

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

CLLR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR- MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 16 JULY 2015**

WASTE TREATMENT

The Council's arrangements for disposing of 'rubbish' not placed in recycling bins, has recently changed. For at least 30 years, our rubbish has been landfilled at Whinney Hill, Accrington, but from 1 June and for the next 10 years, most of household and commercial rubbish will be disposed of in a energy from waste plant, in Bolton, as part of an agreement with Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority. There will continue to be some small quantities of bulky rubbish landfilled at Whinney Hill, but all rubbish in the burgundy bins will be sent to the Bolton energy from waste plant.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

Lancashire County Council (LCC) have recently closed a number of household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) and also placed restrictions from 1st June 2015, introducing some charges on their householders who wish to dispose of so-called 'builders waste', at their network of HWRCs. Officers are keeping a watching brief on the actions taken by LCC as this may see a knock on effect to Blackburn with Darwen BC's 2 sites where this charging policy does not apply.

YOUR CALL

Your Call volunteer neighbourhood clean-up action – volunteer clean-up events continue to be popular, attracting a large number of volunteers in the current financial year, with some 32 events booked in to date between April and June. In addition, the number of volunteers who are helping clean up their neighbourhood, with regular litterpicking of local streets and areas, has reached over 220, with volunteers being added at a rate of approximately 2 per week over the last year, which saw 112 registered with the Council for April 2014.

PUBLIC PROTECTION & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROSECUTIONS

Enforcement staff from Public Protection & Environmental Health work hard to maintain a safe living and working environment within the Borough by enforcing a wide variety of legislation. Most of the time they get people to comply by advising and warning them, but where more formal action is necessary, it is taken.

In the last quarter the Service has taken 11 successful prosecutions for various offences in the Borough. Six individuals have been prosecuted for failing to remove rubbish from their back yards; fines totalled £1630, with costs of £1768 and compensation for clean-up costs of £1031 awarded to the Council. Three individuals have been prosecuted for failing to dispose of waste legally; fines totalled £1100, with costs of £700 being awarded to the Council: and two businesses have been prosecuted for food safety offences; fines totalled £1200, with costs of £1550 being awarded to the Council.

In addition, 10 fixed penalty notices have been issued for littering, dog fouling and side waste. It should be noted that court costs are a civil debt, and therefore not automatically received by the Council. In addition, internal financial procedures mean that the Public Protection & Environmental Health Service normally only receives a small part of costs received by the Council

LED RETROFIT

There are now over 12500 LED units installed, with progress being slightly ahead of schedule. Works have commenced on LED installations on major traffic routes that will see a slowdown in progress, due to network working time restrictions, in order to avoid traffic delays on busy roads.