CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 August 2024

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL

For the period 27 June 2024 to 29 August 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Flying Rings:

Visitors to Hunstanton may have noticed an addition to the new car park signs that were installed recently:



A reminder that this council banned the use of flying rings on the beach in 2022 due to the risks to seals if they get their heads stuck in the them. I'm sure we have all seen pictures of the horrific injuries the rings can inflict on seals, so I don't need to reproduce one here. We are aware that most retailers in Hunstanton no longer sell the rings, however it is always good to remind people not to bring them from home or use them on our beach.

You can read more about the campaign headed by the Friends of Horsey Seals across Norfolk here: <u>Save our Seals - Flying Rings Campaign - Norfolk Recycles</u>

Hunstanton Prom:

We have applied for the MMO licence required before the geotechnical study of the prom can be undertaken. This is currently out for public consultation. We are expecting work on the study to begin early autumn.

Shingle Ridge:

The long awaited report into the Shingle Ridge was discussed at the recent WECMS Stakeholder meeting. You can find more details on the WECMS (Wash East Coast Management Strategy) and the full report (with non technical summary) here: Wash East Coastal Management Strategy | Wash East Coastal Management Strategy | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (west-norfolk.gov.uk)

Our officers and some cabinet members attended to support the Environment Agency at the Shingle Ridge drop ins at Snettisham and Heacham earlier this month. Thank you to everyone that attended. It is vital everyone understands they have a part to play in protecting the shingle ridge. An update will be given to the Environment & Community Panel on 3rd September. Any interested councillor is welcome to attend.

We look forward to working jointly with the Environment Agency, the existing stakeholder group, other interested parties and community representatives over the next 12-18 months to update the Management Strategy for the future.

Fly Tipping:

Our fly tipping investigation team have had some notable successes lately:

A vigilant resident in Barton Bendish reported a fly tipping incident, providing details of the van involved. Which was traced to an address in West London, with a young man using his employers van for the clearing and dumping of waste. The young mans identity was confirmed by his employer, a fixed

penalty notice was issued and later paid.

A CCTV operator also assisted with another investigation, where a man from Cambridge fly tipped household waste next to a charity clothes collection bank in Hunstanton. Images of the vehicle and its occupants dumping the waste provided enough evidence to issue another fixed penalty notice which was subsequently paid.

Another fly tipping incident that was reported, investigated and traced back to a local business, who was unaware they needed a trade waste contract, resulted in a trade waste contract being entered into so they are now fully compliant with their business waste.

My thanks go to our team who go out investigating and clearing up fly tipping incidents. The message as ever, is to deal with your waste properly and ensure that anyone who offers to take your waste away has a licence to do so and is going to dispose of your waste properly. It doesn't matter where you live, our officers will investigate all fly tipping incidents and will be knocking on your door. Don't spoil our Borough by fly tipping, it is *never* acceptable.

Photos as provided by Investigating Officers:





2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Food Waste:

After the success of Food Waste Action Week in March, plans for a new food waste promotion including a trial of the provision of free caddy liners will also go to the Environment & Community panel on 3rd September. While collections have increased, we would like levels to continue to increase. Any interested member is welcome to attend E&C to find out more.

Recycling:

Plans are also coming together for a campaign to increase recycling levels in the Borough to coincide with Recycling Week (16th to 22nd October). Further details will be released nearer the time.

We are conscious that although weight for weight, the tonnage of recycling collected across the borough is down and needs to be increased, this is only partly due to items not being recycled properly.

For example the tonnage of glass collected has been dropping all across Norfolk. This could be due to producers trying to reduce the amount of packaging and using different, more lightweight packaging to reduce the environment impacts and transport costs.

There is also an issue regarding how some recycling is presented, which will be mentioned in upcoming messages from the Norfolk Waste Partnership & Norfolk Recycles team: -

Even if items are put in the recycling bin, if they are in a bag, they will go into the residual waste. The MERF is mostly automated and staff do not have the time to empty bags to find out what is in them. It also presents a health and safety issue as they don't know what they will find. So please DO NOT put your recycling in a bag - clean and loose in your green bin is just perfect! ©

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Various portfolio briefings

Cabinet sifting

Joint Waste Contract Review & Development Board meeting

EA briefing on Shingle Ridge Report

LGA Coastal SIG Quarterly meeting

LGA Coastal SIG water quality working group meeting

Cabinet briefings

Norfolk Waste Partnership Board meeting

LGA Coastal SIG water quality briefing

LGA Coastal SIG/Owfat meeting

Cabinet Away Day

Cabinet

Wash East Coast Management Strategy (WECMS) Stakeholders Forum

NEWS Board Meeting

Norfolk Coast Partnership Core Management Group Meeting