

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 16 April 2014

By Cllr Mike Fairhurst – Operational Services

Waste & Recycling Strategy & Management

Garden Waste Collection Service

This remains a popular service and as of the end of March 5,778 licences had been sold. Bins/bags have been delivered to customers in advance of their first collection.

New textile collection contract

The council have now joined the Hampshire framework agreement for the collection and recycling of textiles on council owned land.

Textiles bring banks that were operated by two local charities and located on council sites were removed at the end of March. The new style banks, which are blue and red, were installed during the first week of April. Additional bring bank sites have been identified and it is planned to have banks on these sites in the very near future making textile recycling more convenient for residents.

The new textile collection contract will be operated by The European Recycling Company who are the largest clothing re-wear and recycling company in the world. It is hoped that the two charities will continue to benefit from the income generated under the new contract agreement and they may also locate their own banks on private sites within the borough.

Streetcare

We have purchased 2 'Gumwand' chewing gum removal machines'. These machines will be used by our frontline team members to enhance the overall appearance of the borough including shopping precincts, district shop sites and other high profile locations within the Borough. We will also offer our services to external customers.

Open Spaces

Our new seasonal grass cutting personnel have been trained and are now undertaking work throughout the borough. Verge cutting commenced late March but it should be noted that there are some areas of Bedhampton and Havant that will not have verges mown until mid May due to the fact that daffodils have flowered and need to be left at 6 weeks before being cut back to ensure future growth.

Coastal Recreation

Work has been completed to realign and reposition some of the displaced beach huts which were affected by the storms and high winds during February. The Engineering Works Team carried out this work at the end of March.

It has not been possible to attend to all of the huts that were displaced as, in an effort to offer additional protection from the sea, some need to be relocated and we are seeking advice regarding the most suitable locations.

Maintenance work has also been undertaken within the car parks affected by the storms along the same stretch of West beachlands.

Vehicle Workshop & Fleet Management

The Workshop team has been busy undertaking work on machinery in preparation for the verge cutting season and are continuing to inspect Taxis for the licensing department.

The team has also carried out maintenance on ground care equipment for Chichester Council.

We have recently taken delivery of a new Digger for use in our cemeteries and also two new vehicles for the Street Sweeping team. These vehicles were purchased as part of our ongoing fleet replacement programme.

Sustainability

The latest Switch Hampshire Domestic and Business scheme closed in February this year. Following an auction, where energy suppliers bid against each other to offer their best tariffs, the savings and the percentage of those who can save from this scheme is high. From those that registered for the scheme, using an online dual fuel bill as an example, the average saving is over £190 per annum.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has released details of the first six successful bids for funding under the Green Deal Communities fund to support roll out of the Green Deal locally.

The decision for a joint bid with East Hampshire District Council is yet to be decided, although DECC have indicated that a further announcement is imminent.