



## **Cabinet Member Report for Environment**

**Northampton Borough Council**

**Monday 21 September 2015**

### **Environmental Health**

On 4<sup>th</sup> August the Council prosecuted a food business operator for two offences relating to re-wrapping of food and not having the correct approvals in place for the processes that were being carried out at the premises. The defendant entered guilty pleas and was fined £280 per offence with £28 victim surcharge and £1740 legal costs. Prosecutions are only taken when informal approaches have failed to achieve compliance with legal requirements or in the cases where there is a significant risk to public safety.

During July and August over 1200 section 46 Notices were issued to occupiers of domestic premises. These notices outline refuse collection arrangements. Neighbourhood Wardens are working to monitor their areas for breaches of these notices and where these are identified enforcement action is being taken.

### **Environmental Services**

Generally the environmental services contract is performing satisfactorily, although there are major challenges in relation to some aspects of the refuse collection service. The council remains in dispute with its contractor in relation to their failure to remove sacks in accordance with their contractual commitment. Pending a resolution of the dispute, a quick and effective response by the council means all sacks are being removed and enforcement action is being taken as appropriate. All additional costs incurred by the council are being passed to the contractor and are not being picked up from the public purse.

### **Environmental Services (Direct Services)**

#### *Green Flag Awards*

Abington Park and Delapre Abbey have been awarded the Green Flag Award. The award is in recognition of staff being committed to providing to the community, as a whole, the opportunity to enjoy the facilities offered by the parks. They ensure that the parks are a welcoming place, safe and secure and are well maintained and clean. They endeavour to meet the expectations of all our visitors and encourage people in the borough, who may not have been to the parks before, to visit them. We believe that the Green Flag Award is a vitally important tool to attract, enhance and for preserving our public spaces for present and future generations.

#### *Love Northampton – Let's Keep It Clean*

In response to the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny committee's Keep Northampton Tidy report, a month long anti-litter campaign to tidy up the town centre is ongoing throughout September. Working with partners, businesses and residents the campaign intends to promote awareness of the cleansing work carried out in the town centre, look at ways to improve perceptions of the town, and educate visitors about the impact littering, in particular the dropping of cigarette butts and fast food packaging, has on the town.

Councillor Alan Bottwood

**Cabinet Member for Environment**