

Report to  
**Council**

Agenda  
Item

10(b)(iii)

Meeting Date: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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### **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

As Members are already aware, the Council was allocated grant funding of £18,890 from Central Government in mid-March 2019 to support community led clean-up activity. Officers have been working with a number of community groups to support this initiative through the offer of litter picking and gardening kits as well as offering small 'grants' to top up their funding to be used on such things as planters, baskets, bulbs and plants or for tins of paint and brushes etc to brighten up an area. £3,000 has been allocated to support small grants of up to £150 and would hope to see community groups contributing match funding of up to 25% to spend on the community activity.

The bulk of the grant has been invested in equipment and tools that can be used for many years to come. Requests to loan equipment (such as the gardening / litter / 'dog fouling' kits) are welcomed any time but may need to be prioritised if demands are very high and diaries clash.

As part of the 'Give a day' to Carlisle we are supporting events in Denton Holme and Heysham Park. Officers from Neighbourhood Services will be working alongside Impact Housing, Centre 47, Nelson Street, to promote the reuse and recycling of unwanted or broken large or small electrical items alongside the collection of crisp packets and batteries to encourage people to reuse or recycle these items rather than throwing them into the refuse bin. Customers will also be able to view and buy items in the Impact Housing shop. This event will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. If the crisp packet and battery collection proves popular then a discussion will take place with community centres and parish council regarding being a collection point for these items.

Stencils advising the public to 'clean it up' will be spray painted in temporary environmentally friendly paint on pavements and paths in problem areas across Carlisle.

The stencils form part of our ongoing initiative to Keep Carlisle Clean. There will also be a number of free poop scoops provided. Following a school visit to Petteril Bank Community School, some of the children designed posters, winners were chosen, and these posters will be distributed around the school. Further educational visits are planned for Brampton School in July.

The Enforcement Team have continued to work in partnership with the Dogs' Trust, holding an event at Harraby Community Centre. Free health checks and microchipping were offered at this event. A further event is planned at Petteril Bank Community Centre in July.

The team continues to take enforcement action for littering, dog fouling and fly tipping offences and when necessary we also pursue cases through the courts. In this regard we are pleased to report further success through the magistrates' courts with fines being issued for three cases:

- £400 fine for failure to support the investigations of our Civil Enforcement Officers into fly-tipping offence
- £477 fine for failing to micro-chip a dog
- £474 fine for failing to update dog micro-chip records

In addition, the Civil Enforcement Officers across May have also issued:

- 9 fixed penalties for littering of £100 each (reduced to £80 for early payment)
- 1 fixed penalty (£100) for failing to comply with a Community Protection Notice
- 2 fixed penalties for fly-tipping of £200 each
- 4 community protection warning letters regarding waste issues

## **Apprentices**

In the last month we have taken on two business administration apprentices, one in the Technical Team and one in the Fleet and Vehicle Workshops Office at Bousteads. This now brings the total number of apprentices in Neighbourhood Services to three as we previously recruited an apprentice mechanic earlier in the year. We have a good track record of retaining our apprentices having confirmed a former apprentice mechanic in post as a Career Grade Mechanic helping to build resilience in this team. And, confirming a business administration apprentice into a Technical Clerk role.

## **'LOW CARBON CARLISLE' – EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) BID**

Officers have been working on a bid to the European Regional Development Fund under the Low Carbon priority, which includes projects that aim to reduce carbon emissions.

The main elements of this bid are:

- Improving and linking Carlisle's network of cycle paths to reduce car usage

- Installing cycle hubs at strategic locations to encourage uptake of cycling
- Installing new charging points for electric vehicles and bikes
- Promotion and marketing of the new opportunities

We were successful in clearing the first round of bidding which means that the funds have been earmarked for Carlisle, subject to a detailed application and we are now working on the submission with a deadline of 1 August. If successful we will receive £2.5m of funding from the ERDF, matched by a variety of resources including S106 funding; officer time; 3<sup>rd</sup> party contributions (e.g. projects for which the County Council have existing allocated funds)

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CLEAN AIR DAY 2019**

On Thursday 20th June, the Environmental Health team worked to actively promote and raise awareness of the importance of Clean Air in our area. As part of our awareness raising we made contact with Local Primary Schools to encourage them to support this year's national Clean Air Day campaign by taking part in our Clean Air Hero Superhero Competition, and to make pledges to think about their health and the health of their families from air pollution.

Local businesses kindly offered their support by providing prizes for the competition. These include, two bikes for the two winning entries donated by REBIKE, Denton Holme, Carlisle. Runners up prizes include Cycle Helmets that have been donated by Halfords Carlisle, tickets from the Old Fire Station, family tickets for this year's Panto at the Sands Centre. Better Leisure (GLL) are also providing the winning schools with a cycle track experience and Stagecoach Cumbria and North Lancashire have donated a family explorer ticket.

The winning competition entry image will be used by the Council to promote improvements in local air quality.

## **NATIONAL LISTERIA FOOD POISONING OUTBREAK**

The Environmental Health Team have been working alongside the Food Standards Agency and a local manufacturer in response to the national food poisoning outbreak which has seen the tragic deaths of 9 people (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust: 2 cases confirmed 7<sup>th</sup> June); Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust confirmed 7<sup>th</sup> June; University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust; University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust).

The organism associated with the outbreak is *Listeria monocytogenes* which carries a high fatality ratio in those people who are vulnerable or immunosuppressed. The source of the outbreak was linked to the consumption of contaminated sandwiches and salads within hospital settings (not in Cumbria). The manufacturer of the food linked with the outbreak is based in Salford; however, it was confirmed that they are a national distributor of cooked meat products. As a result, a local manufacturer contacted Carlisle City Council's Food &

Public Protection Team to confirm that food product had been supplied to them by the Salford producer. Although the cooked meats supplied were not confirmed as those being contaminated, the local manufacturer placed all remaining product in quarantine and performed a full voluntary product recall to their customers as precautionary measure. Contacting ourselves as the enforcing food authority and seeking our advice, confirms the good working relationship and trust the Environmental Health Team have built up with our local producers and manufacturers.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

As announced at the Special Council Meeting (25<sup>TH</sup> June 2019), nominations from all Members are invited for this new Working Group. The Group will be chaired by the Portfolio Holder and will focus on investigating the Council's response to Climate Change, reporting their findings to Executive.

## **BEREAVEMENT SERVICES**

Carlisle Crematorium achieved the Gold standard for the ICCM (Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management) Charter for the Bereaved – Guiding Principles for Burial and Cremation.

We will celebrate the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Remembrance Service on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> July (in the crematorium chapel), and we are very pleased to have been able to hand a cheque for £8,000 to Cumbria MacMillan Nurses as part of the ICCM Metal Recycling Scheme.

## **GREEN SPACES**

The St James' Park improvements community consultation is currently underway. Consultation events have been held at St James and Denton Holme Community Centre. The consultation has been publicised locally, on our website and through social media. Draft designs for the consultation have been produced to sympathetically modernise and enhance the accessibility of the park whilst retaining its original layout and character. These works will be funded by Section 106 contributions from recent local developments which are specifically designated for public open space improvements at St James' Park. The Green Spaces Team is supporting several projects as part of the Give A Day to the City initiative such as the Portland Square tidy up and a project in Raffles to provide a new bike track.

Talkin Tarn has hosted a variety of activities such as the recent Richard Rose students '50 mile walking challenge' which attracted even more visitors to the Tarn.

## **GROUPS MAINTENANCE**

The team are very busy now with routine work and have just completed the summer bedding. This year the team have planted nearly 40,000 bedding plants and put up over 150 baskets and containers throughout the Parks, Cemeteries and Civic areas. The team are also working with, councillors, Friends' groups and residents in support of the Cumbria in Bloom entries.

## **ALLOTMENTS**

Currently 88% of our 466 allotments plots on 51 sites are let. We also have 19 separately managed sites through self-managed groups.