

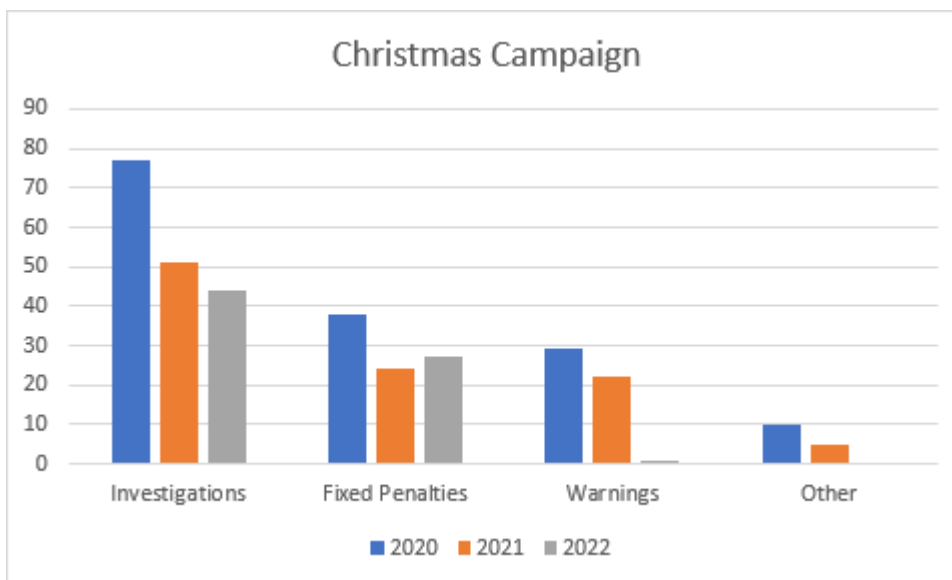
Meeting Date: 28th March 2023

Public/Private*: Public

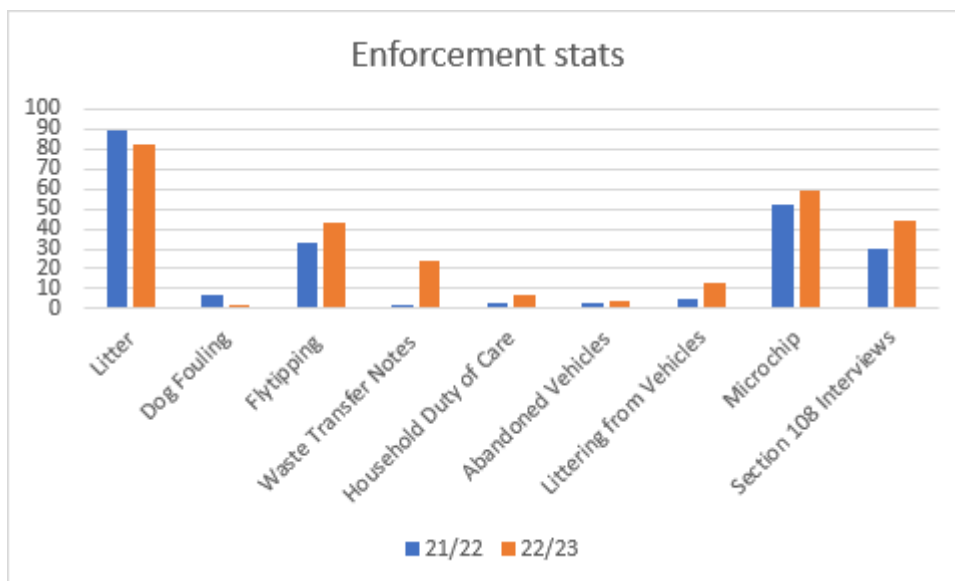
Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –**
Councillor Nigel Christian

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Over the last four years we have carried out our Christmas Campaign aimed at dealing with items being left on the ground at bring sites. Similar activity is carried out throughout the year but action is ramped up over Christmas when demands on these sites are at their peak. Results are very positive at these sites as a result of our awareness raising campaign, more effective use of CCTV and taking robust enforcement when necessary. Over this period, we have also made residents aware of their responsibilities in disposing of their waste, advising them to only use a registered waste carrier.



We have also seen the introduction of EV vehicles for our teams, including a camera van that is deployed across our area targeting enviro-crime and the growing problem of roadside litter. The high-profile vehicles also act as an effective deterrent supporting our educational and awareness raising activity.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE – GRANT SUCCESS

Cumbria's EV Charging Partnership has been awarded a grant of £1.4million from the Government's LEVI fund to accelerate the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure in Carlisle and the rest of the county. Added to that, a further £143,000 has been awarded to enable the local authorities to engage Project Officers whose job will be to manage the procurement and installation of the charge points.

The initial funding, available immediately, will be followed in the next two years by further awards to make sure public charge points are available to all residents, close to their home.

To launch the initiative the Partnership held an event at Keswick on 14th March, attended by local business and community leaders, EV suppliers and specialist firms involved in delivering charge point infrastructure.

GREEN SPACES

Kingmoor South Nature Reserve Extension.

- £11,500 grant from Trees for Cities
- £140,000 from Community Forest.
- The planting of 10,000 trees to start by the end of the month, with footpath construction, fence removal, picnic tables, benches and interpretation being installed over the summer

‘Stars in the Tarn’ project has started with the first of the public engagement sessions. The build will start at the end of the March/early April with completion in May.

Some key successes over the last four years

- **Tree planting.** 1264 ‘standard’ trees have been planted across the City in the last five years
- **Allotments.** Take up for allotments have increased from 86% to 92% in 2023
- **Grassland Management.** We have designated conservation grassland areas in seven of our greenspaces, totalling eight hectares of grassland being managed for pollinators and other wildlife
 - Chances Park
 - Hammonds Park
 - Heysham Park
 - St James Park
 - Parkside
 - Briar Bank
 - Willowholme
- **Biodiversity Net Gain** in the Environment Agency landscaping works associated with the flood defences in Bitts Park and Melbourne Park. Work has included creating species rich grassland on the flood defence banks, bulb planting, and tree planting
- **The Swifts** – The creation of a new 42-acre wildlife haven for birds, bees and butterflies in Carlisle. The Swifts Golf Course and Driving Range in Carlisle city centre has become one of the very first urban bee and butterfly oasis in the Northwest. The Swifts site, in the centre of Carlisle, includes grassland, woodland and riverbanks. It has been transformed into an urban nature reserve thanks to £80,000 funding from Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (CWMET) and £8,000 from the

Environment Agency. The funding has breathed new life into the site, transforming once manicured greens and fairways into wildflower meadows, species-rich wetland and native woodland, helping to boost populations of bees and butterflies. The site is owned by Carlisle City Council, who worked collaboratively with Cumbria Wildlife Trust to ensure the successful delivery of the project. With improved access and signage, and within close walking distance of Carlisle city centre, the site is an oasis for wildlife and visitors to the site. The funding has been secured by Cumbria Wildlife Trust, and working in partnership with Carlisle City Council, the restoration works were part of the Get Cumbria Buzzing! Project. The project is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and aims to create and link pollinator habitat across Northwest Cumbria

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

I would like to pay credit to the Bereavement Services team who have dealt with extremely challenging circumstances over the last four years but have kept the service running smoothly throughout.

Following restrictions during the pandemic on numbers of attendees at services over 60,000 attended Carlisle Crematorium in the last 12 months to be able to pay their respects to loved ones.