

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 January 2017

### **COUNCILLOR IAN DEVEREUX- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

For the period January 2017

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

**Refuse Collection & Recycling.** In the 3 months to the end of December a further 1,410 brown bin subscriptions were taken out taking the total to 24,284. The mild weather and additional bin sales meant that the amount of Garden Waste collected in Brown Bins was up 39% this December compared to last year at 400 Tonnes.

Food waste collections for the week following Christmas saw an increase in the amount collected of 55%. The additional 35 Tonnes being equal to 35,000 Christmas puddings in one week.

In the same time the number of queries over bins not being collected fell 58% to 32 or about 6 each day. **The work of the collection crews** in delivering the service when many people are not working over the holiday period **deserves our special thanks.**

Contamination in Green bins remains a problem. Levels of contamination in samples of material taken in the last 3 months are set out below

October – 11.2%

November – 19.8%

December – 21.9%

Average for Q3 – 17.7%

Average since April – 16%

Efforts must continue to reduce this.

Negative press comments do not appear to have had a negative impact on use of green bins – the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is full and contingency arrangements are in place to safely store some materials until the post new year surge in recycling reduces. This is at no cost to the council.

**Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy.** This strategy has been updated following the issue of the revised DEFRA guidance and the Central Government decision to remove the contaminated land grant. The strategy defines the approach for ensuring that costs lie with the land owner wherever possible. The report is scheduled for review by Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Sea Defence.** A report on the progress with Local Sea Defence Funding is

being finalised for consideration by Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> January. The Multi Agency Funding Group has raised over £206,000 towards the cost of the annual beach recycling works which will be carried out by the Environment Agency in February 2017. Additional funding is still needed to cover the more extensive beach recharging work required every 5 to 10 years depending on rates of erosion and local conditions.

Much of this success in is due to the East Wash Coastal Management **Community Interest Company** set up in 2015 which **is to be congratulated for their efforts in raising funds** from local businesses, caravan parks, land owners and beach bungalows.

Local Parish Councils were briefed on the work programme and funding arrangements in December

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

**Recycling.** Work to add recycling advice pages to the Council Website is being tested and planned for release in the next few weeks.

Further Meetings with Officers and Facility visits are being planned

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

From January 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Briefings from the Council Leader on Portfolio matters

Acquaint meetings with Officers responsible for portfolio elements