

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 6 OCTOBER 2022**

Waste and Recycling

The Government is yet to provide details on the future of recycling and waste management, following the introduction of the Environment Act 2021. It is anticipated there will be additional burdens on Councils regarding the quality and separation of recyclable items, that may require significant changes to the collection of waste and recycling. However, the Government has to date not provided any specific details, despite some changes stated to be introduced from 2024. The lack of specific details will affect Councils with regards existing contracts for treatment and disposal of wastes, which where possible, would need to be renegotiated, and the procurement of specialist vehicles and their extended lead time for delivery.

Green waste collection subscription 2023

Households will receive a leaflet late November/early December to advise residents that they can subscribe to the 2023 green waste collection service from December 2022 and to also remind households of the items that can be recycled during the festive period, plus reducing food waste can help reduce household spending.

Play areas

The Council has committed to a number of play area improvements, namely at Blacksnape Darwen, Wolseley St Blackburn, Guide Play area Blackburn and also St Barnabas St play area. The works are planned for completion within the next 4 months.

Waste enforcement

36 residents have been ordered to pay a combined total of £23,832 in court fines and charges, due to unacceptable waste offences in Blackburn with Darwen. Action was taken by our Environmental Crime Team, assisted by the fly-tipping crew, who together gathered evidence and brought successful cases against residents for offences that include thoughtless fly-tipping and allowing unsightly waste to pile up in gardens. In some cases, residents had failed to employ a licensed waste carrier to remove of their waste and were therefore liable for the fine.

Noise Prosecution

The Public Protection Service has seen an increase in noise complaints relating to dog barking since the pandemic, but always tries to resolve them without having to resort to formal action.

However, when dog owners won't listen to advice they can expect to face prosecution. On 1st September 22, the owner of a car dealership on Whalley New Road, Blackburn, who allowed his guard dog to keep neighbours awake due to its barking, was convicted at Burnley Magistrates Court of breaching an abatement notice. The defendant failed to attend, so in his absence was fined £5000, ordered to pay Council costs of £3000 and a victim surcharge of £500, a total penalty of £8500. The Council applied for a Criminal Behaviour Order to prevent dogs being kept on the site, and a hearing for this was set for 4th October 22.

PARKING SERVICES

Old Bank Lane Car Park

Old Bank Lane car park will be leased out in its entirety to East Lancs. NHS Trust, who will use this as a staff car park, which will free up more spaces on the visitor car parks which should allow easier access for visitors and patients to Blackburn Royal and ease traffic congestion on the highway. The lease will be for one year with a rolling 6 month break clause thereafter.