

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

13 NOVEMBER 2018

UPDATE ON THE CLEANER, SAFER, GREENER CAMPAIGN

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on:

- a) The progress made since the successful launch of the campaign in July 2018.
- b) The activities planned for the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Campaign.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In July 2018 Newark & Sherwood District Council pledged to make the District a Cleaner, Safer and Greener Place. We promised to work in partnership with others to encourage and enable our residents to take a greater role in determining the quality of life in their local communities and enhance civic pride. For those affected by anti-social behaviour and environmental crimes, Newark & Sherwood will underline an uncompromising approach to criminality and the enforcement of environmental crimes.

3.0 Update on the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Campaign

3.1 Activities to Date

- 3.1.1 Significant successes have been achieved in the first three months of the campaign. The following activities are some highlights from the wide-range of work which has occurred across the district to help make Newark & Sherwood a Cleaner, Safer and Greener place to live, work and visit.
- 3.1.2 Newark & Sherwood District Council, in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police, successfully obtained Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) on two individuals involved in unrelated anti-social behaviour cases. The two defendants both received two-year terms attached to court orders. In the first case, the individual involved was banned from nearly all shops in Ollerton and from using threatening, intimidating, insulting or abusive words or behaving in a way that may cause alarm. In the second case, an individual who bombarded 999 and 101 call handlers with non-urgent and malicious calls and harassed a neighbour, was also made subject to a CBO. The individual, who lives in Rainworth, was also prohibited from making contact with a number of residents in the village.
- 3.1.3 A group of runners from Newark Striders, nicknamed the 'Orange Wombles', organised, in association with the Council's campaign, 'plogging' sessions in the fight against litter. 'Plogging' is when runners pick up litter whilst jogging. The term 'plog' comes from a combination 'pick' and 'jog'. The group, kitted out with running gear, litter bags and protective gloves, blitzed the grot-spots around Newark.
- 3.1.4 In partnership with Sherwood Forest Trust, Newark & Sherwood District Council held an open day to celebrate the natural beauty of Sherwood Heath. The park is popular with joggers, birdwatchers and dog walkers and the open day was organised to demonstrate its wider appeal. It was also an excellent opportunity for visitors to see the appeal of Sherwood Heath for themselves.

- 3.1.5 Newark & Sherwood District Council's car parks achieved the Park Mark Safer Parking Award and Disabled Parking Accreditation. The award provides reassurance to anyone using council car parks that measures have been taken to ensure the safety of both the user and their vehicle.
- 3.1.6 The Balderton Safer Partnership, a joint initiative led by Newark & Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Balderton Parish Council, Nottinghamshire Police and retailer Lidl have set out an action plan to combat anti-social behaviour in response to concerns from residents. The partnership urged residents to join in the 'Report It' campaign and report anti-social behaviour to help address issues such as noise nuisance, thefts, alleged drug use, dangerous motoring and congregating gangs. Other measures in the action plan include; increased foot patrols by the District Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the Police and taking an uncompromising approach to nuisance behaviour by issuing warnings to perpetrators and Community Protection Notices for repeat offenders.
- 3.1.7 Newark & Sherwood District Council led a Day of Action to help make Yorke Drive and Winthorpe Road in Newark Cleaner, Safer and Greener. The day was hailed a great success with 13.5 tonnes of waste collected. A team of community volunteers along with council staff and partner organisations were involved in an extensive programme of works including a community litter pick, pruning of overgrown hedges, grass cutting, fence repairs, drain and gully clearing and repairing of street lights and potholes. The District Council's Environmental Health Team also served five Community Protection Notices, visited homes to give out advice, removed three highly explosive gas cylinders, posted warnings regarding dog fouling and, in a joint exercise with the fire service, visited homes at risk of fire.

Our Partners on the day included;

- Nottinghamshire County Council,
- Newark and Sherwood Homes,
- Nottinghamshire Police,
- Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue,
- Via East Midlands,
- Veolia,
- Fernwood Foxes Football Club,
- McDonald's, and
- KFC.

- 3.1.8 Newark & Sherwood District Council hosted a celebration to thank volunteers, visitors and staff in helping a number of parks and open spaces in the District win Green Flag status. Sconce and Devon Park in Newark, Vicar Water Country Park in Clipstone, Newark Castle and Gardens and Sherwood Heath in Ollerton, which are all managed by Newark & Sherwood District Council, have been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as being amongst the best in the world. Sherwood Avenue and Newark Cemetery, which are owned and managed by Newark Town Council, have also been awarded the same status. Flags were raised at a ceremony held at Sconce and Devon Park which marked the achievements of all the green spaces.

3.1.9 All 52,506 households in Newark & Sherwood have been contacted as part of the 'Bin Smart' initiative to improve recycling rates. Each year Newark & Sherwood District Council deals with nearly 45,000 tonnes of waste of which nearly 33% is recycled. This is an increase of four per cent from 2015/16. However, there are still too many household recycling bins put out for collection with items that cannot be recycled such as clothing, food waste and nappies, whilst approximately 15% of items that are placed in the black or green 'residual' waste bins could actually be recycled. The recycling pack sent to all residents containing a letter, leaflet and associated stickers provides a detailed breakdown of what can be recycled. Recycling effectively will help keep council tax bills lower. It costs around £45 less per tonne to recycle waste than send it off to landfill or energy recovery.

3.2 Upcoming Activities

3.2.1 The recruitment of four community-based Enforcement Officers was approved at Policy & Finance Committee on 20 September 2018. These officers will spend most of their time on the streets engaging directly with the community supporting the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Campaign. They will work to tackle the issues facing our residents on the ground including: littering; dog fouling; fly-tipping; and anti-social behaviour. They will also gather local intelligence to assist the Council as a whole in its aim of providing a quality and responsive service to its residents. The officers will have the power to impose fixed penalty notices for environmental crimes including anyone caught littering or allowing dog fouling. Their presence on the streets of Newark & Sherwood, tackling criminal behaviour, will make the streets of our district cleaner and safer and increase public awareness of these issues.

3.2.2 Every Town and Parish Council in Newark & Sherwood is set to receive an Information Pack on how to engage with, and support, the Cleaner, Safer, Greener campaign. The packs detail how Parish and Town Councils can get involved in the campaign and take action in their own area by reporting environmental crimes and anti-social behaviour as well as co-ordinating their own activities, such as community litter picks. The pack also contains a questionnaire. This questionnaire will enable Newark & Sherwood District Council to gather the views of Parish and Town Councils on, how they envisage their communities developing, and the issues facing their local area. Whilst the later part of the questionnaire focuses on creating a picture of the waste provision, green space provision and community facilities in the district to help inform community infrastructure planning.

3.2.3 The next day of action will take place on Thursday, 1 November in Blidworth. The day is set to be another success with members of the community, volunteers and staff working alongside our partners to tackle issues affecting the residents of Blidworth including dog fouling, disorderly gardens, overgrown pavements and litter.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 Equalities impact assessments have been completed where appropriate for Cleaner, Safer, Greener activities and actions.

5.0 Financial Implications (FIN18-19/7473)

5.1 The Council approved, at its meeting on 8 March 2018, the creation of an enforcement (set aside for Cleaner, Safer and Greener activities) reserve of £100,000. This reserve was set aside for activities in relation to enforcement action and in particular to contribute to the Cleaner, Safer and Greener agenda.

- 5.2 To date £10,000 has been allocated from this reserve to contribute towards the days of action and other related activities throughout the 2018/19 financial year.
- 5.3 As referenced at paragraph 3.2.1 additionally to this, a report to Policy & Finance Committee 20 September 2018 agreed a further commitment of £45,687, to be funded from the reserve, to fund four community based Enforcement Officer posts, leaving a balance of £44,313 within the enforcement reserve. These posts would then be built into the base general fund budget for the 2019/20 financial year and beyond.
- 5.4 It is anticipated that the £44,313 balance left within the enforcement reserve would then be allocated to further days of action and other related Cleaner, Safer and Greener activities in future financial years.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

The report be noted and that further updates are brought back to Committee.

Reason for Recommendations

To continue to support the Cleaner Safer Greener Campaign

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Deborah Johnson on Ext. 5800

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