

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

**COUNCILLOR FARYAD HUSSAIN**

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### **FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME**

This Council was the first in Lancashire to launch the Scores on the Doors rating scheme in 2007 which graded food outlets from five star (excellent) down to zero stars (poor) based on inspections and confidence in the business's ability to improve standards.

This scheme is currently being replaced by the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) developed by the Food Standards Agency. The aim is to have a consistent scheme across the country so that consumers can compare hygiene ratings of food businesses in their local area and further away from home.

### **E. COLI CONTROLS**

We are pursuing a project to try and reduce the risk faced by members of the public from the bacterium E. coli 0157. The service has made businesses aware of revised guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency.

One of the risks of infection with E.coli 0157 is haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS). HUS can lead to kidney failure, which may be fatal or require long-term kidney dialysis. Young children, the elderly and immunocompromised people are particularly at risk, and there is no specific treatment for the illness.

The guidance highlights the following:

- Identification of separate work areas, surfaces and equipment for raw and ready-to-eat food.
- Use of separate complex equipment, such as vacuum-packing machines, slicers, and mincers for raw and ready-to-eat food.
- Hand washing should be carried out using a recognized technique. Anti-bacterial gels must not be used instead of thorough hand washing.
- Disinfectants and sanitizers must meet officially recognized standards and should be used as instructed by the manufacturer.

### **AIR QUALITY**

Where health based pollution limits are exceeded the Council is required to declare air quality management areas (AQMAs) and work to improve pollution levels within the area with the aim of meeting the standard.

In February 3 new AQMAs were declared because the acceptable level of

nitrogen dioxide is being exceeded. The areas affected are Four Lane Ends, Blackamoor and the junction of Accrington Road and Burnley Road. This pollution typically comes from vehicles and the areas affected are busy road junctions where traffic fumes build up.

## **WASTE AND RECYCLING**

Waste and recycling tonnages for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter appear to be in line with last years figures, with landfill waste tonnage slightly down on last years arisings, which again bodes well in terms of less waste being disposed of at landfill. The performance at the 2 household waste recycling centres is also improving, following the recent developments at the sites, but there's still opportunity for improvement and the contractor SITA are doing just that, with a number of compliments being received from members of the public, particularly at the Darwen facility.

## **YOUR CALL ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UPS**

Since the start of the Your Call initiative last September, there will have been some 28 environmental clean ups across the borough. The recent advertisement in the Shuttle in February, highlighting the opportunity for local residents to be come involved in community led initiatives, plus with the weather improving, we are finding an increased number of requests coming through to the Ward Solutions teams for Your Call environmental clean ups. A recent celebratory event was held at King Georges Hall to thanks the work done by community groups thus far.

## **DOG FOULING**

A number of recent complaints at Ward Solutions meetings have highlighted what appears to be an increase in the number dog fouling incidents. The Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods Department are busy developing a revised strategy in consultation with the community and elected members. It is likely that there will be pilot projects concentrating on hot spot areas alongside a stronger media campaign to heighten awareness.

The Council will seek to name and shame any perpetrators along with spot fines or prosecution.

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