

COUNCIL: 18 JULY 2019

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Low Emission Transport Strategy

As part of our Low Emissions Transport Strategy, which was approved in April 2018, we committed to increasing the number of publicly accessible Electric Vehicle charging points in the city. I am pleased to confirm that the first phase of these have now been installed and will be made live this month. They have been paid for through a successful bid for grant funding from the UK Government Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and have been placed in residential areas where residents do not have access to private off-street parking. The first phase of work has delivered 19 charging points in 10 different locations in Cathays, Penylan, Canton and Riverside. We are currently working on a second phase of installations and will be applying for additional grant funding to support these over the summer.

Shared Regulatory Services

I am pleased to announce that Shared Regulatory Services have achieved national recognition for their work to ensure trade compliance with the Hallmarking Act. Last month, the British Hallmarking Council presented officers with the annual Touchstone Award in recognition of their outstanding hallmarking enforcement activity, with a number of cases having concluded (or about to conclude) in court recently. This year's award follows Shared Regulatory Services being highly commended for their retail survey work on hallmarking during 2017/18.

The Touchstone Award is one of the most prestigious awards available to Trading Standards services. The UK has one of the most rigorous and long-established hallmarking regimes in the world, which delivers clear benefits to UK consumers and legitimate businesses alike. The hallmark is the oldest form of consumer protection and is essential in preventing fraud in relation to gold, silver and other precious metal.

Chapel Refurbishment at Thornhill Crematorium

The Council is investing over £300,000 in the upgrade and refurbishment of its two chapels at Thornhill Crematorium. The improvements will include a complete redecoration of both chapels; new flooring and seating; improved new lighting features and curtains, as well as refurbishment of the waiting rooms and the replacement and extension of covered areas outside of the chapels.

In order for this work to be undertaken, it will unfortunately involve the two current chapels being closed for a 6-week period from 29th July to 8th September 2019.

Whilst the upgrade works are taking place, we will create a professional temporary chapel in the grounds of the crematorium to host funeral services. It will be located on a grassed area adjacent to the overflow carpark at Thornhill Crematorium.

The marquee structure will have solid floors and walls; be carpeted throughout; have glazed double doors at the entrance and exit; include feature lighting and be laid out appropriately for funeral services. It will have a dedicated audio system to enable digital music to be provided. Temporary toilet facilities, including disabled provision, will also be provided and located in the main car park. In order to meet capacity needs, Saturday services in the temporary chapel will be available at no additional cost to minimise waiting times for funerals.

In addition to the temporary chapel at Thornhill Crematorium, we will also be offering our Cathays Cemetery chapel for funeral services. Once the upgrade works are completed, we will be able to provide much more modern and improved chapels and facilities for the bereaved.

Western Cemetery

On 27th June 2019, I attended the official opening of the new meeting shelter for the Muslim community at Western Cemetery. The £20,000 shelter, which will provide protection from bad weather for visitors to the cemetery wanting to pray or waiting for burial services to commence, has been funded by generous donations from local mosques, business and community leaders and delivered in partnership with the Council.

'Everyone in Cardiff is Doing It!'

A social media campaign began last month to complement the operational work of the Council's Waste Education team to improve how residents manage their household waste. Under a new 'Everyone in Cardiff is Doing It!' brand, the campaign's main objectives are to maximise recycling and to reduce the contamination of recycled materials. As at 10th July 2019, the campaign had generated 992 clicks through the A-Z of Recycling page on the Council's webpage. The campaign will continue to run over the summer, phased in monthly themes. Members can help share the campaign messages on Twitter by searching for #CardiffRecycles and re-tweeting the Cardiff Council tweets.

Cardiff is the best recycling city in the UK and recycling is improvement every year. However, this year's recycling target requires everyone in Cardiff to be doing their bit to recycle wherever possible, be it in the home or at recycling centres. To help us achieve this, we have already introduced Education Stations at our Household Waste Recycling Centres and will be monitoring properties across the city to ensure that everybody is maximising what they recycle.

Our monitoring teams will set out early in the morning on collection days to monitor participation and also the quality of the recycling presented. Residents will then receive notices that are coloured either Green (Thank you for recycling); Amber (You could do more; here's how) or a Red (You need to start recycling; here's how we can help). Those households that remain in the Red category may be subject to enforcement action.

This work follows on from a similar regional campaign that was undertaken

earlier this year. Following that exercise, we saw an increase in the number of households shifting from the Red and Amber categories up to either Amber or Green. It will also support improved street scene across the city as food contamination within household waste is the prime reason why birds and vermin rip bags apart, which then blights our streets with litter until cleansing teams clean the street. Residents need to ensure that they undertake food recycling and clean or wash out their recycling waste to support the processing of quality recycled materials.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
12 July 2019