

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Waste Management

A successful open day was held at Lamby Way on the August Bank Holiday to raise awareness of the recycling facilities. Over 100 people signed up to guided tours of our recycling facility on the day. As a result of public demand, future tour events are now being planned.

Energy

Every year, we pay a taxation charge on our total operational carbon emissions under the UK Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). We have just filed our report on emissions for 2016-17, which confirmed that the Council emitted 36,633 tonnes. This has reduced by 12% (5,486 tonnes) since the previous year. Around a quarter of this reduction relates to the removal of leisure centres from our direct control, but the remainder is the result of a range of energy efficiency works across the Council's operational and schools estate, as well as street lighting activities. The total emissions in 2016-17 resulted in a CRC charge of £630,087.60, based on the cost per tonne of carbon, which was £17.20. The cost per tonne goes up each year and will be £17.70 in 2017-18.

The Energy & Sustainability Team has also been managing a UK-wide competition to develop first-of-a-kind portable renewable energy technologies. The project is the result of a £1m grant from the Welsh Government, Innovate UK and the UK Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. The first products to be developed under this project have now been installed for testing.

One system, developed by an SME called Renovagen, is based on a 50 metre retractable roll of thin-film, flexible solar material that can be easily laid out on any piece of available land to collect and store solar power. Two prototypes are now providing free renewable solar power for the buildings at Flat Holm and for the Council's electric vehicles at Lamby Way, which are used by Waste Management. This supports the service's commitment to progress a sustainable fuels agenda and officers are also exploring the use of alternative fuels for our next fleet of waste collection vehicles.

The other successful organisation, I2O, is finalising its own portable renewable energy system, which will be tested by providing free renewable power at Cardiff events in the near future.

Neighbourhood Services

I would like to thank the members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee for their recent review of 'Managing Street Cleanliness & Total Street Scene in Cardiff'. The comments and observations have been noted and I am looking forward to supporting the initiatives of Ward Action Plans and Digitalisation of Enforcement Services to support improved engagement and service delivery.

Fly tipping remains a high priority for my portfolio as I recognise the issues from my own ward. The Council is currently responding to 550 fly tipping activities per month that vary from construction waste (approx. 9% of incidents) through to black bags or household waste (approx. 61% of incidents). The teams are working to ensure that these issues are enforced, but they are only able to take action if evidence is found. To put this in perspective, in the period from 1st April 2017 to 1st September 2017, there have been 2,283 incidents where no evidence has been found to enable enforcement action to be taken.

Work has started on delivering information packs on waste presentation to university students living in Cathays and Plasnewydd. This forms part of a proactive approach in these areas to educate and engage with students and to take appropriate action to tackle any poor behaviour in terms of household waste presentation.

The 'Love Where You Live' initiative, working in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy, is going from strength to strength with volunteer participation growing and volunteer led improvement projects taking place in communities. Since April 2017, there has been 3,586 participation hours and 618 clean ups; ranging from community litter picks to litter champion picks being undertaken by individuals. In the last few weeks, the Volunteer Development Officer has facilitated the first meeting between volunteer groups. This meeting allows groups to discuss what they are doing and to share ideas. It was well received by the groups that took part and will take place quarterly in order to continue the sharing of good work and to provide support and guidance on issues such as applying for grants. This year, we will be holding a further 'thank you event', as we did last year, to celebrate the great work that the volunteer groups do here in Cardiff.

Bereavement Services

The team of crematorium technicians at Cardiff Crematorium in Thornhill were recently honoured as runners up in the Crematorium Attendant of the Year category at the national Good Funeral Awards 2017. The awards recognised their unfailing service to the bereaved, ministers and funeral directors to ensure that all services at the chapels are carried out with care and meet the individual needs of each family.

Cardiff and Newport SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death charity) branch, in partnership with the Bereavement Services team, will hold the annual 'Wave of Light' service at the Wenallt Chapel, Cardiff Crematorium on 15th October 2017 at 7:00pm. Bereaved parents will be able to attend Thornhill Chapel as part of a global campaign to light a candle in memory of those infants and children they have lost. This event will mark the end of the Baby Loss Awareness week.

The Annual Remembrance service will be held at Cathays Cemetery on 7th November 2017 at 2:00pm. The service will be led by Rev. Lionel Fanthorpe and will involve local schools and the Friends of Cathays Cemetery Walking for Health group. This service formalises the annual walking for health groups act of remembrance at the War Graves section at Cathays Cemetery and is part of the commitment to commemorating the Centenary of World War I.

Cardiff Dogs Home

Cardiff Dogs Home has been recognised again at the RSPCA Cymru Community Animal Welfare Footprints (CAWF) Awards, which recognise and encourage good practice in relation to animal welfare. Cardiff Dogs Home won gold in the Stray Dog Footprint category for the fourth year in a row and a special award ceremony will take place at the Senedd on 23rd October 2017, which will be attended by some of the staff responsible for delivering the service.

Work continues on the reception area at the Dogs Home to make it more customer friendly and useful for the volunteers. Although not yet completely finished, the new space is already proving very useful and popular and will be a valuable addition once completed. Visitor numbers to the Dogs Home in July and August 2017 were 2890 and 2539 respectively. In July 2017, we had 1417 dog walks equating to 850.02 hrs of walking and, in August 2017, we had 1183 dog walks equating to 901.14 hours of walking. The service also found new homes for 29 dogs in July 2017 and 41 in August 2017.

On 25th August 2017, a very committed and valued volunteer walker, Mike Day, was tragically killed in a road traffic accident while out walking a dog from the Dogs Home. On 19th September 2017, the Dogs Home will be closed to the public for a period, but open to volunteer walkers, in order to allow staff to attend the funeral of Mr Day. The staff will also be arranging a permanent memorial at the Dogs Home, in consultation with his family, in due course.

Shared Regulatory Services

The Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE) shortlisted the Shared Regulatory Services for one of its annual awards; the Best Service Team of the Year in the Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Regulatory Service category. This is a huge achievement for a service that has been fully functional for less than two years. It is also a testament to the huge amount of hard work and commitment shown by staff and the support of elected members over this short space of time.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment
27 September 2017