

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 10 July 2019

Councillor Gary Hughes

Cabinet Lead for County Council Liaison and Commercial Services

Environmental Services delivered by Norse SE

NSE continues to gain new commercial business with growth in Trade Waste Collections, Grounds Maintenance, Vehicle Services and Engineering Works. A new Commercial Director will join NORSE on 12 Aug 19.

Vehicle workshop and fleet management

All fleet vehicles, plant and machinery are being serviced on a regular basis. Issues resulting from 'wear and tear' are being managed effectively to minimise the amount of time that vehicles are unavailable for use.

Open Spaces

Highway verge cutting is well underway and the team has completed three cuts to date. The weather conditions have caused speedier growth between cuts which results in slower progress. The team is now 'strimming' around obstacles (lamp posts, street signs, benches etc...) and this is improving the overall appearance of the verges.

Highway weed spraying is also taking place which, once applied, can take up to four weeks for the weed to die back at which point a team will revisit and remove dead weeds.

Cemeteries

Norse South East manages the day to day services within the three cemeteries owned by HBC at Waterlooville, Havant and Warblington. New burial space is no longer available at Waterlooville and Havant cemeteries and there is limited new burial space within Warblington cemetery.

The council has been approached to consider setting aside an area of our cemetery provision for Muslim burials. Initial assessment is the demand is very small (less than two per year).

Members will have seen the press release detailing the intention to undertake headstone testing across all of our cemeteries and the reason for it. I have asked that a similar press release be produced on conclusion, detailing the number of 'unsafe' headstones that required action and the efforts to contact the relatives.

The council is reviewing options to create additional burial space within the borough.

Beachlands

Hayling Island Beachlands was awarded 2019 Blue Flag status for the 29th consecutive year. This reflects the efforts and hard work undertaken by our frontline teams who ensure that the beach and associated areas are clean, tidy and safe.

Additional resources (extra bins, litter picks and litter bin emptying) are available to deal with the high number of people who visit our beaches when the weather is good, particularly during bank holiday weekends.

Norse South East teams also supported the COPP Memorial D-Day 75th Anniversary event which took place on Thursday 06 June. Work was carried out in advance to ensure that the memorial and local areas were in excellent condition for the event.

The 40 beach hut owners who were affected by the move of their beach huts have been given a 20% rebate on the 2019/2020 plot licence fees. It is hoped that the ecological survey of Hayling Beach due to be delivered by Sep 2019 will determine the way ahead for a permanent solution.

There are currently **four** non-payments of beach hut licences for the period 2018/2019 and one for 2017/18. Letters have been sent to all owners explaining the consequences of non-payment (removal of beach hut by them (or by the council at a cost that will be sought)).

Waste and Recycling Strategy (Project Integra)

Certain areas within the borough have very high levels of recycle contamination. Whilst collection team members do check the content of recycle bins they can only judge the content by what they see at the top of the bin and will not be able to assess what is beneath this. HBC and NSE will be working together to promote good recycling and reduce the amount of non-recyclable materials that residents place in their bins.

One of the biggest challenges we have is the amount of material that carries the recycle logo. This is very confusing for residents as we can only accept plastic bottles, food/drink/aerosol cans, newspaper and cardboard within the household recycling. Glass bottles/jars and unwanted clothing/textiles can be placed in banks in various locations within the borough.

As of end of June 2019 we have 10,924 garden waste customers. 9,734 are customers who have renewed their licences and 1,190 new customers. There are approximately 900 customers who did not renew their licences, two weeks ago we sent a letter to each customer to advise that we will collect the green

waste bin, this has prompted some customers to renew. We are currently in the process of collecting the unwanted green waste bins.

Liaison with HCC & Police and Crime Panel

Next meeting of Police & Crime panel - 5 Jul. Following a meeting held on 8th June, the current (Conservative) PCC, Michael Lane was not selected as the candidate for the PCC elections in 2019. He stated that he would not contest the decision, but instead work to ensure that his successor

Next full HCC Council Meeting – 18 Jul

Armed Forces Covenant Representative Activities

I (along with Laura Bevis) attended an Armed Forces 'Champions' Conference held at Theipval Barracks, Aldershot, on 15th May. The event brought together representatives from all authorities across Hampshire, with the purpose of sharing information, understanding best practice (where appropriate) and how support to serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces could be improved. An interesting statistic... approximately 1,000 people leave the Army every year. Of those, approximately 100 people will resettle in Hampshire & Isle of Wight. Of those 100 people, 95% will transition to civilian life without any problems. Therefore, the demand for services across Hampshire is very small. This reinforces the policy we have pursued in Havant of ensuring that our support should be primarily 'signposting' where appropriate, but engaging (with individuals) when necessary. The information listed on the HBC website (under Armed Forces) is monitored and updated regularly).