

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 July 2018

COUNCILLOR MRS KATHY MELLISH - CABINET MEMBER FOR FACILITIES AND ICT

For the period 15 June to 19 July 2018

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

This report was written after having just returned from a very positive Open Day at Mintlyn Crematorium. We had visitors ready to enter well before the 11am start so as all the team were ready and well prepared we kicked off early! Yes, it was on the same day as the England – Sweden match.

There were well over 300 visitors which I gauged via the feed back cards. All visitors were willing to complete the cards and an average of three per card gave me a less than scientific but realistic count. There were quite a few families in groups of 5/6 but most were in pairs, however it was enough to ensure there were more than the 300 estimate. The feedback comments included: interesting, informative, courteous, respectful, reassuring, clean, dignity, together with 'put my mind at rest', 'dispelled myths', 'no longer morbid' as the main responses. Everyone without a doubt left pleased they had made the effort and totally in awe of the way the 'back of public area' is handled. Overall, they were impressed with the way the team deal with a sensitive situation from start to finish and although nationally cremations have increased to 75% I believe 100% of our visitors today will have either changed their mind or confirmed in their mind that a cremation is their preferred option. Mintlyn is not generally promoted by the Council but I believe the Open Days go a long way to reassure the public that it is an area they can visit not just when the need arises but anytime for any reason.

I would like to thank the team for their total commitment to their job, professionalism and good nature in spending a very hot day explaining to the public any and every question that was asked.

Both they and the England team did us proud on Saturday!

On a less happy note our Civil Enforcement Officers are having to regularly visit Gayton Road in Bawsey (adjacent to the pits) due to the hot weather. The clearway restrictions prevent vehicles parking on both the carriageway and the adjacent verges, clearly as a safety matter. However, on occasions they have issued 30 tickets in a single day which demonstrates the scale of the problem in this area. Our staff have been subjected to threats and abuse whilst undertaking their work and I stress, it is a matter of safety to keep this road vehicle-free. Anyone driving along that road will know how dangerous it can be especially if another driver is not sticking to the speed limit or if people/children walk onto the road to their cars, other drivers will have to cross the central line to avoid them.

We are actively working with the Police to ensure this area is kept as free as possible, but I would ask for everyone to help spread the message that, we will not tolerate aggression toward our staff, they are doing a job to keep us safe, and illegal parking will result in a fine.

More positive news is that there will have also been a further donation at Mintlyn to Theresa's Tiny Treasures from the medical implant recycling scheme run by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management during this period. We have been fortunate to have donated £62,000 since we joined the scheme in October 2011, the money going to local charities who are linked in various ways to bereavement work.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Regular meetings with Officers and Executive Directors

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Officer meetings
Cabinet meeting and Portfolio updates
Mintlyn Open Day
Cheque Presentation at Mintlyn to Theresa's Tiny Treasures.
Cabinet Sifting