

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 18 February 2015

Councillor Tony Briggs: Cabinet Lead for Environment and Neighbourhood Quality

Waste & Recycling Strategy & Management (including Project Integra)

Mixed glass project update:

Over the last 18 months the mixed glass market and PRN (packaging recovery note) prices have continued to fall. Currently the mixed glass average price is £11 per tonne, whilst colour separated amber, flint and green fetch an average £15 per tonne. As the price gap between colour separated and mixed glass has continued to narrow the financial rationale for collecting colour separated glass from Havant bring sites has weakened.

Collecting mixed glass has the potential to generate a saving through a reduction in the mileage covered by the vehicle as there would be no requirement for return trips to the same sites.

We have completed a draft options study on providing mixed glass banks in all Havant bring sites and we are hopeful that this can be implemented very soon.

Vehicle Workshop and Fleet Management,

Fleet workshop team have recently undertaken inspections, servicing and repairs of 50 pieces of equipment in preparation for the new grass cutting season. All verge cutting equipment is now ready for borough wide operations.

Hampshire County Council have recently been given an agreement to use our fuel facility at Southmoor depot for the purpose of fuelling their salt spreaders.

Environmental Health (Including food safety)

Food Safety

The commercial team in Environmental Health has used Food Standards Agency funding to pay for a nominated contractor to offer one-to-one coaching in food hygiene to our lowest scoring takeaway premises (those with a Food Hygiene Rating 0 to 2). Of the 12 takeaways offered coaching 11 accepted the offer of assistance.

Coaching was also available in languages other than English e.g. Mandarin Chinese. The feedback from the takeaway food business operators has been very positive, especially when the coaching was available in a variety of dialects.

Environmental Protection

Understanding the influence mental health has on the time taken to resolve cases is a factor anecdotally affecting workload. This is particularly prevalent during nuisance

cases. The team are in the early stage of trying to understand the most effective and appropriate way to factor mental health into their service delivery plans.

Health and Safety

The Health & Safety Executive publishes priorities for proactive health and safety inspections. The priorities include 'amputation and crushing' injuries, being struck by vehicles and falls from height. These are all hazards associated with high volume warehouses. The commercial team in Environmental Health have now completed a warehouse health and safety project which was started last summer.

The warehouse project consisted of initial visits to 63 warehouses to score which were high risk and suitable for a full inspection. Full inspections were carried out on 9 premises. The standard of compliance was found to be high and no notices were served.

Housing Enforcement (Including DFGs)

- Complaints about poor housing conditions (in the private and RSL sector) have almost doubled since 2010. In the period 2013-2014 we have received and dealt with 177 cases.
- HBC is in the process of arranging a working partnership with Guinness Hermitage for Disabled Facility Grants (DFGs) in their properties. Once implemented the proposed new arrangement will benefit the user in terms of time, delivery and service excellence.
- There has been an increase in enquiries from landlords wanting to buy family sized dwellings, redevelop them and thereafter operate them as non-licensable House in Multiple Occupation (HMO). Some of these non licensable HMOs have already been introduced into the housing stock with similar safety standards to licensable HMOs. This provides more varied affordable housing options but can impact the character and nature of residential areas.

Licensing

The review of fees and charges has is complete; the fees and charges proposed for the 2015/16 financial year reflect the cost incurred in administering the licensing function.

Pest Control and Animal Welfare

- HBC is to start a free micro-chipping program for dogs. The Dogs trust will provide the micro-chips and HBC, together with local vets, will chip dogs free of charge. This is in preparation for the implementation of new legislation requiring all dogs to be micro chipped (as of yet no date has been set).
- In conjunction with Public Health England a mosquito trapping exercise was carried out on Hayling Island. This exercise is part of a UK mapping survey to

determine whether “exotic” species are present in the UK. This is part of a long term project looking at the negative health impact on the population (specially Asian Tiger Mosquitoes).

Parking Strategy/Management & Traffic Management

Parking team are now back fully staffed with one CEO in training.

The traffic team held 2 workshops back in November and invited the public in to discuss the experimental scheme in place in Langstone. This went very well and has enabled the team to put together final proposals for the area soon to be publicised.

All Public Realm Enforcement (Rangers) including dog fouling and litter dropping

In March 2014 Havant Borough Council Cabinet declared a zero tolerance approach to littering offences and tasked officers with finding a cost neutral solution.

The Clean Neighborhood's and Environment Act 2005 enabled local authorities to fine anyone committing an environmental crime that damages the street scene. The Act also empowered local authorities to authorise others to act on their behalf.

Since May 2014 HBC established a partnership with Kingdom to provide a uniformed presence of environmental enforcement officers across the borough with a primary remit for town centres and parks and open spaces.

Kingdom officers are tasked with issuing £75 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) for the offences of:

- Dropping litter which will include items such as chewing gum, cigarette butts and fast food and other forms of litter such as wrapping
- Failing to pick up after your dog or not disposing of the dog litter in the correct way

Kingdom currently supplies a supervisor and three officers on a contract to undertake 120 hours patrol a week. They also provide 15 hours back office support. HBC pay Kingdom £45 for every correctly issued FPN.

HBC have allocated the Community Safety Team leader to manage the day to day contract, customer services deal with enquiries from customers relating to fixed penalty tickets and handle card payments. Customers can also make payment at a machine in the Plaza.

The Community Safety team leader and a support officer handle any representations and appeals from customers and review contentious cases with the Kingdom team leader at weekly meetings.

The project plan was based upon a zero cost to HBC and a provisional target of 64% payment. To date the actual rate of payment is 68%

Income versus costs

£274,500.....Potential income from 3660 FPNs
£187,875.....Actual income to date
£164,800.....Paid to Kingdom
£23,175.....Excess

£86,625.....FPNs payment outstanding

Staffing

0.25 FTE Supervisor/Manager
0.75 FTE Co-ordinator
0.5 FTE admin including monitoring payments etc.

Court proceedings are currently underway in respect of some 700 outstanding offences where FPNs have not been paid. Outstanding FPNs have begun to go to Magistrates court.

To date ten cases have been put before the Magistrates. Six have been proved guilty in absence. These were fined £200 by the court £124 costs and £20 Victim surcharge. Three pleaded guilty via the post. These individuals were given fines that varied depending on their means.

Customer Insight

Kingdom has issued some 3660 FPNs to date. Postcode analysis shows that 50% of all tickets are issued to non-residents, with 17.6% of all tickets issued to residents outside the borough going to Portsmouth residents.

Summary

The pilot is clearly having an impact in the numbers of people being issued fixed penalty notices and is cost neutral to HBC, however, it is right to note that there has been an impact on customer services and the indeed the community safety team in the day to day management of customer concerns.

Sustainable Transport & Implementation (Strategy and Capital Projects)

New Brighton Cycling Infrastructure - HCC Funded

Works are 80% complete, almost all signs and lines erected, new cycle track around the New Brighton roundabout under construction. Estimated completion 30 January.

Havant Road A259 Cycling Infrastructure - HCC Funded

Scheme starts 7th April. Resurfacing of 4km of cycle lanes, adjustment to crossing points at Selangor Avenue and Barn Close, off road cycle track between Selangor Avenue and A27 subway, and cycle route markings in Selangor Avenue.

Hayling Billy Trail – HBC / HCC Funded

Works complete, under maintenance for next 12 months. Minor remedial work in hand.

Emsworth Primary School – HCC Funded

Works to start in the Easter break with a new fence to create the route for the track running to Glenwood School; the track itself is then built during the summer holiday.

Warblington School Foot / Cyclepath – HCC Funded

This is programmed for construction in the summer holiday. Various advance works will start in February.

Rachel Madocks Eagle Avenue Cycleway – HCC Funded

Surfacing works to be carried out on 21 January 2015. Lining to be completed by end of February 2015 along and signing to be completed by end of March 2015

Waterlooville LSTF – HCC Funded

Safety audit being carried out by HCC and to be tendered by end of month

Dunsbury Way LSTF & Quality of Place – HCC Funded

Works due on site mid February 2015, kerb works to start first as Operation Resilience (HCC contactor) will be resurfacing Dunsbury Way early March 2015. Liaison with Stagecoach and Emsworth & District has been ongoing throughout project and will continue with bus shelter signage/posters.

Continued communication with the Crèche and Community centre/library and residents via email and letter drops nearer the time.

A large scale plan will be placed in the Community Centre lobby if room available for duration as a contact point.

Web page with information will be set up this week.

Redlands Grange/Hampshire Farm Public Art Project – Developer Funded

Artist Charlie Carter has been commissioned and is working on the community engagement process as this is a focal point of the project. Bellway/Bloor Homes are funding the project. A contract between all parties is being finalised

Webpage set up at <http://www.havant.gov.uk/development-management/hampshire-farm-public-art> for information about the project. Due to be installed late summer 2015.

Community Safety (except Safer Havant Partnerships)

We have recently been made aware that “Gypsy Kings” a coffee shop is due to open at 4 Market Parade Havant. The brand “Gypsy Kings” has established itself in Portsmouth as a source of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) also known as “Legal Highs”.

Elsewhere in the country there are reports of these premises attracting vulnerable people who use the substances to supplement alcohol and other substance misuse. This often leads to people being found in the locality exhibiting all the signs and symptoms of being drugged or drunk.

We are aware that in Portsmouth the authorities are facing an increase in demand on Council, Police and Health services.

There has been considerable media interest in these substances and the opening of the premises in Havant may lead to local concerns being expressed.

We are currently speaking to our partners to develop a strategy for managing any potential impact this premises may have in the area.

This matter has also been raised with our partners through the Safer Havant Partnership and general advice regarding the use of these substances will be passed onto local colleges and schools. Cllr Shimbart and other Community Safety Partnership Chairs are meeting the Police and Crime Commissioner this Thursday and will be raising this trade as a concern.

In the meantime can I please ask that we refrain from referring to the substances as “legal highs” and instead use the phrase Novel Psychotic Substances or NPS.

Please see the guidance on the Talk to Frank webpage [Talk to Frank](#) and feel free to pass this on through your contacts

What are ‘Novel Psychoactive Substances NPS’?

‘NPS’s’ that are actually legal contain one or more chemical substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs (like [cocaine](#), [cannabis](#) and [ecstasy](#)). These new substances are not yet controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and there is often not enough research about them to know about their potency, adverse effects from human consumption, or when used with other substances or alcohol. However, more and more ‘NPS’s’ are being researched to see what their dangers are and to see whether they should be made illegal. In fact, many substances that have been found in substances sold as ‘legal highs’ have already been made illegal.

‘NPS’s’ cannot be sold for human consumption so they are often sold as incense, salts or plant food to get round the law. The packaging may describe a list of ingredients but you cannot be sure that this is what the product will contain.

Just the fact that a substance is sold as ‘legal’ doesn’t mean that it’s safe or legal. You can’t really be sure of what’s in a ‘legal high’ that you’ve bought, or been given, or what effect it’s likely to have on you or your friends. We know that many ‘legal highs’ are sold under brand names like ‘Viper, Revolver, Disco Biscuits, Pandoras Box, Clockwork Orange’, ‘Bliss’, ‘Mary Jane’ and have been directly linked to poisoning, emergency hospital admissions including in mental health services and, in some cases, deaths.

The main effects of almost all ‘psychoactive’ drugs, can be described using three main categories:

- stimulants
- ‘downers’ or sedatives
- psychedelics or hallucinogens

Open Spaces (including Allotments and Cemeteries)

We are currently in the process of preparing for our new verge cutting season. Taking on board the lessons that we learnt from last year all plant and equipment has been service and checked, seasonal staff (Temporary Agency Workers) have been sourced. Training has been programmed to commence Monday 9 March 2015.

Throughout 2015 the council will move away from traditional bedding plants on some of the main roundabouts and move to 'Pictorial Meadows' as these are more 'wildlife friendly'. We will also be introducing more sustainable planting, including herbaceous perennials, shrubs and 'bee friendly' lavenders, in other areas throughout the borough.

The frequency of grass cutting in some open spaces and verges may also be reduced in a further effort to encourage more wildlife.

Street Care

We will commence, as of Monday 23 February, a 3 month "Spring Clean" campaign aimed at enhancing the cleanliness within the main town centres. This will be undertaken 7 days a week as a service improvement adding value to our current Street Cleansing Service at no extra cost to the Council.

Our Town Centre team members working at Waterlooville, Leigh Park and Havant will commence duties at 9.30am and will finish at 18.00pm Mon to Thurs and 17.30pm Friday, 18.00 Sat and 16.00 Sun.

Before 9.30 the 3 areas will receive a visit from other members of the Street Cleansing teams before they move on to other areas within the borough.

Supervisors will be contactable by telephone phone at all times up until 18.00, this would be the same as is in place for the current weekend working arrangements and this works extremely well. Supervisors would also be responsible for undertaking random 'spot checks' of each location to ensure that the appropriate levels of cleanliness are maintained.

This campaign has been agreed and accepted by Street Cleansing team members and we should acknowledge their support.

Beachlands.

We have submitted our application for 'Blue Flag' 2015. If successful this will be the 24th consecutive year where we have retained our Blue Flag status and sets us up for a great summer season for our residents and visitors to Hayling Island.

We are very proud to have been flying the Blue Flag on Hayling for the past 23 years and this is a true testament to the hard work of the Beachlands Team.