

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN**

DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2013

GREEN FLAG AWARDS

The council has been advised that Blackburn with Darwen has retained 6 Green Flags for the following parks:-

- Witton Country Park
- Corporation Park
- Roe Lee Park
- Queens Park
- Sunnyhurst Woods
- Bold Venture Park

Plus a Community Green Flag Award at:-

- Hoddlesden Millennium Green

This year has been a particularly challenging year for the authority, in terms of the application for Green Flag awards, with the demands to maintain major parklands at a nationally recognised standard difficult to achieve, with reductions made in budgets, although despite this, the efforts of the Friends/Supporters Groups and also the council staff, have proved successful. Most of our parks will be mystery shopped throughout the year, Sunnyhurst Woods and Queens Park being the only two parks to be visited by a judging team this year.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Waste tonnage taken by the council to landfill for the first 4 months of this financial year was 11,590 tonnes, some 63 tonnes higher than the same period last year.

Kerbside recycling of the grey bin materials for the first 4 months of this financial year, has seen Biffa, the Council's recycling contractor, collect 4,692 tonnes, which is some 42 tonnes lower than the same period last year. The contractor is currently working with the council on a service development plan, as the contractor is paid per tonne collected.

At the council's 2 household waste recycling centres, at George Street West Blackburn and Spring Vale Road Darwen, almost all of the 500 users surveyed at the sites, were happy with the service provided.

An on-site poll carried out in June by Groundwork at the council's household waste recycling centres in George Street West, Blackburn, and Springvale Road, Darwen, quizzed 500 users. It found that 495 were satisfied with the service provided. Some 82 per cent of those surveyed couldn't identify any further improvements, a big increase on the 21 per cent asked the same question in 2012.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND NURSERIES ACHIEVE RECIPE 4 HEALTH AWARD

Children's centres and nurseries in Blackburn and Darwen have been recognised for their efforts to promote healthy eating. The aim of the initiative was to help develop healthy eating patterns from an early age. Poor nutrition could lead to obesity related illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes in later years.

The award is available to business who look at ways of reducing fat, sugar and salt in the foods they provide; increasing the amount of fruit and vegetables; offering different portion sizes; and promoting healthier options.

The Recipe 4 Health award is available at 3 levels - bronze, silver and gold. In July, 23 nurseries and children's centres received the award - 19 at gold standard.

In order to qualify for the award providers must have a Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating of 3 or higher - which is broadly compliant with current standards.