

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

27 June 2024

**COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL**

For the period 16 May to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Things over the past couple of weeks have been quieter than usual as I have been ill and am only just getting back to some semblance of normally.

You may have already seen that following the efforts of our waste and recycling team during Food Waste Action Week, we collected 20 tonnes more food waste during April than usual. This is still down on pre-covid collection levels. However we have more initiatives planned for later this year concentrating on not just food waste but also dry recyclables, with the aim to increase the Borough's recycling rates to above 50%.

Our Environmental Health team have written to local salons that have sunbeds to remind them that it is illegal for Under 18's to use sunbeds. Young skin is particularly vulnerable to the effects of UV and with prom season approaching it is important to remind young people that there is evidence linking sunbed use to skin cancer.

Our staff also took part in the multi agency water safety day at Bawsey Country Park raising awareness of cold water shock and the dangers of swimming in the lakes at the park. With the weather anticipated to warm up over the next couple of weeks, it is important to remind everyone that the water may look inviting but there have been several deaths in the lakes and even very experienced swimmers can get into difficulty.

The FSA & Cefas have agreed to a 2<sup>nd</sup> monitoring point for shellfish at Heacham which is further out than the current location. So these will be known as inner and outer monitoring points. We will need 10 samples from this location to gain a classification, sampling is ongoing. Test results of shellfish on both sides of the wash have shown a marked increase in eColi levels over the last few years. The reasoning for this is unclear, although it is one of the areas of focus for the Coastal water quality conference to discuss.

Repair work to the coastal sea defences at Hunstanton will commence on 24<sup>th</sup> June. A total of 97 repairs are required including sealant replacement, concrete patch repairs and replacement of mortar joints. A health and safety inspection of the groynes also identified some works required to the groynes.

Access to the prom will be maintained throughout the duration of the works, although temporary barriers will be in use to ensure safety in the locations of the works. A works compound will also be set up on the North Prom. Works are due to be completed by 12<sup>th</sup> July in time for the summer holidays.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

We have agreed to provide £10,000 of funding towards a study of the Gaywood River catchment area. The project is led by the King's Lynn IDB with other partners contributing to the study, which aims to look at the modelling of the catchment to help improve flood risk management and to improve and restore the watercourse and its environment.

The Coastal Water Quality Conference which was scheduled to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> June, has now been postponed until 17<sup>th</sup> October. As ministers and senior civil servants would have been unable to attend during the election period.

The forthcoming report into Unit C, the shingle ridge at Heacham has also been postponed. The report was slightly delayed while it was being finalised and will now be published after the election. This also meant that the WECMS meeting has been postponed until after publication.

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Various Portfolio Briefings  
Special Cabinet meeting  
Joint Waste Contract Review & Development Board meeting  
NEWS Company Board meeting  
North West Norfolk CaBa meeting  
LGA Coastal SIG Water Quality Briefing  
Special Council Meeting  
Visit to the Depot  
Wash & North Norfolk Coast Marine Partnership meeting  
Ofwat meeting