

**REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT &  
SUSTAINABILITY**

**KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. I am pleased to present the key issues and activities as Portfolio Holder for Environment & Sustainability, since the last report to Council.

**Minerals Local Plan**

2. The Issues and Options consultation closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Almost 1,100 individual responses were received from 180 individuals or organisations. Work is ongoing to analyse and summarise the responses so that they can feed into the development of the future minerals strategy. The next consultation stage will be the preferred approach that will take place towards the end of 2012.

**Waste Core Strategy**

3. The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy, which is being prepared jointly with Nottingham City Council, will set out our overall vision and strategic planning policies for future waste management infrastructure within the County and City areas. Following several stages of informal consultation this was recently published for a formal period of public representations which closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012. All of the representations will be considered carefully before deciding whether further changes are necessary before the Waste Core Strategy is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

**Waste Partnership Agreement**

4. In April 2012 the members of the Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Committee signed the County wide Waste Partnership Agreement.
5. The Waste Partnership Agreement is a strategic document which formalises the collaboration of Nottinghamshire County Council, the seven Nottinghamshire District and Borough councils and Nottingham City Council who make up the waste disposal and waste collection authorities in Nottinghamshire.

6. It will be used to ensure the:
- Development and implementation of sustainable waste management policies and practices to achieve best value for the people of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City;
  - Establishment of a mutually beneficial framework for changes and development of waste collection and disposal services;
  - Minimisation of waste generation in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City and the management of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy;
  - Maximisation of recycling and recovery levels from waste in order to meet or exceed European Union and United Kingdom targets as far as possible consistent with the capacity of each party to fund those processes;
  - Maximisation of value and performance from waste management contracts to the mutual benefit of the parties involved and the people of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centre Satisfaction Surveys**

7. As part of the Waste PFI Contract, our contractor, Veolia Environmental Services Nottinghamshire, undertake an annual customer satisfaction survey on the fourteen Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) in the County.
8. This year over 1,600 people were surveyed. The results show that 98% of those are either very satisfied or quite satisfied with the service. This is an impressive result and is in line with the satisfaction rate achieved last year; furthermore, the proportion of those who were very satisfied has increased.
9. This year a complementary survey of seven town centres across the county will also be undertaken. The primary intention of this survey is to capture the views of residents away from the HWRC sites, including those who do not use the service to discover what changes could be made to encourage more people to recycle their waste at the sites.

### **Paint Reuse**

10. Community RePaint Nottinghamshire is a partnership between Nottinghamshire County Council, Veolia Environmental Services Nottinghamshire and the Community RePaint Scheme. It has been redistributing reusable paint from Calverton and Worksop Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) to community groups since its inception in August 2010.
11. To maximise the amount of reusable paint being redistributed, trial open days were held in 2011 at both sites for members of the public to have access to the free paint. These events proved successful and now a series of regular open days have been scheduled for 2012. More information is available at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/communityrepaint](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/communityrepaint)

### **Working Better Together**

12. As reported to County Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and the Environment Agency have developed a “Working Better Together” Agreement.

13. The Agreement sets out protocols for how these statutory and regulatory partners involved in the management of waste across the county of Nottinghamshire, including the City area, will work together to ensure their activities are complementary.
14. The Agreement was approved on behalf of the County Council on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

### **Local Improvement Scheme Projects Update – March/April 2012**

15. Another busy few months for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) which saw schemes completed in every corner of Nottinghamshire. The rise in the popularity of allotments is still on the increase with schemes in Newark, Worksop and Ruddington.
16. In Newark there is a particular demand for plots, with many people on waiting lists for up to three years. Two groups helping to alleviate the problem are the Eton Avenue Growers' Association (EAGA) and St Catherine's Close allotment group. The EAGA does a sterling job with people who suffer from mental health issues and the long term unemployed, by giving them an outlet to forget about their worries whilst at the same time developing new horticultural skills. At St Catherine's Close, 20 new allotments were re-established after a number of years out of use and LIS funding helped with new access tracks, parking areas and installing a water supply.
17. Hareham allotments in Ruddington had seen significant work carried out including establishing new plots as well as the installation of a footbridge, new steps and resurfaced pathways. The plots are used by local residents and schoolchildren as well as disabled groups from West Bridgford – a very worthy community project.
18. The Claylands community allotments on the Dukeries Industrial Estate also offer schoolchildren and people with physical and learning disabilities the chance to learn new skills. The schoolchildren grow produce as part of the Food For Life programme and use it for their school dinners.
19. The second phase of an archaeological dig at the Old Manor House in Kirkby Hardwick has been completed and I am awaiting a report on the interesting artefacts that were unearthed. An Open Day which was attended by the county's community archaeologists saw more than 100 people visit the site.
20. Restoration work is also complete at Calverton Folk Museum which saw LIS funding repair the rotting roof and carry out internal electrical and plastering work. The museum houses a number of Victorian artefacts and a 1700 stocking frame.
21. I was very pleased to be able to attend the opening of a new £31,000 BMX track at Barringer Road in Mansfield on a piece of disused land. This is the latest track to be opened under the LIS banner and gives young people a fantastic facility where they can spend many hours with their friends in a safe environment.
22. A new pathway in Bulham Lane in Sutton on Trent means that schoolchildren walking from the village to school can now walk on a safe route. Until recently children were walking part of the way on a main road and this led to a number of minor accidents. The school has expressed its gratitude to the Local Improvement Scheme for funding the improvements.

23. The restoration of the church tower at St Mary's and All Saints Church in Hawksworth has been welcomed with open arms by local residents. LIS contributed £20,000 to the £90,000 project which saw urgent stonework repairs and internal pointing.
24. The church is the hub of village life acting as a social venue, meeting place, youth centre, polling station and exhibition hall so keeping it open was essential for the whole village.
25. The latest LIS funding at Brierley Forest near Huthwaite saw a number of new benches and litter bins being installed to cope with the ever growing number of visitors.
26. Ramblers, cyclists and dog walkers are all using the new tree seat in Orston as it is on a popular walking and cycling route; local residents have also welcomed it.
27. And I was part of a very emotional afternoon at Bestwood Country Park for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Andy's Adventure Park – a memorial to 16 year old Andrew Maycock who died in a road accident. LIS funded the refurbishment of the park and I was delighted to meet Andrew's mum and wider family who were very appreciative and delighted with the finished work.

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