

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

1 December 2022

COUNCILLOR PAUL KUNES - CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

For the period 13 October to 1 December 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Re:fit Work

Work on the re-fit program continues. Commercial solar power options are considered and will be presented along with the Refit HLA work.

Further meetings have taken place with the Energy Saving Trust, who are conducting a review of the Council Vehicle fleet, with a view to moving over to Electrically powered vehicles where possible. This will take place over several years as older vehicles become due for renewal.

EV Charging

Last week new electric car charging points became available for residents to use in King's Lynn, Hunstanton and Burnham Market, 26 new electric vehicle charging points in seven locations across west Norfolk have opened, ensuring that people with limited access to off-street parking can still choose an electric vehicle.

The chargers are fast 7kW chargers which are designed for overnight charging or for extended use. The electricity will be paid for by the user via an app. The charging points are situated in the following borough council-owned car parks:

- Chapel Street, King's Lynn.
- Fairstead Centre Point, King's Lynn.
- Gaywood Library, King's Lynn.
- Lynnsport North, King's Lynn.
- Valentine Road, Hunstanton.
- North Street, Burnham Market.

As well as the completed charging points, work is ongoing for a substation for the EV chargers planned for Austin Street East car park in King's Lynn.

Once completed, the charging points will enable 52 cars to be charged.

The borough council secured a grant of £195,000 from the government's Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) and a further contribution of nearly £90,000 from BP Pulse, as well as its own contribution of £73,500. The council has also spent a further £87,000 to install a substation at Austin Street to support the electricity supply and BP Pulse will cover the maintenance costs for 7 years.

The charging points are all being installed in car parks owned by the council. Free parking will be provided between 6pm and 8am when a vehicle is plugged in and charging, to ensure accessibility to residents that need to charge overnight. Normal parking charges apply between 8am and 6pm.

Solar Together

In terms of next steps, we have now entered the acceptance phase. All registrants have been sent their personal recommendation, and they will have until 25th November to decide if they wish to accept their offer. I am pleased to report that as of 1st November 250 have accepted the offer for PV panels. I am delighted to say that across the county, King's Lynn & West Norfolk recorded by far the largest number of registrations for the scheme.

Additional

-Work has started on drawing together the data for the next BCKLWN Carbon Audit. This will be completed by early Autumn.

Our beat your bills roadshows held in Downham Market, Hunstanton and King's Lynn had over 100 members of the public visit for advice about improving energy efficiency in their homes, reducing their winter bills and their carbon footprint.

Community Safety and Neighbourhood Nuisance Team

Fly-tipping

As I reported last Month a major illegal tipping and burning operation has at last been closed down. **However I have had reports of small fires at one of these sites which I immediately reported to the E.A.**

EA Officers are continuing to monitor and investigate these sites.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet

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

Flood and Coastal erosion matters.

Cabinet Briefings

Budget briefings

CPP

E&C

LGA Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG)

Friends of the Earth, Klimate Concern

Kings Lynn Conservancy Board.

Most of the above meetings held on line, although there is a gradual return to face to face meetings were it is felt necessary.