

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 19 JULY 2018**

FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Last year's external income increased to £250,000 which was generated across the following:

- HGV/PSV testing lane
- Taxi testing/private MOT tests
- Private servicing/repair work
- External training (Midas and taxi driver assessment training)

This year we are looking to introduce a third MOT test lane to be located in the Blacksmiths shop within the Davyfield Depot. As part of the business case, we intend to utilise the new MOT lane to attract additional business, initially targeting employees at the surrounding industrial estates.

Negotiations are also ongoing with a number of other organisations to service and maintain their vehicles and undertake repairs to generate additional business for the Motor Vehicle Service Station.

YOUR CALL CLEAN UP VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

The figures for Your Call clean up events for May, is:-

May 2018 – 15 events, with 144 volunteers taking part

May 2017 – 15, events, with 292 volunteers taking part

We have also seen a huge increase in the number of community litter pickers over the last few months, with over 400 now registered with the council, of which 273 are registered on the Lancashire Volunteer Portal (LVP), with 25 more still in the process of signing up. Free litter cleaning packs are being distributed to residents as they register and work on developing sponsorship for the packs is continuing.

Resident leads on social media sites – Keep Darwen Tidy, a new group on Facebook, has done some great work to mobilise and motivate local people to action. The administrator works well with officers and the volunteers report daily on when and where they have cleaned and also post before and after photographs. A newer group, Keep Blackburn Tidy, is also developing with support from local Councillors, tackling the litter and flytipping issues around the town.

The improvement in the cleanliness of the areas they have targeted has been tremendous, with social and physical benefits the benefits also social as well as physical, with exercise being a key element to the work of the groups.

GDPR – all volunteers have been contacted before the May 25th ‘deadline’ and many have now signed up on the Lancashire Volunteer Portal.

GREY RECYCLING BIN COLLECTION

Contamination of recycling bins continues to be problematic, with the council planning to undertake a waste audit across the borough which will help highlight the contamination levels in recycling bins.

Collection tonnage for April and May :-

Year	April monthly tonnage	May monthly tonnage
2017/18	984	1190
2018/19	1078	1170

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS

The number of sign-ups to the service continues to develop, with the latest figures being:-

- Households signed up as of 01/06/2018 = 13,776
- Households signed up as of 01/06/2017 = 12,770

The service is now in its 2nd year of operation as a chargeable service, with the overall signups for 2017 on target to be exceeded for the end of the year. The good weather in May has clearly helped the progression of the service.

FOOD BUSINESS OWNER BANNED

The former owner of a Chinese restaurant has been banned from running a food business following a prosecution for food hygiene offences.

The man, aged 48, who ran the former Guide Village restaurant, pleaded guilty to 14 offences relating to accumulated dirt and mould, grease and food debris covering walls, floors, food preparation areas, hand basins, fridges and cooking utensils. A “large dirty pan of chicken stock” was left uncovered on top of a cooking range for over two days. There were also failures to comply with food information regulations relating to allergies and the maintenance of food safety records.

Blackburn Magistrates’ Court imposed fines totalling £5840, and awarded the Council full costs of £3385. The Magistrates also imposed a prohibition order which prevents the man from being in charge of a food business in the future.

MORE FOOD BUSINESSES SIGNING UP FOR HEALTHY OPTIONS

More food businesses are applying to be members of the Council's Recipe 4 Health scheme. The scheme, which is run by Public Protection and Public Health, aims at making healthier choices available for members of the public who are eating out. The scheme is free of charge to businesses, who receive advice and guidance from Environmental Health Officers on food allergy labelling, healthy alternatives on menus, and of course good food hygiene.

Recent awards have gone to two primary schools, a children's day care centre and three nursing homes. In total, 207 businesses have received the R4H award in the Borough so far, and the full list can now be found on the Council's website.