

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**21 June 2023**

### **COUNCILLOR RINGER - CABINET MEMBER FOR IT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND WASTE SERVICES.**

For the period of May – June 2023

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

##### **Environmental Protection**

The team has seen a seasonal increase in case numbers, relating neighbour complaints such as noise and bonfires. The team will prioritise these service requests in order of public health significance.

Work is being undertaken to review Fly-tipping data and how this is recorded and reported.

The arrival of the Renters Reform Bill may have some impacts upon EP team it is still early days, so the full impact is unclear. The team continue to work with partners to understand the impact.

The revised national air quality strategy consultation has closed, a joint response from Norfolk district councils was submitted.

The Environmental Protection Rangers are undertaking regular patrols of our Blue Flag beaches and Dog Control areas as the summer season starts, they have also been erecting signage and decals to inform the public of the areas and restrictions. The team are currently repairing some fence damage on the cliff in preparation for the return of Goats on a Slope in early July.

##### **Civil Contingencies**

There was a gas leak at the Bacton Gas Terminal on 15 May. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service attended and staff were evacuated from the site. However no residents were evacuated. A multi-agency debrief was held on 30 May to identify learning. National Grid are having their own in-depth review. As this is a CoMAH site Norfolk County Council is the lead and will update the offsite emergency plan.

A small, unexploded ordnance was found at Walcott on 24 May. The Police put in a cordon; there was no need to evacuate residents. There was a delay in contacting NNDC and this has been investigated with the Norfolk Constabulary.

The cliff fall at Sidstrand was dealt with by the NNDC Coastal team – it did not meet threshold for involvement of Civil Contingencies

The Corporate Business Continuity Plan is being revised and business impact assessments have been carried out by service managers across the organisation.

A Senior Flood Warden Liaison Group Meeting was held on 5 June, this included presentations from the Environment Agency, Coastguard and Police.

### **Public Protection**

The team continues to deliver core functions such as food hygiene inspections across the district. The team have received an appeal against a food hygiene rating score, but this score was upheld.

The private water supply sampling regime is continuing. The function was recently audited by the Drinking Water Inspectorate's agent and passed. The officers dealing with Private Water supplies put a considerable amount of effort into ensuring that everything was in place for the audit.

Some unplanned absence in the licensing team has meant that licenses (particularly Taxi's) are taking longer to process than normal. Given the technical nature of processing applications finding temporary resource at short notice has presented challenges however the team are working incredibly hard to minimise service disruptions.

A boarding kennels was refused a licence when they applied to renew it. The kennels did not comply with a number of the mandatory conditions and had been subject of several serious complaints over 2022. The licence holder has appealed the decision not to renew the licence and the Tribunal have ruled that he can continue to trade until the appeal has been determined. The team are working with the licence holder and his legal team to come up with a plan that will overcome the numerous issues and achieve compliance.

Public Protection Officers continue to work with the new owners of the Parklands caravan site at Pudding Norton. The licensing process cannot move forward until the planning status has been determined.

Following advice and support from Public Protection Officers a caravan site in East Runton have started the process of moving caravans away from the cliff edge it is hoped that this will ensure compliance with the caravan site licence conditions.

The taxi testing tender has now been advertised and we are waiting for expressions of interest. It is hoped that, in addition to the current test centres renewing their interest, we will be able to get additional test centres in the West of the district.

The Licensing team continues to be heavily involved with supporting the Community Alcohol Partnership in Sheringham working alongside duty holders, the Police and Trading Standards.

Two premises in Stalham remain unable to sell alcohol following visits by officers recently. In both premises, the current designated premises supervisor had not given consent for alcohol to be sold by the person occupying the premises and there were concerns about a lack of age verification procedures.

### **Environmental and Safety Services**

Approx 3.5 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic items (WEEE) and batteries were collected in first few months of scheme. This scheme continues to be rolled out in stages across the district and by the end of July all household in the district should have the option to recycle electrical items.

The team continue to work with Serco to improve performance of waste collections. The have been focusing on repeated problem areas and those with assisted collections.

Additional litter bins deployed in coastal areas for summer season.

Following an invitation from Defra, NNDC are working with WRAP taking part in a data gathering exercise as part of the packaging extended producer responsibility scheme (pEPR). Defra has commissioned this work to understand the costs involved for different types of local authorities in the collection and disposal of packaging waste.

The Council is awaiting further information from government regarding pEPR as well as the consistency agenda and how NNDC will be affected, both in terms of service change and financially.

After receiving accreditation in house IOSH managing safely courses are now being delivered by the Corporate Health and Safety Officer. This will ensure that NNDC staff are suitably trained to manage health and safety in their service areas.

### **IT Infrastructure**

At the beginning of May my team issued all Members with new equipment – largely within a couple of days. This was after months of configuring the new remote way of working and making it as seamless as possible.

We had some teething issues which meant some Members stopped working and had to come in to get their laptops fixed. These were quickly resolved and we have learnt a lesson from this which will mean it won't happen again.

### **Internet Outage.**

The internet line was down for 5 mins during the streaming of Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party. We are working with Vodafone (internet connection provider) to investigate why this happened. Generally, network downtime is rare. Issues are treated with top priority to get the Council back working as quickly as possible. We will also endeavour to find out why the issues happened and prevent a re-occurrence.

The Team is currently working on a fallback solution to divert the line to Fakenham if the Cromer connection fails.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

We await the outcome of the Government consultation on standardisation of waste collections previously delayed in April. This may have various implications for the authority and residents.

Preparation is taking place for the summer season and all the additional pressures this brings to services including cleansing and maintenance of green spaces.

**3 Meetings attended**

Regular meetings with officers across IT and Environmental and Waste services areas.

Joint Waste Contract Review and Development Board