

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 September 2020

COUNCILLOR NIGEL LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period June 2020 to September 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

The goats spent some of the summer months on the cliff but have now returned to winter quarters. We have continued to sell "Goats on a Slope" merchandise but with reduced sales this year. Following the successful breeding programme this year we have reduced the herd size by 17, with these goats being sold to someone looking to set up a conservation herd themselves.

The Environmental Protection Team have to manage Travellers visiting North Norfolk and the temporary stopping places in the district have been relatively busy over the summer months. Legal action has been taken on two occasions over the summer to move groups on and we continue to work closely with police colleagues on this matter.

A Fixed Penalty Notice has been issued and payed relating to a Dog off the lead on Cromer beach- (£80 fine).

An individual was also successfully prosecuted for breach a noise abatement notice last Christmas which resulted in a small fine, our prosecution costs and the forfeiture of the noise making equipment.

Officers attended court in relation to an ASB case in Sheringham, and have adjourned the injunction proceeding for a year, based on current good behaviour and a change in circumstances.

There have been a number of emergency incidents over the period which officers have responded to including:

- 20 June – Budgens of Holt fire
- 2 July – Pollution Report 60 nautical miles off Cromer coast, no action required
- 3 July – dangerous structure in Wells following RTC
- 22 July - Suspected UXO on Cromer Pier which enabled the testing of readiness to set up a Covid secure rest centre but not ultimately required as the UXO turned out to be scrap metal
- 16 August - Sheringham surface water flooding in addition to having officers on the ground a Local Coordination Centre was set up in the office and post event a multi-agency debrief completed
- Flood alert issues re Storm Francis at the end of August

Taxi handbook consultation ended 24 August 2020. Seventy-two responses have been received, mainly from the trade. These are being collated for the next available Licensing Committee to consider.

Following the reopening of businesses, trade waste customers who suspended their accounts have predominantly returned to normal levels of collections. We continue to see some growth in the number of trade waste customers using the service.

We continue to grow the number of customers on the Garden Waste Services with around 1200 new customers since the service was reopened to new subscribers in late June.

The community fridge in Fakenham is being well used. The fridge in North Walsham has moved venue and has recently relaunched in a new venue in collaboration with NW Community Shop. Work is progressing well on a further 2 community fridges at Stalham and Sheringham.

Covid Impacts

Like other areas of the Council, Covid has been a major factor in the work of the service over recent months.

Officers have been involved in ongoing attendance at multi-agency meetings and tabletop exercises re Covid-19, plus weekly reporting Rest centre arrangements reviewed and two 'Covid secure' rest centre boxes have been ready to deploy since June.

The large increase in visitor numbers seen across the summer months has placed significant pressure on cleansing services and additional resources have been deployed in order to address this. Additional travel time and bin weights have also added to issues with vehicle reliability leading to some bins not being collected on their scheduled day of collection.

A number of officers within Environmental Health have been redeployed onto other duties to support the Covid response. As well as the continued support of the Community support activities the Reopening the High Street project received took significant officer resource from normal duties.

There have been additional burdens on Officers from normal work. These include amongst others:

- an increase in the number of noise and ASB complaints,
- business enquiries over complying with guidance and businesses adapting to new ways to trade etc
- increase in enquiries regarding events and temporary events notices which have involved focused engagement with applicants with complex and changing guidance
- increase in complaints from the public regarding gatherings, caravan sites, social distancing and face coverings

- involvement in developing the Local Outbreak Control Plan, a key piece of work with stakeholders across Norfolk and nationally
- comment and review of the Review of return to work guidance for all Council staff and ensuring the office is Covid secure
- additional processing to suspend and the reinstate a significant number of trade waste customers

EVCP

Electric vehicle charging points are now operational at Holt and Sheringham car parks. Fakenham, Wells and Cromer to follow soon. Delays to an installation at NW have been caused by lack of access to a nearby sub station.

PSPO

Starting the week commencing the 28th of September the Environmental Protection Rangers will be installing new signage across the district advertising the Public Space Protection Orders. These require dogs to be kept on leads and excluded dogs from certain areas such as playgrounds and parkland. The new signage will help ensure that the public know exactly what the restrictions are and will contribute to the Councils responsible dog ownership work. Along with the traditional metal signage we will be trailing a new series of pavement decals in certain areas.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Ongoing work around Covid with planning for a second wave being undertaken.
Climate change strategy

3 Meetings attended

Tree planting planning meetings for this winter
Carbon Trust follow up meeting – carbon footprint
Climate change strategy meetings

