

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 28 September 2010

Subject: Safer, Greener & Highways

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs P Smith

Recommending:

That the report from the Safer, Greener & Highways Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community Safety

Our ASB Investigators working with Legal Services and Essex Police were successful in obtaining a stand alone ASBO at Harlow Youth Court on the 29th July. This follows several months of complaints from residents and a number of police incidents. The ASBO prohibits Gabriolek 15yrs, of Waltham Abbey, from using insulting or abusive words, actions or gestures directed at any person, causing harassment alarm or distress. It applies to the geographic area of Waltham Abbey and expires on 28/07/13. The ASBO was not contested and was fully supported by Gabrioleks mother. Breach of the ASBO is arrestable by police and subject to a maximum sentence of 2 years prison

Current indications are that Gabriolek is now engaging with a youth intervention project based in Harlow and is responding well. He is currently keeping out of trouble and complaints have dropped to zero. His mother is very appreciative of the efforts made by EFDC and states she has noticed a significant change in his attitude for the better.

The case will be constantly reviewed over the next 2 years with a statutory partnership review after 12 months.

Thankfully the District remained largely unaffected by the disturbances in early August which caused such destruction in nearby London Boroughs and elsewhere. The one or two incidents which did arise were speedily dealt with by the Police, and the perpetrators apprehended. As part of this operation officers from the Community Safety Team were requested by the Police to attend Loughton in the early hours of the morning to undertake CCTV downloads. They responded at once and their actions clearly helped the Police in indentifying those involved in criminal activities.

Sustainability etc

Officers on the Green Corporate Working Party have instigated a review into the management of the Council's commercial waste (i.e. waste that is collected from the offices). It has been found that more could be done to ensure that the Council's commercial waste is recycled and the possibility of changing waste contractors to improve on this is being investigated. A trial exercise is currently being carried out by

SITA to examine the suitability of the Council's commercial waste to SITA's waste separation/recycling process.

The Environmental Co-ordinator is carrying out an investigation into the Council's energy and fuel use for the past 3 years, with a view to calculating a baseline of green house gas emissions, against which subsequent reductions in emissions can be measured. On April 13th 2011, in a letter to Local Authorities, the Department of Energy and Climate Change requested that all Local Authorities publish detailed emissions data on their websites.

Heritage/Conservation

A new Conservation Officer has been appointed; the start date is yet to be agreed. Ongoing support on Listed buildings is being provided by Essex County Council.

Countryside is continuing to celebrate its 25 year anniversary with ongoing events throughout the Autumn. The team's annual report is being issued in early September and can be found along with all events dates, on their website.

Trees & Landscape

The Loughton Community Tree Strategy has been completed and submitted to Planning Scrutiny Standing Panel. The strategy was compiled with the assistance of the community and has been welcomed by the Town Council as 'a remarkable piece of work'. The work assesses the treescape of each Parish and its physical, historic and cultural context, and gives guidance for all concerned on, conservation, management and enhancement. A program of four further Community Tree Strategies is also being aspired for Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, Epping and Waltham Abbey.

Parking Reviews

I am pleased to inform Members that work on Epping Parking Review has recommenced. The necessary legal order is being prepared for publication in the local press. I intend to meet with County Officers in September and shall provide a verbal update at the meeting. I have asked for an updated implementation timetable for all three parking schemes I will ask for it to be published in the Members' Bulletin.