

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 4 OCTOBER 2018**

GARDEN WASTE

As we near the end of the 2018 collection season, the garden waste subscription service has seen just over 14,514 bins being paid for, which is nearly identical to the whole of last year's subscriptions.

Plans for the 2019 service are due to commence late September onwards, to ensure that we provide the updated information in time for subscriptions being available from December 2018.

YOUR CALL CLEAN UP VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY

We have had a good start to the year for community clean-up events with:-

- 74 events taking place in the first 5 months from April this year, with 1,250 volunteers attending events. This compares against 62 events, with 1,278 volunteers for the same period last year.
- *Lancashire Volunteer Portal (LVP)* – residents are signing up in increasing numbers to be volunteer litter pickers, recording their hours, locations and engaging with the Council. To date approximately 460 residents have signed up helping clean the borough whilst getting health and wellbeing benefits from undertaking the clean-up activity. This is a tremendous resource with a great deal of potential and Your Call has benefitted from being on board from its inception
- *Resident tackling local littering issues:* The mobilisation of the community via Facebook, with the Keep Blackburn Tidy and the Keep Darwen Tidy groups has seen a massive effort by residents to tackle litter and blight within their community, with the number of litterpicking bags generated by the group members running into the thousands in some 5 months. The council is supporting the work of the group members by providing litterpicking packs, which contain a litterpicker, hi-vis vest, gloves, first aid kit, as well as safety instructions. The efforts of the groups have received positive publicity, with local resident Wayne Dixon and his dog Koda, also joining the community effort to tackle litter in the borough, whilst he takes a few weeks off, between his charitable walk around the coast of Britain, litterpicking as he goes.

PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE PROSECUTIONS

The Public Protection Service aims to enforce legislation by informal means when possible, but sometimes has to resort to formal action.

A food business has been convicted of breaches of food safety legislation relating to a rodent infestation, and has been fined £600, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £30, and ordered to pay costs of £1500.

In addition, six individuals have been convicted of offences relating to the supply of single cigarettes, or incorrectly labelled cigarettes; penalties totalled £1420, with a total of £2960 costs being ordered.

DOG FOULING AND LITTER ENFORCEMENT TEAM REVIEW

After being in operation since October 2017, the Dog Fouling and Litter Enforcement Team has issued

- 5782 fixed penalty notices for littering
- 36 fixed penalty notices for dog fouling
- 357 fixed penalty notices for smoke-free England offences

66% of these fixed penalty notices have been paid to date. 815 cases have been sent through to Legal services for prosecution; of these 75% have been found guilty, 15% have yet to be heard, and 10% have been withdrawn for public interest reasons. No cases have been lost. In general, fines of £220 are imposed on conviction, plus costs of around £85.

As planned, a review of the pilot is currently underway.

PARKING SERVICES

On the 27th June, Old Bank Lane Car Park located adjacent to the Royal Blackburn Hospital was awarded ParkMark status from British Parking and Police Crime Prevention, this award is for car park facilities dedicated to creating a safe and non-threatening parking environment. This prestigious award can be used on any future marketing or promotional opportunities.