

Committee(s): Ordinary Council	Date: 13 th March 2024
Subject: Chairs Report for Clean & Green Committee	
Committee Chair: Cllr Barry Aspinell	

Cllr Aspinell updated the committee on the installation of the covert cameras purchased as part of Project Minerva to be used to tackle fly tips. The first camera has been installed with three more due to be installed shortly.

5G Public Petition – Response

The petition outlined an area expertise that the Council has limited knowledge of, and influence upon, but may wish to still consider the possibility of lobbying. The concerns are centred on potential impact to human health, rather than broader environmental concerns, and therefore it would be appropriate for the petition to be further considered by the Housing, Health and Community Committee. Committee members agreed unanimously that the Committee to note the content of the report, and to refer the petition to Housing, Health & Community Committee for further scrutiny if the European Court of Human Rights accept appeal.

Allotments

The Clean & Green Committee in September 2023 agreed that Officers in consultation with the Horticultural society identify new sites and seek to undertake a review of the existing allotments site to determine capacity and unmet demand.

The society believe that should any additional resource be made available to invest into the allotments, priority should be given to investing in existing sites seeking to maximise their potential, recognising the burden the additional administrative resource would represent for the Society should the further new sites be created.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund identified potential funding for Allotment maintenance. It is anticipated that the CIL report will be presented to Members at Council by September 2024. There is, therefore, and opportunity for the members to consider the allotments requirements in the debate and decision-making process of that Council meeting.

Waste Strategy - Options Modelling

The report set out different options of waste collection service that are to be modelled to predict a range of outcomes: recycling rates; the gross and net cost of the collection service; the whole system collection and disposal costs; and carbon emissions.

These model outcomes were assessed against a set of criteria where further options can be modelled if required.

Members agreed to note the content of the report, specifically the options proposed for modelling and to agree the proposed assessment criteria.

Garden Waste Wheeled Bin Collection Service - Bin Stickers

The Council offers residents a chargeable garden waste collection service. The service had approximately 6,500 customers who pay £60 per bin each year for the provision of a 240 litre brown wheeled bin which is emptied fortnightly, other than for the two weeks over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Collections are currently made from all brown bins that are presented on the scheduled day as there are no visual indicators on the bins to show that accounts have been paid, and therefore that the containers should be emptied.

This can result in collections being made from residents who no longer subscribe to the service but have retained the bin from a previous year's subscription which has elapsed, or who have purchased or acquired their own containers. The report sought approval for the introduction of stickers to be placed on the wheeled bins giving the collection teams a very clear indication which bins should be emptied.

Members agree to approve the introduction of a stickering system for the garden waste wheeled bin service.

Clean and Green Rewilding Options and Trial Sites – Update

The report provided revised options for sites brought forward by Clean and Green Committee for the trial of "rewilding" areas of parks and verges.

Members agreed unanimously to agree the revised trial sites detailed below for rewilding and to agree the change in management for these areas during the trial period.

The Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. In 2024, the campaign returns from 15th March to 31st March.

The promotion of the Great British Spring Clean provides an opportunity for the Council to highlight the works that it undertakes and raise the awareness of littering campaigns.

It is proposed that as part of the campaign the Council takes an active role by: firstly, promoting its own volunteer litter pick days with the County Parks; and secondly, diverting existing resources to deliver a deep-litter picking and cleaning of the 'gateways' to the Borough.

Members agreed unanimously to approve the cleansing schedule of 'gateway' sites and to approve the promotion of the Great British Spring Clean and provide support