



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19th September 2016

On 2nd August I have visited 4 new businesses in Derngate and Wellingborough Road (Foodies Rocks, Lighthouse, Ground Craft Coffee and Beer Guerrilla). Additionally, on 15th September I have visited another 2 new businesses (Edward Green Shoes and Sheep Street Butchers).

I am glad to report I have met with PwC to review the internal audit draft report. I welcome the recommendations which are being put in place. These include:

- Carrying out enhanced due diligence checks, including external scrutiny, for new loans issued, such as the loan to the University of Northampton
- Using a new checklist, on advice from KPMG, to ensure all aspects of loans are properly considered
- Initiating a thorough review, using external experts, of our governance, risk management and due diligence processes

Voluntary and Community Sector

In July I have, together with our Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold, visited Northampton Hope Centre. The Centre is crucial to our town, working to relieve poverty and tackle the causes of homelessness. They focus on helping others to help themselves, providing support and services that will enable individuals to take back control of their own lives.

Men's Sheds

The Council took the initiative in July to meet with Northampton Men's Sheds representatives. There is a growing need for measures that will reduce social isolation of older men. It is recognised that many older men find it difficult to enjoy companionship with their peers than older women. Social research has shown there to be a clear relationship between social isolation and the progression of mental and physical decline. The experience of the Men's Shed movement (in The UK, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand) is that men relate most successfully when engaged together, working on projects 'shoulder to shoulder'. In March this year a committee to establish a Shed (later Sheds) in Northampton was formed and grant of £5000 (2016/17) has been awarded from the NBC Partnership Fund. The meeting addressed issues relating to identification of suitable premises in Northampton for use as 'Men's Sheds'. With the help of community, the existing partnership between NBC and NMS will work on supporting the association's needs.

Charities

The Council is proud to announce a further step towards raising awareness of local projects by dedicating one stall a day on our busy market for communities and charities to use. The stall will be free for charities and community organisations to use during trading times of 9am to 4.30pm during Tuesday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays. A number of organisations are already taking advantage of this free space including students from the National Citizenship Service, Cats Protection and Animals in need and we will continue doing our best to attract more interest in the scheme.

Overview and Scrutiny

On 11th August we held a Call in on Sixfields with the purpose to give an update on recovery of Sixfields Loan Money.

I am delighted to report that 8 properties in Gold Street have now signed up to the improvements programme introduced by Northampton Borough Council's Business Incentive Scheme. The council has so far committed more than £50,000 for improvements, with landlords in turn contributing more than £300,000 towards enhancing their buildings.

Delapre Abbey

I have visited Delapre Abbey visited on 8th August to look at progress on the restoration. I was delighted to find 6 weddings booked ahead of completion.

Landlords Breakfast

On 7th September we hosted our commercial Landlords' Breakfast. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the market and exchange ideas. We discussed town centre transformation, ongoing and upcoming schemes, as well as trends and feedback from clients. I was delighted with the high number of attendees and to see strong aspiration from all sides to move forward together.

Vision for 2029

The strategy sets out a vision for how the Borough can plan for sustainable growth in both housing and the economy, balancing that with a need to promote and protect our heritage and the environment. Councillor Hadland reports that the Local Plan will set out a vision for Northampton, and a strategy for how we work towards that vision. It will guide how to meet the town's needs to provide housing and jobs and ensure that development takes place in the areas where the Council and the community would like it to be. It also needs to be ensured that we have the infrastructure in place to meet the demands of increased growth. A draft Local Plan will be ready in March 2017, when further consultation on its proposals will take place.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19th September, 2016

Since my last report, I have continued to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council, and can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

Town Centre Strategy Partnership

The 21st July saw a very successful Town Centre Strategy event take place at the museum, to which we were delighted to welcome a wide range of town centre businesses, including representatives of the Town Centre Business Improvement District, and other stakeholders that included the Police, the Police & Crime Commissioner, NCC, our Theatres, and others.

Although the event was a clear demonstration of the council's commitment to further continual improvement to the town centre, our use of an independent facilitator for the event was highly effective in ensuring that all those present were able to fully share their views on the current town centre, and their aspirations for the future.

Since this event, I have been working with Cabinet colleagues and Officers to look at how we begin to shape the strategy, and at good practice adopted by other locations, and in October we intend to bring back together representatives that attended the July event to progress that work further, having first shared our progress with the Town Centre BID, who are our key partners in the development of the strategy.

Market

The Beach on the market square has again been very successful during this summer, established as it now is as a fun attraction for families, and a successful way of bringing more visitors to the market.

The market square saw the 'Summer of Fun' entertainment on three different Saturdays during the holiday period, which also took place in Abington Street and All Saints Plaza, an initiative organised between the council and the Town Centre BID, which added to the vibrancy of the square.

July saw the launch of the local food producers market, which now runs on the last Saturday of every month. Producers attending have included The Good Loaf, Phipps Brewery, Frog Island Brewery, Fleur Fields Vineyards, All Fixed Up, Brown's Gourmet Sausages, and Donna Lulu Cooks, and their comments regarding the success have been positive, and we are seeking to grow this further as an attraction for visitors to the market and a great way for local food producers to sell and publicise their products.

Councillor Training

Further to my announcement in my last report that the Councillor Development Group will be re-convened, I can confirm a meeting of this cross-party group on 14th September.

Sports Clubs

We were, of course, highly delighted and extremely proud that Northamptonshire County Cricket Club won the National T20 Blast Trophy, and very pleased to be able to mark this with an open top bus and civic reception event on 10th September.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

PLANNING UPDATE

N/2015/0479 – St James Community Centre at 35-37 St James Mill Road – the application was approved in principle by the Planning Committee, and after referral to the Health and Safety Executive the application was approved on 20th July 2016.

N/2015/0673 – Planning Application for the conversion and alterations of the former Hawkins Shoe Factory to 105 apartments was approved by the Planning Committee on 26th July 2016. The corresponding Listed Building Consent application was approved in principle by the Planning Committee and has been referred to the Secretary of State, decision awaited.

N/2016/0383 – Planning application for the change of use of the former British Rail Social Club to a night shelter has been received.

N/2016/0015 and N/2016/0178 – 7C Edgar Mobbs Way at the Enterprise Zone – both of the outline and full planning applications for the erection of industrial units were approved following finalisation of S106 agreements to secure highway improvement works.

N/2016/0856 - 14 Fish Street – planning application received for the conversion and extension of former council office building to restaurant and hot food takeaway, retail unit and 24 new student units and three self-contained living accommodation units, and outdoor seating area.

Northampton Local Plan

The responses received to the Local Plan Issues consultation have been considered by the Local Plan Cabinet Advisory Group and informed an Options Paper. The responses and options report were considered by Cabinet on 7th September and the Options Paper was approved for consultation which will last for 6 weeks from 21 September until 2 November 2016.

We will ensure that the widest possible consultation is conducted for this paper which is so important for the future of our town.

Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan

The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted for Examination. The Council is currently publicising the Plan for comments. An independent examiner will be appointed who will review the proposed Plan and any comments received in order to test whether the Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements.

REGENERATION UPDATE

St.Crispin's Community Centre and New Allotments

- Community centre is on programme and budget Dec 2016.
- Allotments – design complete, contract drawn up and signed by contractor.

- Start before end of Sept and a 16 week programme

Greyfriars

Cabinet considered the two schemes which were the subject of public exhibition in July 2016. After considering the technical and other assessments which had been carried out, Cabinet decided that Scheme 1 by developers Carter Endurance should proceed as the preferred scheme. This scheme involves improved links to the Grosvenor Centre and the rest of the town centre, a leisure hub to include a multiplex cinema with an onsite bistro and residential accommodation comprising 500 students apartments, 150 residential flats for letting and 81 retirement apartments bringing a potential 1,500 new residents to the town centre Other facilities will include a health & fitness gym, a 110 bed hotel, retail kiosks and commercial studios for local companies. There will be large area of pedestrianisation and much improved coach facilities.

Business Incentive Scheme

- To date the BIS have assisted 107 businesses, leveraged nearly £5m private sector investment and created nearly 500 jobs.
- This financial year we have already committed to supporting 23 businesses which include 9 on Gold Street alone
- These commitments are leveraging nearly £900,000 private sector investment and creating over 170 jobs.
- Parallel projects include Rail Enhancement works to remove graffiti as you approach Northampton Station.

Delapre Abbey

- Project is on target to open commercial spaces on the 1st November. Remaining Abbey will be complete on 10th November and open to public in Feb 2017.
- Car Park received non material amendment approval at Planning Committee. Works to be onsite this calendar year.

St Giles Street

- Works are 2 & ½ weeks ahead with a completion date of 21st October 2016.
- Works are within financial parameters
- Quality of work is receiving positive public comment.
- Resurfacing works will also be complete by 21st October 2016.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Fish Street

We have received an acceptable offer for the disposal of the Councils interest in this property and after extensive negotiations involving treatment of sub tenancies have negotiated a deal enabling Charter Land to submit a planning application for conversion and extension of the basement restaurant, creation of new A3/A5 retail unit and 27 student units and 4 flats.

Should the planning application be successful we will proceed with the sale.

Guildhall

Following problems with water penetration a survey was carried out on the roof of the Guildhall. This identified the requirement for major repairs. A programme for the repairs is being produced in conjunction with the facilities department to minimise disruption to events and inconvenience to staff. Details of this programme, once agreed will be publicised to all.

The free parking offer continues to attract visitors to the council's multi-storey car parks with June's figures for 2 hour free parking showing a 15% increase in comparison with June 2015 figures. The two hour free parking figures for June and July 2016 has seen 174,563 customers take advantage of the offer.

The Saturday free parking for June and July reached 73,063 which was 2.3% more than in 2015.

Footfall figures for July 2016 show an increase of 185,325 in comparison with July 2015. This equates to a 13.3% increase. The footfall cameras are located in Abington Street and Market Square.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Finance

The Council's Accounts for 2015/16 were signed off by the Audit Committee at their meeting on 5th September. KPMG, the Council's external auditor, stated in their report that they are anticipating issuing an unqualified opinion on the Accounts and a qualified opinion for Value for Money in advance of the statutory deadline of 30th September.

The Council has continued work in developing its Efficiency Plan for submission to Government in October. The Efficiency Plan will set out the Council's approach to managing the financial challenges it faces over the medium term. This Efficiency Plan will include the strategies being pursued to manage the financial gap, financial targets for each of these strategies, identification of the associated risks and proposed governance arrangement for its delivery. The Efficiency Plan is proposed to be considered by Cabinet at a future meeting.

Revenues & Benefits

The Revenues and Benefits service has seen a successful start to Business Rates collection – following complete migration from the Wellingborough consortium in April 2016. LGSS continues to provide the focus required in delivering this additional service, to ensure service excellence as well as maximised collection due to the Borough, which is currently ahead of target. This focus continues throughout the Revenues and Benefits service as we continue to make excellent improvements on performance within the customer contact centre. Despite the ongoing and at times increased high volume demand within this service area, 2016 has seen an increase on the monthly answer rate, with the month of August exceeding target.

The service has sustained fantastic levels of performance within our Benefits service in terms of our response rate to benefit claims and support to the most vulnerable customers of the Borough with our Discretionary Housing Payment priority service.

In addition to improvements and sustained performance, the Northampton Borough Council and LGSS Revenues and Benefits partnership has been shortlisted for the IRRV - Excellence in Partnership Working award of which the results will be announced Mid October.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

19th September 2016

Ending the need to sleep rough in Northampton

Since the launch of **'Together we change lives'** (the borough's multi-agency strategy for tackling, preventing and reducing rough sleeping) in July, excellent progress has continued to be made.

During a half day Workshop on 7th September, representatives from a wide range of services and organisations were briefed on recent developments (including the work being done to set up a temporary nightshelter in the town, reduce the number of people sleeping rough and prepare for the next Rough Sleepers Count in November) and they continued to develop the action plan.

Our fresh, multi agency approach is already having an impact and it is estimated that the number of people now sleeping rough in Northampton is around 15, compared to approximately 25 in February 2016. Furthermore, of the 21 people found sleeping rough during our last Rough Sleepers Count in March 2016, only 4 are believed to be now rough sleeping in Northampton.

I am immensely proud of the generosity, goodwill and commitment that so many local people, groups, organisations and businesses have shown in relation to the new nightshelter. It is fantastic to see such a diverse group of people working together to change and improve people's lives.

Tackling criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords

The Council's Private Sector Housing Team is continuing to meet regularly with the University of Northampton, the Students Union, DASH (Decent and Safe Homes) and the Northampton Student Landlords Network to encourage good quality, well managed housing and to identify and tackle unsafe and substandard housing. For the first time, these 5 organisations will have a shared stand and distribute jointly branded literature at the University's Freshers Fair on 26th & 27th September.

On 26th July, two Policy Advisers from the Rogue Landlords Team at the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) spent the day with the Housing & Wellbeing Service to find out more about Northampton's innovative approach to criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords. During their visit, the two Advisers met with Officers and Members, were briefed on the Council's Private Sector Housing Policies and observed Officers accessing a property by warrant. The Policy Advisers were extremely impressed by Northampton's approach and have asked the Council to have an input into the development of national guidance on the relevant Private Sector Housing parts of the Housing & Planning Act 2016.

On 27th September, the Head of Housing & Wellbeing and the Private Sector Housing Manager will be speaking at a Rogue Landlords Conference in London, organised by Inside Government.

Improving hospital discharge and wellbeing

As I have explained in previous reports, the Housing & Wellbeing Service is actively involved in a wide range of initiatives (large and small) that are designed to improve residents' wellbeing.

One of those initiatives – involving the planned discharge of people from Northampton General Hospital and, more recently, from Berrywood Hospital – has been running for just over a year.

The 'Hospital 2 Home' (H2H) scheme is designed to provide vulnerable patients with a holistic, wrap-around support service that is tailored to their specific needs and enables them to be discharged from hospital in a way that is planned, safe and reduces the likelihood of readmission.

Officers from the Housing & Wellbeing Service attend weekly discharge meetings at both hospitals, assess each patient's needs and then work proactively and collaboratively with local housing and support providers – members of the Northampton Wellbeing Partnership – to prepare for, and facilitate, vulnerable patients' safe discharge from hospital.

Northampton's hospital discharge scheme is not only delivering better outcomes for patients, but it is also proving to be a very cost effective way of providing streamlined and effective services. The scheme frees up hospital beds that can then be prioritised for those with a medical need rather than for patients with housing and/or social issues that prevent a safe discharge into the community. It provides comprehensive support for people with complex needs and prevents people from being readmitted to hospital in an emergency.

Health professionals at the two hospitals have embraced the 'Hospital 2 Home' scheme and have welcomed the involvement of the Housing & Wellbeing Service and Northampton Partnership Homes in the hospital discharge process. The scheme has substantially strengthened the working relationship and co-ordination between Housing, the hospitals and the wellbeing partners. As at 1st September 2016, the 'Hospital 2 Home' scheme has helped 61 vulnerable patients to be discharged safely into the community. Only 2 of these patients have been readmitted to hospital.

It is clear that, by working together and providing a guaranteed and trusted response, we can provide services that deliver better outcomes at a much lower cost to the public purse.

This is the model that is being developed using the Wellbeing IT System that the Council has purchased to encourage and support collaborative multi agency working in Northampton. In future, the customer's story will only need to be captured once, a holistic support plan will focus on outcomes, and services will be aligned in a way that is designed to deliver the plan. Free to members of the Northampton Wellbeing Partnership, the Wellbeing IT System is expected to 'go live' in Summer 2017.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2016, 122 projects, totalling £49,659 have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

Service Level Agreements have been finalised for 18 of the 29 organisations that have been funded through the Partnership Grant for 2016-17.

The end of year monitoring for 2015-16 partnership grants are currently being collated.

Support for Shopmobility continues. Grants have been submitted to ensure sustainability until March 2017.

Community Centres

Regular meetings continue to take place with the centres and support offered across all of them to access funding, develop processes and policies and engage with the community.

Condition surveys, with a series of recommendations are being carried out on each of the centres. Works will then be prioritised; there remains a large number of outstanding maintenance issues, which is a priority for many of the older centres.

Forums

Civic ceremony and flag raising event held in the Courtyard on 11th July to mark Srebrenica 2016. Community groups, leaders and the community, especially from our Diverse Community Forum, were invited to help Northampton Borough Council commemorate Srebrenica 2016, approx 40 attendees.

Our Youth Forum supported the Heritage Tours at the Guildhall, during the weekend of the 11th September. Working with Screen Northants, 5 youth forum members refreshed the DVD which supported promotion of the Tours.

Our LGBTQ Forum supported a tent of its own at the Umbrella Fair on 20th and 21st August 2016, at the Racecourse. The LGBTQ Forum supported the Q-performance tent with a packed line-up of live music and film screenings throughout Saturday and Sunday.

There was also LGBT community information and representation from local groups such as FAN and the Northampton Outlaws inclusive rugby team.

Planning for Hate Crime Awareness Week commencing 8th October continues and International Mens Day which will be held on Friday 18th November in the Market Square.

Volunteers

We continue to support our community centres and the friends/park management committees with volunteers. We have managed to recruit and place 5 volunteers, as well as finding a community project for 25 volunteers from Travis Perkins and a local church group.

Events

The council has supported partners to deliver the Fun Colour Run in Abington Park on the 24th July, the Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse on the 20th & 21st August and the Half Marathon from the town centre to Delapre Park on the 4th September.

The council has received numerous compliments for the Bands in the Park programme on Abington Park Bandstand which finished on Sunday 11th September.

This year's Fireworks Display will be on Saturday 5th November and includes a large bonfire, children rides, food and entertainment alongside a magnificent fireworks display.

The Christmas light switch-on will be Saturday 19th November and the rest of the Christmas plans are well underway and will be promoted and advertised to increase attract more visitors into the town.

The council continues to support partners including the Street Fair in the town centre on the 22nd – 25th October, Diwali in the town centre on the 29th October and the Santa Run at a venue to be determined on the 11th December.

Culture & Heritage

September sees 'Scream and Scream Again: The Golden Age of British Horror' opening at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery – the exhibition takes a look at films from the 1970s and how they were marketed abroad through a collection of rare, original lobby cards and posters from around the world.

Abington Park Museum was hired during July and August by the Masque Theatre for their Shakespeare summer production, Henry V which generated net profit.

Summer holiday workshops for children were held at both museums, many of which were associated with the 'Animal Tales' and 'Beauty and the Beach' exhibitions at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. Over 600 children and families attended the workshops and feedback was excellent.

Abington Park Museum was the venue for an 'Archaeology Day' which attracted over 500 visitors. The Museum Service teamed up with the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) to deliver a day of archaeology-themed discovery and hands-on activities. Visitors had the rare opportunity to learn about the archaeology of human remains and to have a close-up view. Activities included the discovery of bones and the other things that archaeologists find during excavations of burial grounds.

'Step Back in Time – Meet the Tudors Day' was held at Abington Park Museum and attracted over 500 visitors to the museum along in addition to the 500 who engaged with activities sited in the park. Visitors were entertained by falconry displays, re-enactors, Tudor games, archery and craft activities for children.

Customer Services

We have 3 new partnerships within the One Stop Shop:

Health watch

Started 26th July 2016

10am-1pm 3rd Tuesday of each month in One Stop Shop

Health Watch allow members of the public to tell their experiences of using health and social care in Northamptonshire. Furthermore they can get information on any aspect of health and social care. Health watch will also be theming pop up shops during certain national weeks and developing themed information packs which will be produced with partners.

Voluntary Impact

Starting September

Date and times TBC

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire works to improve the quality of life for all of Northamptonshire's communities by supporting voluntary and community action across the county. They will provide a wide range of support and services to groups, helping those that are starting up, as well as organisations that are already established. In addition to support for groups, they will support individuals, particularly volunteers, and offer regular drop-in surgeries.

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire is a member of the [National Association for Voluntary and Community Action \(NAVCA\)](#).

First for Wellbeing

New service starting 2nd September 2016

Every Friday in One Stop Shop times TBC

First for Wellbeing currently run a great weekly Stop Smoking service in the One Stop Shop. In September they'll be offering new wellbeing services, facilities and programmes designed to help live the best life possible. They will cover the following;

- Weight management
- Emotional wellbeing
- Social Inclusion
- Alcohol
- Employment and adult learning

The Roll out of green sacks has commenced with minimal `disruption to business as usual operations. The Contact Centre have worked with EMS to improve customer services during this roll out and is currently working well.

Customer Services are currently busy recruiting for new Customer Information Officers. We held assessment days week commencing 12th September.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Community Safety

Overall crime continues to increase seeing a 2.8 (+563 crimes) since the beginning of April 2016. Serious Acquisitive Crime is showing an increase of 12.4% (+342 crimes) with vehicle crime rising by 17.4% (+61 crimes), domestic burglary by 14.1% (+140 crimes), but robbery has started to reduce seeing a .6% decrease from the baseline. The rate at which violence against the person is increasing continues to slow in comparison to 2015/16 with an increase of 2.7% (+159 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Police have increased by 3.4%, but it remains less than the same period last year. Environmental ASB reports have decreased by 0.4%, personal by 0.7%, nuisance ASB has seen an increase of 6.8%. However figures are still lower than the same period last year.

On 11th August I had an extremely useful interesting meeting with Voice Northamptonshire to hear about the great work they do with Victims of Crime, Voice have kindly agreed to hold an awareness and training session for all Councillors on the work that they do and a date will be announced shortly for this and I will be encouraging all Councillors to attend.

The 'Nights out Northampton' campaign starts in earnest over the next few weeks. The first in a range of articles will be run in line with Fresher's Fortnight and will focus on providing advice, and raising awareness on how to ensure you have an enjoyable night out in Northampton. There will be a focus on our excellent Street Pastors and Street Marshals, with articles on personal safety, alcohol awareness and the correct method for booking and using private hire and hackney taxis to follow.

The multi-agency Weeks of Action continue with Lings/Weston Favell taking place last week. A range of events took place over the week resulting in excellent engagement from the community. The Weeks of Action programme continue to see great involvement and engagement from residents and a range of public and voluntary sector agencies. The next Week of Action will be taking place next month in Semilong/Regents Square, with a varied timetable of events taking place.

Consultation on the final draft of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is coming to an end, finishing on 23/09/2016. Subject to the consultation results, it is anticipated that the PSPO will be in place by November 2016 at the latest.

The 8th October 2016 sees the start of Hate Crime Awareness week. NBC in partnership with Northamptonshire Race Equality Council, Northants Police and Voluntary Impact Northants will be delivering or supporting a range of awareness raising events.

Following on from the success of the summer Killing with Kindness event held on Market Square a further event will be taking place on Wellingborough Road on 22 September 2016. This will see the Police, members of NBC Community Safety and Homelessness teams and the voluntary

sector raising awareness around begging issues, highlighting the help and support that is available to this vulnerable group of people.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Environmental Health

Northampton Borough Council has formally become a primary authority partner with Travis Perkins and its 21 companies (including; Travis Perkins, Wickes, Tile Giant, PTS, Tool station etc.). The partnership was applied for through BRDO and was finally nominated by the secretary of state late July and now service arrangements are being agreed and established. This means that NBC Environmental Health will be acting as a direct partner and advising, ratifying policy and working alongside TP corporate health and safety professional within each of TPs four divisions to help deliver their new 5 year health and safety plans.

NBC have been working informally with TP in a lead authority partnership scheme role for over 8 years, but now this new legally binding partnership allows NBC to claim a fee, as this service is fully rechargeable.

This is a hugely beneficial for NBC as it demonstrates our Regulatory Services are offering a business working relationship with one of Northampton's key businesses. Environmental Health are also influencing TPs health and safety culture and helping create a safer more compliant business and offering a single point of contact between all other branches in the UK and their respective enforcing authorities, so making liaison more consistent, streamlined and ensure business advise has continuity.

A total of 906 Fixed Penalty Notices have been served for littering between mid-April and the end of August.

New play equipment has been installed in Southfiels Park. Additionally, two items of equipment suitable for disabled children have been installed at Hunsbury Meadows Park.

Environmental Services

Work is continuing on the re-provision of environmental services after the current contract ends. There has been an extensive amount of engagement with the community, through a number of workshops. This work is also being supplemented by a survey being carried out by IPSOS Mori.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

- The Cobblers Last in Abington Street has had a facelift, as it was looking a little rundown after years of use.
- A new footpath has been installed at St Crispin Park to give safe access to users that live on the Berrywood Road side of the park.
- The footpath at the Recreation Ground in Hardingstone has been renewed.
- New play equipment has been installed at Southfields.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment