

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 September 2021

COUNCILLOR N LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

For the period July to September 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Climate Change

The Carbon Strategy and Action Plan (CRSAP) is currently in development and data is being collected to enable baseline information to be updated for the Council's scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions for the years 2020 and 2021. The completed CRSAP will build on emission data and will identify a pipeline of decarbonisation projects which will enable the Council to achieve a net-zero carbon emission position by 2030.

A virtual Greenbuild event is being planned for November this year and will run from November the 1st until November the 12th in parallel with the UN Climate Change Conference - COP26.

A low-carbon travel scheme is under development for NNDC staff and will provide all staff with a low/no carbon commuting plan.

In order to promote and engage new audiences with the climate change and environmental agenda in North Norfolk, and to highlight the pledges made within the Council's own Environmental Charter, a short animation was produced which was shared on the council's social channels and website. Since its release, the animation has had over 17 thousand engagements to date, a figure which continues to increase.

Commercial and Public Protection

A sanitary survey questionnaire is being undertaken by officers to help provide information to the Food Standards Agency on water and environmental quality in the area. This relates the shellfish industry within the district.

Some major investigations underway in the team involving dangerous wild animal licences, health and safety at work cases and licensing. These are complex investigations which are taking a considerable amount of time and expertise.

Food and Safety Officers are being supported by a contractor who is working on the District two days a week. This extra resource will help the support the team in getting through the backlog of food hygiene inspections brought on by the restrictions during the pandemic.

It has been noticeable during some food hygiene inspections that areas such as cleaning have suffered during the pandemic and the overall food hygiene standards in some establishments have decreased, this has in some cases lead to the reduction in the businesses food hygiene rating score. Food Officers continue to work with businesses to raise standards and offer advice and guidance where appropriate.

Licensing Policy out for consultation and Gambling Policy planned shortly.

The Licensing Officer has dealt with a driver voluntary revocation of their licence on hearing of alleged serious offences being investigated with the Police. Some unnecessary time delay from the Police in NNDC receiving this information and protecting the public

Covid Support

The Covid Support Officers are focusing on contact tracing and home visits along with business intervention work. On a daily basis they are undertaking 60-70 contact tracing calls. This service has received some very positive feedback from residents who have been offered support in self isolating.

The team have issued approximately 60 Stay Covid Safe Awards and the team are still being approached by responsible businesses. They will continue to run this scheme for the foreseeable future.

The CSOs have been a visible presence at events during the summer including the Cromer Hall Concerts and Holt Markets.

Environmental Protection

The team have experienced an increase in service over the summer months. Especially with domestic noise cases.

The Environmental Protection Rangers successfully investigated an incident of dog fouling at one of our country park sites, they issued a fixed penalty notice which was paid.

The team are currently working on several waste cases, were rubbish has been fly tipped in the district.

Travellers which have arrived in the district have been managed in a timely and acceptable manner and the Fakenham Temporary Stopping Place has provided a space for several families over the summer months.

Environmental Protection Officers have worked to arrange two public health funerals in the past months.

The goats have spent their summer holidays on Cromer cliffs, they have been well received by the public. With plenty of vegetation remaining the team plan to leave them there as long as conditions allow.

Environmental Services

The team continue to proactively manage the ongoing situation with Serco and their driver issues and round completion which have caused recent service disruption as members will be aware.

The team have been dealing with significant customer contact, especially commercial waste, where customers have had to complain about missed collections. They have ensured that the deployment and performance of cleansing service has been adequate. Performance by Serco here has actually been relatively good over the summer months.

Serco have deployed new street cleansing barrows which are equipped with a separate disposable coffee cup collector, so that these may be recycled.

Serco have received 8 electric vans which will shortly be deployed on the contract for toilet cleaners and supervisors.

With assistance from property services, a new bin store has been constructed at Wells to store litter bin rubbish during the day to improve operational efficiency and to prevent bags being left on the street.

Partly deployed new litter bins purchased as part of 'Binrastructure' funding from WRAP to improve our service.

The ES team have arranged the removal of another deceased whale at Weybourne.

Orders of garden bins has reopened to the 300 or so customers on the waiting list. Over 100 bins have been ordered in about 3 days.

As part of IT implementation, the garden bin web form is now also generating worksheets directly in Serco's system to speed up delivery time (previously was emailed across and entered manually).

Through NWP, had agreement in principle at leader level to amend and extend the MRF contract with NEWS.

The team are experiencing ongoing workload challenges from easing of lockdown and reinstating of trade waste contracts and associated admin.

A successful summer long campaign to raise awareness of our native North

Norfolk seals will soon come to a close. We aimed to educate the public about the harm that hollow frisby rings can pose to seals, the risks of dogs off the lead around them and called for visitors not to approach them on the beaches. We received great cooperation from The Friends of Horsea Seals. The campaign raised over £400 which will be donated to this charity.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

A series of tree planting projects are soon to commence as the tree planting season starts at the end of September and runs until March 2022. These projects will see approximately 40,000 trees planted across North Norfolk within this period.

The virtual Greenbuild event will comprise of a series of workshops, seminars, Q&A sessions and webinars which will address climate change and environmental related themes with a North Norfolk focus.

The post, 'Environmental Events Coordinator' has commenced and is currently supporting with the development of this year's Greenbuild as well as planning for future Environment Forums, Tree Giveaway events.

3 Meetings attended

COP26 meetings hosted by Amber Rudd
Serco Joint Waste Contract Board meetings