

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

### **REPORT FOR PERIOD DECEMBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012**

#### **Household Waste Recycling Centres**

1. In December 2011 the refurbishment of the Retford Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) was completed. This is the final stage of the refurbishment or development of all fourteen HWRCs in the county as part of the Waste PFI Contract with Veolia Environmental Services. The extensive refurbishment programme across the county has included improving site layouts to minimise queuing; increasing the range of materials that can be recycled; and enhancing signage to make the sites easier for the public to use.
2. The HWRC improvements have been well received by the public and in the last annual survey of service users, 98% were either quite or very satisfied with the service. The recycling rates have improved too, with latest figures showing that well over 70% of the waste received at the sites is now recycled.

#### **Minerals Local Plan**

3. The preparation of a new Minerals Local Plan, to replace the current plan adopted in 2005, has now begun. I approved a draft consultation document in November which has now reached the issues and options stage. This is the first stage in the preparation of the new plan. A major public consultation exercise is due to commence by the end of this month and will last for 8 weeks. The consultation responses will be used to inform the new Plan.

#### **Waste Core Strategy**

4. The preparation of a Joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy is at an advanced stage. A report seeking approval of a draft strategy will be considered at today's meeting. The strategy will then be subject to a formal period of public representations before being submitted to Government.

#### **Local Improvement Scheme Update (LIS)**

5. The mild weather in December and early January has seen an abundance of projects completed under the LIS banner.

6. Ollerton War Memorial has undergone a major clean up to the railings and gates as well as the relaying and resurfacing of paths which had become broken and uneven.
7. It was great to see the rural craftsmanship of hedge laying first hand at Edwinstowe Allotments where hedgerows have been installed for security reasons and to help attract wildlife. Craftsman Bob Martin is delighted that LIS is helping keep the craft alive as more than 300,000 miles have been lost in the last 50 years due to roads, development and modern farming practices. I was very pleased to join Cllr Les Ward at the allotments just before Christmas, where allotment holders expressed their delight at the work carried out. These allotments mean a great deal to the users and residents.
8. A previous LIS award winning scheme which is now one of the county's emerging tourist attractions, the Hobbucks Nature Area in Arnold, has had a pond and wetland area created to attract a variety of wildlife. LIS funding has also installed a viewpoint panel from which you can see landmarks like Charnwood Forest (21 miles away), Wollaton Hall and East Midlands Airport.
9. I was delighted to visit one of the largest dovecotes in the UK which has undergone repair work. The 40ft dovecote in Sibthorpe needed urgent roof maintenance and debris clearance. The dovecote has more than 1220 nesting boxes and has graffiti inscribed on the walls dating back to 1622. English Heritage has referred to it as an "outstanding example of medieval architecture".
10. A group of disabled people from West Bridgford who regularly use the Hareham Allotments in Ruddington are delighted with the new access improvements we have undertaken, which include a footbridge, steps and resurfaced pathways at the allotments site. Allotment members provide fruit and vegetables for the James Peacock Charitable Trust who in turn distributes it to the needy of Ruddington.
11. Youngsters from St Mary's youth club in Arnold were the inspiration behind a woodland garden at St Mary's Church in the town. They organised volunteers to help with tree and bulb planting and the garden has been very well received by parishioners and locals alike. This was an excellent example of people of all ages working together for the good of the area.
12. Other projects completed recently include a much needed youth shelter for local teenagers at the Tommy Simpson Playing Field in Harworth and Bircotes, and restoration work on an avenue of mature lime trees in Milton. The 150 year old trees needed urgent attention as many of the branches were dead, damaged or diseased.
13. A number of footpath improvements have been carried out across the county including Garwick Close in Forest Town, Kirlington Road in Southwell, Sibcy Lane in Balderton, Alfred Street in Sutton in Ashfield and Barker Street in Huthwaite.
14. Wharf Lane recreation ground in Radcliffe on Trent has seen the creation of off road car parking to help alleviate traffic problems for local residents. The park is home to a number of Radcliffe Olympic football teams and there has been a major congestion problem for years particularly at weekends. I was pleased to join the Leader, members of the parish council, other residents and youngsters who will use the park, to mark the work.

15. Work has also been completed on the Blidworth bus shelter, gates have been replaced at Sutton Bonington Playing Fields and work has been completed on a project to improve Tuxford Market Place.
16. I am very proud of the work undertaken by the LIS scheme around the county and look forward to visiting many more schemes over the next couple of months.

**COUNCILLOR RICHARD BUTLER**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**