

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**09 FEBRUARY 2021**

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

For the period of November to December 2021

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

**Environmental Services**

Emails have been sent to 2200 households on the garden bin schedules where there is no payment on record. So far this has generated around 600 payments (£30k income). There has been some data base issues which has enabled us to update our records.

Distribution of annual collection calendars for waste and recycling and also garden waste, began this week. Weather conditions unhelpful but we (Serco) are sending out replacements where requested and trying to make available as a download on the website.

New litter bin installed in Blakeney as a result of a sponsorship agreement with local business. Looking at other opportunities for similar arrangements.

Received tender submissions for the removal and replacement of diseased hedges in certain areas of the district (c £25k). Subsequent conversation with the Probation Service (who we already work with for litter picking on beaches) has resulted in the offer from them for tree planting to be undertaken as a community payback type initiative. This will save NNDC around £12,000.

Continued management of issues related to Serco performance. Driver availability continues to cause localised service disruption.

Further meetings and discussions with the Broads Authority and Hoveton Parish Council regarding replacement of Boat Waste facilities.

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

**Commercial and Public Protection**

The team continue to investigate the issues surrounding Shellfish beds within the district. They have attended a multi-agency meeting to try and establish if

there have been any incidents that have led to the high bacteria count in sampling results. Likely cause is the growth of the seal colony.

There has been an observed trend in food businesses being short-staffed and struggling to keep up with cleaning and maintenance to an acceptable standard. Some food businesses have been down-rated but on the whole the District's food businesses continue to maintain high standards and positively engage with Officers.

Some health and safety risks have been identified such as work at height and unsafe systems of work which are being tackled by Officers.

Focusing on areas where finance may impact on safety such as gas safety checks, maintenance of equipment etc.

Natasha's Law which was introduced in October has brought about changes to allergen labelling requirements. Officers have been offering advice during food safety inspections and the team are planning more focused interventions and support for the New Year. It is surprising that some businesses still don't fully understand the food allergens requirements and how risky this can be to the consumer.

The Dangerous Wild Animal case is still ongoing and the team are meeting with other Council representatives next week to obtain key information about sales and distribution of the animals. Interviews will follow as the next step in this process.

A successful Simple Caution issued to a Cromer business for operating outside of licensable hours.

The taxi trade has asked for a review of fares to reflect the increase in fuel prices this will go out to consultation with the trade and if there is request for the fare structure to change then this will go out to public consultation.

### **Environmental Protection**

The team have issued an abatement notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 relating to amplified music.

Fakenham Temporary Stopping place has been occupied in recent weeks, unfortunately the individuals have caused damage to the site which has been reported to the police and arrangements have been made to repair the damage.

Three members of the team have attended a Beach Masters Course and have learnt how to effectively handle an oil spill and reduce the impact on the surrounding environment.

The team have issued a Simple Caution to a hospitality venue in Cromer for breaching an abatement notice previously served for noise issues back in 2019. The operator of the venue attended the Council offices and signed the Caution.

Two team members used their drone handling skills to assist the communications team with video footage of the Reef Leisure Centre.

### **Covid Support**

The team continue to perform contact tracing calls and are supporting residents with self-isolation. In response to the recent change in legislation surrounding face coverings they have been visiting businesses providing information posters for them to display and offering advice and guidance.

### **Civil Contingencies**

The Norfolk Resilience Forum continue to provide cover to this service area for two days a week, in the absence of the Civil Contingencies Manager. A number of policies have already been updated including the District Flood Plan and Out of Hours Response plan. The team have also arranged training for the District's voluntary flood wardens which was well received.

### **Climate Change**

Videos for Greenbuild are now uploaded and on the website – over 350 views of the filmed events have taken place so far and this number continues to climb.

the latest figures for total number of people on Facebook and Twitter who saw the Environmental Charter animation we produced a few months ago are 21,500 – been climbing steadily in the background. Exceeding expectations.

### **Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan**

A Draft Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan (NZSAP) has been developed. The NZSAP is a hugely important document as it outlines how a net-zero 2030 target can be achieved as well as reporting on NNDC's existing emissions pathway for the years 2018/2019 through to 2020/2021.

Three Member workshops have been scheduled to take place prior to the draft NZSAP being taken to Full Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.

### **Tree Planting**

25,000 trees have been planted this tree planting season taking the overall amount of trees planted since 2019 to 45,000 trees.

Three Miyawaki Forests are being planted across three sites in North Norfolk. This DEFRA funded project aims to explore the effectiveness of the Miyawaki method of urban ecosystem creation.

### **Miyawaki Forests**

This Miyawaki Forest creation process involves careful soil preparation and densely planting a variety of native trees, shrubs and plants to provide valuable habitat to many different species. Designed for urban areas where space is at a premium, the plots are usually the size of a tennis court and fenced off to deter deer and rabbits.

The three sites where Miyawaki Forest will be planted are Warren Avenue in Fakenham, Acorn Road playing field in North Walsham, and Cooper Road play area in Sheringham.

### **Community Renewal Fund Project – Net Zero Norfolk**

The Council's Climate Change and Environmental Policy Manager is project managing, on behalf of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership, a community renewal Fund project – 'Net-Zero Norfolk'. This project will consist of two feasibility studies each addressing major emission sources within Norfolk (on road emissions and domestic/static energy usage). The two studies will focus on:

- Sustainable Hydrogen Infrastructure for Transport (SHIFT) Study
- Community Energy Kickstarter project

The Funding conditions require the project to be completed by 30 June 2022.

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

Tree give away events have been planned. The next is at Holt Country Park on 29<sup>th</sup> January with other dates following on.

Tree planting events have been planned at Holt Country park and at Pretty Corner Woods. These events support the many residents who wish to get involved in tree planting. See web site and social media for details.

Officer's at the Council will be leading on the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership CRF funded 'Net-Zero Norfolk' project which will develop two detailed feasibility studies which will aim to progress the net-zero agenda across the whole of Norfolk with a focus on community energy schemes and green hydrogen production.

### **3 Meetings attended**

Norfolk Waste Partnership

East of England Apples and Orchards Project

Serco

HAZ

Cabinet Working Party - projects