

meeting	COUNTY COUNCIL		
date	17 December 2009	agenda item number	<b>7a vii</b>

## REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

### REPORT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

#### Building Better Communities (BBC)

1. I would like to update Members on a number of changes in the operation of the BBC initiative. Members will be aware that Cabinet has undertaken an initial review of the Council's Capital programme. As part of this review it was agreed that the development of the BBC initiative and assessment of future funding should be overseen by a Member reference group. This group has now been established and consists of the following Cabinet Members:  
  
Councillor Richard Butler – Environment and Sustainability  
Councillor John Cottee – Culture and Community  
Councillor Reg Adair – Finance and Property  
Councillor Richard Jackson – Transport and Highways
2. The Members reference group met for the first time in October and agreed that the BBC initiative should continue in a re-focused format that reflected the new direction of the Council. Work is underway to re-brand and re-launch the programme. The group confirmed that funding for the current financial year will continue as planned and the level of funding for future years will be considered at the next meeting in December. In my next report to Council in January I will be in a position to report more fully on the future of the programme.
3. I am pleased to report that 71 schemes have been delivered so far across the 2009/10 programme with a further 137 scheduled for delivery. Furthermore I have agreed to an additional 2 schemes being included in the current programme. These are Owthorpe Fish Pond restoration project and Warsop Road, Mansfield Woodhouse Improvement Scheme.

### **Scheme updates:**

- a new trail for walkers and cyclists has been completed along the River Trent near Stoke Lock in Stoke Bardolph. The trail is a mile long and was funded by the BBC initiative, East Midlands Development Agency, Severn Trent Water and Gedling Borough Council. The project was managed by Groundwork Greater Nottingham
- two new bus shelters have been installed on Rugby Road in West Bridgford. They include extra side protection and seating making journeys more comfortable for elderly passengers and families with young children
- I was pleased to accompany the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor David Taylor, to the opening of the Brinsley play area. The area includes a new circular footpath around the site called the Brinsley Trim Trail, with new seating and picnic tables.
- a communal garden has been completed at Carlton Gateway Community Centre in Carlton-in-Lindrick. The scheme was funded jointly by BBC and the Aggregates Levy and transformed a piece of land at the back of the community centre which was overgrown and attracted litter, into a community garden with flowers, benches and a children's area.
- an interpretation board has been installed at Bowbridge School, Newark which was once the site of a Royal Engineers training camp during WWII. Bowbridge was an Officer Cadet Training Unit, training men to handle support tasks, including trenching, camouflage, demolitions and especially bridging and the site still retains a few wartime buildings.

### **Newark Household Waste and Recycling Centre**

4. I am pleased to be able to report that funding for a new £1.3m household waste and recycling centre in Newark has been approved as part of the Cabinet's review of the Capital programme. The existing facility at Cotham is set to close in November 2010 when the current planning permission expires.
5. A potential site for a new household waste and recycling centre and transfer station had been identified at Telford Drive, Newark, but the planning application has now been withdrawn following a number of concerns raised with Development Control. However, a number of alternative sites are being considered and once a suitable site has been identified a planning application will be submitted. It is hoped that the new

facility will be open by 2011 and will offer improved and more accessible recycling and disposal facilities for the communities around Newark.

### **Waste Disposal Advice for Small Garages**

6. Officers from Waste Management and the Environment Agency will be visiting small garage business in the county to make sure that they have the appropriate registration and permits and that they pass their waste to authorised waste carriers. Businesses will also receive expert advice about the safest way to handle waste materials such as tyres, car batteries, oil and other chemicals that are harmful to the environment or to human and animal health.
7. All businesses that are visited will receive an information pack outlining their legal obligations and containing basic guidance, leaflets and posters about safe waste disposal.

### **Battery Recycling**

8. I am pleased to report that residents can now take their household batteries to the Household Waste Recycling Centres for recycling. Previously residents could only take their car batteries for recycling at the sites. This should prove to be a useful extra facility for householders and should significantly reduce the number of batteries that end up in landfill.

### **Christmas Waste Campaign Update**

9. As part of the Christmas Waste Campaign, 'Craft Your Own Christmas' workshops have been held throughout December at libraries in Sutton-in-Ashfield, West Bridgford, Mansfield and Worksop.
10. The workshops were used to reinforce the reduce, re-use and recycle message, using 'rubbish' to create eco-friendly, Christmas-themed, gifts and decorations, including wreaths and gift wrap.
11. Bus advertising is also being used over the Christmas period to remind residents who may receive new electrical goods as Christmas presents, to take their old unwanted items to the Household Waste Recycling Centres for recycling.

**Councillor Richard Butler**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**