

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **Date of Council Meeting**

#### **COUNCILLOR PAUL BLAND- CABINET MEMBER FOR OPEN SPACES AND CAR PARKING**

For the period 17<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> July

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

##### **Summer Efforts in Full Bloom: Celebrating the Dedication of Our Open Spaces Team**

This report has been deliberately dedicated to showcasing and celebrating the exceptional work carried out by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk's Public Open Spaces (POS) Team. Behind every clean park, blooming flowerbed, and well-maintained green space is a team of hardworking professionals whose efforts often go unseen—but certainly not unappreciated.

##### **Rising to the Challenge**

Despite the unusually hot and dry weather this summer, our Open Spaces Team has gone above and beyond to meet the needs of the borough. Their unwavering commitment has ensured the continuity of essential day-to-day duties—whether it's grass cutting, litter picking, bin emptying, or general maintenance, our community spaces have remained clean, safe, and inviting thanks to their dedication and resilience.

Recruiting seasonal staff continues to be a vital component of our summer operations. However, finding the right team members in sufficient numbers can be a real challenge. Yet time and again, our existing workforce steps up, going the extra mile with an inspiring sense of duty and pride in their work. Their determination ensures that our standards never slip, even during periods of stretched capacity.

##### **A Blooming Success**

This summer, residents and visitors alike have been treated to vibrant, colourful bedding displays that brighten the borough. These stunning arrangements don't just appear overnight—they're the product of months of planning, planting, watering, and nurturing by our skilled and passionate team. Every petal tells a story of hard work and horticultural talent.

We are especially proud to be entering our open spaces into the Anglia in Bloom campaign this year. In preparation for the judging, the team has raised the bar even higher, delivering an exceptional standard of care and presentation across the borough. Their work has not only impressed judges but has drawn admiration from residents and visitors alike.

### **Excellence Recognised: Green Flag Success**

Our commitment to excellence is perhaps best symbolised by the Five Green Flag Awards retained again this year. These prestigious awards are a national benchmark for parks and green spaces and reflect far more than aesthetic appeal. They recognise our commitment to safety, environmental sustainability, community engagement, and effective management. Every award is a testament to the behind-the-scenes efforts of the Parks and Gardens team, who work year-round to keep our spaces welcoming and well-maintained.

### **Spotlight on Special Events**

The team's talent was also on full display at this year's Sandringham Flower Show, where our Central Grounds Team proudly contributed a stunning selection of floral displays. Their creativity and expertise brought a touch of brilliance to this high-profile event, once again highlighting the exceptional quality of our borough's green-fingered professionals.

And when it comes to large-scale public events, our POS team continues to be the quiet force behind the scenes. During Festival Too, one of the largest free music events in the country, the team carried out meticulous nightly clean-up operations. Thanks to their precise coordination and tireless work, the event space was returned to spotless condition each day—often before most people had woken up—ensuring a safe and pleasant environment for all attendees.

### **A Team Worth Celebrating**

The work of the Borough Council's Open Spaces Team is not just seasonal—it is essential, year-round, and carried out with extraordinary pride, professionalism, and community spirit. Whether creating spaces of beauty, ensuring public safety, or representing our borough on regional and national stages, the team continues to embody the highest standards of service.

To every member of the team—thank you. Your efforts make a lasting impact on the lives of residents and the reputation of our borough. This summer has once again shown that our open spaces are in the very best of hands.'

<b>3      Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> June – Cabinet Briefing 26 <sup>th</sup> June – Full Council 7 <sup>th</sup> July – Special Cabinet – Guildhall 17 <sup>th</sup> July – Special Council – Guildhall 17 <sup>th</sup> July – Special Council- Honorary Alderman 21 <sup>st</sup> July – Cabinet  Attended the Green Flag Awards with the Gardening Teams Portfolio Meeting with Assistant Director and Senior Staff Attended Arm Forces Flag Raising in Tower Gardens