

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

CLLR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR- MARTIN EDEN**

DATE:

YOUR CALL

Following on the success of the community clean up initiatives, the Council has now enlisted over 300 community volunteer litter pickers, who regularly go out in their local area and remove litter.

The Environment team has also liaised with established park and cemetery friends and supporters groups on weed spaying within parks and cemeteries, with some 6 volunteers from groups across the borough, having successfully passed the national certificate to allow them to apply herbicide, under the direction of the Council. The 6 individuals have undertaken a 3 day course to pass their PA1 and PA6 certification.

Further work on developing resource packs for established friends and supporters groups are continuing, to enable the more active groups to be supplied with tools and equipment, so as to enable groups to undertake work, without much pre-planning, as currently happens.

The first quarter of this financial year has seen some 37 Your Call events take place, with 945 volunteers attending, of which 719 were first time attendees at a Your Call clean up event.

ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATION

The Council's Public Protection team has undertaken a number of recent prosecutions, with 2 Food Hygiene prosecutions with fines, costs and victim surcharge totalling £5,695, an illegal slaughter of animals totalling £3,775, a Trading Standards Tobacco prosecution totalling £853 as well as the seizure of illicit tobacco and products, plus 3 enviro-crime prosecutions for waste related offences totalling £3,900.

WASTE TONNAGE

A significant rise in residual waste tonnage in May, saw 3,210 tonnes of residual waste produced, which is a rise of 17% on May 2015. The majority of the waste, 2,461 tonnes went to a waste to energy plant, with 749 tonnes sent to landfill.

Kerbside commingled recycling (grey bin) has also increased for May, which saw 1,090 tonnes recycled, a rise of 10% on May 2015. To combat the rise in residual waste, the Portfolio is looking at options for development of environmental education, not just with leafletting to residents, but also targeted work within schools.