

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

COUNCILLOR JIM SMITH

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN  
DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#### Garden Waste

The opportunity to subscribe to the collection service for 2019, opened early December, with to date, over 3,500 having taken advantage of the £5 discount with the 'early bird' offer that is available until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

#### Your Call clean up volunteer activity

Since April 2018, we have had 94 Your Call community clean up events supported by the Council. The number of registered attendees at these 94 events is 1,568.

In addition to this, we also have the community litter pickers and we are indebted to the community spirit generated by the Keep Darwen Tidy and Keep Blackburn Tidy Facebook groups, whose members have helped improve the borough, by not just litter picking and generating thousands of red bags, but also removing overgrowth and lopping bushes in their localities.

Since April 2018, we have issued some 480 community litter picking packs to residents of the borough, with a significant number recording their activities on the Lancashire Volunteer Portal.

The latest Red Bag Revolution campaign by the Council has seen an increase in numbers requesting litter picking packs since the campaign was launched late December.

### WASTE AND RECYCLING TONNAGES

The latest figures for the borough for 2018/19, compared with 2017/18 are:-

The data for all Residual tonnage:

April – Dec 2017:	28,766 tonnes
April – Dec 2018:	30,135 tonnes

Data for Kerbside recycling tonnage:

April – Dec 2017:	9,757 tonnes
April – Dec 2018:	9,539 tonnes

A programme board is being established to review all aspects of waste and recycling within the borough, which coincides with the Government releasing late December 2018, it's Our Waste, Our Resource: A Waste Strategy for England.

## **PARKING SERVICES**

### **Pay and Display**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Council implemented a 20p increase on all Pay and Display tariffs, in addition to this a new Sunday tariff was introduced of £1.00 for up to 3 hours and £2.00 thereafter. Pay and Display income has increased by over 15% in 2018, mainly due to the success of Brown Street Car Park and its extension and the significant reduction in machine faults since the new Pay & Display machines were introduced.

### **Parking Enforcement**

The Council introduced red route enforcement along a stretch of Highway at Eanam in a landmark scheme for the Borough, the scheme went 'live' on the 1<sup>st</sup> November with warning notices being sent for the first month, Penalty Charge Notices were introduced after the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

In enforcement side of parking services has since the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 issued:-

- 10,456 Penalty Charge Notices for illegal parking
- 8,200 Penalty Charge Notices for Bus Lane contraventions
- 278 Penalty Charge Notices for Red route contraventions

### **Old Bank Lane**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October, electronic signage directing vehicles to the Old bank Lane site were trialled in a bid to increase usage of the car park but also to reduce congestion to the Hospitals other sites. Since the introduction of these signs usage has increased threefold and congestion has significantly reduced on the hospitals car park. As a result of this trial a permanent signage solution is now being sought.

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL SEIZURE**

In November 2018, as a result of cumulative intelligence reports received by Public Protection, a multi-agency tobacco operation took place in the Borough. After 5 hours searching at one site, 78,000 illicit cigarettes and 444 bottles of non duty-paid alcohol with an estimated combined market value of £45,000 were located and seized. Detailed investigations are ongoing.

### **Slot Machines in Pubs Survey**

Public Protection Officers took part in a national survey to test compliance with gambling laws which forbid children from accessing 18+ gaming machines in pubs.

In Blackburn with Darwen, Officers found that 7 out of the 8 pubs which were checked allowed children to use the slot machines. This mirrored the failure rate nationally, where 90% of pubs which were tested failed.

Advice has been issued to the pubs on this occasion, and Public Protection Officers will continue to monitor and enforce where necessary.

### **Animal Welfare Licences**

The way businesses are licenced for animal boarding, dog breeding, running pet shops etc has changed. The new laws are designed to strengthen animal welfare, particularly around puppy sales.

The new regulations include requirements to:

- Ensure that breeders show puppies alongside their mother and in the presence of the new owner before a sale is made– preventing online sales where prospective buyers have not seen the animal first.
- Ban licensed sellers from dealing in puppies and kittens under the age of 8 weeks.
- Regulate adverts, including on the internet, by ensuring licensed sellers of all pets include the seller's licence number, country of origin and country of residence of the pet.
- Introduce a new “star rating” informing potential customers of how well businesses comply with welfare standards. The star rating ranges from 1 to 5 with 5 stars showing the best standards are in place.

In Blackburn with Darwen, up to the end of December, 14 applications have been processed for the new licences. Of those, 13 have been awarded the highest star rating of 5. Licensing officers are working closely with trading standards officers in this area, due to the risk of illegally imported puppies bringing rabies into the country.