

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

**COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN  
DATE: 27 JULY 2017**

### **YOUR CALL**

We have had a strong start to the year for 'Your Call' environmental clean-up events. In April and May, we have supported 28 events which were attended by 575 volunteers, of which, 284 volunteers were new and had never previously taken part in an environmental clean-up.

This compares very favourably to the previous year where we supported 19 events which were attended by 429 volunteers, of which, 312 were new volunteers.

### **GREEN WASTE**

The number of subscribers to the service has continued to increase, over 13,000 residents have now signed up to the green waste collection service. As expected, green waste tonnages have reduced this year, however they have only reduced by 20% when compared to the tonnage we received from 27,000 properties that had access to a green waste collection service last year.

### **NOISE CONTROL**

The Council's Public Protection service has been working behind the scenes to help ensure that recent events in the Borough have been safe and enjoyable for all.

Officers monitored noise in Witton Park at the Easter Fair in April and the Restricted Forest event in May, and were able to confirm that noise levels stayed within guidelines; this evidence will support the Council in maintaining a regular schedule of events at the park, and enable it to counter any unjustified complaints.

Council officers were also involved in the recent Elton John concert at Blackburn Rovers. Again, noise monitoring equipment was deployed to ensure that noise levels remained within agreed limits, which they did. Officers have also been involved in the event at the stadium, in their capacity of safety at sports grounds inspectors – this was to ensure that the agreed event plan was followed by organisers, and to monitor the safety of the crowd. That the event passed off safely and enjoyably, was due in no small part to the diligent planning of the organisers, Blackburn Rovers, and the authorities.

## **JOINT PARKING AND TRAFFIC OPERATION**

On Friday evening, 9 June 2017, parking services took part in a joint parking and traffic operation in the Blackburn area with Lancashire Police Constabulary.

Officers from the Council and the Police patrolled areas around and within the town centre between the hours of 5.00pm and 9.00pm. In total, the Council issued 79 PCNs for parking offences and the Police also issued 9 Traffic Penalties for more serious traffic offences

There are two more joint parking and traffic operations planned in June as part of our sustained joint working to improve parking and traffic standards with the Borough.

## **SATURDAY CAGES**

The Council has re-commenced the springtime waste removal service in areas across the borough, for a period of 12 weeks, with the service ending late June but planning to recommence late autumn. The service sees a number of caged vehicles arrive at predetermined sites, where residents local to the area, will have received notification of the arrival time and date, in advance. Residents can then take their bulky waste to the collection site, where Council staff remove and load the items.