

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 February 2022

COUNCILLOR N LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, CIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT.

For the period January 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Commercial and Public Protection

An e-consultation exercise has been undertaken with the taxi trade after a request by a few drivers to review the fares which they can charge going forward for 2022/23. A low response rate was received and the Taxi Association do not support an increase at this current time therefore there will be no review undertaken for 2022/23 however drivers can request a review annually. There were concerns from some drivers that an increase would have a negative impact on their business and that most Private Hire drivers should be using their meters to recoup income.

A review of street trading is being undertaken in the District and a new policy will go out to consultation in the Spring of 2022 for consideration by relevant stakeholders and the public

Food hygiene interventions are being undertaken at new businesses in the District. It is crucial that businesses operate safely and should discuss any plans with the Commercial Team. Premises need to avoid cross-contamination particularly those that handle both raw and cooked foods.

NNDC is participating in a national micro-biological sampling survey of homemade pork scratchings and is being undertaken by EHOs. The novel food is becoming a bit of a delicacy and being produced by butchers, farm shops and caterers. More surveillance is required on food products so we have a better understanding on how safe they are to eat at the point of retail

The Licensing Team will be bringing in knowledge tests and safeguarding training for new taxi drivers this year and a view to expect existing drivers to complete safeguarding training on their renewal

The Health and Safety Executive will soon be issuing their annual local authority priority areas for intervention and the team will set some priorities for the year ahead and build into existing e.g. gas safety focus at hospitality venues when the circular is issued

The Covid Support Officers and Co-ordinator are continuing to undertake contact tracing and helping people with self-isolation needs. The external funding for these post is due to end in March 2022.

Civil Contingencies

The Resilience Manager has returned to work and is phasing back to work after long-term absence. Support from the County Council's Resilience Team, has now ceased.

Coordination of response to flood alerts on 3-5 January and Storms Malik and Corrie at the end of the month. Flood gates were closed and Flood Wardens engaged.

On the 3-10 January and 30 Jan-7 Feb due to tidal locking Potter Heigham flood barrier closed as needed. Some overtopping on the Repps bank (GYBC side).

Virtual Safety Advisory Group meeting held 12 January. Walsingham Shrine events recommencing.

Ongoing participation in the Norfolk Resilience Forum's weekly Risk and Information Group meetings.

The team are preparing for an increase in the number of events coming to the Safety Advisory Group in advance of the summer months. The team anticipate more events coming to SAG re the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2-5 June.

Environmental Protection

The consultation on dog restrictions (dogs on leads, dog fouling, dog exclusions) across the towns and parishes in North Norfolk has been undertaken.

The team are currently reviewing the laboratory provisions for Private Water supply sampling.

Anti-social behaviour powers have been utilised to address a problem address within the district.

The team have served two abatement notices for amplified music in the month of January.

Planning consultations continue to place a demand on the team, with several complex and major application being considered this month.

Private Sector Housing Officers have investigated numerous complaints

associated with damp and poor heating in the winter months.

Environmental Services

The team have produced a promotional leaflet to go out to every household with council tax bills

They have analysed the first phase of the residual waste composition analysis which shows that c. 40% of residual waste in NN is food waste.

Environmental Services Officers supported the re-opening of the North Walsham Community Fridge

The recent storms have resulted in the requirement to clear a significant amount of rocks and debris from the promenades particularly in Cromer, the team coordinated and arranged for this work to be undertaken by our contractors Serco.

The team are planning a "round optimisation" process in June for waste and recycling services.

Progress is being made on a number of trial sites for wildflower meadows instead of cutting grass to help improve biodiversity across the district,

Climate Change

Further work fine tuning the Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) after comments received from O&S Committee and Members. A further recommendation to provide training and information on the NZAP have been completed or scheduled (at the time of writing).The NZAP comes before Full Council on the 25th February.

The Climate Change and Environmental Policy Manager continues to work with the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership on 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 Community Renewal Fund conditions require the project to be completed by 30 June 2022. .

110000 Tree Project

By the end of March the team expect to have planted 60900 trees across 64 projects around the district.

Potential planting projects continue to be presented to us from the public, schools, town and parish councils. The team are already making plans for next winters planting season.

The Miyawaki projects have progressed with small areas of NNDC land in Fakenham, Sheringham and North Walsham prepared and fenced off. Planting to begin soon. We are grateful for the large number of volunteers coming forward to help us with these projects.

Tree planting days at pretty Corner and Holt Country park were successful with excellent participation from the public.

A tree give away day was held on 29th January. This event was rescheduled from earlier in the month after high winds forced us to cancel it. Hundreds of people visited us at Holt Country park to receive a tree to plant on their own garden land. Advice and maintenance was provided to each resident. Each tree, like all others NNDC planted will be shown on a map of North Norfolk on our web site.

This event was so successful with residents that we plan another, final tree give away for this planting season on 12th March at Holt Country Park.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Miyawaki planting days – to be publicised
Tree give away day on 12th March

3 Meetings attended

Internal Council meetings as required.