

PORTFOLIO:

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
RAY BLOXHAM**

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Cemetery/Crematorium

The annual independent emissions testing has been carried out on the FT11 and FT111 Cremators by Nifes Consulting Group during the last week of November, early indications are that the cremators have passed the tests with no problems reported.

It has now been six months since we started using the Wesley music system at the crematorium instead of a resident organist. The system ensures that the correct music is played at each and every service and our library is being added to each day – up to a maximum of 150,000 pieces of music. All service users are impressed with the new system.

Environmental Health

Final working day for Ruth Harland (Food, Health & Safety Manager) & Dave Ingham (Environmental Quality Manager) was 9th December. The Team have moved (temporarily) to Bousteads Grassing on Monday 13th December, where the anticipated stay is 3 months, whilst continuing with their routine duties.

Waste Services

The recent exceptionally cold weather with the accompanying snow and ice has proved particularly challenging for the City Council's Waste Services. Despite some disruption to the service, the Council and its contractors have maintained the majority of collections in extremely difficult conditions (conditions that, it should be noted, have defeated most other authorities). That the service has been maintained is down to the commitment of our waste collection drivers and loaders who have had to work in sub zero conditions for over a fortnight. Our sincere thanks go to them, for all their hard work.

Neighbourhood and Green Spaces

Cold Weather – During the recent cold weather, staff from Neighbourhood and Green Spaces team have been temporarily engaged on gritting and snow clearance operations. While Highways staff concentrated on the roads, our teams worked on a prioritised list of pedestrian areas including the city centre, neighbourhood shops and school gates.

Playbuilder – The County Council has now confirmed the Playbuilder II allocation for the City Council – over £106,000, payable in two instalments. Work is ongoing with the Friends of Chances Park and Friends of Acredale Road Play Area to procure the new play equipment for these parks.

Highway

Winter Maintenance - Over the last few weeks most resources have been diverted from routine work and allocated to gritting, filling grit bins, and clearing ice and snow. The Highway staff have been assisted by staff from Grounds, Area Maintenance and Green Spaces. Salt supplies have been adequate.

Castle Street - Work has been suspended until the frost lifts. Only one week's work remains to finish the paving works. The stone benches are now in the country awaiting the final designs before any etching of designs is done. The new traffic orders will come into effect in February/March following consideration by the County Council.

Roman Gateway - This scheme is due to start on 4th January being carried out by contractor. This work will complete the improvements of Castle Street. Work due to be completed by end of March.

Parking Connect - Discussions are underway with the County Council regarding the development of this scheme. Subject to agreement being reached the City Council would carry out On Street enforcement on a County wide basis.

Councillor R D Bloxham
Local Environment Portfolio Holder