

COUNCIL: 24 NOVEMBER 2016

ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

1. Recycling & Treatment Services

I am pleased to announce the launch of our new recycling bulky collection service that is free to all householders. This service will run in parallel with the current bulky service, but mean items such as household electrical appliances, wood, furniture, clothes and metals can all be collected for free, starting from next week. This is the beginning of our strategy to improve our reuse infrastructure in the City for household items. Our Contacts Centre will support and advise residents with the new scheme.

The changes to the seasonal Household Waste Recycling Centre opening and green waste collections have started. We listened to feedback from the public last year and pushed the start of the green waste collections back to accommodate more of the leaf fall season.

A new recycling campaign will be launched next month to remind residents of items that are suitable for the green bag scheme. As well as reminding people the importance of recycling, it's key we strive for high quality recycling too.

In addition, Quarter 2 performance was 61%, so we are on track for our statutory target of 60% this year.

Also, I am pleased to say there has been a further month of investment and development in our frontline staff.

A further 7 frontline posts are currently being created to support the areas of income growth and also remove our reliance on agency support.

The essential skills training is underway to support our operatives to understand their training needs, so we can build bespoke training development plans for them. All our household waste recycling staff are having dedicated training on supporting customers to use the sites better.

2. Parks

There has been a good response to the Parks Customer Satisfaction survey which has been promoted through a variety a communication methods, with over 400 responses received to date. The survey opened on 1st November 2016 and closes on 31st November 2016. The questionnaire that is being utilised is based on an Association of Public Service Excellence model used by local

authorities, including the City of Cardiff Council who participate in APSE Parks & Horticultural Services Benchmarking Group.

I'm pleased to report an increase in visitor numbers for Bute Park at quarter two, when compared with last year. Total estimated visitor numbers of 733,195 were recorded for the period July – September an increase of 59,078 for the same period in 2015.

The Council's Parks Sports Turf Team have recently completed a programme of autumn / post season renovation of Bowling Greens and Cricket tables for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Newport Council. The service is also in discussion with the Vale of Glamorgan and concerning other areas of trading. The Plant Production Nursery Team have undertaken a number of 'pop up' sales throughout public offices in October and November and this will be followed by Christmas sales next month at public offices, produce is also being sold at Education & Training Centre in Bute Park and Cardiff Castle.

The Llanishen Rotary Club have completed a project supported by the Council and to raise awareness of their campaign to eradicate polio, for which they have received a Nobel Peace Prize and by planting 2000 crocus bulbs in the Cherry Lawn at Roath Park. Also in Roath Park the Council has worked with the Women's Institute and to mark those lost in the conflicts by installing over 600 poppies in the flower bed overlooking Roath Park Lake.

3. Bereavement

Bereavement Services have been shortlisted for another national award this month. APSE have identified the service as one of the *Most Improved* nationally based on the APSE performance data submissions. A verification exercise was undertaken by APSE on 16th November and the result of the awards will be announced in Blackpool on 1st December 2016.

Preparations are underway for the annual Christmas Memorial Service on 4th December 2016 at 2pm. This year's collection is in aid of Cruse Bereavement Care – Cardiff and Vale Area. The service will be led by Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe and is open for anyone to attend.

A Green Dragon Level 4 audit on 17th November 2016 will be carried out at Thornhill as part of the Corporate Green Dragon programme.

The final works are being completed to Cathays Chapels to complete the refurbishment of one of the chapels. A number of wedding ceremonies have already taken place this year and 4 are already booked for next. The buildings will be open to once again take funeral services from December after being out of commission for the last 40 years.

4. Cardiff Dogs Home

We recently took part in the Staff Health & Wellbeing fayre at County Hall where some of our ex-residents and current dogs were available at the fayre to promote dog walking as a healthy activity that is mutually beneficial to both staff

and the dogs in Cardiff Dogs Home. The dogs were a huge hit and attracted lots of attention and contributed a lot to the fayre itself.

We were invited to attend County Hall again on Friday 18 November 2016 to take our dogs around the offices to visit staff and help raise money for the Lord Mayors fund in aid of Cancer Research. We also took some of our dogs around the Wharf on a walk with Councillor Hinchey and Paul Orders.

The Dogs Home is extremely busy with over 1000 volunteer hours and 2000 visitors per month. We have approximately 50 dogs coming in as strays each month, but are very successful in rehoming, with around 30 dogs being rehomed and 30 going back to their owner every month too.

5. Neighbourhood Services

Neighbourhood Services Enforcement has progressed and to date almost 1000 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued for Waste and Environmental offences. The team have also successfully prosecuted 3 citizens, Miss Sherri La'Veature, Miss Deanne Evans and Mr Kia Chen through the Courts for avoiding payment of fines.

I am pleased to confirm that the Cabinet Secretary for Environment & Rural Affairs has now agreed to consult on the introduction of FPNs for small-scale fly-tipping and the consultation period will be for 12 weeks (we hope to start the process before the Christmas period). The consultation is required under the affirmative procedure route and so this will also mean the draft regulations will be scrutinised by Assembly Committee(s) before being voted upon. If supported this will mean that Officers can issue £400 fixed penalties for fly tipping, saving a significant amount of time undertaking interviews and preparing for court.

The Inner Ward Blitzes are performing well and to date since the launch on 12th September 2016 the following has been achieved:

- 333 Streets deep cleansed.
- 46.3 Tonnes of detritus, leaves and litter removed.
- 2968 Gullies cleansed and washed through in the blitz locations.
- 410 out of 410 Pavement / Road defects completed in blitz locations that were programmed to be rectified following safety inspections.
- Over 15 volunteer events supported.

This blitz work is delivered only by the additional funded street cleansing (£166k to fund 6 officers) and gully cleansing resource (£100k gully cleansing team) and utilising resource in Neighbourhood Services with respect to enforcement, maintenance operations and grounds maintenance. It should be recognised that the majority of frontline Officers are continuing to deliver good work across the City in terms of delivering visible services and supporting the communities on behalf of Neighbourhood Services.

'Big Sweep' events have and will continue to take place supported by the Council. At one event over 100 residents came out in Riverside to sweep and bag up the leaves and sweep leaves into the road. The pavements are too narrow for the smaller mechanical sweepers to negotiate and the residents

swept all the frontages and roadside gutters. As a result the whole street was completely clear of leaves by the end of the morning.

One example of the work being supported through the 'Love Where You Live' initiative is a volunteer group on Oakfield Street that have so far collected 148 bags of leaves from their street over the past 4 weeks. The Council has assisted by providing the biodegradable bags and collecting the bags, but the residents around Oakfield St have been out every Saturday and during the week to clear the pavements.

A 'Love Where You Live' thank you event will take place Mansion House on Monday 5th December with the Lord Mayor. This is to allow the Council to give a personal thank you for the hard work that has been carried out by volunteer groups and individuals.

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member (Environment)
23 November 2016