

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AND SUSTAINABILITY**COUNCILLOR FARYAD HUSSAIN****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN****DATE: 28 MAY 2012****WASTE AND RECYCLING**

Landfill waste and kerbside commingled recycling tonnages for April are comparable with those of last year. Green waste tonnages are slightly down, due in part to the poor weather in April, but the recent good weather in May is likely to see an improvement in the amount of green waste collected.

The Council is near to considering appointing a preferred bidder for the processing and treatment of the boroughs domestic waste that is presently going to landfill. Bids are expected late June, with evaluation of bids progressing over the summer.

MERCURY ABATEMENT

Changes in legislation require crematoria across the country to meet improved targets for emissions. As has been previously reported, the Council has secured a contract for the redevelopment of the cremators, with the work planned to commence late summer for the remainder of the financial year.

PLEASINGTON CEMETERY EXTENSION

It is planned to commence the extension work, planning conditions permitting, this winter. The extension should provide around of 15 years additional burial space.

GREEN FLAG AWARD

The Council has at present Green Flag status for the following sites:-

Corporation Park,
Roe Lee Park,
Witton Park,
Bold Venture Park,
Queens Park
Sunnyhurst Woods

And also has the Green Pennant award for Hoddlesden Millennium Green.

All the above sites are being judges this year for the continuation of the awards

WASTE ENFORCEMENT AND CLEAN UP TO FIRST QUARTER 2012/13

Your Call - an action plan has been written for consultation, for 2012/13, based around the themed priorities of behaviour change, community action, private landlords, dog fouling, litter and fly tipping.

Your Call clean ups – From March to end June 2012 we will have completed a further 28 Your Call Clean Up events.

Your Call partnership working - officers within waste enforcement have started the process of providing refresher training for all PCSOs across the Borough, to give them the confidence to challenge behaviour and issue Fixed Penalty Notices for issues such as dog fouling and litter, which can blight a neighbourhood and lead to other Environmental crimes. This will continue throughout 2012/13

A series of monthly 'workshops' will also soon start for Members to provide them with a greater insight in to tackling environmental crime and anti social behaviour issues across our Borough : themes include dog fouling, street cleansing and litter, youth behaviour etc.

Dog control - a new contractor is now in place (since 1 June 2012), dealing with dog control and dog fouling, following a re tendering of this service.

Graffiti and fly posting - a new contract is due to take effect on 1 September 2012, following a tender process to be concluded this month.

Waste enforcement action - formal action (issuing FPNs and court action) since 1 April has been as following :

* 18 FPNs issued incl 3 for dog fouling, the remainder for domestic related waste and trade waste offences

* 1 formal action started for fly tipping

(Note : this does not include ongoing formal action taken for offences prior to 1 April)

FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME

The Council has adopted the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) developed by the Food Standards Agency to advise consumers about the food hygiene standards in food premises.

Food safety officers inspect a range of premises that sell food to check their hygiene standards meet legal requirements. The standards found at these inspections are rated on a scale ranging from zero at the bottom (which means 'urgent improvement necessary') to a top rating of five ('very good'). Approximately 80% of local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are signed up to the national scheme allows local residents to be confident that the same standards apply wherever they choose to buy food.

The ratings are available on the FSA website at www.food.gov.uk/ratings. Each food business is given a sticker and certificate which they are encouraged to display at the entrance to their premises so customers can decide if they want to go in.

In Blackburn with Darwen we have 943 premises eligible for the scheme. The ratings are as follows:

5 star – 46%
4 star – 19%
3 star – 24%
2 star – 3%
1 star – 7%
0 star – 1%

Around one million people suffer from food poisoning every year, and the FSA's aim in developing the FHRS is to reduce this number. Staff within Blackburn with Darwen Public protection service will concentrate efforts to improve standards in premises with the lowest star ratings.