

Council
Thursday 27th September 2007

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Consider the future of the planet in everything we do

Carbon Management Programme

The work programme is progressing well with both the energy audits and the draft baseline completed. Business cases are currently being prepared on an 'invest to save' basis for consideration as part of the Capital Programme for 2008/2009.

I am pleased to announce that we have recently awarded a prize to our fifth eco-champion, Elizabeth Ravine, for her dedication to recycling, waste reduction, saving energy and use of Fairtrade products.

Waste & recycling

Recycling continues to perform well, currently at 44% which is exceptional. We will have introduced recycling nodes to hard to reach areas within Spring Boroughs. This will permit residents living within the flats to recycle their plastic, cans, glass and paper in convenient containers located within close proximity to the residents. An additional node is to be installed on the Market Square on Tuesday 18 September 2007.

Northamptonshire Waste Partnership

As part of the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership we have recently undergone a review of our refuse and recycling rounds to ensure both efficiency in the routes followed and that key areas such as schools and main gateways are avoided during peak hours. The results are currently being collated and assessed with a view to implementation in December of this year.

A report will be submitted to Cabinet in October of this year to recommend that the joint Northamptonshire Waste Strategy, developed in accordance with the national guidelines, be accepted in principle to go out to consultation.

There will also be a report to Cabinet in October to approve the sale of the Trade Waste Service following the approval to proceed with this sale from earlier this year. This service has generated significant interest from the private sector due to Northampton's location and future potential.

Improve our town centre

Street Scene

Preparations have commenced for the next anti litter campaign, which builds on the very successful earlier campaign in April. The forthcoming campaign is scheduled to commence within the next few weeks and will raise the profile of the Street Cleansing section whilst focusing on the more important aspect of educating residents about littering.

We have also had a number of the town centre litterbins refurbished and included ashtrays on the top of the bins, this will continue until 30 bins have been through the process.

Safe clean neighbourhoods for people to live in

Introduction of Smoke Free Legislation

Implementation of the Smoke Free legislation continues with high levels of compliance and co-operation through the town. In areas of lower compliance, we will be taking action to improve.

Neighbourhood Wardens

Neighbourhood wardens and the police from the Town Centre Safer Communities team will be holding surgeries to speak to people about problems within the town. Following is a list of dates and locations.



NORTHAMPTON TOWN CENTRE SAFER COMMUNITY TEAM SURGERY DATES SEPTEMBER 2007



Safer Community Team Office, Northampton Bus Station

Telephone: 08453 700 700

E-mail: SCTNorthamptonCentre@northants.police.uk



Monday	3 September	11:00 – 13:00	(Central Library)
Tuesday	4 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Wednesday	5 September	11:00 – 13:00	
Thursday	6 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Friday	7 September	11:00 – 13:00	(Central Library)
Monday	10 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Tuesday	11 September	11:00 – 13:00	(Central Library)
Wednesday	12 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Friday	14 September	16:00 – 18:00	(Morrisons)
Monday	17 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Wednesday	19 September	16:00 – 18:00	
Thursday	20 September	11:00 – 13:00	(Central Library)
Friday	21 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Monday	24 September	11:00 – 13:00	
Tuesday	25 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Wednesday	26 September	11:00 – 13:00	(Central Library)
Thursday	27 September	10:00 – 15:00	(Mobile Abington Street)
Friday	28 September	11:00 – 13:00	(Morrisons)

Come along and meet your Safer Community Team and let us know what concerns you most in the Town Centre. The surgeries will be held in Northampton Bus Station at the Safer Community Team Office, located at the bottom of the escalators, unless stated otherwise.

Northampton Borough Council's Town Centre Neighbourhood Warden and Police and Police Community Support Officers will staff the surgeries. We look forward to meeting you!

Allotments

At Cabinet on 3rd September, the Allotment Strategy was approved. The Strategy was the culmination of a significant amount of work undertaken by councillors, officers of the council and the Northampton Allotment Network and represents an excellent

example of partnership working. Whilst the Strategy is a fluid document it will provide the basis for development of Northampton Borough Council's allotments over the next few years.

Travellers

Following the decision at Cabinet in July 2007, tenders have been invited for the long term management of the Ecton Lane site. A decision is due in November. We are continuing to pursue the resolution of a number of issues regarding the site, To this end, leaflets and letters explaining the changes to management of the site have been delivered to residents, and officers have been available on site to speak to residents. Refurbishment works have now been completed. Residents have also been supplied with contact details for Borough Council officers for further information and advice.

Property Maintenance

We have now received a draft copy of the Asset Management Strategy, which is currently being reviewed prior to the final development. This strategy will assist in informing councillors and officers of the priority areas for investment to ensure the council's housing stock is maintained at the highest level.

Improvements to void properties are ongoing. I have agreed for a number of local performance indicators to be reported on a monthly basis to assist in monitoring of the improvement of the Property Maintenance element of Housing Services.

Trini Crake
20th September 2007