

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

31 January 2024

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL

For the period 23 November 2023 to January 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Waste & Recycling:

I am delighted to say that we have successfully completed another year of Christmas catch up collections. Whilst many of us enjoy additional time at home over the Christmas and New Year period the teams who collect our waste and recycling do not and also work Saturdays to catch up. I sent my regards to the team at the Serco west Norfolk depot just before Christmas and I would like to put on record my thanks to them.

Also I would like to thank our residents for using the information we give on radio, print and social media to manage their waste well. Over the Christmas period our Facebook posts were seen over 1/3 million times and by 20,000 readers of the local paper.

In three weeks ¼ million bins were emptied. The work of the teams in waste and communications should be acknowledged by the council. By working together, we keep the Christmas waste collections running smoothly.

In the follow up to Christmas the Waste and Recycling Manager spoke to BBC Radio Norfolk on behalf of both his and the Public Open Space teams to talk about Christmas tree disposal, promoting both the councils own shredding service, brown bins but also responsible waste disposal.

The Waste and Recycling Manager is now leading the Norfolk Waste Partnership on the issues around fly tipping and I expect to be able to report on progress around this subject in the coming months.

Flooding:

The flood and water management team have been engaging in a lot of multi-agency work with regard to inland flooding following Storm Henk. This has been in-particular regard to the Grimston / Roydon area and also with work around the North & South Creake and Burnham Market.

It is worth noting that while we are actively engaging in the works for both those locations we are not the lead agency in the works ongoing (instead this is Lead Local Flood Authority and Anglian Water), nor do we have any ownership of assets in those areas (e.g. we are not responsible for any of the ditches / drains). My thanks go to the team for all their work trying to help our residents.

Accompanying this report is Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance Booklet regarding watercourses and some flood prevention tips, and the EA Flood Information postcard. Please share with your residents as they contain useful information and contact numbers in case they are needed.

Further information on Living next to a watercourse is available here: [Living next to a watercourse in Norfolk - riparian owners - Norfolk County Council](#)

Information on how to report a flood can be found here: [Report a flood - Norfolk County Council](#)

The flooding hotline number to report a flood anywhere in Norfolk is **0344 800 8013**. If there is an immediate danger to life, call 999.

Further information on flooding and how to sign up for flood alerts is available on the Borough council website: [Flood protection and flood warning | Flood protection and flood warning | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk \(west-norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)

Water Quality & Shellfish Testing:

The Heacham & Hunstanton Cockles (Stubborn Sand) cockle bed which has had a Temporary Downgrade of its classification since poor results in the summer, has now had two consecutive results at levels which allow the temporary downgrade of a category C to be removed, with the bed to go back to the Time Limited classification which is currently a B.

This classification will allow the harvesting of cockles for purification and heat treatment until August when the Time Limited prohibition will commence.

I visited the Eastern IFCA offices before Christmas to learn more about our cockle beds and the issues they're facing including water quality and will be going out on one of their testing trips next month to learn more.

The new bathing water classifications were published in December. The classifications are based on data from 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. While there has been a drop in standards nationally, our classifications remained the same. I continue to work with the LGA Coastal SIG and other councils to look at results and how improvements can be made.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Communications and providing encouragement for the public to do the right thing with their waste is a theme that will be taken forward over the next few months. The corporate plan demonstrates our commitment to protect the environment including increasing use of food caddies and the quality and quantity of items collected for recycling in the green bin.

We will be running a programme of events to encourage the use of food caddies to recycle food waste as it will reduce the amount of residual waste and is far better for the environment for food waste to go to the anaerobic digester. If any councillor needs a replacement food caddy, please let us know and we'll make sure you have a new one so we can all lead by example.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Joint Waste Contract Review Board
Joint Marine/Coast Partnerships Core Management Group
Cabinet (Dec)
LGA Coastal SIG
Eastern IFCA visit
Various Cabinet Briefings
Various Portfolio Briefings
Visit to the Depot
Visit to Hunstanton RNLI Station
LGA Coastal SIG water quality meetings
Environment & Community Panel
Meeting with Friends of Horsey Seals & James Wild MP
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet (Jan)
Visit to RSPCA East Winch
North West Norfolk CaBa
Wash & North Coast Forum