

COUNCIL: 25 OCTOBER 2018

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Greener Grangetown

The completion of the award winning Greener Grangetown project was marked by Welsh Government Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn AM, on 10th October 2018. Greener Grangetown is an innovative £2 million partnership project between Cardiff Council, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales, supported by the Landfill Communities Fund. The project uses the latest sustainable drainage (SuDS) techniques to catch, clean and divert rainwater directly into the River Taff, instead of collecting and pumping it 8 miles to a treatment works in the Vale of Glamorgan and then discharging it out to sea. This is the first time that these techniques have been retrofitted into an urban environment at this scale.

The Greener Grangetown scheme has resulted in:

- 42,480m² of surface water being removed from the combined waste water network (the equivalent of 10 football pitches);
- An additional 1,600m² of green space (the equivalent of 4 basketball courts);
- The creation of Wales' first ever 'bicycle street' along one of the busiest sections of the Taff Trail Active Travel route, slowing traffic by design and improving conditions for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Increased biodiversity with 135 new trees and thousands of shrubs and grasses planted;
- Creation of a community orchard;
- 26 new cycle stands;
- 12 new litter bins;
- 9 new seats and benches; and
- Increased provision of resident-only parking spaces.

Cardiff Half Marathon – Cleansing and Recycling

The cleansing and waste teams worked to recycle a staggering 96% of the waste from the Cardiff Half Marathon. A total of 13 tonnes of mixed recycling; food waste; cardboard; wood and silt was collected by council staff on behalf of the event organiser, Run4Wales. Recycling pods were located at both the start and finish race village, with staff on hand at each pod to ensure that the correct materials were being put in each container. The waste collected was then recycled through different processes and at different locations as follows:

- The food waste collected was processed at the anaerobic digestion plant on Rover Way to create green electricity.
- The mixed recycling was separated at Cardiff's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) and baled for reuse.

- The waste collected from the mechanical street cleansing vehicles was sent to the de-watering plant at Lamby Way, where the recyclable material was separated from the silt. The silt was then recycled by Neil Soils.
- The remaining 4% of the waste was then sent to the Viridor energy from waste facility on Ocean Way.

Arranged visits by Members to the MRF and the Viridor energy from waste facility are continuing and provide an opportunity to learn more about what happens to litter and waste collected in Cardiff.

Pilot Scheme for the Recycling of Glass Bottles and Jars

On 15th October 2018, around 17,000 properties in Cardiff started the new pilot scheme for the recycling of glass bottles and jars. Each household taking part in the pilot scheme received a new blue caddy and detailed leaflet explaining how the separate collection of glass bottles and jars would work. Residents are asked to separate out their used glass bottles and jars and put them into the lockable blue caddy, instead of the green recycling bags. The separated glass waste will then be collected fortnightly on the same day as their general waste (black bin/red striped bag) collection. The pilot scheme will assess whether collecting glass separately from other recyclable products will increase the quality of the product, thereby reducing the cost to the Council.

Currently, the green recycling bags are taken to the MRF where a machine separates the recyclable materials by size and weight using rotating axles and conveyor belts. With the exception of the glass, the recycled material is baled and then sold on to be made into new products. Through this separation process at the MRF, the glass is broken into small pieces, but often becomes mixed with other materials. This means that the Council has to pay a company to clean it before it can be recycled. The broken glass is eventually used as aggregate to build roads or in insulation products. Through the new collection method that is being piloted, the Council intends to sell the higher quality recycled glass, generating income that can be reinvested in council services. Glass can be recycled an infinite number of times, unlike paper and plastics, which degrade through the recycling process. Paper can be recycled about 4 or 5 times and plastic can be recycled 8 or 9 times.

The pilot scheme is showing early signs of success, with good recycling rates and limited contamination from other materials. However, we will be asking those residents participating in the pilot scheme for their views, both during and after the pilot scheme, which will run for at least 12 weeks and, if successful, will be expanded across Cardiff.

Cardiff Dogs Home

The newly launched website for Cardiff Dogs Home listing 66 dogs for re-homing received over 46,000 page views in the first 8 weeks and 503 form submissions, including 186 online applications applying to be a dog walker. This has reduced time and administration costs for the Dogs Home by going digital.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
19 October 2018