

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 February 2024

**COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL**

For the period Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 to Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024

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

#### **Flooding & Coastal Matters:**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February I attended the public meeting organised by the Parish Council in Burnham Market regarding flooding issues. Along with two of our Borough officers, Councillor Sam Sandall as the ward councillor, Cllr Andrew Jamieson as the County Councillor, James Wild MP and representatives from the EA, Anglian Water, NCC Highways, NCC as Lead Local Flood Agency and the IDB.

It was good to hear from residents directly of their experiences with several options for measures discussed for tackling the issues both in the short, medium and long term. Multi-agency meetings will continue, which officers will continue to engage in.

It is worth noting that while we are actively engaging in these works, we are not the lead agency (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). We will consider assisting with welfare issues on a case by case basis.

Tenders for the geotechnical investigations to the Hunstanton Coastal Defences have now closed and submissions are currently being reviewed.

#### **Licensing:**

The Licensing and legal team have been preparing for two upcoming prosecutions:

- Unlicensed dog breeder, summons has been served and is due at Norwich Magistrates Court in May 2024
- Unlicensed private vehicle hire, operator and driver – summons yet to be served

No further information will be made available until after the cases have been to court.

In December, Licensing worked with the Graphics and Communications teams to create some information to raise public awareness of licensed vehicles and how important it is to confirm that your vehicle and driver are licensed. Cases of abuse against taxi drivers are rising so posters regarding respecting taxi drivers were reissued. (Copies attached) The message was sent out on social media and posters were positioned within licensed premises and takeaways within the Borough.

We are looking at the costs and implications of supplying body camera's to all 3 of our licensing enforcement officers to obtain better evidence during search warrants, inspections and whilst investigating complaints for all licensing disciplines. The Police, CSNN and BC's fly tipping team already use them and central control is in the CCTV room.

**Fly Tipping & Recycling:**

Two fines for fly tipping were recently issued:

One fine of £200 was issued to a resident on the Fairstead Estate for dumping furniture and packaging. Another resident in Dodmans Close was charged £250 for the removal of an illegally dumped chair.

Both investigations involved working with our partners at Broadland Housing & Freebridge Housing. My thanks go to our investigation team who deal with complaints, interviews and investigations. Fly tipping is un-necessary and will not be tolerated.

The recycling statistics for the year to March 2023 have been published. 41.3% of household waste in the Borough was sent for reuse, recycling or composting. While this is a modest increase, generally recycling rates have been falling.

**2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Our current recycling rates do not currently match with our ambitions, as such we are committed to increasing recycling rates across the borough, starting with Food Waste Action Week at the end of March, which focuses on increasing the amount of food waste captured to go for Anaerobic digestion.

We will be producing an information video which will be going out on social media. The team will visit some local schools and a farmers market to promote food waste action week. Caddies and liners will be available at events and at council for councillors. Keep an eye out for events and information in March.

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

Various portfolio briefings  
Visit to RSPCA East Winch Wildlife Centre  
Burnham Market Public Meeting on Flooding Issues  
Cabinet  
Cabinet Sifting  
Cabinet Briefing  
Food waste promo video  
LGA Coastal SIG water quality briefing

Upcoming meetings in March:  
NEWS Board Meeting  
Norfolk Waste Partnership  
East of England Local Authority Water Summit  
Joint Waste Contract Review & Development Board  
Norfolk Coast Partnership CMG & Strategy Group meetings  
Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance