

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

13 JULY 2023

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL

For the period 19 May to 3rd July 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

To reduce the risk of litter entering the water between Heacham and Hunstanton and working with the Property & Corporate Services, a new combined dog waste and litter bin has been installed for the summer season at my request. The cost of the bin was paid for from Serco contract deductions.

Officers remain diligent in working on the proposals for the future of waste services. This includes Deposit Return Schemes, Extended Producer Responsibility and Consistent Waste Collections. I have with the Leader and the Chief Executive, written to our local MP's expressing our concerns over the approach the government appears to wish to take.

Brown bin subscriptions remain above target with 28,963 in use against a target of 28,500.

May 2023 saw the second highest figure for the composting of garden waste since the service started in 2006 with 1,628 tonnes collected and composted.

Working with NEWS we have agreed to the provision of AI technology to help sort some plastics at the MRF.

The MRF made its first profit since the joint venture contract was signed in 2013. This has led to a positive financial position for the council compared to previous years.

Works to the Hunstanton prom and groynes are ongoing and on track.

We are still waiting for the cliff scan data so when this arrives we will get BGS to carry out the annual cliff regression report.

Officers have attended Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance meetings.

Heavy rains on May 9th brought some surface water flooding of property in West Norfolk but NCC as LLFA will investigate.

A project for the production of reviewed signage for fly tipping is well under way with first set of signs having been designed. These will support the ongoing SCRAP campaign and highlight partnership working with other agencies including Social Landlords.

The Website for reporting of fly tips is to be reviewed in forthcoming months to update and improve reporting mechanisms.

CSNN Statistics:

- Cases referred to CSNN for investigation - 101
- Interventions (from investigation to prosecution) – 100%
- Warning letters – 45 (this includes a multi-agency community engagement operation in a known Fly Tip hit spot)
- FPNs – 5
- Duty of Care checks – 2
- 2 cases with legal for consideration of prosecution (non-payment of FPN)
- Interview under cautions – approx. 11
- Current waste 'hot spots' under monitoring – 8
- Numerous visits, door knocks, leafleting, public engagement have been undertaken.

A Temporary Downgrade of a Shellfish Bed (Ouse Mouth) was instigated on the 17 May 2023 due to a poor result following the routine monthly sampling for the classification of the bed. The downgrade from a B classification to a C, required that any bivalve mollusc that were harvested within the area, had to go for an approved heat treatment process and were prevented from going for deputation/purification. Fortunately, as cockle season had not started this didn't result in significant consequences for most of the fishing industry this time, however caused some issues with mussel lays. The Downgrade was lifted on the 13th June, following 2 satisfactory sampling results. The overall quality of the Wash water has seen a decline.

Drowning prevention interventions are continuing in response to the deaths at Bawsey, with a member of staff providing an assembly for all year 12 staff on drowning prevention and the dangers of open water, in particular cold water shock.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

I have asked for recycling bins for plastic bottles and cans to be installed on the Promenade at Hunstanton in the central area between Johnsons Gift Shop and the Sea Life Centre. These will be in place before the start of the school holidays. It is important they are used sensibly and **only** bottles and cans are placed in them.

We are currently looking at options to provide bags for food waste caddy's and other schemes that we can utilise the Serco contract deductions for.

World Drowning Prevention Day is 25th July. Keep an eye out for any local events and promotion.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Several Portfolio Briefings including Licensing, Waste, Coastal Trends, LGA Coastal SIG, Norfolk Coast Partnership etc
Visits to Depot
Cabinet & Senior Leadership Meeting
Cabinet tour of Development Sites
Cabinet Briefing
Joint Waste Contract Review & Development Board
Stakeholder meeting re proposed wash barrage
Cabinet Corporate Plan Day
Cabinet
Pre-meet with Chair & Lead Officer of Norfolk Coast Partnership
Norfolk Coast Partnership CMG
LGA Coastal SIG
Norfolk Waste Partnership Board
Visit to Gaywood River
Visit to AD Plant
Resort walk around at Hunstanton