacing, the trees would cover an area the equivalent of 34.7 foot pitches. Hedgerow planted as one double row hedge, would equate to 11km (6.8 miles) of new hedgerow. This amount would cover once side of the A148 from the NNDC Office to High Kelling or the A149 from Morrison's petrol station in Cromer to Weybourne.

In total 134 planting projects have been completed consisting of 37 native species of tree and shrub.

In completing our pledge to plant a tree for every resident we have worked with:

18 Town and Parish Councils

17 Community Groups/charities

5 schools/universities

4 businesses

4 land owners/farmers.

29 private landowners

Hundreds of people across the county through the tree giveaway events.

The project completed at Holt Country Park on 7 March with the planting of the ceremonial 110,000th tree by the leader of the council and a talk from local wildlife expert Nick Acheson to an audience of council staff, volunteers and representatives of local community groups who had been involved in the project.

The project team will meet shortly to formally close the project and capture lessons learnt.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Environment and Safety Services

Waste collection calendars are due for delivery during week commencing 20 March, although this may be affected by the recovery from industrial action during week of 13 March.

110 tree project wash up

Energy Savings Trust meeting

3 Meetings attended

Norfolk Waste Partnership Meetings

Serco Joint Waste Management Review and Development Board Meeting

Joint waste contract industrial action meetings

Cabinet Working Party for projects

NZAP project Board meetings

Tree planting project Board meetings