

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

**COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN  
DATE: 25 JANUARY 2018**

### **CAR PARK MARSHALING – PLEASINGTON CEMETERY**

The Council organised an accredited training programme for car park marshals in February 2017 and we were delighted to recruit 24 volunteers, who attended this training. Following this training, the Council launched the volunteer car park marshalling scheme to assist traffic management when large Muslim burials were booked at Pleasington Cemetery.

Brent Stevenson Stonemasons fully funded the purchase of 12 high visibility jackets and 12 walkie talkies for the volunteer car park marshals to ensure that the marshals are easily identifiable and can maintain regular communication with each other when a funeral is taking place.

The Council will be organising a further accredited training programme for up to 25 new volunteer car park marshals in February/March 2018 to ensure we have sufficient qualified volunteer marshals to provide support for Muslim burials.

### **BROWN STREET CAR PARK**

Brown Street car park opened on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 as a new Pay & Display car park for Blackburn Town Centre.

Over the course of the first few months the usage figures and income from the car park were low; this was always expected as it does take time for road users to change their parking habits. However as the year progressed, Brown Street has proven to be more and more popular with road users coming into Blackburn Town Centre and is now one of the Council's busiest car parks.

### **OLD BANK LANE CAR PARK SCHEME**

The Old Bank Lane Car Park scheme is progressing on schedule and should be open for public use from April 2018. The car park is located next to Royal Blackburn Hospital and will provide 500 car parking spaces for visitors to the Hospital and local businesses, whilst at the same time, alleviating significant road traffic congestion on Haslingdon road.

### **PAY AND DISPLAY INCOME**

In March 2017, 52 new Pay and Display car parking machines were installed throughout Blackburn Town centre, replacing 72 older P+D machines which were dilapidated and breaking down on a regular basis. The new machines accept coin, card and contactless payment. There have been no faults with the machines since they were installed and as a result, P&D income for the year on both on-street and off-street parking bays is £389,260, this is 17% higher than over the same period in the previous year.

## **GREEN WASTE**

Following the success of the first year of the green waste subscription scheme, the opportunity to subscribe for 2018 collections went live on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Up to Christmas, there had been 4,127 households that have signed up for the “early – bird” offer of £20 per bin subscription.

Householders can sign up to the subscription scheme online, or over the telephone via the councils contact centre, or with cash/cheque payments accepted at the libraries across the borough and also at Davyfield Road depot. Of those having signed up thus far, 145 are new subscribers to the service, who did not participate last year.

The price for the service increases to £25 per bin from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. The prices for the 2018 subscription scheme are the same as those for the 2017 scheme.

## **LITTER AND DOG FOULING ENFORCEMENT**

Kingdom Services Group commenced litter and dog fouling enforcement across the borough on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017, as part of a trial scheme. Up to the end of December 2017, there had been 2,055 fixed penalties notices (FPNs) issued, 337 of which were issued in Darwen.

To date some 14 FPNs have been issued for dog fouling. The vast majority of dog owners across the Borough look after their dogs responsibly and pick up dog mess; unfortunately some dog owners behave less responsibly, therefore Kingdom will continue to focus on this issuing FPN's to irresponsible dog owners throughout 2018.

The payment rate for FPNs is increasing month on month, with a current payment rate in excess of 45%. In the event of FPNs being unpaid, legal action through the courts will be taken.