



2 November 2022

Committee Chair: Councillor N Kelly

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor N Ramsay

Committee Members: Aldermen – F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, M Girvan,
J McGrath and J Smyth

Councillors –J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, R Foster, J
Gilmour, A Logue, J Montgomery and R Swann

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre on Monday 7 November 2022 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dixon".

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA

Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: Refreshments will be available in the Café from 5.20

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2022

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 L/LEI/SD/018 HEALTH INTERVENTION ACTION PLAN

Members are reminded that in May 2022 a presentation was delivered by the Head of Leisure Operations setting out a draft Health Intervention Action Plan. Following feedback from Members, Officers have now updated the Action Plan (**enclosed**) for approval. Once approved the Action Plan will be publicly launched and promoted through an extensive PR campaign, with delivery commencing immediately across leisure and community facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Health Intervention Action Plan be approved.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport and Physical Activity Manager

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

4.2 PK/GEN/125 BELFAST HILLS PARTNERSHIP

Members are advised that Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP) had been working with relevant councils since 2004 (Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh, and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council). The partnership also includes representation from government departments, community groups, nature conservation organisations and local businesses. The primary purpose of the group is to improve and manage the accessibility of the hills surrounding Belfast. The Belfast Hills boundary currently encompasses approximately 5,500 hectares. Of this, 1,243 hectares (22.6%) lies within the Borough. Council has supported the Partnership financially in two ways;

- (i) an annual payment of £2,778 - agreed until 2022 - to support the Partnership's Landscape Partnership Scheme, which provides the volunteering and much of their outreach work;
- (ii) in 2019, Council agreed to provide £11,865 per annum to the Partnership for core funding for 3 years. This part funds 3 Full Time members of staff.

Work in the Borough

The Partnership has undertaken a range of activities in the Borough (enclosed), including infrastructure works on Carnmoney Hill, tree-planting in Glas Na Braden Wood, work with schools (e.g. 'Wild Youth' programme) and volunteer activities, promotions and events, at the Valley Park and Glas Na Braden Glen.

Request for funding

BHP is seeking continued commitment from Council, for an annual contribution to £11,865 towards its core activities for the next three years (enclosed). In addition, due to the success of the Big Lottery "Our Environment, Our Future" youth programme and the recently established "Wild Youth" lottery programme for 11-25 year olds, BHP is seeking a further contribution of £2,778 for the next 3 years.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves a contribution of £11,865 per annum to Belfast Hills Partnership and extends support for the Partnership's Landscape Partnership Schemes at £2,778 per annum, for the next 3 years.

Prepared by: Elaine Upton, Parks Development Officer

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

4.3 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – DOAGH ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY

A development naming application was received from Paul Fraser on behalf of B A Shaw Ltd regarding the naming of a new development at Doagh Road, Newtownabbey. The development has approximately 37 dwellings, a mix of detached, semi-detached and townhouses. The developer's proposed names and rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the application, location map and site plan (**enclosed**).

1. Springwater Park. River running down north side of site from the Doagh Road is called 'Springwater' according to a local historian.
2. Woodlands Park. The site overlooks Monkstown Wood.
3. Woodburn Park. A mixture of the above.

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves a name for the above development and that officers be given delegated powers to use suffixes for postal numbering purposes.

Prepared by: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.4 WM/WM/37/VOL2 REFUSE AND RECYCLING PUBLIC HOLIDAY COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS 2023

The arrangements for refuse and kerbside recycling collections for Public Holidays in 2023 are set out below for consideration.

The proposed alternative collection days for 2023 are:

Public Holiday	Legacy Antrim Households	Legacy Newtownabbey Households
St Patrick's Day Friday 17 March	No Collection Required	No change 17 March 2023 (Friday)
Good Friday Friday 7 April	No Collection Required	No change Friday 7 April 2023 (Good Friday)
Easter Monday Monday 10 April	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day of this week to the following day, through to Friday to catch up.	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day of this week to the following day, through to Saturday to catch up.
Easter Tuesday Tuesday 11 April	As above (Wednesday)	As above (Wednesday)
May Day Bank Holiday Monday 1 May	No change 1 May 2023 (Monday)	No change 1 May 2023 (Monday)
Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29 May	No change 29 May 2023 (Monday)	No change 29 May 2023 (Monday)
12 July (Wednesday)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day of this week to the following day, through to Friday to catch up.	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day of this week to the following day, through to Saturday to catch up.

13 July (Thursday)	As above (Friday)	As above (Friday)
Summer Bank Holiday Monday 28 August	No change Monday 28 August 2023	No change Monday 28 August 2023
Christmas Day (Monday 25 December)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day to later in the week. (Wednesday)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day to later in the week. (Wednesday)
Boxing Day (Tuesday 26 December)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day to later in the week. (Thursday)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day to later in the week. (Thursday)
Wednesday 27 December	As above (Friday)	As above (Friday)
Thursday 28 December	As above (Saturday)	As above (Saturday)
Friday 29 December	No Collection Required	As above (Tuesday 2 January 2024)
New Year's Day (Monday 1 January)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day of this week to the following day, through to Friday to catch up. (Tuesday)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day to later in the week. (Wednesday)

** Legacy Antrim collections are Monday – Thursday, legacy Newtownabbey being Monday – Friday.*

In order to simplify the communication message from Council to the public on alternative collection dates, all affected bin collections, in both legacy Antrim and Newtownabbey, will be moved to the next available collection day until catch up is achieved on a free day eg Friday or Saturday.

For information Members may wish to note the already approved arrangements for the 2022 Christmas holiday period.

Public Holiday	Legacy Antrim Households	Legacy Newtownabbey Households
ALREADY APPROVED		
Monday 26 Dec 2022	No service – bins scheduled to be collected on 30 December 2022 (Friday)	No Service. Collections rescheduled for this day and each successive day of this week through to Saturday to catch up (Tuesday)
Tuesday 27 Dec 2022	Scheduled collection as normal	Bins to be collected from Monday 26 December 2022
Wednesday 28 Dec 2022	Scheduled collection as normal	Bins to be collected from Tuesday 27 December 2022
Thursday 29 Dec 2022	Scheduled collection as normal	Bins to be collected from Wednesday 28 December 2022
Friday 30 Dec 2022	Bins to be collected from Monday 26 December 2022	Bins to be collected from Thursday 29 December 2022
Saturday 31 December 2022	No service required	Bins to be collected from Friday 30 December 2022
New Year's Day Sunday 1 January	No service required	No service required
Monday 2 January 2023	Scheduled collection as normal	Scheduled collection as normal

Residents in the Borough will be advised of their collection arrangements through the usual means of Borough Life, bin stickers, social media, and on the Council's website.

RECOMMENDATION: that the collection arrangements for refuse and recycling bin collections for Public Holidays in 2023 be approved.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

4.5 WM/WM/037/VOL2 RECYCLING CENTRE ARRANGEMENTS

Members will be aware the residents using O'Neill Road and Crumlin Recycling Centres have been provided with additional waste disposal capacity over the festive period with bin lorries for the disposal of residual household waste located at the Valley and Crumlin Leisure Centres.

Last year's usage of the additional waste disposal locations has been analysed and the following revised arrangements are proposed to provide extra waste disposal capacity during the week after Christmas when site usage is at its highest:

- i. That similar to Christmas 2021, an additional temporary waste recycling facility is put in place at the Valley Leisure Centre carpark in order to reduce traffic congestion at O'Neill Road and wider area between Tuesday 27 and Thursday 29 December from 9pm - 4pm;
- ii. Bin lorry to be located at Crumlin Leisure Centre on Tuesday 27 December to reduce expected queues at Crumlin Recycling Centres between 9am - 4pm;
- iii. Following requests from Elected Members, a bin lorry to be located at Sixmile Leisure Centre on Tuesday 27 December between 9am - 4pm to reduce the demand at Bruslee Recycling Centre.

There are extremely high levels of usage at the O'Neill Road Recycling Centre during the festive period and as a result, the additional capacity is maintained for the majority of the week.

It is felt that the additional resources for Bruslee and Crumlin Recycling Centres will only be required for the first day reopened after the Christmas break although Officers would monitor the sites and will deploy the bin lorries if required. While the other two sites, Newpark and Craigmore Recycling Centres are expected to be able to manage the additional usage, Officers will reassess the situation throughout the week.

The proposed additional services can be delivered using existing Council staff although two extra collection vehicles will be required for the operation at a cost of £2,000, subject to availability.

While all waste collected at the additional sites will be transferred to a materials recycling facility where as much waste as possible will be removed for recycling or recovery, Council does achieve better recycling rates when the waste is collected at the Recycling Centres and therefore use of the additional sites will be kept to a minimum.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for the arrangements for Recycling Centres as set out above.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

4.6 WM/WM/37/VOL2 REVIEW OF CLEANSING CHARGES 2023-2024

A review of cleansing charges is carried out annually for:

1. Trade Waste Collection Service;
2. Waste Collection Containers;
3. Re-Chargeable Cleansing Work.

The Waste & Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 places a duty on each district council to arrange for the collection of commercial waste from premises within its district if requested by the occupier of such premises to do so.

Anyone who requests Council to provide a commercial waste collection service is liable to pay a reasonable charge for the collection and disposal of such waste. Council charges commercial waste customers on a volumetric basis for the collection of their commercial waste (i.e. per bin size).

A schedule of Proposed Charges is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

1. Trade Waste Collection Service

Despite increases in the Landfill Tax Rate and operating costs, it is proposed to maintain waste charges at their current levels to assist local businesses during this period of challenging economic circumstances.

Under current waste legislation, all movements of waste must be controlled through a Waste Transfer Note (WTN), which is provided by the Council on behalf of the trade customer. As previously, the cost of the WTN will be included in the collection rate. There is no increase in the cost of the WTN.

2. Waste Collection Containers

Council purchases waste collection containers through a UK central government framework contract and despite increases in the cost of bins/containers due to rises in plastic and transport rates, it is proposed that the prices will be maintained at current levels to assist householders with an increase in cost of living.

3. Re-Chargeable Cleansing Work

If a request is made to clear waste which is deemed to be outside the normal bulky waste items, that are collected free of charge, a Waste Supervisor will visit the customer and assess the collection requirements and what equipment is required. In line with the other charges it is proposed to maintain re-chargeable fees at 2022-2023 rates.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves the Review of Cleansing Charges for 2023-2024.

Prepared and Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

4.7 PK/GEN/088 REQUEST FOR USE OF DOG PARKS BY GUIDE DOGS

Members are advised that contact has been made by a guide dog owner as well as a support worker from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, requesting that Council consider providing an allotted time whereby guide dogs can have exclusive use of an area of Council dog parks for exercise. Guide dogs are unable to be let off the lead to exercise with other dogs present.

Council currently have dog parks located at Antrim Forum and Valley Park both which have two separate areas for larger and smaller dogs. It is proposed that one of these areas in both parks is provided for use to guide dogs for one hour per day between 10am – 11am. Signage detailing the arrangement will be installed requesting that users give preference to guide dogs at that time. As with the "Quiet Hours" that have proven successful in play parks for those with the sensory needs, the arrangements will rely on the respect and cooperation of other users.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is granted to allocate one hour per day between 10am – 11am in an area of Council's dog parks for exclusive use of guide dogs.

Prepared and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 EH/PHWB/005 COST OF LIVING SUPPORT BOOKLET

Members are advised that the Health and Well Being Team, in partnership with Community Advice, Antrim and Newtownabbey, has produced a cost of living support booklet in light of the current cost of living crisis. Entitled Warm and Well – Useful Contacts, Hints and Tips, the booklet, a draft of which is enclosed, will be produced for both Members and residents. Containing useful information and contact details for statutory, community and voluntary bodies, the booklet will contain information regarding energy bills, food, financial advice and wellbeing generally and has been designed so that all contact details are hyperlinked and can be used on mobile devices. It will be available for Members on Flux and will be updated on a regular basis.

For residents, the booklet will be available on the Council and Community Advice websites and will be promoted through social media channels. Hard copies will also be available at the Civic Centres, leisure centres and community centres across the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.2 EH/PHWB/005 KEEP WARM AND WELL EVENTS

Members are reminded that Keep Warm and Well events were organised throughout the Borough in October. Working in partnership with Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership, the events provided residents with free one to one advice and support in relation to:

- Benefit entitlement
- Household Energy Efficiency
- Domestic Energy Efficiency Grants
- Home Security and crime reduction
- Home Safety and Accident Prevention.

The events took place in:

- AbbeyCentre - 30 September 2022, 10am - 4pm
- Glengormley Library - Wednesday 5 October 2022, 12pm - 2pm
- Crumlin Library - Friday 7th October 2022, 2pm - 4pm, Wednesday 5th at 2pm
- Antrim Library - 10th October 10:30 - 1:30pm - Sat 8th at 2pm
- Mossley Pavillion - 18th October 10am – 2pm Sun 16th at 2pm
- The Junction Antrim - 21st October 10am- 4pm – Wed 19th at 6pm
- Randalstown Library 26 October 3:30-5pm

As well as being promoted on the Council's website, social media was used to raise awareness of these events. In all over 550 people attended the events which demonstrates the importance of this type of information/support.

Evaluation of the events is being carried out and will be used for future planning.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.3 EH/EHS/015 SUNBED SAFETY 2022 - SUNBED UNDERAGE SALES TEST PURCHASE EXERCISE

Members are reminded that skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Northern Ireland, accounting for over 31% of all cancers. About 4,361 people develop the disease each year and around 399 of these are malignant melanomas. Malignant melanoma rates have risen remarkably in Northern Ireland over the past 30 years, from an average of 103 cases per year in the mid-1980s, to 399 cases each year at present.

The Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy and Action Plan was launched by Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety in July 2011 and focuses on preventative measures and early detection. A cross-sectoral group has been established by the Public Health Agency to implement the action plan contained within the strategy.

Councils have a statutory duty to enforce the provisions of The Sunbeds Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 which came into effect in May 2012. The Act prohibits the use or sale and/or hire of sunbeds to persons under the age of 18. Research has shown that sunburn in childhood and exposure to ultraviolet light from sunbeds can greatly increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. The Public Health Agency has set a target for all premises operating sunbeds to be subject to test purchasing at least once every two years.

At the time of the test purchasing exercise, there were 16 premises offering sunbeds for use in the Borough which is a reduction from 27 premises in 2019. The purpose of carrying out a test purchase exercise was to ensure that the businesses were complying with the law in respect of preventing anyone under the age of 18 from using a sunbed. In all premises visited as part of this exercise, proof of ID was requested in line with the test purchase procedure and the sale refused on grounds of being underage. This resulted in 100% compliance in relation to the age restriction requirement of The Sunbeds Act. This is the second occasion since 2019 when full compliance has been demonstrated by the operators of sunbed premises.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Karen Allen, Environmental Health Manager (Consumer Protection)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.4 EH/PHWB/002 POSITIVE AGEING MONTH

Members are reminded Council promotes Positive Ageing Month in October each year. The aim is to celebrate the contribution older people make in to the Borough.

To launch the Positive Ageing Month celebrations this year, Council hosted a Health and Wellbeing event on Monday 3rd October 2022 in Theatre at the Mill.

The aim of the event was to improve awareness regarding improving or maintaining health and wellbeing using the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing Model. A total of 115 people attended from across the Borough along with professionals from Statutory, Community and Voluntary organisations.

Attendees had the opportunity to rotate around four breakout rooms which gave information on the following topics:

- Falls Prevention – A local podiatrist along with the Council's Home Safety Officer highlighted the importance of people looking after their feet and also to avail of home safety checks if required.
- Parks and Biodiversity – Staff from Antrim Castle Gardens, encouraged attendees to get out and about in the parks and open spaces in the Borough and enjoy the exercise and local wildlife.
- Cost of Living tips – Community Advice delivered a very informative presentation about benefit checks and making the most of supermarket offers and deals.
- Move More exercises – Council Leisure staff explained the importance of exercise, including a demonstration on arm chair exercises and outlined what was available at the Council Leisure facilities

The event concluded with a Health Fair and Lunch. Feedback from the event showed that 85% of attendees 'enjoyed the day', with the remaining attendees also expressing their satisfaction while providing feedback on suggestions regarding the breakout sessions. Attendees commented on the informative talks and how relevant and interesting the speakers were.

To promote the range of events taking place a Positive Aging Month booklet has been produced and uploaded to the Council 's website. The booklet highlights events happening across the Borough, including taster sessions for potential new members, giving residents an opportunity to try before joining these groups. The booklet is available at:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/positive-ageing/>

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.5 EH/PHWB/016 ROAD SAFETY VEHICLE ROADSHOW

Environmental Health staff teamed up with members of Newtownabbey Road Safety Committee on Saturday 8th October to host the annual Road Safety Vehicle Roadshow. The event took place at the Abbey Retail Park, Newtownabbey from 10am to 2pm and checks were carried out on 61 vehicles.

The purpose of the roadshow is to help raise awareness of road safety measures and improve air quality. Using equipment provided by the Department for Infrastructure, Environmental Health Officers were able to assess the level of pollutants present within the exhaust fumes. If emissions were too high, owners were advised to have their vehicle serviced.

Motorists attending the event were able to avail of the following services:

- Headlamp beam assessment
- Brake indicator, reverse light check
- Tyre safety inspections
- Vehicle emissions check

Of the 61 vehicles tested:

- 4 vehicles recorded high emissions
- 14 vehicles had at least one tyre that needed to be replaced
- 4 vehicles failed the headlamp beam assessment, and
- 12 vehicles required at least one new bulb

This event has been running for several years and serves to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of residents of the Borough. This was the first year that the event took place since the Covid-19 pandemic. A similar event is being planned for the Antrim area in 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Liam Nicholas, Environmental Health Manager

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.6 EH/EHS/CP/004 TOBACCO TEST PURCHASE EXERCISE (QUARTER 2)

Members are reminded that Councils in Northern Ireland have a statutory duty to enforce the legislation relating to the sale of certain age-restricted products such as cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 makes it an offence to supply any cigarettes or tobacco products to any person under the age of 18.

From 1 February 2022, in Northern Ireland it also became an offence under The Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 to sell nicotine inhaling products, including e-cigarettes and e-liquids commonly known as 'vapes' to persons under the age of 18.

An interactive training tool for tobacco retailers covering tobacco sales developed by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council on behalf of, Mid Ulster Causeway Coast and Glens and Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils has been made available to both major and independent tobacco retailers in the Borough. This can be used by business owners to monitor staff awareness and understanding of the practical issues associated with the prevention of sales of age restricted products to those under the age of 18.

The Public Health Agency funds Tobacco Control Officers who work on behalf of Councils in Northern Ireland to promote compliance with tobacco control legislation and to provide advice. Staff are employed by Mid and East Antrim BC on behalf of the Public Health Agency operate across 3 Council areas, Antrim and Newtownabbey, Causeway Coast and Glens, Mid Ulster to deliver this service.

During the year, each Tobacco Control Officer is required to visit a minimum of 50 tobacco retailers to check compliance with age restricted sale legislation. A test purchasing exercise was carried out in August and September 2022 and was used as an opportunity to check compliance with the new regulations.

Tobacco Control Officers carried out advisory visits prior to the test purchasing exercise, to approximately 300 businesses in order to assist business owners with compliance prior to the test purchasing visits. An advisory letter outlining the requirements for both sets of regulations was sent to 264 premises early in 2022.

The Tobacco Control Officers, visited 20 retailers in the Borough, accompanied by a young person aged under 18 who attempted to purchase either tobacco products or nicotine inhaling products as part of the test purchasing exercise. Of those visited, 4 premises sold tobacco (cigarettes), 2 failed the test by displaying tobacco and 3 sold vaping units to a young person aged under 18.

Each of the businesses that failed the test purchase has been revisited and advice given. The businesses also received a formal written warning and are subject to retesting in 2023.

Two further test purchase exercises will be carried out in 2022/2023.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Karen Allen, Environmental Health Manager
(Consumer Protection)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental
Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.7 PK/GEN/107 DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE: VERGE MANAGEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

Correspondence (**enclosed**) has recently been received from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI), announcing a new approach to verge management across the entire Northern Ireland road network, in an effort to protect and create important habitats for biodiversity. Along with the wildflower planting, the new measures will enable the Department to deliver on their commitment in support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, and is consistent with the aims of the National Pollinator Strategy while supporting the Climate Change Bill passed earlier this year at the Northern Ireland Assembly.

From 2023, a single swathe will be cut along the verges on the strategic road network twice per year, while sight lines at junctions will also be cut at least twice a year. On rural roads, one cut will be carried out late in the growing season, when flowers have set seed and pollinators are less active. However, DfI recognises that additional cuts at specific locations may be required to maintain sightlines for road safety purposes.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Elaine Upton, Parks Development Officer

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

5.8 PK/GEN/021, PK/GEN/022, PK/GEN/030 ULSTER IN BLOOM, NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL BEST KEPT AWARDS, BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Members are reminded that Council submit nominations annually to the Ulster in Bloom Competition and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council's Best Kept Awards.

Ulster in Bloom

Ulster in Bloom is coordinated by the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) and aims to showcase partnership working between local community groups and Councils in relation to horticulture and 'in bloom' displays. As well as horticulture, the other two competition criteria - environment and community - aim to instil local pride, create awareness of the environment and biodiversity and attract involvement from a range of ages and abilities. In 2022, Council submitted nominations for 16 towns and villages from across the Borough with the results as follows:

- Ballynure: Winner of Small Village category
- Ballyeaston: 3rd place of Small Village category
- Randalstown: Winner of Small Town category
- Antrim: 3rd place in Town category

In addition to the success of Council nominations, McConnell's Bar of Doagh also named winners of the Floral Presentation Award.

Northern Ireland Amenity Council Best Kept Awards

Northern Ireland Amenity Council Best Kept Awards recognise those cities, towns, villages and housing areas which go the extra mile with efforts to create well maintained, clean and beautiful communities in which to live and work. In 2022, Council submitted nominations for 16 towns and villages from across the Borough with the results as follows:

- Merville Garden Village: Winner of Best Kept Large Housing Area
- Randalstown: Winner of Best Kept Small Town
- Antrim: Best Kept Large Town

In addition to the success of Council nominations, Richard Wallace from Ballynure and District Community Friendship Group was awarded with Best Kept Community Achiever Award.

Britain in Bloom

Members are reminded that Council approved the nomination of Randalstown to represent NILGA in the 2022 Britain in Bloom UK Finals. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) judges visited Randalstown in July and as a result Randalstown was announced as winner of the 'Best Small Town' category at the award ceremony recently held in London and attended by the Mayor and community representatives from Tidy Randalstown.

To add to this achievement, Helen Boyd from Tidy Randalstown was also named Community Champion.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

5.9 WM/SC/001 MARINE LITTER CAPITAL GRANT

Live Here Love Here is a civic campaign organised by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful which focuses on improving the local environment. As part of their campaign, they co-ordinate the Marine Litter Capital Grants will support organisations and groups to purchase equipment to prevent litter and plastic pollution from entering the marine environment.

Council was successful earlier in the year securing £40,000 of funding from Live Here Love Here's Marine Litter Capital Grant Scheme for the purchase and installation of unique contactless water fountains, solar powered compaction litter bins and two-minute litter pick boards for both Lough Shore Parks in the Borough.

In May 2022, Council approved the submission of a further grant application, including the required match funding up to £40,000, for the following equipment:

- 12no additional solar bins for Hazelbank, Jordanstown Loughshore, and Antrim Loughshore Park;
- 4no contactless water fountains to be installed at Sixmilewater Park Ballyclare, Neillsbrook Randalstown, Mossley Mill, and the Skate Park at V36;
- 2no portable contactless water fountains to be available for use at Council events, like Garden Show Ireland and Spooked Out at V36, to increase the sustainability of the events.

Council has been successful in securing £34,480.50 of grant funding with match funding required from the Waste Management budget. Officers will commence the purchase and installation of the funded equipment. The installation of this equipment will support the delivery of Council's Litter Action Plan and Plastics Pledge to reduce the amount of single use plastics are used in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Joanna Pusz, EMS and Sustainability Officer

Agreed by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

5.10 WM/WM/37 SPECTACLE REUSE SCHEME

Members are aware that spectacles are one of the many items collected at our five Recycling Centres throughout the Borough. Recently the company that recycled the spectacles collected at the Recycling Centres notified Council that they were unable to take them in the future.

Officers have been investigating alternative disposal routes and have been in discussions with two local Lions Clubs, Antrim and Carrickfergus, about working in partnership for the reuse of the collected spectacles. The used spectacles and cases will be collected at each of the five Recycling Centres in Borough by representatives from the Antrim and Carrickfergus Lions Clubs at no cost to Council.

The glasses will then be sorted, with the pairs damaged beyond repair removed for disposal, with the rest despatched to Medico Lions France, who are the humanitarian arm of the Lions Club in France. The glasses, part of 3 million handled annually by Medico Lions France, will be repaired and redistributed for reuse in developing nations. As result, Council will not only reduce waste to landfill but provide a much needed medical resource to communities in developing nations.

While there will be no disruption in the collection of the spectacles at the Recycling Centres, it is proposed to have a promotional re-launch highlighting the collection scheme and new partnership with the Lions Club to encourage a greater participation and focus on the benefits of the reuse of spectacles through this scheme.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Leanne Smits, Waste Development Officer

Agreed by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

5.11 WM/WM/37/VOL2 HARMONISATION OF WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Members are reminded that following the September Operations meeting, the Mayor wrote to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Minister to seek an update on the review of the Household Waste Recycling Collaborative Change Programme (HWRCCP). The update was particularly relevant to Council's £4M funding application to the Programme which will assist with the harmonisation of waste collection services.

A response has been received from the Minister (**enclosed**) confirming that the review of the HWRCCP has been completed and DAERA are now updating their business case before the Department of Finance will provide clearance for the Programme.

Officers have sought further clarification from DAERA Officials on the expected timescales for the release of funding as the delay is affecting existing waste collections contracts which need to be retendered for the new harmonised services across the Borough. Unfortunately, Department officials were unable to provide any further clarity and therefore Officers will need to investigate the possibility of tendering short term waste collection contracts until the funding becomes available.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Waste Operations

5.12 WM/WM/37/VOL2 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DAERA MINISTER ON RECYCLING RATES

Council, along with the other ten Northern Ireland councils, has received a correspondence from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (**enclosed**). In the letter, Minister Poots expresses his disappointment in the low recycling rates across Northern Ireland for the latest waste reporting quarter, April to June 2022, and the rolling 12-month rate of 50.5% for Northern Ireland.

Members should be aware that whilst recycling rates across Northern Ireland, and the UK as a whole, have dipped due to issues like COVID19 and cost of living, Antrim and Newtownabbey's performance continued to improve with the provisional recycling rate for 2021/22 up to 62.8% from 57.1% in the previous year. While the provision recycling rate for April to June 2022 has decreased by 0.4% on the previous year, Officers believe there will be an increase in the rate for the next quarter July to September 2022.

The annual waste management performance report for 2020-21 will be presented at the December Operations meeting once the data has been verified by DAERA this month.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Waste Operations

5.13 PK/GEN/030 GREEN LEGACY HIROSHIMA INITIATIVE

Members are advised that Council has been invited to partner in the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative by accepting and planting a Hiroshima Survivor Tree within the Council area. The Initiative was established to safeguard and spread throughout the world seedlings of trees that survived the Hiroshima atomic bomb, which was dropped in August 1945. After the bomb exploded it was believed that nothing would grow in the city for decades, but 160 “survivor trees” trees survived and are still growing there 77 years later.

Through the Green Legacy Hiroshima initiative, seeds of the survivor trees have been entrusted to partner organisations in 40 countries around the world and in 2020 College of Agriculture Food & Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) was accepted as a partner organisation. The seeds are now grown into young saplings and CAFRE have invited Councils to partner by planting the survivor tree as a symbol of the resilience of life and a desire for peace, as well as providing an educational opportunity for both children and adults in the area.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

5.14 PK/BIO/019 CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING GREENWAY DEVELOPMENT

Members are advised that correspondence has been received from the Department for Infrastructure (**enclosed**) detailing the Department's intention to take a greater role in the delivery of greenway projects.

Members are reminded that there has been work recently completed on sections of the two greenway routes within the Borough; Mallusk/Hightown to Gideon's Green; and Doagh to Larne Greenway, and in October 2022 Council approved the business cases for further sections on these routes at a total cost of £875,782 with 50% match funding provided by the Department.

The Department states that the new delivery model is currently being developed but that Council will still take a lead role, with Department Officials scheduled to contact Council Officers to discuss the new delivery model and any impact on the current projects.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations