

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AND SUSTAINABILITY**

### **RECYCLING AND WASTE**

The household waste recycling centres contract has been retendered, at the conclusion of its present term, with a new contractor due to take on the contract from August this year. Performance at the household waste recycling centres has improved over the life of the contract, with an average of over 75 % of the waste recycled at present, compared to 45% when the contract was let in 2003. The present recycling rate at the centres is one of the best in the North West, despite the layout of the sites not lending themselves to ease of recycling.

Waste tonnage to landfill for April and May this year, compared to last year, is over 1,000 tonnes less going to landfill, whilst recycling tonnages for April and May 2011 are comparable with the same period in 2010.

Following a successful trial, the council has launched on-line "My Bins" - the quick and easy way to check your refuse and recycling collection day. This enables citizens to input their postcode and receive details of collection days, without the need to contact the council via telephone.

### **WELFARE BURIALS**

There has been a slight increase in the number of Welfare Burials in April and May 2011, with 11 being requested of the council, compared with 9 for the same period in 2010. The council endeavours to recover some or all of its costs from the estate, although there are occasions when this is not possible.

### **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

Working with Friends and Park Supporters Groups, 7 parklands sites across the borough have been submitted for Green Flag judging this year, namely:-

Corporation Park

Roe Lee Park

Bold Venture Park

Hoddlesden Millennium Green

Witton Park

Sunnyhurst Woods

Queens Park

All the above sites received the award in 2010. The judges' decisions are expected late June/early July.

## **STREET CLEANSING**

The revised street cleansing programme for the borough, has been introduced from 9<sup>th</sup> May, which sees the service covering a full 7 days a week, enabling the maximum available efficiency from the vehicles that it has at its disposal.

## **RECIPE 4 HEALTH**

The recipe 4 health award scheme project is ongoing whereby businesses that offer healthy food choices to customers receive an award. A laptop and software are used to analyse the nutritional content of recipes. Where possible recipes are adapted to provide healthier versions.

This has been a joint venture between the council's Public protection service and the Care trust plus public health team, with additional resource from volunteers working through the Bank Top Healthy Living Centre. The award is being launched in Wensley Fold ward targeting takeaway businesses.

The Early years service are also identifying nurseries where the technology can be used to improve the nutritional content of food served to pre school children. A member of staff has been liaising with senior management at Thwaites with a view to them adopting the award scheme.

## **NEW SUNBED LEGISLATION**

Advice regarding compliance with new sun bed legislation which came into force on 8 April has been given out to all known sun bed operators in the Borough. The main thrust of the legislation is to protect young persons under the age of 18 from the effects of artificial UV radiation by making it illegal for them to use sunbeds or be in an area where such equipment is present. Further guidance for compliance is planned, with enforcement operations taking place later in the year.

There is an increased risk of skin cancer from inappropriate use of sunbeds.

## **TATTOOISTS**

All our tattooists have been visited to review their blood borne disease controls. Appropriate advice and information has been given. We have concerns about the type of equipment being used at 1 premises. An investigation is ongoing to determine if the equipment is being properly sterilized.