

Cabinet Lead Report – Council 10th December 2014

Councillor Tony Briggs: Cabinet Lead for Environment and Neighbourhood Quality

Waste & Recycling Strategy

Changes to the collection days during Christmas and New Year are displayed in the winter edition of 'Serving You'.

As in previous years refuse crews will collect additional side waste for the first collection after Christmas. This is to assist our customers who may have more non recyclable waste than at other times of the year.

Open Spaces

Andy Paffett, Open Spaces Team Leader, will be leaving the Council on 31 December 2014. Andy has completed almost 35 years service and his last working day will be Friday 05 December.

Portsmouth City Council have improved one of their equipped play areas St Clares (Warren Park) and contributed funds towards the improvement of the play area at College Road (Purbrook). They have also advised that they have £250k for improving the St Albans Road play area.

The Open Spaces team have assisted in the installation of a memorial plaque within Warblington cemetery, The plaque and rose bushes have been funded by the 'Emsworth Residents Association' and is to mark all those who have lost their lives in conflict. The plaque will be amongst a bed of Red roses, giving visitors a chance to reflect during their visit to the cemetery.

Bidbury Mead Playground Planting.

The timing of the contract for the playground meant that the planting could not be done before the opening.

Weather permitting; a team of local volunteers under the supervision of Groundwork (Solent) will start work on Thursday 15th January 2015 to provide the perimeter planting to the toddlers area, around the spring water area and to construct a willow play tunnel.

On Saturday 17th January volunteers, young and old, are all welcome to join the team to help complete this work...a chance to contribute to the enhancement of the park.

Allotments

On 26 November a meeting was held at the Plaza for all Council allotment tenants, about 150 of 750 plot holders attended. The purpose of the meeting was threefold,

- To provide information to tenants about devolved management of allotments
- To answer any questions tenants may have about the subject
- For the Council to gauge the appetite among tenants for some form of devolved management.

Cllr Briggs explained that the issue of devolved management was being looked at under the banner of 'localism' and greater involvement of users in the management and maintenance of their facilities. It is not being viewed as a cost saving measure but could result in lower costs to plot holders and external funding for improvements. The Council would not be forcing self-management on tenants.

There was a short presentation by Paul Neary of the National Society of Allotment Gardeners. Paul explained how there is a spectrum of devolved management from simple 'site stewards' helping the Council with management of the site, through unincorporated 'associations' forming working parties and raising improvement funds to fully fledged 'incorporated associations' leasing a site in its entirety and issuing tenancies etc.

Paul explained that it is possible to start small with site stewards or informal associations and if successful to progress to full self-management. He highlighted the advantages and risks and along with members and officers, answered questions from the floor. A show of hands at the end of the meeting indicated a significant number of tenants were interested in looking further at devolved management at the simpler level.

Parking Strategy/Management & Traffic Management

Neighbourhood Quality – Enforcement in the News and on the BBC

The plain clothes Rangers combating offences of dog owners failing to clear up after their pets is new as is the fact that Kingdom are approaching 3,000 FPNs. These allied with the BBC series "Don't mess with me" have kept Havant Council and in particular Neighbourhood Quality centre stage on both regional and National levels.

Street Care and Beachlands

The Street Care team have been busy clearing fallen leaves in many areas throughout the Borough, at times responding at short notice to attend to areas of high footfall.