

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013

By Cllr David Collins – Environment & Neighbourhood Quality

Operational Services

Vehicle Maintenance Workshop

We have been successful in achieving the 'Van Excellence' accreditation for 2013/14. For the second successive year Havant Borough Council has successfully demonstrated the high operational standards required to achieve this accreditation by demonstrating that we have adequate systems in place to ensure that;

- Our vehicles are maintained in good/clean condition
- We have good administration/record keeping processes and this enables us to clearly identify our vehicle drivers
- We provide safe working conditions
- We implement regular driver licence checks
- We undertake regular reviews of driver competence, behaviour and compliance.

We are the first local authority within Hampshire to gain this accreditation.

Waste & Recycling

Vehicles

As part of our ongoing vehicle replacement programme we have taken delivery of a new Refuse Collection Vehicle, the new vehicle will be used in parts of Hayling Island, Leigh Park and Emsworth.

Garden Waste

The renewal of Garden Waste Collection Licences is going extremely well, as of end of March our customer numbers were ;

New Customers = 324	(end of March 2012 = 333)
Renewals = 5269	(end of March 2012 = 4894)
Total = 5593	(Total end of March 2012 = 5227)

Project Integra

The Hampshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Project Integra Action Plan 2013/16 were presented, approved and adopted at Cabinet on Wednesday 20 March 2013. Copies of these documents will be placed on the intranet by the end of April.

Street & Open Space Cleansing and Parks & Open Spaces Maintenance

The front line teams within both of these services are currently being restructured as part of the ongoing need to deliver efficiencies, the full restructure will be completed as of 1 May. Our customers should not notice any changes.

Street Scene Enforcement and Gypsies and Travellers

The rangers continue to patrol hotspots in the Borough and for the last financial year issued 33 fixed penalty notices for littering offences. The team also continue to carry out joint patrols with the Beachlands officers who have been trained by the rangers to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling. This will help to focus attention on Hayling Island in order to help alleviate dog fouling issues associated with the beach.

Fly-posting can be an issue in the Borough and currently it is the County who has responsibility and the powers to remove it. We are currently working with the County and Legal Services to establish if the rangers can act on their behalf to remove fly-posting when it has been identified.

The team continues to work closely with Portsmouth City Council Housing supporting their Estate Service Officers both in Leigh Park and Wecock Farm. Recent success stories include the removal of a significant number of discarded tyres in Warren Park and identifying perpetrators of fly-tipping in Wecock Farm. Through effective partnership working issues are being addressed and resolved across these areas.

The recent unauthorised encampment in Emsworth was resolved in five days with Havant Borough Council acting on behalf of Hampshire County Council Highways. The locking system on the barrier has also received an upgrade, this work was completed soon after by a local contractor.

Street litter bin provision is being reviewed around the new McDonalds drive-thru restaurant under construction in Larchwood Avenue. We are hoping that installation of new bins can be kept to a minimum and existing bins utilised or re-positioned. Ranger patrols around this area and towards Southdowns College are in place, the team will also work with the college to ensure students are informed about the penalties.

Environmental Health

(Including Licensing, Food Safety, Private Sector Housing, Pollution, Health & Safety, Pest Control, Animal Welfare)

The UK Food Surveillance System has been launched in Havant and can now be used by the Commercial Team. Installation of the software was funded by a grant from the Food Standards Agency. The system enables accurate information to be sent electronically to the laboratory that processes food or swab samples. The electronic record is linked to the unique number bar coded label on the sample delivered to the laboratory. Results of the testing carried out on the sample are entered into the system by the laboratory.

The system has the advantage of being able to record information accurately and reliably, and the website can be interrogated to find the results of any particular type of sample across the country or within a specific area.

Parking and Traffic

Good news for parking.

The Shared Parking Team submitted an entry into the 'Parking Partnership Award' category for the British Parking Awards in December showcasing what achievements the Shared Service has reached and how the service works. These awards are central to the parking industry and cover many sectors including entries from both the private and government sectors, even an entry from Marks and Spencer was submitted!

We were pleased to hear we made the first cut down to nine entries. Then in February the shortlist was published and we were really excited to have made it into the last four. The awards finale was held in London at the Lancaster Hotel on Friday 8 March and was well attended. Unfortunately we did not win but did receive a 'highly commended mention' from the judges. We are a very happy and proud team and as the winners were the LOCOG Olympic team, we didn't feel too cheated!

Traffic Team have worked hard this year and have successfully implemented 21 Traffic Regulation Orders and are hard working on next years programme already

Transport & Implementation

Park Road South, Havant Enhancement (HBC / HCC S106 Funded)

Following Cabinet approval on 6 February, this project has been tendered and Caroway Contractors Ltd of Rowlands Castle appointed. Work is planned to start on site in late April, lasting three months to finish at the end of July. The project sees a new toucan crossing replacing the existing pelican crossing between McDonalds and HSBC, reconfiguration of the carriageway whilst maintaining capacity for traffic, creation of the 'missing link' of NCN22 on the west side of the road, and significant and extensive environmental enhancement works including new footway paving and bespoke decorative railings to match the railings either side of Park Road North.

Park Road North, Havant Enhancement (HCC Funded)

In parallel with the Park Road South scheme, this project has been awarded to Caroway Contractors Ltd and work started on 25 March for completion by the end of April. This project sees the reconfiguration of the carriageway to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists whilst maintaining traffic capacity by marking the carriageway into three lanes.

Hayling Billy Trail Phase 4 Bridge Approaches (Sustrans / HBC / HCC S106 Funded)

Following completion of works outside the Ship Inn late last year, two projects now remain to complete the unbroken cycle route between Hayling and the mainland. The project for the section from the south end of the bridge to the 'Texaco' garage is

in design and fully funded. Implementation is expected in winter 2013/14 once additional work required following the outcome of environmental studies has been included within the design. The project for the section along the frontage of the Langstone Sailing Club HQ building has design approval, but additional funding is being sought to complete the widening to connect to the Langstone Bridge. Assuming this funding gap can be closed, implementation would be within the same timescale as work at the southern end. Between these two schemes an off-road cycle route of minimum width 2.02m will exist from Havant Station to the Station Theatre on Hayling.

Morelands School (HCC Funded Safe Routes to School)

The scheme has been split into two phases. Phase 1 has been awarded to Caroway Contractors Ltd of Rowlands Castle and sees the creation of a pinch point on Crookhorn Lane to improve safety for the school crossing patrol, and footway widening in front of the School grounds. This work starts on 2 April for completion during the Easter school holiday. In phase 2, which sees improved drop-off facilities in the Golf Club car park, and the widening to shared cyclist / pedestrian status of the path linking Crookhorn Lane to Liddiards Way, discussions are ongoing with Portsmouth City Council, although HCC Estates have approved the dedication of school land for highway purposes to allow the Liddiards Way works to proceed. Phase 2 is likely to be on site during the school Summer holiday.

West Beachlands Resurfacing Works (HBC Funded)

Work to resurface the toilet car park and café bench area was completed in early March and the remaining funds will be utilised in the repair of the road surface leading to both Beachlands and West Beachlands from Inn on the Beach.

Eastoke to Beachlands Footpath/Cycleway

Work has commenced on the construction of a pedestrian / cyclepath from Eastoke corner to Coastguard car park, and is proposed to be complete by Easter. This will help to meet one of our Blue Flag aims for this year to improve sustainable transport links to the beach.

Frendstaple Road Cycle Route (HBC Green Transport Funded)

Design on this scheme to provide a cycle route from A3 London Road to Park Lane via Highfield Avenue, The Glade and Tempest Way utilising the existing highways and footpaths wherever possible is complete. A bid to Hampshire County Council to extend this project to Park Lane and Sapphire Ridge has been successful. The project has therefore been put on hold until April 2013 so as to combine the projects.

Footpath 88 Hayling Island – Mill Rythe / Hayling College to Tournerbury Lane (HCC Funded SRtS / Access Team)

Construction work to widen this path and to improve the quality of the surface commenced on 18 February and will be complete by Easter. The footpath has been closed during the duration of the works. The local and county councillors are in agreement with the project.

Havant New Lane Cycleway, Havant (HCC Funded)

Construction work started on 19 November 2012 to implement an on road cycle lane the length of New Lane which includes an off road link to Crosslands Drive and a pedestrian refuge adjacent to Littlegreen Avenue. Completion of the works completed by February 2013. Lining and signing works to be completed by mid April 2013

Trosnant Schools (HCC Funded Safe Routes to School)

Design work to improve safety outside Trosnant Schools is nearing complete. Safety Audit has approved the design and now looking to go out to tender by mid-April and construction is expected to start by mid May

Hambledon Parade Improvements (S106 Funded)

Cabinet agreed to the project brief and for the Design and Implementation team to carry out preliminary designs, public consultation and implementation of the works. Consultation expected to commence by end of May 2013 and construction on site by Autumn 2013.

Community Safety including CCTV

The main focus of work for the Community Safety Team is currently centred upon developing effective working relationships with the Local Children's Partnerships and through them with the schools across the Borough of Havant. The purpose of this work is to ensure that the necessary links are in place to develop the Supporting Troubled families programme as it moves into its next stage.

Areas of concern currently being tackled with our Partners are:-

- The Seafront Hayling Island where drug and alcohol related activity is impacting on residents quality of life and
- The Greywell where groups of teenagers are using local flats and public areas to gather intimidating residents and businesses alike – Leigh Park Police are currently undertaking the necessary consultation required to implement a Section 30 order to enable them to disrupt groups seen to committing anti-social behaviour.

The subject of Public Space CCTV is to be raised with both the Joint Executive Board and Members during the month of April as part of an ongoing best value review of the service.

Sustainability

WWF Earth Hour

The Council has supported the WWF earth hour campaign on Saturday 23 March 2013. We powered down all non essential lighting on Saturday evening to support this event at The Plaza and at Southmoor Lane Depot. This campaign was promoted to staff and residents

Insulate Hampshire

Last month Insulate Hampshire won the Best Local Initiative category, ahead of two London-based programmes at the Climate Week awards in March.

The end of Project Report for Senate will be available in early April and will give us more detail of the outcomes for residents.

Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

We are working with Yorkshire Energy Services (partner of the Insulate Hampshire project) on targeting particular areas in Havant that qualify for ECO funding. The first area is being targeted in early April. Letters are being sent to over 500 households followed by door knocking to target these homes. We have worked with Trading Standards and residents will be offered a central number to call to confirm that the scheme they are being offered is backed by the Council.

Switch Hampshire

We are partners in a project with Hampshire County Council, the Hampshire District and Borough Councils, and Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils to set up a 'collective energy switching scheme' which aims to help residents save money on their gas and/or electricity bills.

Switch Hampshire will encourage residents to join together and use their combined purchasing power to negotiate a better deal on their energy tariffs. Residents only need to register, and the rest will be done for them. It is completely free to take part, and there is no obligation to switch supplier.

The average Hampshire household energy bill is just over £1000 a year - this equates to annual spend of over £800m on domestic energy across Hampshire. Typically, consumers in Hampshire could save between £60 and £200 a year on their energy bills by participating in a collective energy switching scheme, depending upon their current tariff(s) and their personal circumstances.

Sign up campaign: Marketing and promotion of Switch Hampshire will be really important, in order to encourage people to sign up and take part. Clearly, the more people who sign up, the more negotiating power we will have - so it is vital as many people as possible register for the scheme. Just two per cent of Hampshire's 760,000 households, for example, amounts to around 15,000 energy customers.

Please promote Switch Hampshire where you can. More details about the scheme and how people can register will be announced in the next month. In the meantime further information can be found at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/collective-switching> or by contacting Pennie Brown.

Nationally, collective energy switching is supported strongly by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Local Government Association and consumer groups including Consumer Focus.