

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 16 October 2013

By Cllr Mike Fairhurst – Operational Services

Waste & Recycling Strategy & Management

The revised Christmas and New Year rubbish and recycling collection dates for 2013/14 have been approved. Further details of service changes over this period will be sent to all members early November. Residents will be informed, as in previous years, through the winter edition of Serving You, web site, social media etc.

During National Recycling Week, which took place in June this year, the council promoted the recycling and reuse of small electrical appliances. Residents brought 579 kg of electrical items to us across various sites. Two residents of the Borough won prizes after completing an awareness questionnaire. .

Although overall our contamination of recycling is not high, there are areas where there is a particular problem, and we have started to focus on them. On 18 September, a six week contamination and excess waste project started on a round in the Barncroft/Bedhampton wards.

The Waste and Recycling Advisors have been working in partnership with Wecock Housing Office to complete Phase 3 of the Wecock recycling project. All multi-occupancy flats now have access to recycling facilities and we have ensured that the rubbish bins on site have the correct capacity of to accommodate the reduced amount of waste. So far the quantity and quality of the recycling is good, and monitoring will continue to ensure this continues .

Streetcare

The team are continuing with their work in order to keep the Borough clean and tidy. We have recently undertaken concentrated work in Havant town centre – weed removal, addressing known hot spots (cigarette related litter) and leaf clearance - to ensure that the area is as clean and tidy as possible. We will be doing the same in Leigh Park and Waterlooville town centres in the near future.

Open Spaces

A major new tree planting scheme is starting at Cowplain Recreation Ground. The first phase is 21 trees to be completed by 2014, with around 40 trees planned.

Seven Small Leaved Lime and three Field Maple have been planted at the north end of Hooks Lane Recreation ground, in the final phase of the replacement of unsuitable poplars. This final phase of planting is funded by Tree Council Big Tree Plant.

Waterlooville Cemetery – there are now no new burial plots available. Funeral directors are aware and alternative options are being explored.

Havant Cemetery – the top half of existing common graves, where the first burial took place 75 years ago or longer, are being offered as new graves. This does not involve the disturbance of the original burial which remains in its original place.

College Road Open Space: HBC has £60K developer funding to be spent on children's play equipment in College Road. Officers have contacted PCC to see if they are interested in partnering in the project, and they wish to have the site transferred to them so they have control. PCC have indicated they will match the £60K from their budgets. South Downs College are interested in outdoor gym equipment and may be able to put some funding in as well. Discussions continue and residents are being consulted in advance of a formal consultation led by PCC early next year.

Coastal Recreation

Our 2013 Blue Flag season has now finished, and was another successful year. The Beachlands team have also supported the National Watersports Festival, which this year was bigger and better, and the recent Kite Surfing event, where a new world record was set for covering the distance of a mile in the fastest time. This was sponsored by 'Virgin' and Sir Richard Branson took part in the event.

Vehicle Workshop & Fleet Management

Vehicle workshop continue to undertake work for Crookhorn College and East Hants fleet vehicles, and we continue to work with other local authority partners within Hampshire seeking ever more efficiencies.

Two new refuse collection vehicles will be introduced in November and December replacing current end of life vehicles.

Sustainability

Following the first Switch Hampshire scheme, which aimed to save households money on their energy bills, we are extending the scheme to help small and medium businesses get a better deal on their energy bills. Switch Hampshire aims to help by searching for cheaper tariffs and assisting with the switching process. The scheme is free and businesses are under no obligation to switch.

The Havant Goes Greener Family Fair, which promotes a greener way of living, was held in Havant Park for the third successive year on Saturday, 14th September. The event was well attended and many were able to enjoy the free children's activities and live music as well as find out more about how making small changes can make a big difference.

The council has joined Solent Green Deal, a local scheme to help people make the most of the Government's national Green Deal (which offers loans for residents to make their homes more efficient which they then repay through their energy bills. Homeowners can request a council approved assessment of their property to get impartial advice on what improvements they could have done. For more information visit: www.solentgreendeal.org.uk