

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 26 September 2017

Subject: Environment

Portfolio Holder: Councillor W Breare-Hall

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.

Waste Management

Following the successful launch of the recycling scheme in the Civic Offices, I am pleased to report that officers in the Waste Management team, in conjunction with Facilities Management and the Environmental Coordinator, have now introduced similar recycling schemes in the Oakwood Hill and Townmead depots. The arrangements will be monitored over the next six months to identify any improvements.

I have previously reported on the Recycling Rewards Scheme being funded through a significant grant from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Following a successful procurement exercise, Local Green Points has been awarded the contract for this project. Officers are working with Local Green Points to achieve project launch in late September.

Drainage and New Development.

In line with the increasing number of Development Management and Building Control applications, the Engineering Drainage and Water Team have seen a 19% year on year increase in the number of applications they deal with. The degree of technical input necessary to fully assess each application has also risen in order to ensure that applicants' proposals meet the requirements of drainage legislation and ultimately reduce the likelihood of their plans creating or worsening existing surface water pressures around the District.

Hand in hand with the above, Officers are anxious to ensure that there are no legacy drainage issues that would be at odds with the policies for Sustainable Drainage Systems in the Draft Local Plan. A number of scenarios for a range of different types of sites that may come forward over the Plan period will be tested as there is never a one-size-fits-all solution for drainage.

Fly-tipping

Mr Dominic Bennett, of Colson Road, Loughton, was ordered to pay a fine of £320, the Council's prosecution costs of £1170.52, together with a Victim Surcharge of £32 (total £1522.52), after he pleaded guilty in Chelmsford Magistrates Court on 6th July 2017 to the offence of fly tipping a fridge freezer on grassland in Bushfields, Loughton. Mr Bennett had been given the opportunity of paying a Fixed Penalty Notice of £200, as an alternative to prosecution, but had failed to do so. Mr Bennet may now regret not having used the

Council's special collection service for bulky household waste items, which would have cost him £24 to have the fridge freezer taken away.

In a second case heard on the same day, Mr James Leach, of Harvey Gardens, Loughton, was fined £461 and ordered to pay £758.86 for the Council's prosecution costs, together with a victim surcharge of £46, after pleading guilty to failing his household waste duty of care. Mr Leach pleaded guilty in relation to an offence relating to fly-tipped waste (consisting of about 40 black sacks of waste, some wood and children's toys) found in a garage area in Chequers Road, Loughton. He had allowed a man who had knocked on his door to take it for £70 cash-in-hand, without checking that the person taking the waste was authorised to transport the waste. He stated that he was not aware that he had to do so. The Magistrates told him that it had been a very expensive mistake.

"Fly-tipping - It's a crime not to care"

11 authorities across Essex, including Essex County Council, have signed up to a campaign to promote the waste duty of care, to try and keep waste out of the hands of rogue traders. The "Crime Not to Care" campaign, in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy, started on 4 September 2017. A six week campaign is planned followed by prolonged use of the artwork and campaign material to raise awareness of the duty of care. A series of short social-media-friendly films are also being produced by members of the Cleaner Essex Group. EFDC's contribution to the funding of the films came through receipts from payments of fixed penalty notices for some recent littering and fly-tipping incidents.

Additional information is available at: www.recycleforessex.com/crimenottocare

Dog Control Orders (DCO)

Dog Control Orders (DCO) adopted by the Council in 2013 will automatically become Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) on 20 October 2017, for a period of three years. This is part of the process of PSPO replacing DCO. This will automatically increase the fixed penalty available for offences from £75 to £100 but in other respects the offences remain the same.

When adopted the DCO did not require renewal. PSPO remain in place for a maximum of three years before renewal is required.

DCO/PSPO make it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to:

- fail to remove dog faeces deposited on any publicly accessible land within the District;
- fail to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, on any publicly accessible land within the District;
- fail to limit the number of dogs which a person may take onto publicly accessible land within the District to four.

Additional information and FAQs are available at:

<http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/residents/your-environment/crime-safety/dog-control-orders>