

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

1. The report seeks to update Members on various issues relating to the Environment and Sustainability portfolio since the last report to Council.

Waste Core Strategy

2. Consultation on the Preferred Approach for the Waste Core Strategy closed in September. We received responses from 30 organisations and 179 members of the public. Most responses were supportive of the overall approach that aims to promote high levels of recycling and broadly where most new waste management development should be concentrated. However many responses also wanted to see more reference to waste prevention and re-use measures.
3. The main areas of concern from the Districts and the waste industry were the financial and operational implications of achieving higher recycling; the need for regular monitoring and review of any targets; and not to discount the possibility of future waste growth linked to economic recovery and planning housing and employment growth across Nottinghamshire.
4. Members of the public and environmental groups raised concerns about the impact of waste management close to residential areas, especially in relation to the Mansfield/Ashfield area, and concerns over the use of incineration. We also received a number of pro-forma responses and a petition calling for full recycling, no incineration, no landfill and no-unlined land-raise.

Minerals Local Plan

5. I was pleased to chair a Member Officer Working Group earlier this month to discuss the progress of the new Minerals Local Plan that will replace the current plan adopted in 2005. The County is facing significant challenges regarding how to meet future shortfalls in sand and gravel, brick clay and other minerals which the new Minerals Local Plan will have to resolve. Work on the background papers is nearing completion. These will support a public consultation on issues and options which is due to commence in the New Year.

Retford Household Waste Recycling

6. The Retford Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) is currently closed for a 12 week programme of refurbishment and is due to reopen early December. The site will make better use of the available space, increasing the number of containers available and will introduce a new one-way system to help with the flow of traffic.
7. This is the final HWRC to be improved under a five year refurbishment programme undertaken by our Waste PFI Contractor, Veolia Environmental Services. The improvements have been very successful, creating facilities that are easier for the public to use and increasing recycling rates to over 70%.

Paint Reuse

8. Community RePaint Nottinghamshire collects paint from residents at the Calverton and Worksop Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). The paint is reused by local community and voluntary groups and has been operating for over a year, helping to divert paint from landfill, which is better for the environment.
9. Residents are donating more paint than ever so as part of the scheme public open days were held on 23rd August at Worksop HWRC, and on 22nd September at Calverton HWRC, giving the public free access to the donated paint. A total of 480 tins of reusable paint were given away at these events and we hope to repeat more public events in the future.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Update

10. The one theme that has been prevalent throughout October is the tremendous community spirit that is generated by the Local Improvement Scheme.
11. I attended a number of events during the month and the communities involved turned out in force to acknowledge the completion of the project.
12. LIS reached an important landmark during October with celebrations for its 2000th scheme in Upper Saxondale. The play park had been a dream of residents for the last ten years and to see the delight on children's faces as they played on the equipment was very satisfying. More than 250 residents turned up to the opening and the grateful thanks of many were passed on to me and Councillor Cutts.
13. Earlier the same day I officially opened the new village pond at Langar which again drew a large crowd. The original village pond has been restored to its former glory and I must congratulate the Village Pond Trust for all their efforts.
14. Large crowds also turned out in Bilsthorpe for the unveiling of a memorial to 77 miners who had died during the working life of the colliery. The 7ft Davy lamp memorial was a fitting memorial for the village. LIS has played a significant part in funding a number of memorials recognising the county's mining heritage.

15. An archaeological dig at Kirkby Hardwick turned up some interesting finds including a 17th Century clay pipe and a piece of flint dating back to 2000 BC. The two week dig by the county's archaeologists culminated in a Heritage Open Day at which locals were given detailed descriptions of the site and its history
16. A similar dig was undertaken in Bleasby on the site of the former vicarage. This site will be developed in coming months into a village green, the first phase of which will take place in early November with an orchard planting event.
17. The funding of small independent museums and history societies continues with the latest recipients being the Burton Joyce and Bulcote History Society and the Mansfield Fire Station Preservation Society.
18. The Burton Joyce society, which has a thriving membership, received new presentation equipment and a display cabinet. We also helped fund a leaflet on pub walks from Burton Joyce to surrounding villages.
19. The Mansfield Fire Station Preservation Society received funding to help with restoring four oil paintings which are part of the Merryweather Collection housed at the station.
20. I am also pleased to report that there was a surge of applications in the run up to the September 30th deadline – a healthy sign that people in villages and towns across the county are still looking after their neighbourhoods' environmental, heritage, conservation and tourism needs.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BUTLER
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY