

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Subject: Commercial and Regulatory Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Patel

Recommending:

That the report of the Commercial and Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Clean Air Day and idling vehicles

I am pleased to report that The Public Health Team took part in the national promotional campaign Clean Air Day on 20th June, focussing on minimising the idling of cars. I was also pleased to participate by visiting Epping Primary School with Officers at leaving time to speak to parents and distribute promotional material to both parents and children to raise awareness. This school was chosen because specific complaints have been received about idling cars and officers were able to identify and speak to a number of drivers who were sitting idling during their visit. Prior to the day all Primary and Secondary schools, some nurseries, all Libraries and Town Councils were sent promotional materials.

Following this our Air Quality Officer visited and met with the London Underground Area Manager regarding idling of buses outside Epping Station. Initial readings of Nitrogen Dioxide within this location indicate levels above the national limits. Officers will work with London Underground and the bus companies to alleviate the exposure of those living at this location by education of drivers and exploring the possibility of moving of the bus stop and stand location.

Note, those idling their vehicles only commit an offence when they fail to turn the engine off on the request of an enforcement officer.

The Council's participation in ECO3:LA Flex

I am pleased to report the Council's participation in ECO3: LA Flex which ensures more residents benefit from funding to help reduce their energy bills and carbon emissions.

Energy suppliers are required to meet their obligations to install energy efficiency measures in homes under the Energy Efficiency Obligation (ECO): Help to Heat funding. Previously, the ECO Scheme qualifying rules required applicants to be in receipt of qualifying state benefits or tax credits. However, the ECO Order 2018 recognised that approximately 20% of households suffering from fuel poverty do not receive one of the relevant benefits and therefore fell out of scope for ECO assistance.

A new flexible approach (LA- Flex) has been introduced to allow Local Authorities to define the eligible households not on benefits but who are living in, or at risk of fuel poverty and those vulnerable to the effect of living in a cold home.

An approved Contractor, *Aran Services Limited*, is working on behalf of the Council to offer private sector residents loft and cavity wall insulation which will reduce energy bills. Grant funding is also available to support solid wall insulation, room in roof insulation, boiler replacements and the installation of full central heating systems. A free, no obligation survey can be requested by residents by calling **0800 5877795** or **01284 812520** quoting **EF/19** or visit www.aranservices.co.uk to request a call back.

In relation to North Weald Airfield:

National Police Aviation Service (NPAS)

The NPAS construction is due for completion in August with operations likely to commence in September.

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust

EHAAT are waiting for their planning application to be approved before they can commence work on their new base. (Waiting for Nigel to get back to me)

Cancer Research UK Race for Life

The CRUK Race for Life took place at NWA on Wednesday July 10th.

Over 1000 runners, walkers and joggers took part which was open to men and boys for the first time.

It is expected that £38,000 will be raised for the charity.

This will add to the £1m raised by the North Weald event over the past 20 years.

Epping & Ongar Round Table fireworks event Nov 2nd

EFDC and particularly the North Weald Operation Team will be working alongside the Epping & Ongar Round Table in the presentation of a fireworks event at NWA on Nov 2nd.

A nominal fee has been agreed with the emphasis on raising funds for locally based charities.

Complaint from Epping residents regards aircraft nuisance

Earlier in the year the Airfield received a number of complaints from residents living in Theydon Grove regards nuisance caused by overflying aircraft many of which were conducting training flights.

The problem has been addressed by the Airfield Management through dialogue with residents and the pilot training organisation. Pilot briefings have also been undertaken as well as regular social media posts asking pilots to avoid area of habitation.

North Weald Market

Following a recent tender process Saunders have been awarded the lease to operate North Weald market for a further 2 years. End date December 31st 2021.

VE Day commemorations

Discussions are underway as to how EFDC should commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day in May 2019.

The Chairman of Council is leading an officer group in events that are to be centred around North Weald Airfield.

RNoAF 75th anniversary event at NW

On Monday 15th July the Chairman of Council and Chief Executive joined the Royal Norwegian Airforce Chief of Stone plus other distinguished guests including the Commanding Officer of 56 Sqn Matt Fleckney to lay wreathes at the Norwegian Stone to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the beginnings of the Royal Norwegian Air Force. The event concluded with lunch at The Squadron close by where the Norwegian squadrons of WW11 were based.

Building Control

There has been a development within the Building Control Profession resulting in a small number of private practice building control companies (Approved Inspectors) not being able to find re-insurance for their practice. At least one of these has gone into administration with their current portfolio of work having to revert back to the Local Authority to complete. This is a direct result of a change in attitude by insurers to minimise their liability following the Grenfell Tower Disaster. The final consequences of this is yet to unfold.

Asset Management

On a positive note, the Building Control partnership with Weston Homes continues to flourish with two additional projects being received on which tenders have been requested. These will be developed within the weeks to follow.

The major development in the asset management area is the appointment of consultants (White, Young and Green) to provide project management support for the development. Our aim is to bring a report outlining three options for the site to the December Cabinet.