

COUNCIL: 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

BSI PAS402 Environmental Standard

The Waste Transfer Station has received the BSI PAS402 Environmental Standard and Cardiff Council is the first local authority in the UK to achieve the standard.

The BSI PAS402 Environmental Standard provides waste management organisations with specifications for performance reporting in order to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, to increase reuse and recycling of waste and to encourage business improvements. The reporting specification sets out the framework to demonstrate key areas of delivery, including landfill diversion and material recovery. By attaining this standard and becoming certified, waste contractors and clients can be assured that waste is being managed by an approved company that is dedicated to protecting the environment.

Beware the Waste Cowboys

Last month, the Council launched a new campaign to remind residents that they are responsible for disposing of their waste correctly and could face steep fines if waste is fly-tipped by unregistered waste carriers. The launch took place outside City Hall where four tonnes of fly-tipped waste appeared on 8th August 2019, sparking a wave of social media enquiries and extensive media coverage about where the waste came from and how it could have been allowed to get dumped in front of one of Cardiff's most famous buildings. It was later revealed that the rubbish was placed there by the Council to highlight the same amount of fly-tipped waste that the Council's teams have to pick up off the city's streets and lanes every day. The campaign also warns residents to beware and to avoid using illegal or cowboy waste disposal companies, which results in their waste being subsequently fly-tipped. This not only damages the local environment, but costs taxpayers thousands of pounds for it to be cleaned up.

Waste Communication and Engagement

Recycle Week (23rd-29th September 2019) – the Council will engage in daily internal communications and social media activity, working in conjunction with WRAP Cymru. The Waste Enforcement Team has also planned outreach activity, including at schools and universities.

Love When You Leave – social media activity is planned for the return of students to Cardiff for the start of the new academic year. This will include recycling advice and tips, including the provision of links to download the Cardiff Gov App for reminders of waste collection dates. We will also be further promoting the App and providing household waste and recycling information during Freshers' Week later this month.

Leave Only Pawprints – this campaign is a non-confrontational and friendly initiative to help change attitudes and behaviours around dog fouling. Dog owners and their dogs sign up to become local Champions and can be recognised by small 'Leave Only Pawprint' badges that they and their dogs can wear. They carry extra bags so if another dog owner does not have one, they can ask a Champion.

'Poo Count' – in advance of the launch of the Leave Only Pawprints campaign, we also want to work with volunteers to identify how much dog fouling is present in certain areas of the city to measure the impact of the campaign and to identify dog fouling hotspots. Similar work has been undertaken successfully in other local authorities.

Registration Services in Hubs

There is a legal requirement to register a new birth within 42 days and to register a death within 5 days. Registering must be done in person with a Registrar. It cannot be done online by any individual. Birth registrations are currently undertaken at City Hall, with a small number each week also being registered at University Hospital Wales where we mainly register deaths and stillbirths. City Hall can be difficult to get to for many customers, either by public transport or by car, with parking in the area both limited and expensive.

In order to improve accessibility for residents, we will be piloting the provision of registration services from a number of Hubs across the city. The initial pilot involves the following Hubs on specific days of the week, which were determined based on the availability of appropriate facilities:

- Fairwater Hub Monday (from 9am)
- Llandaff North Hub Tuesday (from 9am)
- St Mellons Hub Wednesday (from 10am)

The pilot will commence the week commencing 4th November 2019 and will be reviewed in due course with the view of rolling out these services to more Hubs in the future.

Thornhill Crematorium Chapel Refurbishment

As members will be aware, a complete refurbishment of the two chapels at Thornhill Crematorium is currently ongoing and the chapels are scheduled to re-open on Monday 23rd September 2019. These works include the complete redecoration of both chapels; installation of air conditioning; new flooring; new seating; new lighting features and curtains; new catafalques; new lecterns and book stands; remodelling works to the larger chapel; refurbishment of two waiting rooms and the replacement and extension of covered areas outside of the chapels. This work will result in a superb, modern facility that is befitting of the Capital City of Wales.

Whilst these works are ongoing, services are taking place in a temporary professional structure erected within the grounds at Thornhill Crematorium and I can confirm that there have been no significant issues to date. Once the works are completed, I look forward to welcoming members to a re-dedication ceremony to be held at the chapels in October 2019.

Public Health Funeral Provision

In cases where it appears that no suitable funeral arrangements are being made for anyone who has died in Cardiff, the Council has a legal duty to arrange the funeral under the provisions of the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984. The cost to the Council for undertaking Public Health funerals is significant and, in order to reduce this cost, Bereavement Services has reviewed its process for how Public Health funerals are delivered. Since July 2019, Bereavement Services are no longer contracting a funeral director for this service and the funeral is arranged and conducted directly by Bereavement Services staff, thereby resulting in a real cost saving for the Council.

Bereavement Services – Award Finalists

I am pleased to announce that Bereavement Services have been named as finalists in the APSE Service Team of the Year Awards for Cemeteries and Crematoria. Thornhill Cemetery and Crematorium has also been named as a finalist in the prestigious Cemetery of the Year Awards in the Large Cemetery category. This is an excellent achievement for a service that is committed to improving standards for the citizens of Cardiff and I want to wish the service and staff the very best of luck in the awards, for which the winners are due to be announced later this month.

RSPCA PawPrints Awards

RSPCA Cymru have recently confirmed that Cardiff Dogs Home has been successful in this year's PawPrints Awards – formerly the Community Animal Welfare Footprint (CAWF) Awards. I am pleased to announce that the Dogs Home won Gold again in the Stray Dogs Footprint category and Silver in the Kennelled Dogs Footprint category. The Dogs Home has won Gold for the last few years in the Stray Dogs Footprint category, but the Kennelled Dog Footprint is a new category that has only been introduced this year. The awards will be presented by the Welsh Government Minister for Environment, Energy & Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths AM, at the Senedd on Monday 23rd September 2019.

Councillor Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
6 September 2019