

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

31 October 2024

COUNCILLOR SANDRA SQUIRE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & COASTAL

For the period 29th August 2024 to 31st October 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

It's been a busy week for the waste and recycling team out and about for Recycling Week - Visiting Emneth & West Lynn schools, where over 200 children were treated to the Horrible Histories version of recycling from our waste & recycling manager. There was also much excitement at Emneth with the addition of a bin lorry to the playground. There were also visits to a supermarket and the Market in Downham, where more than 150 food caddies were also given out.

Thank you to all the councillors who came along and supported the team at the various events during the week, huge thanks must go to the whole team for their boundless enthusiasm for getting the "Look at the Label" message out there.

Further school visits are planned around West Norfolk over the coming months. It's also great to see that over 45,000 impressions were made on borough council social media accounts with the message were well supported.

More and more packaging on the products we buy has a readily identifiable label which tells you if the packaging and which parts of the packaging can be recycled. This label, created by the On Pack Recycling Label Scheme (OPRL), is used on both brand packaging and own label packaging. It will help give everyone more confidence to understand what can be recycled and therefore hopefully recycle more.

Look at the label also extends into non-food packaging, such as bathroom products. In West Norfolk everything that can be recycled is recycled but only if it is put correctly in the green recycling bin in the first place.

Collection vehicles will continue to display their new OPRL message branding to encourage everyone to Look at the Label.

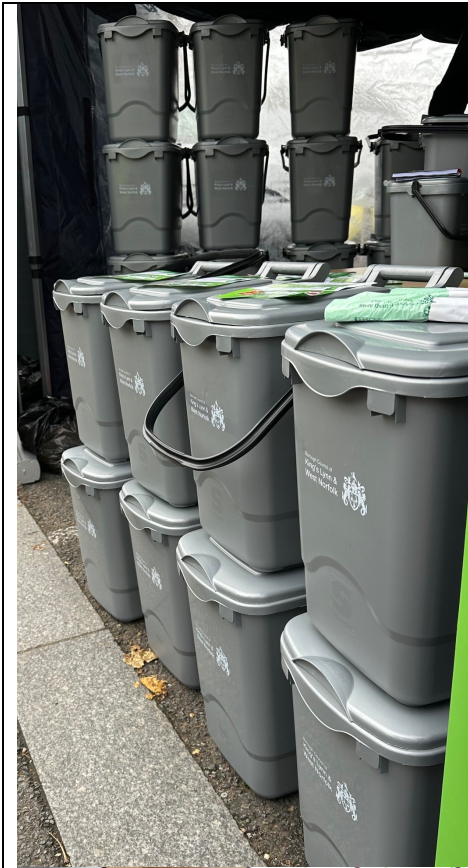
DON'T BE CONFUSED ABOUT RECYCLING



OPRL

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk







It was also Flood Action Week. Which aims to increase awareness of flooding and what actions we can take to prepare. More information is available here where you can check your risk of flooding and sign up for flood warnings:

[Prepare for flooding: Protect yourself from future flooding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding)



I've recently visited Hunstanton Prom to look at recent and upcoming repairs including where ongoing erosion of beach material has resulted in a drop of just over 1 metre from the end of a beach access step (at What3Words location [marker.tango.belief](#) ~ opposite the pier head building).

The underlying Carstone bedrock is now exposed at the base of these steps. This drop in beach level has resulted in these steps becoming unsafe to use, the steps will have to be extended to make them safe to use. Just one example of the constant ongoing repairs that are required.

I also inspected the groynes which are scheduled to undergo health and safety works, which should have been completed by the 25th October. The groynes are subject to regular health and safety inspections with remedial actions being undertaken whenever required.

On the 18th September I represented our council and the LGA Coastal SIG Water Quality working group as a speaker at a Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Policy Conference on "Next Steps for tackling water pollution in England".

Alongside speakers from the Office of Environmental Protection, Water UK, Natural England, Earthwatch Europe, the NFU, Environment Agency and Anglian Water, I spoke on how poor water quality affects coastal communities and councils.

I was struck by how every speaker spoke of collaboration to tackle the issue of water quality and agreed on how it is everyone's problem and that we all need to work together to find solutions.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Our coastal water quality conference has sadly once again been postponed. The new date is June 18th 2025. This will also coincide with the quarterly meeting of the LGA Coastal SIG, so we will be hosting two days of conferences (18th & 19th June) with councillors from around the coast.

We have numerous speakers once again confirmed, more details will be provided nearer the time.

We have now received the Marine Licence to start the Geo Technical investigation of the Hunstanton Sea Defences. We are also discharging the Marine License conditions which includes the Harbour Master publishing a Notice to Mariners.

Concept Engineering Ltd will start work from 21st October and will be on site for up to 26 working days. We expect work to be completed no later than 30th November 2024.

The works will involve digging a series of 25 trial pits at the base of the sea wall to assess the depth of foundations and their condition.

There will also be a ground penetrating radar survey of the promenade.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Various Portfolio Briefings
Norfolk Coast Partnership Core Management Group Meeting
Environment & Community Panel
Joint Agency Water Quality Report Meeting
Joint Waste Contract Review & Development Board Meeting
Various Cabinet Briefings
Cabinet sifting
Sustainable Hansa Group meeting on Water
Westminster Forum Water Pollution Conference
LGA Coastal SIG AGM
Cabinet
Budget Review meetings
Bathing water meetings
Special cabinet
Recycling Week visit to Emneth School
Recycling Week visit to Downham Market
Visit to Hunstanton Prom and Groynes