

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 31 July 2018

Subject: Environment

Portfolio Holder: Councillor N. Avey

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted.

Hazardous fly tipping

We continue to experience problems with the removal of hazardous waste including asbestos from the public highway. This is because we have to use contractors appointed by Essex County Council. As these contracts are not working ECC would like us to secure better contractors locally.

Due to the challenging nature of this work and the specialist skills required it is proving difficult to procure a local contractor. Waste Management Team are currently working with two providers to ensure the service continues. However costs are high and this is not sustainable. Officers are working with Biffa to train their operatives to carry out this function. If all goes according to plan than Biffa will be able to provide this service from next month.

Recycling banks

The Council has historically provided Bring Banks where residents can dispose all recycling materials. A review of the Bring Banks is being carried out to establish the type and tonnage of materials collected and viability of each site. The Council offers a comprehensive door step recycling services and it would be interesting to see performance of each Bring Bank. The review will enable future development of Banks.

Compost giveaway

As part of the Compost Awareness week, 7th to 11th May, Officers from County and District ran a "compost giveaway" event. Over 60 residents came and collected free compost in their own bags, over 3 tonnes of compost was given away. Officers answered questions from the public and gave advice. This free compost was made from the various green waste and food collections across the county.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Recycling Rewards project

As Members know we have been running Recycling Reward Scheme for multi occupancy dwellings. The campaign has gone well, to encourage the separation of food waste, and to increase the level and quality of all recycling in flats. Waste Management Team have carried out a Waste analysis and the data is being assessed to see how the various parts of this project have performed. Findings will be shared with the Ministry as they provided all the funding.

Biodiversity improvements on Roding Valley Recreation Ground

As members will be aware, EFDC are responsible for the Roding Valley Recreation Ground which runs alongside the River Roding in Loughton and Buckhurst Hill. Via contact with Chris Neilan, the Council's Trees & Landscapes Officer, the Environment Agency have provided EFDC with £50,000 from a delayed capital scheme upstream on the Roding to fund biodiversity improvements and localised works to protect and enhance the river environment in the recreation ground. The Engineering Drainage and Water Team will be delivering a basket of works which have been identified through re-visiting and refreshing a previous study undertaken for EFDC a number of years back. Engagement with local stakeholders including Loughton Town Council and Essex Wildlife Trust (who lease their SSSI site from EFDC) will shortly take place to ensure the interests of these groups are fully taken in to account, and currently a range of tree planting, bank protection and other localised environmental improvements are proposed.

Planning Applications and the Local Plan

As the Local Plan process continues on its journey, planning applications with implications for drainage and flooding continue to be commented upon by the EDWT. With the weight that can be afforded to certain draft policies of the plan, Officers are making sure that where applicable drainage designs across the spectrum of applications meet the policies and national guidance levels expected. Through the Local Plan Implementation Team Officers are also helping to shape the outline masterplans that are coming through for the larger local plan sites. Making sure that drainage is designed in from the start is key to having robust and sustainable solutions to cater for the developments' lifetime.