

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 24 July 2013

By Cllr Mike Fairhurst – Operational Services

Waste & Recycling Strategy & Management

All refuse/recycling teams are working well and have recently been called upon to assist each other as a result of several vehicle breakdowns, this had resulted in them working longer than normal on several occasions to ensure that all work was completed on the designated day, minimising the impact to our customers.

Havant Borough Council, in partnership with Weeecare, organised an event to collect small electrical items for recycling, the event was held at The Plaza staff car on Saturday 22 June. Members of the public were invited to bring along unwanted or broken small electrical items - such as toasters, hairdryers, mobile phones, televisions, cameras, lawn mowers, irons, hoovers, kettles, laptops, printers or electrical DIY equipment that may be lying about gathering dust at home. It was a successful event and the team filled two large cages. Several community centres were also involved and provided facilities for members of the public to drop items off for collection by the council.

Streetcare, Open Spaces (Including Cemeteries & Coastal Recreation)

Operational Services have been involved in preparing the grounds around the Plaza ahead of the community open day.

We have recently undertaken work for outside organisations: Horndean Parish Council (reinstating football pitches and cutting grass in open spaces), and Havant College (cutting the grass on their sports field, loaning and delivering planters for the opening of their new building). We are keen to pursue any opportunity for bringing in additional business/income.

Trees have been planted in Havant park to replace existing trees that had to be cut down.

As a result of the ever changing profile of the beach near to Hayling Island golf club there was a need to relocate several beach huts. The owners of the huts were advised of the need to move their huts and the Engineering Works Team moved and relocated the huts on behalf of the owners. Several meetings were held with the hut owners to ensure the that work was carried out to everyone's satisfaction.

Vehicle Workshop & Fleet Management

We are continually seeking additional business from outside organisations and have recently undertaken work for:

- Chichester District Council (major repairs to refuse collection vehicles)

- Horndean Parish Council, and Havant College (service and maintenance of vehicles and machinery)
- Crookhorn College, Trosnant Schools and Front Lawn School (service and MoT mini buses).

We are actively looking for more such work to increase our income.

Sustainability

Switch Hampshire

The council has worked with other Hampshire authorities to set up a 'collective energy switching scheme' which aims to help residents save money on their gas and/or electricity bills. The first Switch has just closed with over 5,000 Hampshire residents registering. Following the registration period in May, a selection of energy suppliers submitted their most competitive tariff based on the number of residents who had signed up to the scheme. Initial average figures show that within Havant, a monthly dual fuel direct debit customer can make the savings of £81 a year. Further Switch Hampshire schemes are planned for Autumn and Winter.

Havant Goes Greener

The council is working with Havant Friends of the Earth to run the third Havant Goes Greener family fair. This will be held in Havant Park on Saturday 14th September, and is a free event celebrating a Greener Havant. There will be free activities for children, live music, stalls, food, demonstrations, competitions and fun for the whole family. There will be a programme of activities throughout the day from 10am to 4pm, with activities previously spread over a week concentrated into one day.

Fuel Poverty Figures Released

Statistics have just been released by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on the number of households living in fuel poverty on a local authority level. The DECC data shows that 9.6% of households in Havant are in fuel poverty compared with 11.6 % the previous year. This compares with Hampshire wide figures of 9.3 % of households living in fuel poverty in Hampshire.