

**20 March 2019**

## **Environment and Enforcement Committee**

### **Chair's Update Report**

**Report of:** *Cllr Keith Parker – Chair of the Environment and Enforcement Committee*

**Wards Affected:** *All Wards*

**This report is:** *Public*

### **Spruce up for Spring**

A very successful initiative was held in Brentwood High Street from the 4<sup>th</sup> March through to the 8<sup>th</sup> March. The initiative involved a deep cleanse and some maintenance work, carried out by three teams from Operational Services and a number of volunteers from the public, our own staff and fellow Members. Gratitude is also extended to Marks and Spencer, Domino's Pizza and Subway for providing much appreciated refreshments.

The work focussed on a deep cleanse of the High Street as well as the tidying up and maintenance of street furniture, flower beds and the fenced areas around the trees.

The list is lengthy as to what was achieved: for example, seven new litter bins were installed, a number of railings were rubbed down and repainted, benches were given a new lease of life, having been painted and stained, the flower beds at the Chapel ruins and the toilets were tidied up and new plants planted and street furniture had a jet wash. Mention should also be made of the cleaning of the Larkin's Water Trough, which looks splendid, particularly as it had its lettering repainted.

The passing public were very supportive, and some members of the public returned the following day to offer their help. There is still more work to be done in the High Street, but this is a very positive.

Similar work will be undertaken to Shenfield and Ingatestone High Street starting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Woodland Planting**

The Arboriculturalist – Alan Marsh – has organised two planting days for the 22 and 29 March at an area by Potiphar Place. The first will involve Hollytrees School, who will plant some special trees and shrubs, along with woodland trees provided by the Woodland Trust. The second will involve the Breakfast Rotary Club planting the

remaining woodland trees. Additionally, Alan will source a carved oak bench, similar to the one at Hutton Poplars, for the new woodland.

### **Recycling Road Shows**

So far this year, there have been six recycling road shows, led by the Recycling Officer – Andrew Long; with a further two to be held on the 29 March and 12 April by the Chapel Ruins in the High Street. A new programme of road shows will be drawn up for 2019/20.

The Recycling Officer also participated in a well-attended Home Composting event on the 9 March, held at St Georges Hall in Pilgrims Hatch. This was an event in partnership with Essex County Council.

Further, the Recycling Officer has been busy giving a number of presentations, including activities, to schools and scouting organisations; the last one was on the 15 March at Blackmore Primary School.

### **Waste & Recycling Calendars and Sacks**

The recent sack deliveries were completed in January and it's intended to deliver an annual guide to the recycling and waste services prior to Easter, which will also include the collection dates for 2019-20. A further scheduled sack delivery will be undertaken later in the year, the date is still to be agreed. It should be noted that there are 32 outlets for official Council sacks; details are online and will also be found in the guide.

### **Commercial Waste**

The commercial waste service is performing well with turnover expected to increase, based on the turnover for 2017-18, by 1% for 2018-19 to £540,000. The market is very competitive, and the Business Waste Team have worked well to ensure that despite a number of businesses contracting elsewhere for their waste services, there have been 32 new contracts for this year which have not only replaced the loss of the contracts, referred to earlier, but resulted in a favourable variance of £38,000.

Work is continuing to develop our commercial waste contracts and understand why some organisations went elsewhere. We are considering how we remain competitive in this market

### **Traveller Defences**

Phase three of the works has now been completed with additional or new measures introduced at the following sites:

- Warley Country Park [Both the entrance at Vaughan Williams Way & Crescent Road]
- St Faith's Country Park
- Larkin Playing Field
- Brentwood Centre
- Little Warley Common
- Hutton Country Park
- & Seymour Playing Field

The works have included the installation of additional gates and height restriction barriers, installation of both wooden posts and telescopic metal posts, reinforcing site fencing and strengthening of gates and locking mechanisms. This work, coupled with the works already completed in phases one and two will mean that incursions, whilst not impossible, will be much harder to affect and enter onto site in the first instance. Although works are concluded the sites and measures will continue to be monitored over the coming season and any weakness identified will be addressed as necessary.

## **Community Safety Accreditation Scheme – CSAS**

### **Corporate Enforcement Team**

Another member of the team has successfully passed their Community Safety Accreditation bringing the core team of accredited officers to 7. A further 2 officers from housing will be undertaking their training in April which will bring the total number of officers with accreditation to 15.

### **Fly-tipping**

Fly tipping continues to be an issue across the borough. The team are continuing to work with the local community, Essex Police and other partners to tackle the issue of the fly tipping across the borough. Regular monthly operational meetings have now been established where enforcement officers meet with the depot in order to tackle fly tipping as collective using all powers and tools available. This includes increased patrols at key times in hotspot areas using both the enforcement vehicle and depot 4x4. Work is also underway for a fly tipping campaign/roadshow across the borough.

#### **Fly tipping figures**

Month	No	Comment
Oct 18	36	A decrease of 21 from the previous year
Nov 18	48	A decrease of 9 from the previous year
Dec 18	34	An increase of 5 from the previous year

Jan 19	94	An increase of 11 from the previous year
Year to Date	549	A decrease of 19 from the previous year

We have established that there is a pattern with December seeing the lowest amount of fly tips, which increases in January quite significantly. This has been discussed at our monthly operational meeting and as mentioned above patrols will be increased at key times with support from Essex Police. Data also shows that the types of fly tips are predominantly linked to householder's waste and therefore our campaign will focus on residents being aware of their duty of care and that it is a community issue that needs support from residents as much as partners. Brizes and Doddinghurst ward including Navestock is still dominant with around 25% of all fly tips in January followed by the wards of Warley, Ingatestone, Fryerning and Mountnessing.

As well as activity locally, there is a new Essex wide fly-tipping group which has been established to encourage better information sharing and collaboration. It is in its early stages, but we will continue to work with our county-wide partners to tackle the issue ensuring best practice is shared to improve our enforcement activity and opportunities for collaborative working across boroughs.

Recently Cllr Parker accompanied officers at an Essex Byway meeting and as a result the panel agreed to carry out work to two byways in the borough in order to reduce access to the byways in a bid to reduce the opportunity for fly tipping.

A fly-tipping and duty of care campaign was launched in Navestock during December. Leaflets have been handed out to the Parish Council as well as local businesses and the community including all traveller sites across the borough.

We are hoping that contracts will be approved by legal shortly which will result in 4 CCTV cameras being installed in Navestock which is being sponsored by a local resident in order to provide the best opportunity for enforcement and prosecution.

The CSP provided funding to purchase 'NO Fly-tipping' signs which have now been erected across the borough.

Following a report of a fly-tip in Hutton a local resident identified the items and was able to provide details of the company who collected the waste. This resulted in officers working with Environment Agency. Investigations are ongoing and prosecution is being sought against the waster carrier.

### **Enforcement Opportunity/Support**

Six members of the team have now been trained by Essex Police to be able to carry out speed checks. The speed gun is the same equipment used by Essex Police

and has infrared capability. We are waiting for the equipment to be type approved by the Home Officer and the Chief Constable of Essex Police to delegate powers to the officers. They will then be able to carry out speed checks in approved areas. Speeding is always a key community safety issue for our communities, so this is a real positive step forward. It will also improve our visibility across the borough including our rural areas.

#### Abandoned Vehicles info;

Month	Enquiries	Total Removed	BBC Removed	DVLA Removed	Owner Removed
Nov-18	19	6	0	2	3
Dec-18	27	6	0	3	3
Jan-19	22	4	1	0	4

Parking on grass verges - Essex Act 1987 notices have been applied to only 3 vehicles that were parked illegally where prohibition notices are in force on Chelmsford Road and Coram Green.

Waste presentation issues – 23 warning/education letters sent to residents since November.

#### Dedicate Patrols

The team continue to undertake patrols in key locations tackling community issues such as ASB, flyt-ipping, nuisance vehicles and enforcing the PSPO. Several of the patrols have been during the evening and weekends alongside Essex Police.

In addition to the usual patrols the team also undertook a joint operation with Essex Police, South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) and members of the Councils parking team. Over three late evening and weekend patrols in and around the Town Centre 236 Penalty Charge Notices were issued (132 in Council owned car parks, 107 for on street parking contraventions). More joint patrols are planned.

#### Corporate Enforcement Newsletter

The first edition of the Corporate Enforcement Newsletter has been published with positive feedback. The distribution is continuing to build, and the next edition is due in April.

#### Community Safety

Anti-Social Behaviour - Since January 2018 the following has been achieved:

- 125 cases reported and have closed 98 cases with 25 still open under investigation.
- 11 Notices of Seeking Possession have been served for a variety of different reasons
- A demotion of tenancy is being sought for a long standing ASB issue in one of the sheltered schemes
- 6 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been signed by tenants regarding their behaviour. One of the ABCs was for a tenant's child who was causing ASB and was mentored by the ASB Officer.
- Two injunctions have been sought and granted for threatening behaviour against residents.
- Two Community Protection Warnings and one Community Protection Notice has been served in Brentwood High Street.

Nuisance Vehicles have continued to be an issue for the partnership. Overall there has been a decrease in the number of ASB reports and the partnership have worked hard to eradicate the hotspots from last year. However, reports of anti-social behaviour involving cars at William Hunter Way has started to increase once more. As a result, various activities were undertaken by the partnership which included:

- CCTV Cameras targeting specific areas in the car park
- Regular and out of hour patrols by the Corporate Enforcement Team with support from Essex Police
- Warning letters and Section 59 Notices continue to be issued at William Hunter Way
- Introduction of the PSPO to help tackle ASB

Anti-Social Behaviour is down 11.7% (206 less offences) year on year. This is hugely down to the joint work of the Community Safety Team, Enforcement Team and Essex Police patrolling hotspot areas and having more of a visible presence.

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