



Council
Thursday, 30th January, 2025 at 5.00 pm
in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market
Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

Reports marked to follow on the Agenda and/or Supplementary Documents

1. **CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS** (Pages 2 - 7)

Councillor Squire's report to council.

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CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

30 JANUARY 2025

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL

For the period 28 November 2024 to 30th January 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Is it too late to wish everyone a very happy new year?

I had a little bit of a break over Christmas for which I'm thankful for as this year looks to be a busy one.

WECMS Update:

In December we held another Wash East Coast Management Strategy Stakeholders Forum in Hunstanton. Updates were shared on coastal issues, cliff surveys and the EA came along to give updates on Unit C and the process for the WECMS review. Attendance was somewhat disappointing. I would encourage any councillor or other stakeholder to attend these meetings where possible so that all views can be taken into account when updating the management plan. While there will be other opportunities for engagement going forward, it is important that we have input, especially from those councillors with coastal wards.

Flood & Water Management:

Works to remove some redundant sections of fencing from the Hunstanton Cliffs were completed at the end of last year.

Remedial works to navigation markers and works to remove some concrete groynes which were damaged during Storm Darragh are due to commence on the 27th January and will take 5-days to complete.

Our officers continue to engage with multi-agency groups relating to inland flooding.

Water Quality:

At the end of November last year, the bathing water classifications for 2024 were published.

Nationally, the picture is somewhat disappointing.

In 2021 94.7% of bathing waters tested were rated Excellent or Good, in 2022 that had dropped to 92.9%, in 2023 that dropped again to 89.8%. It is now 85.3%

2021 saw only 4 sites classified as having poor bathing water quality, in 2022 that rose to 12, 2023 saw it rise again to 18. In 2024 the number is 37.

This is not a trend I would like to see continue. There is a lot happening in this space and I'm confident improvements can be made and will be made. I continue to work with the LGA, other councils and agencies to highlight issues.

Our local classifications remain unchanged from the previous year:

Heacham: Poor
Hunstanton Main: Sufficient
Old Hunstanton: Sufficient

We do have to remember that the results for each year are combined with the results for the previous three years to produce the classification for the following year. So even if a bathing site shows good results for one year, if the previous three years weren't good, the classification will reflect this.

For example: taken individually, the recent results for Heacham are showing an improvement, however this will not be reflected in the classification at this time. We continue to work with our colleagues at Anglian Water and the EA to investigate potential causes of poor water quality, however it is a complex picture and there is no one single cause.

I would remind everyone that we all have a part to play in keeping our beaches clean. Please pick up after your dog and take your rubbish home with you.

Waste & Recycling:

Once again our waste crews managed their busiest time of the year over Christmas and New Year, I thank them for all of their efforts. Collections are now back to their usual schedules but there is always an opportunity to remind people to get in the recycling habit.

Food waste can be recycled in the food caddy, which is collected each week and we continue to collect and recycle batteries and small electricals. Recycling rates are slowly increasing across Norfolk, but we can all play our part by recycling everything that we can. As always - Look at the Label!

Kings Lynn Serco Team:

Three of our local Serco team attended a Serco awards evening in Windsor in December where they were nominated for an impact award. They won not just a Care award, but also a Global Award for their work with a young west Norfolk boy.

Last year Sandy & Wayne, the drivers on Tango 2 came across the then 6 year old Theo at St Michaels School, South Lynn. Theo has been blind since birth and his teaching assistant would bring him out as he loved lorries.

Sandy & Wayne explained the sounds of the lorry and he would love coming out and meeting them on collection day, he wasn't happy if he missed them. On one of the collections they dropped off a hat for him and passed Katie's number on so a visit to the depot could be arranged if his parents agreed.

Theo's mum contacted Katie and a visit was arranged. The Serco team had a hi viz embroidered for him, had a hard hat with his name on and also arranged a birthday card and a playmobile lorry for his 7th birthday.

During the visit he emptied bins, helped tip the lorry and had a ride around the yard and didn't want to leave. He loves listening to the vehicle turning and the reversing sound.

When the crew go to the school if he doesn't come out, the crew will speak to the ladies in the Kitchen and see if he's allowed to see them. If Theo is in the playground he will shout over to them and explains to his friends what the lorry is doing.

Theo has also now been to visit Truck East where our dust carts are maintained.

It is an honour to be the portfolio holder for this team. Who don't just do a job, but have gone the extra mile to make a real difference. I wanted to share their story with you as I hope you all feel as proud and touched as I did when I heard about it.

The award is very well deserved and I hope you will join me in congratulating Katie, Sandy & Wayne on not just winning the awards, but also for going above and beyond and for being great ambassadors for our Kings Lynn team.

Thanks also to Katie for providing details and photos





2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Environmental Health:

An update newsletter is being produced for food businesses on food safety issues that we think need highlighting and giving practical good practice advice. This should be going out within the next few weeks. Following recent national media coverage, the newsletter also covers that it is a legal requirement for food premises to display their food hygiene rating stickers regardless of the score. More newsletters will be produced throughout the year covering topical issues and seasonal events.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

LGA Coastal SIG Quarterly meeting
Wash East Coast Management Strategy Stakeholder (WECMS) Meeting
Cabinet
Meeting with CEO
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet Briefings
Various Portfolio holder briefings
LGA Water Quality Catch ups
LG White Paper Update
Joint Waste Contract Review and Development Board
North West Norfolk CaBa Meeting
Wash & Norfolk Coast Forum
EA Water Workshop
Multi Agency Flood & Drought Summit