

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

WASTE AND RECYCLING

A continuation in the reduction of waste taken to landfill has occurred this year, although there has been a slight decrease in the amount of recycling tonnage collected this year.

It has been noted that over the last 3 years, there has been a similar annual tonnage of waste produced by residents in the burgundy bins, which is taken to landfill. The reductions in landfill are down to a number of factors, reduced fly-tipping, reduced demand for bulky waste collections, increased recycling of street cleansing waste etc.

The reduction in recycling has been in part due to the tendering of the household waste recycling centre contract, with the new contractor taking over from September, therefore familiarising themselves with the new contract and also improvements to the sites being commissioned to make them more accessible to the public.

The Health and Safety Executive are due to visit the Council in January to undertake a review of waste and recycling services as part of their 3 year programme of visits to each Council. Work is ongoing with the council's contractor for recycling collections, on effectively managing the health, wellbeing and safety of those who deliver and use waste and recycling services.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Council had some 6 parks accredited with the Green Flag award, although in late November, Roe Lee Park was mystery shopped by external verifiers and had its Green Flag award removed, due to a small number of issues failing to achieve the standard required, plus also insufficient development within the park.

An action plan to address the issues has been developed and implemented, with assistance from the Roe Lee Park Supporters Group, who have been engaged in the work needed. The Park has now been resubmitted for evaluation against the Green Flag criteria. A decision is expected for March 2012.

Pleasington Cemetery extension has been granted conditional Planning consent, with work expected to start in preparation for the extension during summer 2012. The extension project is expected to take 2 years.

PLEASINGTON CREMATORIA

Following a tender award, the redevelopment of the crematoria at Pleasington is scheduled to commence during this summer, which will last for up to 6 months, although there will be limited work taking place at the facility during weekdays. It is anticipated that there will no disruption to services provided.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PIZZA DOUGH ROLLING MACHINES

As a result of a teenage worker in Hampshire having his fingers crushed in a dough rolling machine members of staff from Public protection service's business compliance team are carrying out spot checks of businesses where similar equipment could be in use. The main focus is on pizza takeaways and other businesses producing pizza bases. The injury happened because the rollers were not properly guarded.

Unfortunately the machines are sold with the guards that protect the in running nip on the dough rollers at the top and the bottom of the machines as a separate, optional item. As a consequence many are sold without the guards. To date 3 unguarded machines have been found within the borough. The owner of one of these bought guards straight away but 2 did not. As a result notices were served prohibiting the use of the machines until guards are fitted. Failure to comply with a prohibition notice can result in prosecution with the potential for a fine of upto £20,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment.

JOINT WORKING ON NOISE NUISANCE

Members of staff from Public protection services environmental protection team have been involved in joint approaches to dealing with noise and other anti-social behaviour.

The ASBRAC (anti social behaviour risk assessment conference) panels are multi-agency meetings where strategies to deal with persons causing or suffering from anti social behaviour are discussed. The panel has been meeting for approximately a year and have proved useful in establishing ways of dealing with persistent noise nuisance offenders who are often also responsible for other types of anti-social behaviour.

Environmental health officers are undertaking a series of training sessions for neighbourhood policing teams. Information is being given about the way public protection service investigates complaints about noise nuisance.

Members of the public often call the police about noisy neighbours, especially where the noise is only 1 element of a range of anti-social behaviour. The aim is to provide police officers with information about noise nuisance, which they have no power to deal with, so that their approach can assist the public protection service on the noise nuisance aspect.