

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

15 2023

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL de WHALLEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

For the period 5 July to 15 August 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

The new Partnership Manager commenced on 3 July 2023. This role will help drive delivery of the partnership's priorities and support the portfolio holder's group that is due to meet on 21 September 2023. I have been working closely with officers to prepare for this meeting.

A second post, fully funded by the Government's UK Innovate Fund, commenced 17 July 2023 and is leading a two year "Norfolk Net Zero Communities" project. The £300,000 project will further develop the partnership's net zero delivery plans, support learning by experience and tackle "non-technical barriers" (such as finance, capacity, skills, engagement and behaviour change).

The project will involve seven communities across Norfolk, one in each of the districts across the county. The community must be selected by end of September 2023 and I will be writing to all borough councillors and parish council chairman about this project in due course.

A report is scheduled for Environment and Community Panel on 29th August 2023.

Urban Tree Challenge Fund

As part of its 1 million trees objective, Norfolk County Council has submitted a countywide bid for Urban Tree Challenge Funding. The Borough Council has included its first application to develop a community orchard. Subject to approvals, we are aiming for the coming planting season (mid-November 2023 to March 2024). A decision on the funding is due this Autumn.

Lynnsport Trees

Additional replacement tree planting has been stopped as survival rates are too low to be viable. Living trees will be maintained. Dead whips will be tidied up with tree guards recovered and stored for future use. The remaining wildflower meadow is doing well and will be managed as such with mowing

and removing taking place later this year.

EV charging

St James Car Park is now awaiting re-energisation by UK Power Networks, which has been instructed and we are expecting them to attend site on 18 August 2023 to complete this.

Hunstanton car park is near complete, however an electrical cabinet needs replacing and contractors are in the process of doing this work. However, the new rapid charger is installed and again, awaiting commissioning.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Schools Project

Preparations are ongoing for the “Living For the Future” ideas competition for West Norfolk based primary schools. The project will encourage the creativity in every child and to educate students on the issue of sustainability, with a focus on designing ideas for greener towns and villages. The competition will take place during Term 1 of the 2023/4 academic year for Year 5 students and is being delivered by 8billionideas.

We currently have 14 schools that have signed up and have a deadline of the 15 September 2023.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Community Environmental Groups (Teams)
Holly Meadows – Coronation Coins
Environment and Community Panel
Corporate Performance Panel
West Norfolk Transport & Infrastructure Group
Retrofitting insulation in Properties
VJ Day Commemoration

Portfolio Holder Briefings and updates

Climate Change (weekly updates)
Local Plan
Cabinet Briefings
Air Quality Action Plan
Carbon Emission Data
South Gates
Community Orchard
LGA Support Session

Future meetings

21 Sep 2023 - Norfolk Climate Change Partnership