

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**17 November 2021**

### **COUNCILLOR NIGEL LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER for Environmental Services, Climate Change & Environment**

For the period September to November 2021

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

##### **Environmental Services**

All ES Operational staff trained on 'Chapter 8' requirements to enable us to monitor Serco to ensure safe working on the highway.

Continued management of issues related to Serco performance, shortage of drivers has continued to cause localised service disruption. Fuel disruption in late Sep/Early Oct further added to problems, but Serco were able to secure some fuel supplies most days.

Deployment of 8 new electric vans for toilet cleaners and supervisors

Deployment of new litter bins purchased as part of £14k 'Binrastructure' funding from WRAP. This includes six new big belly bins in Cromer, Hoveton, Mundesley and Overstrand and some on-street recycling bins in Cromer, Overstrand and Sheringham).

Officers met with Broads Authority and Parish Council regarding replacement of Boat Waste facilities in Hoveton. Plans being drawn up.

Residual waste composition analysis has been undertaken. Results will be available in next few weeks/months.

MRF contract extension has been approved by Cabinet.

Ongoing workload challenges from easing of lockdown and reinstating of trade waste contracts and associated admin.

##### **Commercial and Public Protection**

Incident on the Broads (Belaugh) where a boat sank where 8 people were rescued. Self-catering accommodation with own jetty and boat-use. Investigated by the Broads Authority and verified by NNDC as being comprehensive. Fracture in the bilge pump was unforeseen and would not have been revealed by inspection and therefore the duty holder could not

have prevented the incident. May lead to a future project on boat safety with the various agencies and will raise with the health and safety liaison group.

We have received poor results for shellfish sampling days for Wells the pool. Specific local issues that may be attributing to the contamination. Could be related the periods of the excessively high rainfall we have been experiencing in this area. The Environment Agency and Anglian water haven't identified any incidents that could have contributed to the results; however there is dredging which could have impacted on the water quality. The risk is that the mussel bed would be downgraded to a C which may result in an unfeasible option for the industry.

Health and safety accidents/incidents being reported and increasing. Matters include falls from height and burn injuries. Enforcement action has also been taken to prohibit play equipment and inflatable bouncy castle which are a risk of causing serious injury or a fatality.

Food hygiene intervention programme is focusing on premises of high risk and unrated/new businesses. Officers anecdotally have revealed that standards in hygiene and cleaning have deteriorated slightly as a trend and some food hygiene ratings have reduced to less than a 5. Safeguards available to food business operators including the option to appeal their rating if they don't agree with the officer's assessment or pay to request a revisit.

The final version of the Statement of Licensing Policy, and Gambling Policy has been prepared.

Investigations in connect with the illegal keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals is still ongoing.

### **Environmental Protection**

Statutory Nuisance complaints and reports of Environmental Crimes continue to keep the team busy.

The team have issued a fixed penalty notice for fly tipping relating to an incident which occurred at Pretty Corner Woods in Sheringham.

Two abatement notices have been served for amplified music.

Several members of the team have attended training on hoarding management and will continue to link in with Social Services and the North Norfolk Help Hub on this matter.

The team arranged and hosted a training event for other Council's within the district on the subject of Private Water Supply sampling. This event was very well received and has ensured that our officers and those around the county are now competent to collect water samples.

The goats enjoyed a successful summer on the cliffs and have now returned to their winter grazing.

### **Covid Support**

The team continue to perform contact tracing calls and are supporting residents with self-isolation, they are contacting approximately 70 people per day. This is a seven day a week service and vital in the control and containment of Covid-19. The Covid Support Officers continue to provide business support when requested and EHOs have recently written to venues hosting Christmas events to remind them of the importance of good ventilation. Through the Safety Advisory Group risk assessments and Covid control continue to be reviewed.

### **Civil Contingencies**

This area of work is now receiving support from the Norfolk Resilience Forum two days a week, in the absence of the Civil Contingencies Manager. The temporary officer is reviewing plans specifically around winter preparedness, flooding, business continuity and rest centres.

The high tides and weather combination in mid-October saw the Council liaising with flood wardens and closing the flood gates it is responsible for along the coast. The event passed with little impact.

### **Climate Change**

At the time of writing, Greenbuild 2021 has begun. There are over 15 speakers and more than 700 people signed up across the 10 different events. Events ranged from workshops on tree identification, to debates about rewilding and regenerative agriculture, to webinars and Q&A sessions which focus on decarbonisation as well as much more.

The first 8,000 trees have been planted in Trunch this planting season with planting projects coming up at Cromer Academy this November.

A draft tree planting strategy has been prepared and is being considered by Overview and Scrutiny on the 10th November. The strategy sets a framework and direction for the 110,000 tree project and considers what trees will be planted, where trees will be planted, the legal framework for tree planting and the procurement processes for delivering 110,000 trees.

The draft Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action plan is progressing and NNDC officers are working closely with consultants, Net-Zero East to publish a draft document by December 2021.

There was a successful end to our season long 'Safer Seals' campaign. Working closely with the 'Friends of Horsea Seals' group and the RSPCA, we hope our campaign highlighted the problem of using hollow frisbee rings on our beaches and the importance of keeping dogs restrained around seals on

the beach. The pup season is just beginning and so we ask people to be respectful of these creatures by not disturbing them at this critical time. Money raised during the campaign (just short of £500) has been handed over to the RSPCA the funds will be earmarked towards seal protection in North Norfolk.

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

Tree give away event at Holt Country Park on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

## **3      Meetings attended**

- Attended the LARAC conference to hear the latest developments in the waste and recycling industry.
  - Little news from DEFRA regarding outcomes of recent waste consultations. Confirmation that 'new burdens' will be funded.
  - Still looks likely that food waste collections will be mandatory. Timescales unclear.

Monthly management meetings with Serco to discuss progress against contract terms.