

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

18 November 2020

COUNCILLOR NIGEL LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

For the period September 2020 to November 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Climate Change and Environment

The Climate Change Project officer (Nigel Stannett) started in November and has been developing tree planting initiatives as well as gaining an understanding of the actions that will be undertaken to deliver an environmental Charter in support of our efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Our Environmental Policy Officer (Annie Sommazzi) will lead on the delivery of the actions set out in the Corporate Delivery Plan, together with engaging stakeholders, when she takes up her post on 14th December.

Tree Planting initiative

The project team has been making contact with third parties with whom the Council will work to implement tree planting initiatives. The November national lockdown has meant that certain events had to be deferred but revised arrangements are now in place to ensure:

- a further 4540 trees will be planted on NNDC land this winter, many of which will be planted by staff as part of volunteer tree planting days on 9th and 16th December
- a tree giveaway, which is taking place on 11th & 12th December (10:00 until 14:00) at Holt Country Park
- 7 projects confirmed as of 4/12, planting approximately 6,500 trees
- Further planting projects of various scales are being designed, including with local schools and other third party organisations
- We are pursuing a range of options with many town and parish councils
- Potential large-scale planting scheme options in partnership with appropriate organisations and landowners on third party sites
- Exploring issues and options for ensuring trees planted have the best chance of survival, including tree planting guidelines, future management options, and reducing tree guard waste.

Electric Vehicle Charge Points (EVCPs)

Progress on the installation of ECVPs remains hampered by technical difficulties involving third parties. The installations in Holt and Sheringham are fully operational and levels of usage rose rapidly up until the November

lockdown (cumulatively since installation: 4047 kWh energy dispersed; 3160 kg carbon saved). The installations at Fakenham and Cromer are still in the pipeline (awaiting resolution of technical matters); Wells is awaiting commissioning; and the North Walsham installation is awaiting the resolution of access to a suitable power connection before it can commence.

Options for installing ECVPs at the new Sheringham Leisure Centre are being evaluated.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Energy production

As reported by the portfolio holder for Sustainable Growth, the Council is a funding partner and key stakeholder in the Bacton feasibility study into the potential for Bacton Gas Terminal to become a major location for the production of hydrogen energy, as the U.K. transitions to a “net zero” carbon energy economy.

The ‘Bacton 2.0’ Hydrogen Production Feasibility Study is being led by local energy experts Hydrogen East. The inception meeting was held on 13th November and the Council sits on the Project Group, which meets fortnightly.

Energy conservation

As reported by the Housing & Benefits Portfolio holder, a consortium of Norfolk Councils, including North Norfolk District, was successful in securing Green Homes Grant funding, which will be implemented by the Norfolk Warm Homes Partnership, to help fuel-poor residents to reduce heating costs and improve the energy efficiency of their homes (and thus carbon emissions). Part of the grant funding targets the addition of insulation to Park Home properties. To promote this element of the grant the Council has contacted residents of the Council-owned Park Home site in Pudding Norton to invite applications. Several residents have expressed interest and it is expected that work to start early in the New Year.

3 Meetings attended

