

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 July 2016

COUNCILLOR A LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY

For the period 1 to 19 July 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Guilty plea secured for Housing Act offences

On Wednesday 13 July 2016 at King's Lynn Magistrates Court, Pure Portland Management Limited, the Directors of which are Michael Wilson and Laurie Betts who also own Wilson & Betts Estate Agency King's Lynn, pleaded guilty of 15 offences under the Housing Act 2004.

The charges related to the condition of a property which is a house in multiple occupation and included matters such as inadequate fire resistance to internal partitions, lack of testing of electrical installations, dampness, mould growth and defective lighting.

The borough council's housing officers first visited the property in September 2015. They prohibited the occupation of two of the flats within the property as the tenants were deemed to be at risk of serious harm arising from structurally unsound flooring and a dangerous electrical installation.

Since then, further investigations were undertaken resulting in this conviction.

Pure Portland Management Limited were fined £12,000 and ordered to pay £6,500 costs to the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

"With this in mind we are making a number of organisations aware of this including Landlords associations raising awareness as to the consequences of failure to ignore the responsibilities that landlords have"

Home Choice

The number on the housing register at the end of June was 1,565.

39 applicants were housed into Housing Association accommodation during June.

Food Hygiene

Currently 96% of food business have a food hygiene rating score of 3, 4 or 5. The food team are working with the 4% of premises scoring less than 3 to help improve their score. A representative from the food team attended a careers fair at Springwood High School to talk about the work of the team and encourage students into the profession.

Last week was Food Safety Week and this year concentrated on reducing food waste. The Borough Council sent out a number of tweets giving advice on how to reduce food waste, more information can be found on the webpage: <http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/food-waste>

The Health and Safety team are rolling out the Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme across the Borough. Within King's Lynn alone there are 11 registered tattoo premises and across the Borough there are 23 registered premises. A letter was sent to all secondary schools asking them to remind pupils that it is illegal to get a tattoo if they are under 18 even with parental consent.

16 new premises licences have been granted since the beginning of the year and 20 new taxi drivers.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Officer/cabinet training day
Planning Training
Cabinet
Full Council
Meetings with officers
Devolution briefing