

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 13th April 2016

Councillor Tony Briggs: Cabinet Lead for Environmental Services

The Operational Services team together with Support services based at The Plaza have been busy over the past few months working on the Mobilisation Plan ready for the successful launch of the new Joint Venture Company – ‘Norse South East’ in April.

We have communicated to our customers the message:

“New Name - Same Service”

Friday 1st April 2016 saw the successful launch of the Council’s Joint Venture Company - *Norse South East* (NSE).

The Chief Executive, Sandy Hopkins, Councillor Tony Briggs and Peter Hawes, Norse Commercial Services Managing Director were all present to enjoy complimentary breakfast sandwiches alongside all of the frontline employees at the start of their working day at 6.30am to celebrate the launch of this exciting new partnership. All employees were then welcomed into the new Joint Venture by Councillor Briggs and Peter Hawes from Norse.

The Mayor later unveiled the new sign for the Joint Venture Company, and was given a guided tour around the depot facilities together with senior officials from Norse and the Council.

Over the weekend, colleagues from the Council and Norse undertook the changeover from the existing HBC to the Norse I.T. systems in the depot. This has included a complete change of all desktop I.T. systems, with new terminals, monitors & printers. On Sunday 3rd April, Norse were at the depot until 9pm ensuring that all systems were working ready for Monday morning.

This process has taken place extremely smoothly and no significant issues have occurred as a result of the changeover. This meant that office operations were able to operate as normal on Monday morning.

In terms of commercial activity, Norse South East have now established a specification for trade waste services to local businesses. Pricing is being finalised and promotional media is being produced ready to launch this service. It is anticipated that NSE will be able to start to operate trade waste services very soon.

NSE have also, in partnership with Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse, successfully employed a professional Business Development Manager. This individual will work across all three Joint Ventures managed by NSE Managing Director, Mark Emms, and will concentrate on bringing small, medium and large sized contract business into the partnership.

A planning application to convert one of the bays in the workshop into an MOT station has recently been submitted. This facility will provide MOT and repair services for private vehicles, from motorbikes through to vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes, including cars and vans. NSE are aiming to have the MOT station up and running by the third quarter of 2016

Officers recently facilitated local participation in the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative in March as a celebration of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday. Local volunteer groups, schools and businesses set up cleaning events in their areas.

Following on from this, we will repeat last year's Spring Clean throughout March, April & May, which will again include pressure washing of main shopping areas, which will feature as part of the Norse South East launch as well.

NSE has commenced the grass cutting schedule and are currently part way through the first cut. Annual highway weed spraying will be commencing operations shortly, and uniquely in 2016/17, NSE will use its own in-house resources, skills and expertise to deliver the weed spraying services across the Borough.

Roundabout works are currently being planned and readied for implementation, and again this year operatives will use a Victorian meadow mix and mixed perennial flower bedding.

The Open Spaces officer recently enabled an allotment holder to have their own beehives at Purbrook West allotments. With extensive planning and consultation with other allotment holders and local residents, our allotment holder has been able to expand her passion for bee husbandry into her allotment site and protect and preserve these extremely valuable and increasingly threatened pollinators.

Allotment holders at Washington Road will also benefit from the track at the side of the school up to the allotment itself due to be resurfaced in April. This work will significantly improve access for allotment users, users of the cycleway and pupils of Glenwood school.

In the aftermath of Storm Katie our Arboricultural officer has been kept very busy. Significantly we lost a very large beach tree in Claremont Gardens which nearly fell on a local property. The community pulled together and worked to remove large parts of the tree in order to make it safe.

Other significant losses included a *Leylandii* in Waterlooville Cemetery, a large sweet chestnut tree in Hollybank woods that fell onto a residents fence, and a Willow tree was lost on Ladybridge Road. Garden waste collection services are currently carrying out bin delivery orders for new customers who are joining this service, and also completing bin exchanges for customers moving from sacks to bins in line with the change from sacks to wheeled bins

Refuse and recycling collections operated as normal over the Easter period, with collections on Good Friday and Easter Monday as it has for many years. These collections will continue to be made during the Spring/Summer Bank Holiday periods

in future, so all collections will be made as normal on May Day (2nd May), Spring Bank Holiday (30th May), and Summer Bank Holiday (29th August) during 2016. The schedule of Christmas and New Year collections will be further advised this Autumn.