

Meeting Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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## **OPERATIONS**

Covid-19 continues to have an impact on our staff and this is compounded by the national shortage of HGV drivers. To avoid disruption to collection services, we have had to reduce the main sweeping programme and postpone some planned litter clearance from verges, to allow staff to be re-allocated. Additional sweeping has taken place across the weekend to help.

## **PARKING AND ENFORCEMENT**

Car park occupancy rates, whilst still down on previous years, are continuing to pick up as the restrictions have eased and weather has improved over the summer holiday period.

The Enforcement Team are continuing to investigate a number of fly-tipping incidents and have recently trialled a new re-deployable dome camera with a view to adding this to our armoury. This team continues to perform very well, working with businesses in Kingstown to tackle the stubborn litter problem as well as achieving the following successes since June this year:-

<b>OFFENCE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF NOTICES ISSUED</b>
Litter	16
Fly-tipping	3
Dog fouling	3
Failing to produce a waste transfer note (business)	1
Microchipping	8
Breach of a community protection notice	2
Failing to attend an interview under caution	3

Although the Magistrates' Courts are still dealing with a backlog of cases, we have seen a number of successful prosecutions, with fines totalling over £1,800 (including costs) being

imposed for three cases. The Council currently has 34 outstanding cases awaiting consideration by the Courts.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

A regular round-up of Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership activity is now included in the Chief Executive's email bulletin. This additional newsletter is compiled by the Local Authority Climate Coordinator, a role funded through the ZCCP.

An application has been submitted to Phase 2 Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund, a fund that will provide grants for public sector organisations to engage the specialist and expert advice and skills required to put in place or improve an existing heat decarbonisation plan.

## **CUMBRIA LRF FUNDING PILOT EOI CARLISLE AND EDEN**

The EOI to the Local Resilience Funding pilot was not successful. However, Cumbria CVS are looking at other funding opportunities to build on local community response work and the learning that has come from the community groups involved in this work.

## **REGULATORY SERVICES**

A Health & Safety Officer has been recruited to support businesses on recognising their legal duties to protect employees from Covid whilst at work. COVID restrictions have been lifted, but employers are required under Health & Safety at Work legislation to identify risks to both employees and those not in their employment. COVID-19 remains a significant risk within the workplace and appropriate control measures still need to be in place to reduce the risk to employees. The Health & Safety Officer will be used over the next six months to monitor compliance and help businesses understand the principles of risk assessment and direct them to current HSE and Government guidance on COVID workplace safety. This work will support the Environmental Health Officers who are now engaged in the Food Safety Recovery Plan.

Based on the recent Food Standards Agency (FSA) Recovery Plan, outstanding and planned food safety inspections have been identified based on their current risk category. This will form the priority for Carlisle's food safety inspections moving forward. EHOs authorised for food safety activities are currently contacting and visiting those new businesses which registered with the Authority during the last 16 months which we were unable to visit (remote assessment was undertaken during this period). The FSA Recovery Plan takes us through to end March 2023. The City Council will be extending our inspections to cover a wider range of businesses not identified in the plan i.e. those which are currently identified as broadly compliant, as standards may have deteriorated in some businesses during the extended period since their last inspection.

## **GREEN SPACES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

### **Hammonds Pond**

Following completion of the play area refurbishment works the team are moving on to the next stage of the Hammonds Pond improvements using the S106 developer contributions from The Ridings development. This winter the team are planning projects to improve footpaths, replace bridges and restore damaged sections of pond edge.

### **Managing Green Space for Biodiversity**

Creation of an urban nature reserve providing habitat for pollinating insects and a wide range of other wildlife, is progressing well at The Swifts. All remaining golf course and driving range infrastructure has now been removed and the first hay crop has been taken off with wildflowers being sown in mid to late September. The next stage of the project will involve the planting of native flowering tree species over the winter.