

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 September 2015

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

For the period 30 July to 14 September 2015

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Food Safety

The FSA's National Food Crime Unit has requested representations from the Food Safety Team for the Food Crime Annual Strategic Assessment. It is recognized that those working in food safety are the key players in the fight against food crime so their input is vital.

In addition to this in November 2015 Operation POSON V will take place over a four week period. Food Safety teams will be involved and the focus will be on fake and illicit food co-ordinated by Europol and Interpol

Housing

The total on the register prior to the change of policy on 1st October 2014 was 2,494 and at the end of August 2015 was 1,538 a drop of 956.

48 applicants were housed during August into Housing Association accommodation.

26 new applicants were not admitted to the register during August as they did not meet the local connection criteria. None were denied access because they were over the income bar.

128 applicants were accepted onto the register during August.

Long Term Empty Homes

As you can see from the table below we are still making ground over all with just the odd spike now and again, we have looked into this and there is no obvious reason why these spikes occur.

| | July | August |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Number of LTEH | 867 | 818 |
| LTEH as % of Stock | 1.208% | 1.14% |
| Previous Month | 859 | 867 |

Affordable Housing Threshold changes

Following a Judgement made by the High Court on 31st July 2015 regarding a judicial review between West Berkshire District Council and Redding Borough Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government paragraphs 12 to 23 of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) have been removed and therefore no longer apply. The Courts decision found that the National 10 unit threshold for affordable housing and vacant building credit introduced in the NPPG in November 2014 were unlawful and could therefore no longer be treated as a material consideration. This means that planning applications will now be considered against the original thresholds found in policy CS09 of the Councils adopted Core Strategy 2011

Private Rented Housing Forum

This will be held on Tuesday October 13th
At Your Business Network
18 Tuesday Market Place
Kings Lynn
Starting at 6.30pm

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

The new legislation on the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in private rental properties was rejected by the House of Lords, with just three weeks to go before it comes into force, a further debate has been requested. We are however distributing the free detectors from September 9th regardless of whether the Regulations do come in on the 1st October 2015. CIC have stocks at Kings Lynn, Downham Market and Hunstanton. Data captured by the details on the form will be used by us and by the Fire Service.

Gas Safety week 2015

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has pledged its support for Gas Safety Week (14-20 September 2015), and is keen to raise awareness of gas safety issues and to keep the public safe from dangerous gas appliances.

With 20 deaths and 1,000 gas-related injuries in the last three years, it's vital that people make sure their gas appliances are safety checked every year by a registered engineer. Anyone working on gas appliances while not being Gas Safe registered, is working illegally.

2 Meetings Attended

Cabinet Siftings
Cabinet Meetings
Discovery Centre
Portfolio Meetings
Joint Meeting of R&D, E&C Panel