

meeting	COUNCIL	
date	21 October 2010	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT FOR PERIOD SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2010

Local Improvement Schemes

1. I am pleased to report on another busy month for the Local Improvement Scheme with a diverse mix of projects being completed. In addition, the Local Identity Programme has seen more than 200 benches and notice boards being installed in towns, villages and parishes across the county.
2. A steady stream of applications has been received in the run up to the closing date at the end of September which has resulted in a 30% increase in applicants. I am looking forward to reviewing the applications over the coming weeks and once this is complete I will undertake a number of radio and press interviews around the county detailing some of the schemes that will be considered for next year.
3. **Scheme updates:**
 - The £100,000 refurbishment of Plantation Hill Shopping Area in Worksop, which has been carried out over a number of years, has now been completed. Many favourable comments have been received from shoppers and shop owners alike with the improved disability access and the introduction of additional parking spaces being particularly well received.
 - I was pleased to attend the opening of a play scheme in Ravenshead. Part-funded by LIS the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Longdale Lane

boasts state of the art all weather pitches and includes building improvements and the installation of CCTV.

- The unveiling of the new village sign in Colston Bassett proved to be a truly memorable event for all the villagers. The sign, which was the brainchild of local residents, featured many aspects of life in and around the village. On the day I was particularly pleased to be able to introduce T hurstine Basset, a descendent of the original Basset family which dates back to 1066. Two further signs were also unveiled at either end of the village.
- I was joined by Councillor Cutts and Councillor Cottee, as well as former Forest manager, Frank Clarke, at the opening of the new Keyworth United Football Club clubhouse in Platt Lane, Keyworth. The club is an outlet for hundreds of children in the local and surrounding areas and the clubhouse was a much needed facility. The Local Improvement Scheme has funded car parking at the ground and this will be opened in due course.
- A community garden was opened in Burton Joyce which involved the local parish council, Burton Joyce Primary School and Burton Joyce & Bulcote Local History Society. The garden is now home to new seating and pathways, a picnic area, bird and bat boxes and an outdoor classroom and it has become a real focus and meeting place for local families.

Proposed Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at the Former Rufford Colliery, Rainworth

4. The Public Inquiry into Veolia's planning application for an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) at the Former Rufford Colliery, Rainworth, reconvened on 28th September 2010 and is due to continue until 26th October at Rainworth Village Hall.
5. The Public Inquiry initially commenced on 6th October 2009 but was adjourned after two days to allow Veolia time to undertake further work in relation to ecology issues raised by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. The Public Inquiry recommenced on 13th April 2010, but was adjourned again on 20th April 2010 following the submission of supplementary evidence by Natural England.

Opening of Newark Household Waste Recycling Centre and Closure of Cotham HWRC, 31st October

6. Cotham household waste recycling centre will be closing permanently at 6pm on Sunday 31st October, when the planning permission expires. The

new Newark Household Waste Recycling Centre is currently under construction and is scheduled to open in November. It will be a modern, split level site and will offer improved and more accessible recycling and disposal facilities for the communities around Newark.

Development Control – Members’ Seminar

7. I have recently held initial discussions with officers in Development Control with a view to holding a seminar for Members. I am aware that there is often some confusion about the County Council’s role in development planning and how this fits in with the general responsibilities of the district and borough councils who are the planning authorities in the county.
8. I am sure that fellow Members will appreciate some clarification on this issue and I am hopeful that the seminar will be arranged before the end of the year.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BUTLER
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY