

Environment Portfolio Holder Report

1. Waste

The Waste team is participating in a county-wide review of the collection process. The Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP) has created a strategic opportunity to consider future waste service provision for the next 10-15 years, having established a co-terminus end-date for a number of key waste contracts in May 2019.

Defra minister, Rory Stewart, is currently advocating more consistency across the UK recyclables industry, including a drive for local authorities to collect a common set of materials, including glass and food waste, from the kerbside. This work is being led on Defra's behalf by The Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP). To ensure the SWP is playing its part, positive initial discussions have been held with WRAP regarding Suffolk becoming a pilot area.

2. Food and Safety

The Food and Safety team promoted the 'Eat Out Eat Well' award at the Suffolk Show. The team is playing its part in improving efficiency – one of our key strategic priorities – by currently trialling the use of tablet computers for food hygiene inspections in order to reduce double handling of data.

3. Licensing

The Licensing team is one of several work streams that are collaborating in our joint 'Open for Business' project. The project team is exploring how we deploy our resources to overcome business barriers (whether real or perceived) and gain maximum value in the way we work collaboratively to effectively meet the needs of our businesses. A second 'Better for Business' evening was held successfully at the Delphi Centre in Sudbury at the end of April 2016.

Team-to-team 'what we do' lunchtime workshops continue, with the latest session on the Councils' Licensing Services having been well received by colleagues at Needham Market earlier this month. We aim to have completed six of these cultural and learning improvement sessions by December 2016.

We have a comprehensive business survey underway in both districts – further details can be found on <http://www.babergh.gov.uk/news-archive/online-open-for-business-survey-now-open/>

4. Public Realm

The Public Realm team completed preparation of the site on the edge of Eye Airfield for the memorial to the US Air Force's 490th Bomb Group, which operated from there during the last war. Councillor Burn attended the impressive unveiling ceremony, organised by

the local fund-raising group. A number of Americans had flown over to attend the ceremony, including a 92-year-old B17 bomber pilot who had flown many missions from Eye in 1944/45.

Councillors Barker and Burn will shortly be judging the children's posters entered for the schools Litter Awareness campaign. This is organised by the Public Realm team and this year is sponsored by Tesco.

5. Environmental Protection

This is the busiest time of year for the Environmental Protection team, which is dealing with a myriad of nuisance, enviro-crime, public health and licensing complaints.

Investigation of the original perpetrator of the large fly-tip at Walsham-le-Willows is ongoing. This has been a complex case entailing significant criminal investigative work. It is at a critical point and the team hopes to formally identify the offender and summons them in the near future.

In conjunction with Assistant Director Chris Fry's review of the Council's leisure facilities, the team has been auditing the leisure centres for their environmental 'credentials' and will be making recommendations for improvements to potential cost savings from energy efficiency measures.

Development of the 3rd edition of the Suffolk Climate Change Action Plan is progressing according to timetable. A draft Plan will be produced and circulated by July 2016, for sign-off in August 2016.

Councillor David Burn