

PORTFOLIO:

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
RAY BLOXHAM**

Sport & Recreation Section

Community Engagement (December 2010 – January 2011)

A very successful disability football festival was held for boys and girls aged 11 – 17 yrs in partnership with the County Football Association and School Sports Partnership.

There are currently 35 Clubmark accredited sports clubs in Carlisle which exceeds our target of 32 clubs set by Sport England and still with 12 months to run. These cover 16 different sports and we still have 18 clubs working towards the accreditation.

SAFE clubs remain very popular and a new club is being planned in Harraby. The average attendance at Trinity SAFE Club is 75 per week.

SAFE Clubs were recognised in the LSP strategic assessment as contributing to the successful initiatives helping to reduce anti social behaviour.

The Sport & Recreation Team are currently working with young people from the university enabling them to deliver sports projects in the community.

Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Team

In January 2011 the Cumbria Business Environmental Network (CBEN) audited Carlisle City Councils environmental management systems, processes and progress made toward targets.

As a result of the successful work of the SHE team combined with the undertaking of many other Directorates (notably the resources facilities team) we were again awarded the Gold Level Award in recognition of achieving excellence in environmental practices.

Local Environment

Cemetery / Crematorium

Annual emissions at the cemetery / crematorium were undertaken by Nifes Consulting Group. The pollutant emissions were well within the concentration limits.

Environmental Health

Team have settled well into office at Bousteads and programmed and reactive work is progressing well.

Team appraisal has been completed and is to be forwarded to Organisational Development shortly.

Staff are undertaking a short training course on FLARE to improve the service response and data management.

Environmental Health Manager, Scott Burns, starting on the 14th March.

Waste Services

As part of the Council's transformation programme, Waste Services has made efficiencies to the household waste collection service. In practice this has meant re-designing some of the collection rounds with the aim of increasing productivity. As a result less than 20% of householders have had their collection day changed. These changes were implemented at the beginning of March with residents being informed about the changes via a letter, those changing have received a new collection calendar, and the website included all the updated information.

Recycling remains as popular as ever with good performance being maintained despite the weather. Whilst we are still awaiting this month's data to compile the final performance indicators, the amount going to landfill and the amount recycled compare favourably with previous years but do give some concerns as mentioned below. I think this is evidence that our refuse and recycling service continues to be meeting the needs of customers, enabling the vast majority of households to recycle from the convenience of their own home. Good news about continuity of the service during the bad weather and icy conditions. Well done staff!

Waste Services Performance Indicators

	<u>07/08</u>	<u>08/09</u>	<u>09/10</u>	<u>10/11</u>	<u>%change</u>
NI 191 (kg/head):	308.70	332.13	313.85	318.80	3.27%
increase;					
NI 192 (% recycled)	51.72%	51.30%	50.53%	49.98%	3.36%
decrease					

It can be seen from the above that we have had a slight increase in waste going to landfill and a reduction in recycling

It has been some years since we first introduced the present system, the people of Carlisle and the District have responded well to the challenge; it is now time for a

review. We will no longer be picking up side waste, those who have side waste will be visited to see how we can help them reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Neighbourhood & Green Spaces

Roman Gateway Project. Work has started on the new entrance features into Bitts Park and the interpretation within the park.

Green Flag Award – 8 Parks/Green Spaces have been entered in to the Green Flag Award for 2011. The sites will be judged in May/June and we will be informed in July as to whether we have been successful. The sites are Bitts Park, Hammonds Pond, Carlisle Cemetery, Chances Park, Rickerby Park, Kingmoor Nature Reserve, St Michaels Churchyard – Stanwix and Talkin Tarn Country Park.

Storms of 3rd and 4th of February. Severe weather caused several trees to be blown over on to roads, parked cars and one house. Our teams were called out and worked until midnight the first night and 8pm the second night clearing the trees. Our sincere thanks go to them, for all their hard work.

City centre tree replacement. Work has started on the planting of 24 trees. These are to replace trees that have been lost over a number of years, and to replace some which have out grown their location. The work is to be completed by the end of February.

Highway

The activities ongoing at present are:-

- Castle Street is now complete apart from Stone Benches still to fit, and stone bollards to install when delivered next week.
- Eskdale Avenue, carriageway repairs being carried out
- Collier Lane , carriageway repairs
- Other work is of a routine maintenance nature.

Councillor R D Bloxham
Local Environment Portfolio Holder