

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet **Date:** 22 February 2011

Subject: Environment Portfolio **Item:** 6(c)

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mary Sartin

Recommending: That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Waste Management

The disruption to waste and recycling collections during the Christmas and New Year period was caught up reasonably quickly. The weather disruption and catch up arrangements were managed without activating the contingency plan of opening up the Civic Offices in Epping.

A new door step textile collection service is being launched on the 1st of April. The current waste and recycling calendars will have details of the scheme. There is no charge for this collection service and all income from the sale of items collected will be donated to the Chairman of Council's charities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind members that a visit has been arranged to the SITA Material Recycling Facility (MRF) in Barking on Tuesday 8 March. This is the site that receives most of our dry recycling. Please refer to the Council Bulletin of 4 February for further details.

Bobbingworth

I reported at the last meeting on the setting up of a local liaison group for the overview on the way forward for this site. The first meeting was held on 16 December and was attended by representatives from Bobbingworth and Ongar as well as EFDC officers.

After some discussion it was agreed that the site should be known as Bobbingworth Nature Reserve (Former Landfill Site). It was felt that it was important to include the words 'Former Landfill Site' so that its former use would not be forgotten, bearing in mind that this has an impact in how the land can be used in the future.

One of the key issues still to be decided is the date of opening the site for public access. As weather conditions has affected the rate of grass growth and have meant that the ground is not likely to be in a fit state for people to be walking over it for some time it was agreed to look at possible opening dates at the next meeting in March.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Three Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued to date. These have all been under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 whereby residents have dumped rubbish in sacks (or whatever) rather than place it in their wheelie bin. One notice has expired and the recipient will now be prosecuted through the Court, and the other two are progressing. If they are not paid then they will also be pursued through the Court.

Enforcement

Four stop and check operations have been carried out with Essex Police with a number of warnings issued. Two joint operations have been carried out, one with Essex Police checking tyre fitters for correct tyre disposal and the other with British Transport Police checking scrap metal dealers for LUL cable stolen from the underground system.