

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025**

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

For the period 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

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

#### **Battery Fire:**

We are extremely grateful to the workshop technician from Truck East, (who maintain the Refuse Collection Vehicles for Serco) who on the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> September noticed that one of the storage bins for batteries collected from West Norfolk households was subject to a small fire.

He let the Serco team at the depot know of the issue. Serco and the Fire Service attended. The fire developed very quickly and Serco let our officers know of the situation whilst the fire service tackled the blaze.

Damaged batteries cause waste fires daily in the UK and are an increasing hazard, separate collections help prevent mechanical damage to batteries at waste facilities where fires risk damaging vital facilities.

We can't guarantee that the batteries we collect do not have damaged batteries amongst them. Batteries are stored outside in a designated area, a separate from the vehicles we use. There was also some damage to other Service have provided further advice for the future, which we are already implementing.

We are investing in further containment and a dedicated thermal camera to cover the storage area which will now link in to our CCTV control room. Ultimately the degree of damage was small and there was no disruption due to the prompt reporting of the fire, and the good work of both Serco and the Norfolk Fire Service. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved.

#### **Recycling Week:**

Yes, its that time of year again! Where we send our Waste and Recycling Manager and his team out to schools to do their ever entertaining assemblies.

Recycling week was launched a few days early this year when the team attended West Lynn Primary School.

“Plastic is Fantastic” is aimed at encouraging the recycling of more easily forgotten plastics in the home such as those found in the bathroom, bedroom and under the sink cupboard in the kitchen. This links with the theme for the national campaign. Everything from deodorant cans to toilet cleaner bottles can all be recycled.

As ever the team can’t resist the opportunity to also talk about food waste recycling and wear the food waste bin outfit!

If you have any links to schools please do recommend us to them. The council works with schools for free and the assemblies that the team deliver are something to behold! Its an entertaining and hilarious assembly that delivers a valuable and important message to the recyclers of the future.

### **Cockle bed re-opening:**

Stubborn Sands Inner cockle bed is to reopen after two successive tests have proved shellfish are now clean and safe.

I have certainly enjoyed seeing the fishing fleet off the coast of Hunstanton recently. It is a valuable reminder of how fishing continues to be an important part of the heritage and business.

### **Commercial Food Waste:**

After new rules came into effect at the end of March requiring businesses with more than 10 FTE staff members to separate dry recycling and food waste we have been offering commercial food waste collections.

Schools, charities and council facilities have been the first to adopt the new service. We have a dedicated trade waste officer available to help and advise businesses on what services we can offer.

Recycling and food waste bins should shortly also be appearing at the Town Hall for council meetings.

### **Heacham Water Quality:**

Water results for this year continue to look good. Levels of bacteria rose slightly for the end of August/September tests, however that wouldn’t be entirely unexpected with an increase in rainfall.

Thank you to Cllr Tom de Winton and the EDP’s Owen Sennitt for joining me swimming at Heacham last month. I think we all enjoyed our dip with no after effects whatsoever.

We are cautiously optimistic that we may see an improvement in the classification of Heacham when new reports come out in December. Councillors and officers will be dipping in the cold north sea to celebrate if that is the case. I hope to see a few more of you if that proves to be the case!

## **2      Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

### **Hunstanton Prom:**

A project team has been established to take the project forward, we are working with the contractor entering what is envisaged to be a 12-18 month planning and design stage. More information on the proposed design and works may be available in the Spring. As with any long term project, works will progress and we will update councillors whenever we have new information.

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

Various portfolio briefings  
Cabinet briefing  
Cabinet Sifting  
Hunstanton Prom Works Briefing  
NEWS Board Meeting  
Extra Cabinet meeting  
Extraordinary Council Meeting  
WECMS Stakeholder Forum  
LGA Coastal SIG Field Trip  
RFCC Meeting