

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

8 July 2021

COUNCILLOR PAUL KUNES - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period 8 April to 8 July 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Recycling, refuse collection and disposal

I have attended the first of what I am sure will be a number of briefings on these subjects. I intend (when Covid restrictions allow) to have a day out on a bin lorry, and a visit to both the recycling centre at Costessey and the anaerobic digester unit.

I am pleased to say the new Waste collection contract has got off to an excellent start. We had hoped to re-start food waste collections on the 21st June, but because of Covid restrictions, we are now aiming for the 19th July.

Climate Change Work Update – June

1. Our first draft climate change strategy and action plan has been completed and presented to the Informal Climate Change Members Working Group and the Environment and Community panel for consultation. Comments are now being reviewed by officers.
2. Through the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership, we have submitted a bid to the Community Renewal Fund for two feasibility studies.
 - Sustainable Hydrogen Infrastructure for Transport (SHIFT): This study aims to identify local authority fleet demand and suitability to hydrogen, whilst also investigating stranded assets in Norfolk suitable for green hydrogen. Ultimately this study will establish potential demand for hydrogen in fleets (especially HGV) and options for generation in Norfolk.
 - Community Energy Kickstarter: This study will identify suitable assets for local community generation and understand current barriers to this model in Norfolk, that could ultimately help kickstart local work in this area, to aid emissions reductions.
3. Work has commenced on the council's 2020/2021 carbon audit.

Re:fit Phase 2 work has commenced with the drilling of bore holes at the Council Depot on Hardwick Industrial Estate for the installation of a ground source heat pump. This scheme is funded through the public sector decarbonisation grant scheme to help the council reduce emissions across its estate. Decarbonisation measures include the installation of renewable heating systems, further solar photovoltaic panel installations, improvements to insulation and installation of timeclock controls. The Council has provisionally received a grant of £3.84 million, from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) fund, to be used on seven council owned buildings, subject to detailed design and obtaining any consents required.

This grant funded project aims to reduce carbon emissions from public sector buildings,

using technologies such as air and ground source heat pumps, solar PV and cavity wall and loft insulation.

We aim to complete the project by September.”

“This project will aid the council’s carbon emissions reduction journey, through reductions in gas usage.”

Cremations and Burials.

On Thursday 1st July Cllr Long and myself were pleased to accompany the Mayor at the Crematorium in presenting a cheque for £10,000 to the QEH Macmillan Nursing unit.

2 Community Safety & Neighbourhood Nuisance Team

Fly-tipping

Numbers of fly tips reported has remained largely similar to previous years and the team continue to focus resources on those cases where available evidence suggests a reasonable chance of conviction.

The #SCRAP campaign is being re-started after a break during Covid. The campaign is being run across Norfolk (as well as many other local authority areas across the Country. The broad aim of the campaign is to educate and inform members of the public and businesses about their responsibilities when disposing of waste, as well as publicising successful cases.

SCRAP stands for:

Suspect all waste carriers. Don't let them take your rubbish until they provide proof of registration. Note their vehicle's registration plate.

Check that a waste carrier is registered on the [Environment Agency's website](#).

Refuse any unexpected offers to have your rubbish taken away.

Ask how your rubbish will be disposed of - seek evidence of this.

Paperwork must be obtained: a proper invoice, waste transfer note or receipt, including a description of the waste being removed and the waste carrier's contact details.

One case due in court on the 30th June

We continue to work with partners in the police and environment agency on fly tipping work and have issued two fixed penalties off the back of police reports.

We have seen a recent trend in fly tipping of tyres and cannabis products (not together). These are reported to the EA and Police respectively.

Dog Control

The Environmental Crime Officer is patrolling hot spot areas and also Hunstanton prom. Lots of high profile engagement with members of the public.

The Public Space Protection Order for dog control expires at the end of the year and will be subject to consultation prior to renewal.

Surface Water flooding

The responsibility for investigating these incidents does not sit within the CSNN team, however we continue to support colleagues across the council and at Norfolk County Council and Anglian Water where surface water flooding has led to sewer discharges.

Nuisance Complaints

We continue to receive a high number of calls regarding noise and other nuisances. These are triaged and investigated in line with our statutory duty. Covid restrictions have meant that investigation of such cases has become more difficult leading to longer times to determine cases than we would like. The team is also carrying a vacancy and at time of full council will be shortlisting candidates for the post.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet

Portfolio briefing: -Climate Change, Recycling and Refuse collection and Licensing

Cabinet Briefing

Conservancy Board.

IDB

LGA Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG)

Friends of the Earth

Klimate Concern

Climate Psychology Alliance and stop Ecocide.

QEH Board of Governors

Habitat Monitoring and Mitigation Fund

Most of the above meetings held on line.