



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 24th April 2017

Environmental Services Re-Provision

The environmental services re-provision process continues apace. The OJEU notice and associated documentation have now been published. This marks the formal commencement of the procurement process, in readiness for contract award in the autumn.

The public consultation on the re-provision of environmental services has now closed. I am delighted to say that nearly 8,000 responses were received. This is the biggest response the council has ever had to a consultation exercise.

Work is now underway to analyse all the consultation that has been undertaken and to draw conclusions from it that will inform the design of the new service.

The working group established by Overview and Scrutiny Committee is underway. Their role will be to ensure the procurement process is robust. They will also ensure that key messages from the consultation are used to help shape bids from potential service providers.

Environmental Services (Current Contract)

Towcester Road Cemetery - During December 2016 and January 2017, a new road surface was laid around the Chapel and approaching roads. The old surface had become severely worn revealing deep potholes and other tripping hazards.

Delapre Abbey Park – A new road surface was also laid over the top of the old one that leads from the entrance of Delapre Abbey Park down to the Model Engineers Club. The Club had been waiting a number of years for the worn out road to be replaced.

Gold Street / Marefair – The broken and bent stainless steel litterbins that have been an eye sore for some time have been replaced with the uniformed Black & Gold Victorian Style type litterbins. They have the cigarette stub and ash tray on the top of the bin to encourage smokers to use the bins and not to throw the cigarette butts on the pavement, which make the streets look untidy.

The Abington Park Aviaries have had their bases refurbished and new drainage installed to enable them to be cleaned more efficiently.

Abington Park Boating Pond – The Pond is currently being dredged to clear years of dead leaves and silt from the bottom. This debris has hindered the enjoyment of the Pond, which is hired by the Model Yacht Club, Water Walking Balls and Paddle Boats.

Tree Maintenance

The enhanced maintenance program was delayed due to the damage to trees caused by storm Dora. The teams were moved onto emergency work to clear fallen and

dangerous trees, but then resumed the work to complete the enhanced maintenance program.

Grass Cutting

The grass cutting season has now started with the first cut having been completed.

Enforcement Service

The procurement process for a service to provide targeted enforcement to address littering and other environmental crime is progressing. A report will be presented to Cabinet in the near future providing more information about the planned service.

Air Quality

Scrutiny panel 4 are due to report on their review of the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Northampton Low Emissions Strategy.

Food and Safety

Enforcement action has been taken in relation to a number of food businesses where inspections have revealed issues with cleaning and unfit food.

Park Management Committees

There are lots of projects being developed through the PMCs. Some of which include:

- Abington, Becketts and Eastfield Friends groups have community Litter Picks planned to support the Keep Britain Tidy weekend of 4th and 5th March.
- Through Becketts PMC we are working closely with the University and other partners to create a well-being park, including an application that has been submitted by the Chair of Buddies of Becketts for a projects park officer to Northampton's Community Foundation Well-Being funding pot.
- The parks are working collectively to arrange activities across the parks, on different days during love my parks week in July. As part of the week they will be holding a showcase event on the Market Square, which will be an opportunity for the public to see what our parks can offer.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment