

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL**

Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on Tuesday, 3rd December, 2019 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillors C Sampson (Chair), L Bambridge, C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, C Joyce (substitute for S Collop), A Kemp, J Kirk, J Lowe, T Parish (substitute for M de Whalley), S Squire and M Wilkinson.

PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34: Councillors B Beal, J Moriarty and C Rose.

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor I Devereux – Portfolio Holder for Environment
Councillor B Long – Leader of the Council

OFFICERS:

Barry Brandford – Waste and Recycling Manager
Ged Greaves – Senior Policy and Performance Officer
Honor Howell – Assistant Director
Henry Saunders – Climate Change Officer

BY INVITATION:

Jennifer Hobson – Friends of Horsey Seals

EC50: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Collop and de Whalley.

EC51: MINUTES

RESOLVED: The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

EC52: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EC53: URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

EC54: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34

Councillor Beal – EC56
Councillor Moriarty – EC57
Councillor Rose – EC56

EC55: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

EC56: **PRESENTATION FROM FRIENDS OF HORSEY SEALS - KEEPING SEALS SAFE FROM PLASTIC FLYING RINGS**

Those present received information on the campaign to keep seals safe from Plastic Flying Rings. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Chair thanked Jennifer Hobson from Friends of Horsey Seals for her presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp asked what, if any, powers the Council had. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Long explained that the use of Public Space Protection Orders could be considered, however these were difficult to enforce and could not be used on private beaches.

Councillor Beal addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. He provided the Panel with information about an initiative he was leading on in his business whereby he would remove plastic packaging and netting from products he sold so that they were disposed of correctly and did not end up left on the beach. He explained that he was trying to extend this to other businesses in the town. With regard to the flying rings, Councillor Beal explained that he had contacted the makers of the products who were aware of the problems, but the product was popular. He explained that some companies had now put a warning label on outer packaging. Councillor Beal stated that he no longer sold the flying rings in his shop and he was encouraging others to be responsible and do the same.

Those present suggested the following in order to raise awareness of the issues:

- An article be sent to the Norfolk Coast Guardian which was read by local people and tourists.
- Inclusion of information in the Visit West Norfolk Brochure.
- Signs at beaches and beach side businesses.
- Leaflets available at Tourist Information Centres.
- Stickers on bins.

Councillor Parish informed those present that he was Chair of the Single Use Plastics Informal Working Group and that the Group were looking at the type of information that was provided to tourists and in holiday lets.

Councillor Joyce commented that the campaign needed to be harder hitting in order to convey the damage that the flying rings could cause and the seriousness of the issue.

Councillor Kirk explained that he was a volunteer for Marine Divers and Seal and Shore watch and another problem was crabbing lines which could be easily purchased and then discarded after use. He felt that control of these would also be beneficial to marine life.

Councillor Squire asked if awareness had been raised inland as litter from inland which ended up in rivers could end up in the sea.

Jennifer Hobson thanked the Panel for their suggestions.

RESOLVED: The information was noted.

EC57: **UPDATE ON WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT PROCUREMENT**

All Councillors had been invited to the meeting for this item so that they had the opportunity to receive an update from the Waste and Recycling Manager on the Waste Collection Contract, receive an overview of the process and receive an update on the position in advance of the Special Cabinet meeting which was scheduled to take place on Friday 6th December 2019.

The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that the new contract procurement had been a considerable piece of work. The report provided detail of the joint procurement process, which had a long lead in to ensure that the new arrangements would be in place at the correct time. He explained that new vehicles would have to be purchased and there could be up to a forty week wait for delivery of new vehicles.

He reminded those present that Cabinet had taken the decision to enter into the joint procurement process in order to take advantage of the financial and environmental benefits of joint arrangements.

The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that the final pricing for tenders had been received and these were currently being evaluated and would be presented to a special Cabinet meeting on 6th December 2019.

The Panel's attention was drawn to the procurement process which was included in the report, legal implications, risks and requirements that bidders had to meet. The Panel was also informed that the period of contract was based on the life of the collection vehicle, which was approximately eight years. The cost of the vehicles could only be held for thirty days by the supplier.

The Chair thanked the Waste and Recycling Manager for his report and invited questions and comments from those present, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp asked for clarification on how often bins would be emptied in unparished areas. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that this function was carried out by the Public Open Space team and did not form part of the contract, so would therefore remain unchanged.

Councillor Kemp raised concern that the new vehicles would be diesel and the Waste and Recycling Manager explained that consideration had to be given to the large geographical area that the vehicles would have to cover, meaning that the use of electric or hybrid vehicles was not an option because of the potential lack of range.

Councillor Kemp also made reference to the re-use of Bulky Waste. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that proposals for the re-use of Bulky Waste had been considered as part of the contract and proposals were being evaluated.

Councillor Joyce asked if the frequency of collections would change. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that they would not.

Councillor Joyce also asked about monitoring of the contract and if there was a break clause. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that there was the option to extend the initial eight year contract if arrangements were working. Default notices would be reported to the Council as required and the Environment and Community Panel could request updates at any time. He drew attention to the Performance Management Framework which meant that the Council could terminate the contract based on poor performance.

Councillor Squire asked what would happen to the vehicles after their eight year life cycle. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that there were companies who would buy second hand vehicles. Councillor Squire also asked for information on the arrangements for food waste collections. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that food waste would continue to be collected and different options had been put forward by different bidders and these were currently being evaluated.

In response to questions from Councillor Squire regarding Garden Waste collections the Waste and Recycling Manager explained that if households had multiple bins, they should all still be emptied at the same time. He explained that there could sometimes be issues with frost and contents sticking to the inside of the bin.

In response to a question from Councillor Parish, the Waste and Recycling Manager explained that technology was available in that bin

sensors could register when bins were full and required emptying. Councillor Parish also referred to access to bins on beaches and the difficulty that large vehicles could have accessing them. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that services would be provided in accordance with the policy in that bins should be placed adjacent to highways. He also explained that different options had been put forward by bidders and would be evaluated.

Councillor Parish also asked about the incineration of waste and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Long explained that Norfolk County Council was the waste disposal authority and the Borough Council did not have control over the disposal of waste.

Councillor Moriarty asked for clarification on the contract commencement dates and if vehicles had already been purchased. The Waste and Recycling Manager clarified that North Norfolk District Council's arrangements would commence on 1st April 2020, the Borough Council's arrangements would commence on 1st April 2021. He also reminded those present of the long lead in time to purchase a vehicle and explained that North Norfolk would make separate arrangements with the contractor regarding the use of vehicles whilst they were waiting for the new vehicles. The Waste and Recycling Manager confirmed that no vehicles had been purchased at this time.

In response to a question from Councillor Bubb regarding discounts for households that had a second garden waste bin, the Waste and Recycling Manager explained that this would not be introduced.

Councillor Joyce referred to incineration. He suggested that the Council's involved in the joint contract procurement could work together to influence the way that waste was disposed of, especially if it resulted in environmental and financial benefits. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that Norfolk County Council was currently looking at re-procurement of their waste disposal contract.

Councillor Kemp referred to incineration and alternative solutions. She asked about Material Works. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Brian Long offered to discuss Material Works with Councillor Kemp outside of the meeting. He also reminded those present that the contract that the Panel was considering was for waste collection and the Borough Council did not have responsibility for waste disposal, this was a County function and that Councillor Kemp should raise issues regarding the disposal of waste with Norfolk County Council.

Councillor Bullen asked if there were any trends in the production of waste and if the amount of waste was reducing. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that there was a government initiative that the Council was looking at to educate, reduce contamination and other support. He explained that the amount of waste collected had slightly reduced and the garden waste collection had been down this summer.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the report and agreed that the Waste and Recycling Manager keep the Panel updated during the mobilisation period and before contract start as appropriate.

EC58: **CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN**

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer presented the report which provided an update on the Corporate Business Plan. The Panel was reminded that previously they had been given the opportunity to comment on what should be included in the Corporate Business Plan by way of a workshop session. The draft plan had also been based on feedback from Members during the Members induction process. Feedback from Councillors had been collated and included in the report at Appendix B.

The Panel was reminded that all Panels received quarterly performance monitoring reports and the Corporate Performance Panel monitored the Corporate Business Plan.

The Chair thanked the Senior Policy and Performance Officer for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Parish commented that there was a conflict between growth and the environment and any Climate Change policies would need to take this into consideration. The Senior Policy and Performance Officer acknowledged that there would be lots of tensions to deal with and this would be monitored through quarterly reports to the Corporate Performance Panel. He also informed the Panel that report authors were now required to complete an 'Environmental Implications' box on the report templates and give consideration to how impacts could be mitigated.

Councillor Joyce referred to improving health and wellbeing and the impact of pollution. He asked for consideration to be given to environmental improvement measures which would have little impact on the Council, for example requiring all new developments to put in electric vehicle charging points. The Senior Policy and Performance Officer reminded the Panel of the Climate Change work that was being carried out and explained that lots of options would be explored and best practice and examples from other countries would be looked at.

Councillor Kemp commented that this was a good starting point, but it needed sharpening up and Policies would need to be introduced relating to flooding, infrastructure and health and wellbeing. She stated that it was important to be an enabler. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Long reminded Councillor Kemp that some of the functions she was referring to were the responsibility of Norfolk County Council. Councillor Kemp referred to the King's Lynn Transport Strategy and

Councillor Long reminded her that this was a joint exercise with Norfolk County Council.

Councillor Long reminded Members that they had previously had the opportunity to input into the Corporate Business Plan through workshops at all three Panels, the report which was now being considered had incorporated previous comments raised by Members and was now a final draft.

Councillor Squire asked if the Plan would be regularly updated as new policies and practices emerged. The Senior Policy and Performance Officer confirmed that it would be a 'living document' and reviewed on a regular basis.

Councillor Bambridge commented that the Housing Strategy should be included and the Senior Policy and Performance Officer stated that the Corporate Business Plan was overarching and all other Policies sat underneath this document.

RESOLVED: The Panel endorsed the draft Corporate Business Plan.

EC59: **CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer provided Members with an update on the climate change work completed to date and ongoing work. He introduced Henry Saunders, Climate Change Officer, to the Panel who was from the University of East Anglia and was assisting the Council with Climate Change issues.

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer referred to the report which set out what research would be carried out during the evidence gathering phase.

The Chair thanked the Senior Policy and Performance Officer for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Parish asked if the Council had been in contact with the Tyndall centre and it was explained that they had not been contacted yet, but it would be worthwhile seeing what they could offer in terms of assistance.

Councillor Kemp raised concern that the Council was basing their audit on Norwich City Council's Audit as they were two different types of area. The Climate Change Officer explained that the Audit was based on standardised techniques to carry out the assessment and would be based on the Borough Council's area.

Councillor Kemp commented that the whole geographical area needed to be looked at, not just the Borough Council. The Senior Policy and

Performance Officer clarified that an analysis of the whole geographical area would be carried out. The Council would also work with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Area and Norfolk County Council to ensure that areas of work were not duplicated and that information was shared.

Councillor Kemp stressed the importance of a clear baseline for the Borough and the Climate Change Officer confirmed that the overall Borough would be looked at and then what could be influenced and what would make a difference would be investigated.

The Chair referred to peatlands and the impact that this had on carbon emissions. The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Devereux provided information on this and explained that it was a complex situation.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the update.

EC60: **HUNSTANTON COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This item had been withdrawn from the Agenda and would be considered by the Panel at a later date.

EC61: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

The Work Programme was noted. Members of the Panel were encouraged to contact the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer if they had items which they would like added to the Work Programme.

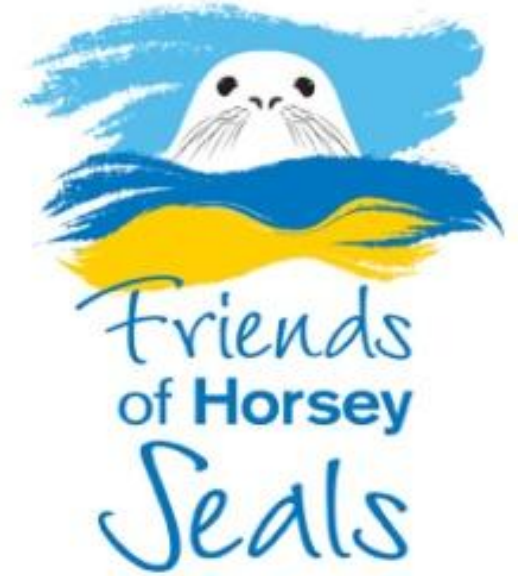
RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

EC62: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel would be held Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm

Presentation
King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Environment & Community
Panel
Tuesday December 3rd 2019



595



Minute Item EC56:

The Seals – Greys and Harbour

What's the difference?



Males – Bulls

Darker

Bigger

2.3 – 3.3 meters long

Weigh up to 300kg

Live for about 25 years

GREYS

Females - Cows

Slender, paler

smaller

1.6 – 2 meters long

100-150kgs in weight.

Live for 35 years

597



Main Seal Colonies – East Coast

The Wash
The biggest Harbour
Seal colony in Europe

Blakeney
Harbour +
Grey Seals – 2,000 pups

666

Grey Seals 120,000 Harbour Seals 33 – 50,000

Horse
y
2014/5 1,000 pups
2018/19 2,000+ pups

Donna Nook
Lincolnshire
Grey Seals – 2,000
pups

Seal Facts

- Rookery or Nursery
- On land see well in bright light reduces in low light
- Adult greys eat flatfish, octopus, mackerel, herring – sea birds

- Close ear openings for diving
- Hearing + whiskers sensitive help detect prey
- Young greys and harbour seals eat small fish, shell fish

Life Cycle - Pupping



Harbour Seals

Summer June – July

Born ready to swim
quickly

Grey Seals

Winter November - January

Born with white coat – not fully
waterproof



Seals are protected by law

1970 Conservation of Seals Act

All seals Protected Norfolk
Lincolnshire all year by Conservation
of Seals (England) Order 1999

Threats to seals

- Disturbance by humans + dogs



- Entanglement in human-made debris



- Extreme Weather Events

- Pollutants – heavy metals + PCBs

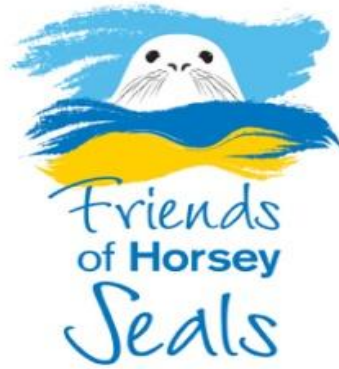
ENTANGLEMENT

- Nets, ropes, 'ghost netting', line
- Plastic litter especially ring items



'Psylla' 50th seal treated by RSPCA East Winch neck injury since 2008

2019



•103 call outs 48 Grey Seals 55 Harbour

601 33 for neck injuries by plastic objects / netting

**•10 seals taken to RSPCA East Winch Hospital
2 seals to Sealife Centre Hunstanton**

'Keeping Seals Safe from flying rings' Awareness Campaign

'Pinkafu' rescued December 2018



Sparked off the campaign

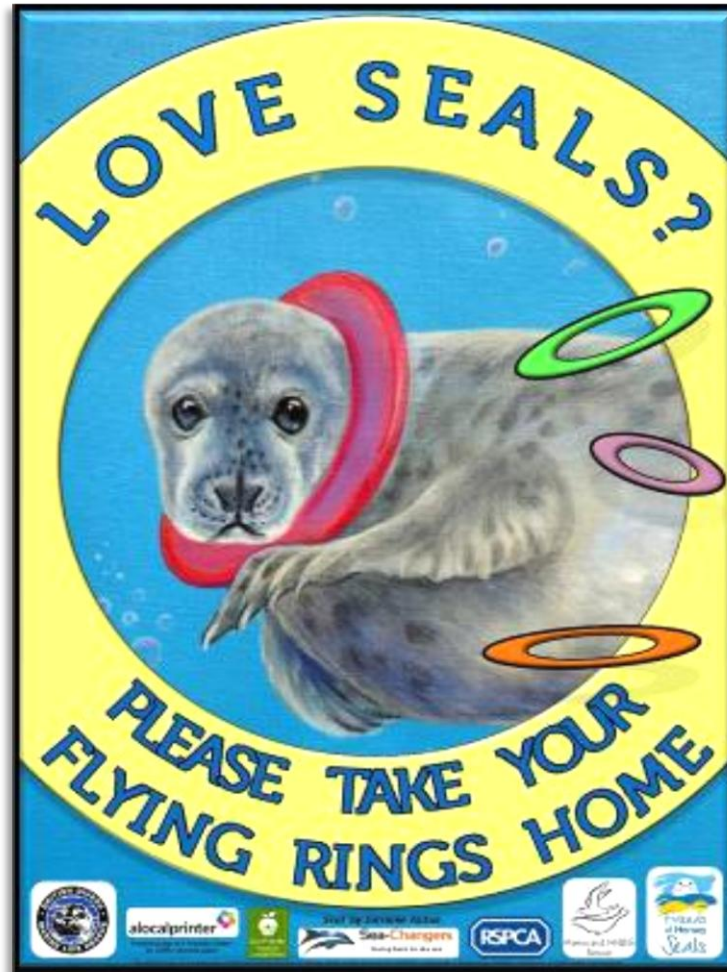
POSTER

Friendly

609

Positive

'How to Help'



Messages

Friends of Horsey Seals (RCN 1169539) a charity run by volunteers, aims to reduce disturbance to seals and other wild animals, and takes part in rescues of seals that are injured or orphaned.

To become a Friend of Horsey Seals, or find out about wardening opportunities, visit:
www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

If you see a seal or any wild animal that is sick or injured, please contact:

RSPCA 24 hour helpline 0300 1234 999

or

British Divers Marine Life Rescue:

01825 765546 (9-5 Mon-Fri)

07787 433412 (out of hours)

LOVE SEALS?

RESCUES OF SEALS CAUGHT IN PLASTIC FLYING RINGS

Volunteers from Friends of Horsey Seals take part in seal rescues with other local organisations, including Marine and Wildlife Rescue. Co-ordinated and trained by RSPCA (East Winch) they attend callouts and consult with RSPCA vets on the best course of action for the injured animal.

At her rescue in September 2017, 'Frisbee' (overleaf) was very thin as she couldn't catch fish any more, she was nursed back to health by the RSPCA and released in February 2018.

'Pinkafo' (right and overleaf) named after the pink plastic ring embedded in her neck was rescued in December 2018. She was close to death but was nursed back to health at East Winch and was fit for release in May 2019.

'Sir David' (overleaf) was rescued in March 2019. He was monitored for several weeks before rescuers were able to catch him while he was asleep and away from his group.

WHY FOCUS ON FLYING RINGS?

While playing with flying rings is fun and involves healthy outdoor exercise, the problems they cause when found by young seals are not widely known.

Most people would not intentionally harm a seal or any wildlife, but might not know about potential injuries to seals from plastic flying rings.

Your awareness of this problem will help to save lives and unnecessary suffering.

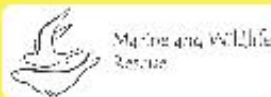
After months of treatment Pinkafo returns to her natural environment



Photo: Courtesy of the BBC



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The RSPCA logo is a trademark of RSPCA used by Friends of Horsey Seals under licence from RSPCA, registered in England and Wales, charity no. 2130 99
www.rspca.org.uk

Please take your flying rings home

ENJOY FLYING RINGS ON LAND NOT SEA!

Seals are curious, playful animals. They are a joy to watch with their spotted coats and varied colours: sleeping, making 'banana' shapes and pupping in season. In the sea they are graceful, agile and fast, they have to be to catch fish! As fellow mammals we feel a special connection to them. We also know they are wild animals who are wary of us; if we disturb them they will flee. If we get too close they will bite!

WHAT PROBLEM DO SEALS HAVE WITH FLYING RINGS?

Seals are being spotted with flying rings stuck around their necks.

It seems that younger seals find these flying rings in the sea where they have been thrown or lost and, being inquisitive animals, they play with them and put their heads through the hole.

The seals can't get the flying ring off as they have flippers rather than arms like ours.

As the young seals grow the rings dig into their flesh causing painful wounds that can be fatal.

Seals and other wildlife can get caught in all sorts of plastic litter. Ropes, netting and ringed items are especially dangerous.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Please throw your flying ring, discs and dog rings well up on the beach where they can't get lost.
- Please don't throw them in the sea!
- Join a beach clean, or do your own litter collecting – take a bag, pop it in and put it in a litter bin – you'll feel great! (www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch)
- Tell your family and friends - once they know they'll want to join in!

Love seals? Then please take your flying ring and all plastic litter off the beach

Launch July 24th 2019

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Friday, July 26, 2019 | Eastern Daily Press

News

Peter Ansell, chairman of the Friends of Horsey Seals, with a cuddly seal at the launch of a campaign raising awareness of seals and plastic flying rings

Picture: LIZ COATES



Save the seals! Campaign to rid coast of hollow frisbees launched

Cheap and fun to play with - but seals are dying in agony because of plastic flying rings.

LIZ COATES

Liz.Coates@archant.co.uk

That was the stark message being delivered to visitors to one of Norfolk's most popular beaches this week as they were urged to take care over hollow frisbees seals could slip into.

Thousands of leaflets are being handed to shops and seaside cafes from Great Yarmouth to Hunstanton in a bid to rid the coast of the plastic toys, popular with dog walkers, that are inflicting shocking wounds.

And as families frolicked on the sands and seals bobbed about in the water at Winterton the campaign was officially launched to prevent the needless suffering of seals, which are such a draw for trippers.

It comes as wildlife watchers

identified yet another animal "necklaced" by a white plastic plaything digging deep into its flesh, the equivalent of "a slow garrotting."

Peter Ansell, chairman of Friends of Horsey seals, said flying rings needed to be kept away from the shore.

And while they were fine for the garden or the park they posed such a cruel hazard to seals that anyone using them needed to stay away from the waves.

Albert Ward, group secretary, said: "The interest so far has all been about the injuries - the result of the problem rather than the cause.



"Today's campaign launch is to do with making people aware of what happens if people are not very careful with the discs and they happen to go straight in the sea.

"The results could be that animals are harmed. The cuts are absolutely horrendous.

"As a toy they are cheap and simple and they encourage people



Pictured is one of three seals along the Norfolk coast with their heads stuck in a plastic ring which have yet to be caught

Picture: FOHS

So Far...

- 5,000+ leaflets + 500 posters distributed + social media
- Blakeney Harbour
- Featured in media, TV
- Seal Trip Operators spreading message
- Sea life centre 'seal talks'
- Spa Dersingham, K.Hardware Cromer, Yacht shop & Rock shop Gorleston
- NWT & RSPB
- 25 Primary 10 Secondary Schools - 122 children involved project work
- NNDC - Country Parks - Lifeguard Service
- Cromer Town Council
- Hunstanton Environment Working Party
- NNDC Coastal Forum Meeting
- Parish Councillors
- 10 'Ambassadors' named

Response: overwhelming shock, concern & sympathy

611



Your child would like to help Friends of Horsey Seals by designing a poster! The aim is to teach people about the dangers of flying rings for seals as well as other plastic products. Please return to Mrs. Pell by Monday July 22nd. Thank you!

Catfield Primary 4/1/56



612

2018/10/13

0451 glenn



613

Steven Hill



614



615

John Alford



616



Keep Seals Safe from flying rings longer term solutions

'Beach shops shouldn't sell flying rings..ban them from the beach...' (quote from general public)

- **Supply of (cheap) flying rings**

- **Public use on Norfolk beaches**

- Refresh people's awareness
- School Engagement
- Shops, Trade Groups
- Distributers, Importers, Manufacturers
- Help from Councils and Councillors
- Public Space Protection Orders
Signage
- NWT, NT, Holkham, Landowners

619



Pinkafo – Horsey Beach

Thank you!