

ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 14

Waste Management

The waste education officers have been working hard to welcome back our student community with outreach sessions, promotion of the new waste reminder sign up services and general door knocking to promote correct waste presentation for their year ahead

The City Council is aware of stories appearing on social media claiming that Wedal Road is set to close soon. We want to make absolutely clear that we are working to deliver three initiatives to help improve recycling rates across the city and these measures need to be in place before anything happens to Wedal Road.

We have always said that Wedal Road would be replaced by the new, enhanced Lamby Way HWRC when it opens. We also made clear last October that we would set up a new recycling/reuse facility in the city. This has always been the Council's position and that hasn't changed.

Work on the new Lamby way household recycling centre is now firmly underway.

I have been pleased to announce the launch of our new recycling and reuse service that will be available to all households free of charge in November. Items that can be reused or recycled will be collected free. This will run in parallel and complement our existing bulky charging service.

The unfortunate news is that the market place has not provided us with a strong reuse partner as yet, so we are having to go back out to the market to seek out a partner that can deliver the reuse vision for the future.

To ensure the Cabinet fully deliver all our commitments around reuse and HWRC facilities, the Wedal road site remains open until a suitable reuse facility is in place, as suitable alternative provision for residents is essential.

The timetable for the winter green waste collections is now available and we are promoting the changes well ahead of the changes. Following feed back we have moved the start of the winter green waste monthly collection service back two weeks. Although we are always at the mercy of mother nature and when the leaves will fall, but this should help accommodate the leaf fall period.

We have had great recognition for many of our activities in recent National awards this month. The excellent partnership with the NHS and our commercial waste team was shortlisted for a APSE award this month, along with our communication campaign “out of the black into the green” for the waste restricting changes. It is really good to see our work getting national recognition. In addition, our local community project “Keep Roath Tidy” has been shortlisted for a National Local Authority Recycling award.

Cardiff Dogs Home - Dog Food Sponsorship Deal with Burns Pet Food

A dog food sponsorship deal with Burns Pet Food has been put in place. As well as providing enough food for the animals housed at Cardiff Dogs Home the deal also means that everybody who gives a dog a home will receive a free 2kg bag of premium quality dog food. Last year the Council spent around £5,000 feeding the stray and homeless dogs it looks after. This new deal with Burns Pet Food will allow us to make important financial savings whilst ensuring that the dogs receive the healthy, balanced diet they need.

Cardiff Dogs Home has been awarded ‘gold’ in the Stray Dog Services strand of RSPCA Cymru’s Community Animal Welfare Footprints (CAWF)

This scheme which recognises good practice in relation to animal welfare and the dog’s home has been awarded this for the third year running. The award scheme covers four areas of work – stray dog services, housing, contingency planning and animal establishment licencing. Each footprint has three levels - gold, silver and bronze, each with increasingly demanding criteria.

Bereavement Services

APSE Award - Service Team of the Year in the Cemetery and Crematorium

The City of Cardiff’s Bereavement Services team have won two prestigious national awards.

The team, who carry out over 4500 funerals each year and deal with over 500,000 visitors to cemeteries across Cardiff won an Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Award for Service Team of the Year in the Cemetery and Crematorium category at the APSE event in Londonderry.

Good Funerals Award Crematorium of the Year

Thornhill Crematorium was named Crematorium of the Year at the Good Funeral Awards. The judging process for both awards looks at the whole service provided, with the Good Funeral Awards also including ‘mystery shopper’ visits and testimonials from service users. The Good Funeral Awards celebrates excellence throughout the whole funeral industry.

Judges for both awards praised the team’s commitment to addressing funeral poverty through the Cardiff Council Funeral Service which offers residents a

professional, dignified funeral service at a fixed low priced cost without any hidden extras.

Neighbourhood Services

I am pleased to confirm that Neighbourhood Services is moving forward at pace and improvements are being seen on our streets with the additional funding provided.

The Blitz team are working hard in the inner wards and are working on a rotating programme in the eight inner wards. An additional afternoon/evening cleansing team is working in the outer wards undertaking cleansing in district centres and identified hot spot areas.

The Neighbourhood Services approach is much more than cleansing. It is an approach that brings frontline services of cleansing, ground maintenance, highways maintenance operations and enforcement together. This approach supports improved working and allows services to work together to resolve more difficult issues. Through improved engagement Neighbourhood Services ensures 'the citizen is central to how we work'.

An example of the great work that is happening is that the Enforcement team have monitored the Splott area during the blitz and evidence has been found in black bags and they have issued 9 waste enquiries which could lead to a £80 fixed penalty being issued or a £100 fixed penalty being issued if they are under section 46 Notice. There has been 2 education actions where Officers spoke to the residents on how to dispose of additional waste and new resident was informed of correct waste presentation and there has been 10 incidents where they have searched and removed bags with no evidence found. There were two fly tipping incidents in the residential area which was removed but again no evidence was found to identify the person responsible.

I am aware that fly tipping is a problem and an example of this is the large fly tipping incident at Portmanmor Road industrial estate near unit 33. This caused major problems as the road was nearly blocked and traffic had to swerve around the waste. A large amount of plasterboard, tile and a bath were removed but no evidence was found.

These types of occurrences are happening regularly and are extremely disruptive to our services and upsetting to our citizens. I have asked the Neighbourhood Services team to make a concerted effort to see how they can make improvements. I have asked that an 'App' for fly tipping is developed to support reporting and that CCTV cameras are utilised in particular locations where fly tipping is virulent.

An encouraging aspect is that 'Love where you Live' and volunteering is having an influence on our citizens and thanks to our volunteer groups there has been some good partnership working in Cathays and Splott that will be taken forward into the other wards.

Parks, Sport & Harbour Authority

The Landmark Trust have formally responded to the approach from the Council and RSPB to support the partnership for Flat Holm Island, in terms of the built heritage. The Trust has, unfortunately at this time confirmed that they are not proposing to enter the partnership sighting sufficiency of buildings to provide the infrastructure and emergency support needed for staying visitors. Furthermore the Trust added that there would need to be a demonstrable improvement in confirmed transport and back up for them to make any further considerations. In view of this the Council will continue to manage the built heritage as an integral part of the partnership, the response from the Trust does not rule out partnership working in the future.

A new concession opportunity for the Secret Garden Café at Bute Park has been advertised and will close this week, the current concessionaire have advised that they will not be resubmitting.

Building on the Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff Project to date, the Council has been identified as a key partner, along with Buglife for a RSPB Cymru Big Lottery funding submission of circa 500k. If successful the project will operate through to 2022 and will continue to aim to encourage and enable communities across Cardiff to spend more time, more regularly outdoors experiencing and enjoying nature with others and enhancing their local environment for wildlife and people.

Rent Smart Wales

Activity Levels continue to rise with:

- 36,019 user account set up on the database:
- 22,777 completed registrations:
- 2,119 Licences issued
- 1977 licences in progress. We are now receiving approximately 300 applications / week.

Call volumes are now in excess of 550 calls on some days.

On the 23 November 2016 enforcement provisions will apply and offences will be committed where there is non-compliance. The marketing campaign has been stepped up to make sure that this is well understood. This includes a “count down the weeks” infographic on the Website and launch of the Rent Smart Wales facebook page.

In addition, we will be developing a press notice for the 8 weeks to go to the deadline (28 September) that we’ll share nationally and locally.

We’ve recently developed a poster and leaflet specifically for tenants that will be available on-line shortly.

We will also shortly be advertising on Heart FM North and South, also on trains and adverts are currently running on buses in Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, Bangor, Wrexham and Llanelli.

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member (Environment)
28 September 2016