

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**14 July 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG - CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

For the period April to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

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

##### **Crematorium.**

At the time of writing this report I can confirm that the next charity award from the ICCM scheme for metals recycling is to be £12000.00 the announcement as to the recipient will be made shortly. But as is usual this amount will be for a charity that works locally associated with health or bereavement.

Numbers of cremations and burials remain relatively constant, similar to pre-pandemic levels.

##### **Car Parking**

The last years full figures for parking across West Norfolk were presented to the Corporate Performance Panel at their June meeting. I think it is important to note that income (excluding season tickets) was £3.9m in 21/22 compared to £2.2m 20/21 and £3.785m 19/20. Exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Numbers of tickets purchased in King's Lynn for short term stays was slightly down on pre-pandemic levels, however at nearly 1 million tickets sold nearly double the amounts paid to park than during 20/21.

I am monitoring closely this years figures and would have reported year to date figures within this report, however stats to June were not finalised at the time of writing.

##### **CIC**

Kings Court reception area is now back to normal usage with levels of direct visitors starting to increase. The computers in reception are now available to all visitors (having previously been assigned for Ukrainian Refugees) This service is now available to them within the reception centre.

Call volumes to CIC have been higher of late with calls around Energy Rebate adding 48% to calls around Council Tax in May and 56% In June and changes to bin collections also adding to numbers. The table below shows numbers of calls and average answer times.

During the reporting period SERCO our waste and recycling collection partner had problems with their phone systems (losing all service for around 24 hours). The CIC covers the overspill calls when this happens although numbers were not high enough to cause significant increases in wait times.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>	<b>Average Answer Time</b>
April	8755	01:34
May	9955	02:17
June	10066	03:24
<b>Total</b>	<b>28776</b>	<b>02:27</b>

#### King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board

Whilst not part of my portfolio duties I remain Chair of King's Lynn internal drainage board. They have recently taken possession and are now occupying their new offices just off the Nar Ouse Way, on a site sold to them by the Borough Council. The KLIDB is part of a wider Group the Water Management Alliance that has expanded its operations and now provides services to Drainage Boards from the South Coast, to East of Norfolk and Suffolk and now over to the Bedford Group of IDBs. As this organisation has grown, new modern and carbon efficient offices have been required as they move towards Net Zero.

The King's Lynn IDB's new pumping station is now fully complete (save for small snags) and is fully operational at St. Germans. This has replaced a smaller station at Islington and takes water from a wide catchment right out towards Wisbech. Giving increased capacity to allow for climate change events and now provides Eel friendly passage.

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

#### In Bloom

The annual In Bloom awards have not taken place during that last 2 years due to the pandemic, however this year In Bloom is back and judging day will be 21<sup>st</sup> July. Bodies involved include Gaywood Valley Conservation Group, Kings Lynn Civic Society and the Soroptomists, among others.

Some of the judging will be carried out virtually including the Allotments, where allotment holders have been asked to submit Pictures / Videos.

I have to thank all the volunteers, our Grounds and open spaces staff team and Cllr Nockolds, who has helped so much over the years to promote In Bloom.

#### Alive West Norfolk

In April, Alive launched its new business plan for 2022, as Chair of Alive myself and the Board signed this off, it aligns with the Council's objectives of making West Norfolk more healthy and active and includes partnership working with the NHS for GP referrals, Anglia Ruskin University and Active Norfolk, among others helping our efforts to get the best outcomes. Examples of this include Man V Fat football that has seen over 120 participants lose over 1000 kg in weight and the Summer of Play events happening again in

collaboration with the Council.

The 9th July sees the Queens Commonwealth Games Baton Relay at Lynnsport which includes a family fun day, to mark this occasion of the Baton coming to Lynn.

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

In addition to the usual round of Cabinet and Portfolio meetings I have also attended the following.

ICT Development Group

Water Management Alliance / KLIDB Meetings

Planning Committee (as Sub)

Alive West Norfolk Board Meeting

St Germans School to Deliver Platinum Jubilee Coins

Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance Meeting

East Of Ouse, Nar & Polver IDB

Stoke Ferry IDB

West Norfolk Housing Company Board meeting

Corporate Performance Panel

To Be Attended at the time of writing:

Alive West Norfolk Board

Coastal discussion with Coastal forum

West Norfolk Property Ltd Board Meeting

Norfolk Parking Partnership

Cheque Presentation ref ICCM Charity

Norfolk Coastal Members Board

Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance