
ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Dogs Home

It was my pleasure to visit Cardiff Dogs Home on St David's Day to meet with the staff, trainees, apprenticeships, volunteers and of course the dogs!

I am pleased to report that there are plans to make some changes to the Dogs Home to improve the customer experience. There are around 2500 visitors to the Dogs Home every month plus over 1,000 volunteer hours and the improvements will provide a larger reception area with easy access to a toilet and refreshments as well as a waiting area where customers can keep dry and warm. There are also plans in place to improve the staff facilities by creating a staff room, something that has never been available at the Dogs Home. Staff have also secured the provision of refreshments and high level disinfectant free for the next two years which will reduce expenditure.

I can also advise that the area around the side of the Dogs Home has been landscaped and has been transformed. This will also add to the customer experience as well as creating space for dogs to meet prospective re-homers and have short walks on site.

These are small but exciting developments and will make a difference to all the people associated with the Dogs Home.

Bereavement Services

The annual Palm Sunday Memorial Service will take place on Sunday 9 April 2017 at 2:00pm in the Wenallt Chapel at Thornhill. This year, Bereavement Services' chosen charity is Ty Hafan.

I am able to advise that Cardiff will no longer charge cremation or burial fees for any child under the age of 17.

Registration

The Registration Service, has moved their offices, within City Hall and the team are now sited together, offering staff better support in less cramped, open plan accommodation. The move has been positively received by the staff and now offers clearly defined and separate back office and public facing areas.

In addition to the above, 1 April 2017 will see us offering a new ceremony room called the St Dwynwen's Room, based in City Hall to accommodate more

intimate weddings of up to 10 guests and small private citizenship ceremonies. The new “St David’s Suite” (rooms 102,103 and 104) incorporates two ceremony rooms and a large waiting room, will offer our citizens greater choice for their ceremonies and should in turn generate more income for the Authority.

Parks & Harbour Authority

I am delighted to report that the RSPB have been successful with their Big Lottery submission for which Cardiff Council are a partner organisation. A grant award of 500k will ensure the continuation of the Giving Nature a Home in Cardiff Project for a further five years, up until 2022. To date the project has resulted in the generation of circa 3,600 volunteer hours, engaged with 65% of primary schools in Cardiff and has resulted in excess of 24,000 children being connected with nature.

Next month will see the launch of two new Apprenticeship Schemes within the Parks Service. The Arboricultural Apprenticeship Scheme will provide two opportunities for individuals, over a three year term and will comprise of a comprehensive programme of practical experience, working towards the Craftsmans Certificate in Arboriculture and the attainment of National Proficiency Test Council Certificates in Arboricultural Operations. The second scheme and whereby one opportunity is being offered is the establishment of a Playground Management Apprenticeship, over a four year term. Again a comprehensive programme of practical experience will be provided with the participant working towards accreditation under the Register of International Play Inspectors. The creation of these schemes demonstrates the Council’s commitment to increasing the number of apprenticeship and trainee posts on offer, the posts also contribute to the services succession plan.

The Into the Garden and Beyond, Heritage Lottery funded project at Parc Cefn Onn will commence with a series of Health Walks next month which sees the Council partnering with the North Cardiff Medical Centre and the Walking for Health Initiative. A notice board publicising the project and proposed work packages will also be installed on site in April 2017.

On allotment matters, I can also confirm that two further Allotment Site Associations will shortly sign up to local management agreements, these being the Allensbank Site and Elgar Crescent. This will increase the uptake on local management agreements to 12 from 28 sites. The local management agreement provides greater autonomy for site associations with increased decision making powers.

Cardiff Harbour Authority is working with the Wales Millennium Centre and in respect of an exciting new Project called Skills for Life. This opportunity is linked with the upcoming Centre production, Tiger Bay the Musical. As part of the celebration of the area of Tiger Bay, and to run alongside the mainstage production, Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) will be working on an event called *An Evening with Tiger Bay*; a production that provides a platform to local artists. The Skills for Life project will see 10-12 young people, with a focus on NEETs from the local Tiger Bay community; take part in the above mentioned project linking to their local heritage and development of Tiger/Cardiff Bay, culminating in them using their newly developed skills to operate the production.

Participants will learn skills in production management, heritage, and will gain personal development for future employment. Participants will be secured through local community organisations with which CHA has existing relationships.

The Parks Service has been successful in securing supply and maintenance arrangements, for the provision of floral displays in the City and Civic Centre areas and following a procurement exercise undertaken by the Business Improvement District. The arrangements will see the introduction of up to 400 individual floral units comprising of baskets and containers sited at key locations, installed prior to the Champions League Final in June 2017. The Council's Plant Production nursery in Bute Park will be responsible for the production of the plant material and aftercare once in situ.

I'm also pleased to confirm that an exciting partnership project is also being developed at the plant production nursery involving a community interest company cultivating salad crops. The project will benefit some of Cardiff's most vulnerable citizens creating a space for refugees and asylum seekers to seek positive mental well-being associated with growing and horticultural activities. The project aims to help individuals gain skills; grow in confidence and work together to grow high quality local produce for sale across the city. The project which I anticipate commencing in April has the potential to create a sustainable social enterprise model over time.

I can confirm that dialogue has commenced between Officers and funding partners in respect of improvements to Roath Park and its environs, discussions are at an early stage and opportunities exist for match funding, combining the use of Section 106 funding and part of the capital receipt from the sale of the YHA building on Wedal Road. Improvements have the potential to extend to, the Recreation Ground, Pleasure Gardens, the Conservatory and also Roath Park House where alternative uses are currently under consideration.

Neighbourhood Services

I am pleased to report that since the blitz work began in the inner wards the additional resource has achieved the following:

- 639 streets have been deep cleaned
- 88.5 tonnes of additional waste has been removed
- 493 pavement defects have been repaired
- 5524 gullies have been cleansed
- Community groups have given over 450 hours of their time to help.

This was achieved as a result of the extra funding in the 2016/17 budget. I can confirm that the blitz work will commence next week in the outer wards starting in the Pentyrch Ward. Neighbourhood Services to spend 2 days in each of the 21 outer wards until May 2017. This work will relate to deep cleansing and the cleansing of drainage gullies in a targeted area. The Neighbourhood Services team will work with the local Members to identify the areas of concern in their wards to establish where this work will take place.

In addition to the above, Neighbourhood Services Enforcement is continuing to work with the University and have delivered education to Cathays and to the phase 2 area of Plasnewydd dealing with students in multiple occupancy properties. The positive taken from this work is that people are adhering to the education provided – there has been a 214% increase in education but only a 130% increase in Fixed Penalty Notices compared to previous the previous year. Education and enforcement will reduce the number of ongoing offences through ‘word of mouth’ and a culture of having improved behaviours.

Cardiff Coastal Project

I am able to advise that the Rover Way foreshore through to the Rhymney River estuary is an area in danger of coastal flooding. There is significant erosion of the coastline, which if not addressed, will cause defence failure and flood related damage running to millions of pounds within Cardiff.

Through an initial assessment, the Flood & Water Management team have determined the scale of the problem and successfully bid to Welsh Government for £400k financial assistance through the Coastal Risk Management Programme grant.

A programme to deliver a structured approach to managing the issue going forwards is now in place. Through a successful tendering exercise, JBA Consultants are completing a Project Appraisal Report based on the findings of detailed investigation and analysis that will provide an outline design of a recommended way forward.

In addition to the above, a Project Appraisal Report will be available at the end of April 2017 and this will be utilised to consider how the Council proceeds. The estimate is £4-5M coastal improvement work is required to remove the inherent risk of flooding. Any further funding by the Welsh Government would be limited at 75% of the total cost.

I recognise that coastal flooding is a risk to Cardiff and I am therefore pleased to see this programme moving forward.

Waste Management

It's been a busy month as we focus on our in house delivery commitments to reshaping and commercialising services. The team have held proactive workshops on essential skills and recruitment support which were well attended. This will encourage career development in our frontline staff and aims to dispel fears over recruitment. The two apprentice posts that have been created in waste management are being recruited and will start soon.

On service delivery, I am pleased to announce that commercial services have won another large contract this year and have now added the Motorpoint Arena to our growing portfolio of customers and an ever improving net income position for the year.

With sustainable services high on our agenda, we are also procuring new electric powered vans for our supervisors, thereby reducing our carbon emissions.

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member (Environment)
23 March 2017