

COUNCIL: 21 JUNE 2018

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Greener Grangetown

Greener Grangetown has won the Engineering Project Award 2018 at the UK Water Industry Awards.

Greener Grangetown is a joint venture delivered by Cardiff Council, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales, Arup, ERH Communications and Civil Engineering Ltd, with additional financial support from the Landfill Communities Fund. The scheme involves the collection of surface water from roofs and roads from 12 residential streets in Grangetown, before channelling and filtering it through over 100 rain gardens before draining to the River Taff. Plants and trees soak up the water in rain gardens and the water is filtered through the soil and the roots which catch and break down the pollutants. Specific types of trees and plants, which are mostly native to Wales and all UK sourced, have been chosen to fit a number of criteria. They are durable, require little maintenance, are pollutant-tolerant and have the ability to adapt to very wet or dry conditions.

The pioneering project, which is the first time this technology has been used in this manner in the UK, catches, cleans and diverts over 40,000m² of rainwater run-off directly into the River Taff, instead of pumping it over 8km through the Vale of Glamorgan for treatment, before being pumped into the sea.

'Love When You Leave' Campaign

This year we have re-branded the previous 'Get it Out for Cardiff' campaign for students in the city and instead named it 'Love When You Leave' to tie in with the wider 'Love Where You Live' campaign. The campaign includes a range of methods to encourage students to dispose of their rubbish responsibly, as well as additional operational resources to deal with the increased volume of waste within student households that is presented both correctly and incorrectly.

Waste Education and Enforcement Officers will be operating proactively in Cathays and Plasnewydd on a daily basis. They will be advising students of all options to dispose of their waste responsibly, searching and removing waste and issuing Fixed Penalty Notices where necessary. They will also undertake the same activities in priority areas on every weekend in June.

We anticipate that the majority of tenants will leave the area on the weekend of Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July, so enforcement work will be supported by additional collections and cleansing teams during that weekend.

Energy Projects

Proposals for a 7.5 megawatt solar farm at the capped landfill site at Lamby Way were approved by the Cabinet on 14 June 2018. The clean, renewable energy generated by the solar farm will be enough to power 2,300 typical homes, or about 15% of the Council's total electricity consumption across all its buildings and street-lighting. The next stages for the project will be to prepare and submit a planning application, implement a strategy to protect the biodiversity on the site, and begin a procurement exercise to deliver and manage the scheme. The final costs resulting from the procurement are expected to be considered by the Cabinet in spring 2019, with development expected to start on site in May/June 2019.

This decision follows previous decisions by the Cabinet back in March 2018 to approve an outline business case for a District Heat Network in Cardiff and a strategy for Low Emission Transportation in the city.

The proposed District Heat Network will take heat generated at the Trident Park Energy from Waste plant and deliver it to a series of major buildings in the Bay and City Centre through a network of insulated water pipes. The network will deliver a significant carbon saving at customer sites which will no longer have to rely on fossil fuels for their heating and hot water needs. The next stages of the project will be to develop a detailed business case and to bid for government grants and funding streams to deliver it. This process will take approximately 18 months. The Cabinet will be asked to approve the final business case to proceed with the scheme, which will be subject to the Council securing the necessary funding.

The Low Emission Transportation strategy sets out our ambitions to begin a transition away from polluting fossil fuels for transportation. Key actions will be to support a roll out of electric vehicle charging points in the city, to start to specify electric and other non-fossil fuel vehicles in our fleet, and to work with partners to encourage them to take similar actions. The strategy is aimed at supporting a wider transition to low emission transport in the city which will help address our severe air quality issues and contribute to local carbon reduction and climate change targets.

Shared Regulatory Services

Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) have achieved national recognition for their work in tackling the supply of counterfeit goods by winning the 2018 Departmental Award for Excellence in Anti-Counterfeiting Enforcement, which was announced by the UK Anti-Counterfeiting Group (ACG) earlier this month. The ACG is the industry body representing the interests of UK and international manufacturers, distributors and retailers; trade mark agents and brand protection specialists. SRS fought off strong competition from other local authorities and agencies from across the UK to win the team award.

This prestigious award recognises the work of the service throughout the year in taking firm action against the supply of counterfeit goods. In addition to the day-to-day Trading Standards enforcement work across the region, the last year has seen SRS playing a central role in the successful staging of a number of major events in the city. These include concerts by Robbie Williams, Justin Bieber and

Coldplay, the British Grand Prix Speedway, World Championship Boxing, WWE Wrestling, Disney on Ice and, of course, the UEFA Champions League Finals for both women and men. In reaching its decision to make the award to SRS, the ACG noted that 'All of these events posed massive intellectual property infringements issues which the team dealt with'.

The UEFA Champions League event in June 2017 in particular was a huge undertaking for the service and it is a credit to the dedication and professionalism of the Trading Standards Officers within SRS that such positive feedback was received from the event organisers and brand holders.

Dogs Home Website

The new dedicated Dogs Home website will go live before the end of this month. This forms part of the service's digitalisation plan and will help to quickly return lost dogs to their owners and serve as a portal through which we can advertise those dogs needing new homes, as well as promoting positive animal welfare and opportunities for volunteers to work with the service.

Deep Cleansing Blitz

An annual deep cleansing 'Blitz' schedule has been adopted by the Street Scene team, which will result in every ward throughout the city being visited at least once, with a specific additional focus on southern arc wards. As of January 2018, the Blitz team now utilises information gathered from litter audits (known as Local Environment Audit and Management Systems (LEAMS)) to identify and prioritise hot spots that will benefit most from a proactive deep cleanse. In addition, the annual plan has also provided the Street Scene team with the opportunity of planning litter picks in collaboration with our community group partners to complement and enhance the work in each of the wards visited.

All wards will be visited at some point over the year. Over the last two months, the Blitz has visited Adamsdown, Cathays, Gabalfa, Plasnewydd, Riverside, Creigiau & St Fagans, Heath, Llandaff, Llandaff North, Pentyrch, Rhiwbina and Trowbridge wards.

For five weeks from 30th July 2018, the Blitz will change focus to the city's parks and green spaces, providing additional and tailored cleansing resources that are appropriate to the city's requirements over the summer holiday period.

Fly-tipping Update

Historically, there have been no Fixed Penalties (through the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices) for fly-tipping offences. Currently, local authorities can only prosecute fly-tipping offenders in Court. This is a time consuming process which, together with the amount of evidence required, has meant that only three cases were taken to Court in the past 12 months. On 14th June, the Cabinet agreed to adopt new legislative powers that will enable us to issue Fixed Penalties of £400 to first-time offenders for small-scale fly-tipping offences. To reflect our zero tolerance approach to fly-tipping, there will be no reduction for early payment.

In addition to adopting the new legislative powers, we will be introducing new technologies to help prevent and detect offences. Firstly, we will be introducing a

new app to streamline the reporting of fly-tipping incidents. We will also be working with two service providers to trial different types of CCTV camera, as well as transitioning to a new data system that will support end-to-end processes.

Commercial and Domestic Skip Service

This month, the Council has launched a new Commercial and Domestic Skip service to the public. This new service complements our existing Commercial Waste Services and enables us to provide a truly comprehensive recycling service. Further information about this service can be found on our new website: www.cardiffcommercialwaste.co.uk or by phoning: (029) 2071 7501.

Waste Strategy

Early next month we will be launching our consultation on the draft Recycling & Waste Management Strategy 2018-2021, which was approved last month by the Cabinet. We will be running workshops to engage with Members and receive feedback. A city wide consultation will also be launched to capture the views of key stakeholders on the new draft strategy.

Bereavement Services

For a number of years Bereavement Services have had a very successful partnership with the Community Payback group who undertake works at Cathays Cemetery with ex-offenders and supervised by our own staff. They have recently been nominated for the national HM Prisons and Probation Services Awards for Wildlife for their biodiversity work at the site and have made it through to the semi-finals of this award process, which is a significant achievement in itself. We wish them all the best in making it to the finals.

Works to the war memorial at Radyr have recently been completed. A total of £6,500 was spent on the project with the majority of the funding being provided by the War Memorials Trust and CADW. The completed works have been very well received by those in the local community. In addition to this, the War Memorial at Grange Gardens has had a new plaque installed commemorating those from the Grangetown area who died during the First World War but were not mentioned on the original memorial. This was an important piece of work to ensure that the memory of all those who gave their lives are properly remembered. The works totalled £1,500 and were funded by Bereavement Services.

In partnership with the University Hospital of Wales and SANDS, Bereavement Services will be hosting the annual Babies Remembrance Service on Sunday 24 June at 11:30am at the Wenallt Chapel, Thornhill Crematorium. The memorial service is supported by SANDS and allows those who have lost a baby as well as their families and friends to come together to remember them. The service is led by members of the University Hospital of Wales Chaplaincy Team. Members of the Cardiff Branch of SANDS will be available at the service.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
15th June 2018