



## Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 2 November 2015

### **Environmental Health**

Since the beginning of September over 3500 section 46 Notices have been served on residents reminding them of refuse and recycling arrangement. Neighbourhood Wardens are gathering evidence for enforcement action against those residents who are not following the requirements of the Notices (current figures on enforcement will be provided ahead of the meeting)

Officers in the Food and Safety Team have participated in an inter authority audit of procedures for carrying out the rating of Food Premises in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Brand Standard. They been working with colleagues across the County to ensure consistency in the way the standard is applied to ensure that the public can have confidence in the star ratings displayed in food businesses.

### **Environmental Services**

The end of the mowing season is almost upon us, and staff will shortly be switching to winter maintenance. This will include the pruning of shrubs and hedges. It is expected that the winter maintenance will fully commence towards the end of October and continue through to March next year.

There continues to be issues with refuse collection for properties presenting sacks, and discussions are continuing with the contractor to attempt to resolve this situation.

The council continues to speedily remove any sacks that have been left, and the Neighbourhood Wardens and Enforcement Officers are also continuing with enforcement action as required. Due to the council's actions, there has been a noticeable reduction in the amount of extra sacks being presented for collection and a general improvement in the cleanliness of some streets. Improvements have been particularly noticed and commented on in the Semilong area.

As previously stated, the cost for the authority to remove the sacks will not be picked up by the public purse.

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

September's "Love Northampton – Let's Keep It Clean" Town Centre Litter Campaign started off with Enterprise and the Neighbourhood Wardens giving out educational material from a stall set up on the Market Square by the fountain. This was also supported by a number of newspaper articles, tweets and Facebook updates by the Council's Press Office. The educational element of the campaign was for the first two weeks of September, which was then backed up with enforcement by the Town Centre Wardens to ensure the message got across to those that did not take any notice of the campaign or did not have any respect for the Town Centre environment.

Some Cabinet Members joined the Town Centre Wardens on their patrols, so that they could see the issues faced by the Wardens on a daily basis. During the last two weeks of the enforcement element of the campaign, 20 fixed penalty notices (FPN's) were issued for dropping of litter.

Northampton has been taking part in Bloom since 2001, each year the amount of participants has grown, this year we received a record number of entrants , 14 schools, 26 community groups, 6 individuals and 10 businesses. Northampton received a Silver Gilt Award in the East Midlands in Bloom competition.

The annual Northampton in Bloom Presentation & Awards Ceremony was held in the Great Hall, Guildhall on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Over 200 attendees were invited to celebrate the horticultural achievements and hard work given by Northampton's various gardening groups.

**Councillor Alan Bottwood**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**