

PORTFOLIO:

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

COUNCILLOR
ELSIE MARTLEW

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Fly-tipping

A Carlisle man who failed to ensure his waste was correctly collected and disposed of was ordered to pay £380 following a successful prosecution brought by the Environmental Health Department. Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers were able to trace fly tipped waste to a property in Carlisle and the subsequent investigation and evidence led to a guilty plea by the individual.

It is an offence for householders not to check that their waste is collected by authorised companies as this waste can often end up getting fly-tipped. Householders are reminded that anyone collecting their waste must be an authorised waste carrier. The prosecution should act as a deterrent to those tempted to use a cheap illegal alternative and by doing so contribute to fly tipping in Carlisle City Council's area. Remember that the Council offers a bulky waste removal service for £16 for 5 items.

Tattoo Fair

This annual event was again held at the Shepherd's Inn during 14th and 15th April and appears to be well established since it started in Carlisle 5 years ago. There were approximately 60 tattoo artists attending, with 15 new artists requiring registration by the Environmental Health Section. The Fair requires the attendance of Environmental Health Officers to monitor hygiene standards.

A joint press release and a leaflet highlighting the risks associated with using a non-registered tattooist was issued by the Environmental Health Section and the Health Protection Agency to coincide with the Fair.

Food Safety Week

National Food Safety Week began on 11th June. Environmental Health Officers focussed on the need for extra care in the use of leftovers in the home to highlight the need for:-

1. effective temperature control when storing and reheating food
2. taking notice of "Use By" information on packaging: and
3. effective hand washing in relation to food handling

Hand washing following contact with animals e.g. at animal petting farms, pets etc. was also featured.

A press release was issued and two Environmental Health Officers were interviewed by BBC Radio Cumbria on the 11th June. Environmental Health Officers also visited schools and Community Centres during the week where they highlighted the themes and gave practical demonstrations on good techniques relating to hand washing.

Dog Fouling prosecution

A Carlisle resident was fined £160 after Magistrates found that he had allowed his dog to foul public land. The resident was prosecuted by Carlisle City Council. His case was heard by Carlisle Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, 20 June. The resident did attend court and pleaded guilty to the offence.

The prosecution related to an instance of dog fouling on Thursday, 2 February when two City Council Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers witnessed a Rottweiler/ Alsatian cross dog defecate on the grassed area at Dale End Road field, Carlisle. The dog was accompanied by the resident who failed to remove the faeces forthwith or at all.

Carlisle Magistrates ordered him to pay a £160 fine, pay the City Council's costs of £75 and a £15 victim surcharge. The prosecution was brought under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. The maximum fine that could be imposed for this offence is a fine not exceeding £1,000.00.

WASTE SERVICES

Eden Contract

The Eden Garden Waste collection contract transferred to the new provider on the 1st July 2012. Meetings have been held with the new provider to ensure a smooth transfer for all identified staff.

Transfer of Street Cleaning to Waste Services

The Street Cleaning Team merged with Waste Services on the 1st May and we have focused on a deep cleanse of the City Centre and the Olympic Torch route. Longer term improvements include a cleansing programme for all Street Cleaning functions.

Clean Up Carlisle

The City Centre clean up has commenced and improvements are clearly visible. The City Centre has now been completed and outstanding work remains on

Lowther Street, English Street, Fisher Street and Botchergate. The clean up is on a rolling programme of work and subject to continuous improvement. But one problem never seems to diminish – chewing gum. Must look at ways of tackling problem and educating people not to drop it!

I would like to put the record straight regarding a story in the Evening News & Start on 26th June about the condition of the underpass at Victoria Viaduct. By the time the story was printed the complaint had been dealt with several days before. A mechanical sweeper was used and a member of staff swept the steps by hand. The drainage, lighting and broken steps are matters for Cumbria County Council and they have been informed. Perhaps we should look at whether or not to close this underpass as there is a better alternative to accessing the baths from the car park.

Olympic Torch

The route for the Olympic Torch had been subject to a series of cleansing improvements. All work was completed on time for the Torch run on the 20th and 21st June.

The planned maintenance for the 2 day event was a success and the cleansing standard for the City Centre was maintained at a grade B throughout the event. The City Centre and Torch route was returned to a grade A standard by 9pm on the 20th June.

Recycling

The down turn in the economy has had an impact on the amount of recycled waste; no doubt due to changes in spending patterns in response to a recession. This is reflected throughout Cumbria and the country as a whole. The situation is being closely monitored.

NEIGHBOURHOOD & GREEN SPACES

Olympic Torch Relay – Teams from Local Environment directorate took the lead in making sure Carlisle looked its best for the arrival of the Olympic Torch on June 20th and 21st. Grounds staff pulled out all the stops to get the summer floral displays planted while Green Spaces team helped set out Bitts Park so the thousands of visitors could see the Olympic beacon being lit in safety. Once the huge crowd had gone home, the team set to work to clear the park - which they achieved by 9pm.

Littering in Parks- It was great to see how most visitors to the park to the Olympic Torch event, did their bit to prevent littering in Bitts Park by putting litter in the bins or taking it home. This helped to return Bitts Park to a good standard by 9pm. At times though, visitors to parks drop litter and this was especially apparent in the good weather back in May.

A new team is being set up to educate and take enforcement action to prevent litter being dropped as well as reducing dog fouling, fly tipping and other enviro-crime. The team will operate across Carlisle, including all the parks, to encourage visitors to the parks to help keep them clean and tidy. Work is on going on a new

enforcement strategy for this area of work which will target and prioritise issues and will provide new sanctions for juveniles.

Love Parks Week 2012 The programme starts with a 'pop-up park' in the city centre on Saturday, 21st July and builds to the 'Great Olympicpicnic' in Bitts Park on Sunday 29th July where this year's Flicks at Bitts will include 'Goofy's All-Star Olympics' cartoon and the Winter Olympics classic, 'Cool Runnings'.

Altogether, 39 events make up the week of activities supported by 'Friends of' groups, commercial sector sponsors, environmental charities, emergency services etc.

The 'Harraby Together We Can Park Group' along with Sure Start Barnardo's and Groundwork NE & Cumbria will be hosting their first event during LPW to celebrate Keenan Park's 50th anniversary and to launch the new children's play equipment.

We also have our first visit from the outdoor theatre company 'Illyria' who are performing their production of Roald Dahl's children's classic 'The Twits' in Bitts Park on Wednesday 18th July (start time 5.30pm).

The programme has been distributed throughout Carlisle and north Cumbria through community centres, libraries, tourist offices and various other outlets.

Bereavement Services - The annual Remembrance Service was held at Carlisle Crematorium on 15th July at 3pm.

Conservation Volunteering - Working with Eden Rivers Trust and their bank of volunteers, Carlisle City Council's practical volunteer team, Carlisle Countryside Volunteer Team has been carrying out work to remove Himalayan Balsam, an invasive plant which grows rampantly along our rivers, out competing our native plant species and increasing river bank erosion.

Work days took place on 25th June- Petteril Valley, 2nd July – Cummersdale Holmes, 23rd July - Petteril Valley, 6th August – Cummersdale Holmes. Volunteers contribute many hours of free labour every year, saving the Council thousands of pounds while enjoying the social aspects of the work.

HIGHWAYS SERVICES

Remedial Works to Footways

Last summer, a number of footways around the city were resurfaced with slurry seal. The materials used in these works have subsequently proved faulty and the contractor has agreed to resurface all the affected paths at his expense. Remedial works have started at Lightfoot Drive, Gilford Crescent and will continue in other areas during the summer.

Claimed Rights Maintenance Schemes

The County Council have now approved a programme of Capital Schemes for 2012/13.

The work consists of:

a) Footway Improvements at:-

- Edgehill Road
- Whinsmoor Drive
- Portland Place
- Greystone Road
- Fusehill Street
- Lismore Place

b) Street Lighting Refurbishments at:-

- Holmrook Road
- Queensway
- Crosshill Drive

c) Low Crosby Flood Prevention

Fitting a flap valve on drainage outfall pipes to prevent river flooding.

Car Parking

Review of Disc Parking Zones: The City Council have pushed for a review of resident parking schemes. It has been agreed to begin a joint City/County review of disc zones and this is already underway. It is proposed to report findings later this year with any changes being implemented next year. The aim is to review and amend existing restrictions to ensure the zones better meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. Four zones are included in the first review are: Zone A - Strand Rd/Chatsworth Square/Chiswick St area. Zone B - Warwick Rd/London Rd area. Zone D - Denton Holme area. Zone E - Newtown Rd/Caldewgate/Shaddongate area.

Parking on pavements can cause problems in some areas and this issue will be raised with the County Council through the Highways and Transport Working Group.

Pay by Phone : The new service went live at the end of May and is already proving popular with users of our car parks. This is just one of the improvements made to the offer to car parking customers this year along with freezing of pay and display fees and exciting new park 4 less permits which provide big discounts and a choice of car parks for monthly, 3 monthly, 6 monthly or annual permit holders.

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Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder