



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

5th November 2018

Environmental Services

At time of writing, we are in week 20 of the contract and the contract is now running 'business as usual'.

Collection day changes are now into their third cycle and both residents and collection staff are settling into the new rounds. In some areas, there are small adjustments being made for operational reasons & residents affected are being communicated with on a case by case basis.

Street cleansing continues with the scheduled operations working their way around the Borough and the transformation teams continuing to work in focused areas – to date the Transformation crew have removed some 80 tonnes of rubbish and detritus.

Grounds staff are slowly withdrawing from the seasonal grass cutting and moving into resourcing the winter shrub maintenance programme, a copy of which has been shared with relevant stakeholders such as Parish Councils.

Tree and woodland service continue to deal with service requests and any priority work plus developing a schedule to inspect and undertake any relevant work in the enhanced (zone 3) tree programme.

Sports pitch bookings continue with some liaison with local teams to fine tune the services to their requirements.

Allotments, cemeteries and public conveniences services continue with little or no disruption or comment.

Parks

The new subcontractor, idverde, in charge of the grounds maintenance in our parks and open spaces have caught up with the grass cutting after taking over from Amey in June. The parks are now looking fabulous, even with the fall of the autumn leaves.

The NBC Parks Section have carried out a number of play equipment repairs that fall outside of the Environmental Services Contract, which also include the renewal of some safety surfaces. They are currently working on a new play area for Ecton Brook open space that also includes an extension to an existing ball court.

The Park Rangers are working with a number of voluntary community groups in our parks, who are working on specific projects that are making a big difference to the aesthetics of the parks for us all to enjoy.

Neighbourhood Wardens

The Neighbourhood Wardens are extremely busy tackling the antisocial behaviour of fly-tipping, littering from vehicles and waste out early. Since April 2018, they have issued 122 fixed penalty notices ranging from individual fines of £80 to £400. They have arranged for a number of unsafe vehicles to be removed off our streets and have also helped with a number of community group litter picks.

Environmental Health

The total number of fixed penalty notices issued from the start of the Environmental Enforcement Service up to 22 October is 6486. A breakdown by age demographic, where an age is given shows that the overwhelming majority of people fined are between the ages of 20 and 50 with less than 10% of people fined either under 19 years of age or over 60 years of age.

20 to 29 Years Old – 32%

30 to 39 Years Old – 24%

40 to 49 Years Old – 16%

The Environmental Protection Team have recently carried out two prosecutions for noise offences.

Community Campaigns

Britain in Bloom Following on from our success achieving a Gold Award at East Midlands in Bloom, I was delighted that we placed 3rd overall in our category in Britain in Bloom. Given this was our first appearance in the national competition for some years and the many towns that enter Bloom across the country each year, it was a tremendous result to place 3rd overall

Our awards night for local entrants in the Northampton in Bloom competition was held on 4th October in the Great Hall recognising the efforts of our record number of entrants this year. The Champion of Champions for 2018 was a fantastic entry from “Bellinge Gets Better”

Walk this Way, 8 week project ran in partnership with Dogs Trust and Keep Britain Tidy, at Bradlaugh Fields, a 35% reduction in dog fouling instances recorded across the park route.

Poop-a-Scoop Campaign I will be running a Poop-a-scoop campaign on 13th November at 1.30pm alongside Cllr. Ashraf and some local school children in Abington Street.

Councillor Mike Hallam

Cabinet Member for Environment