

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 March 2024

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL

For the period 23rd Feb 2024 to 21st March 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

As you may have already seen in the press and on the council's social media:

A West Norfolk resident recently thought that paying an absolute stranger who knocked on his door and offered to take his old fridge and some other waste away was getting an absolute bargain. He did not bargain for the fact that his waste would be fly tipped and the council's Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer would track him down.

His bargain deal has cost him an extra £150 Fixed Penalty Notice for not complying with law to make sure his waste was lawfully disposed of.

If you do not dispose of your waste responsibly, our officers will be knocking on your door. Fly tipping will not be tolerated and enforcement is ongoing.

Officers are attending regular multi agency meetings to discuss ongoing flooding issues in the Borough. We are engaging with Anglian Water to discuss welfare facilities for residents affected if issues are ongoing. February saw unprecedented rainfall levels across the country with 248% of the 1991-2020 Feb average, our area experienced around 236% of the average rainfall.

My thanks go all of our staff involved involved in flooding response, enforcement and waste. It is an honour to be your portfolio holder and to witness your passion for our Borough and your drive to make our campaigns work.

Special mention this week goes to the clean up teams trying to keep sand off the prom during the high tides, a near impossible task at times.

You may also have seen the launch of the Coastal Water Quality Report from the LGA Coastal SIG. Highlighting how many councils around the country still have concerns about coastal water quality and the effects can have on public health, coastal habitats and the tourism industry.

The report can be downloaded here: <https://lgacoastalsig.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Coastal-Water-Quality-Working-Group-Survey->

[Report FINAL.pdf](#)

In response to this we are hoping to organise a conference on coastal water quality here in King's Lynn, for councils to discuss the issues, next moves and initiatives. News and further details will be released when they are finalised.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Food Waste Action Week runs from 18-24th March this year, coinciding with Full council. Prior to full council, the team will be at the Town Hall distributing food waste caddies and liners to councillors who need replacements.

As a part of our plans to increase recycling rates across the Borough, we will be promoting food waste recycling at several events and schools across the Borough. Including in Kings Lynn on 12th March, Downham Market on 15th March and Docking on 20th March.

New caddies and liners will be available to anyone needing them at all events. For anyone unable to attend the events, new food caddies can be ordered **for free** [here](#).

Using your kitchen caddy and putting your large grey food waste caddy out for collection with your waste or recycling collection each week reduces CO2, can create electricity to power our homes and creates nutrient rich biofertilizer used by farmers to grow crops.

Even if you think you don't have enough food waste, remember you can put in vegetable peelings, tea bags and egg shells for example. I would urge everyone, especially councillors who can lead by example, to get involved by using your food waste caddy, stopping food waste going in the refuse bin, reducing carbon emissions and to help increase our recycling rates.

You can see our food waste video here: <https://youtu.be/yKiVSMs36zA>.

Leaflet is attached.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Various portfolio briefings
Environment & Community Panel
Meetings regarding flooding in the Borough
Norfolk Coast Forum
Cabinet
East of England Water Summit
LGA Coastal SIG Water Quality Briefing

Cabinet briefing
Norfolk Coast Partnership Strategy Group meeting
LGA Coastal SIG Water Quality Working Group
Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance
LGA Coastal SIG Quarterly meeting