

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 14 OCTOBER 2015**

### **WASTE POLICY TEAM**

#### Waste Policy update

1. As usual, green waste collections will cease at the end of October and we shall be reminding residents of this through the usual media routes. Residents with green waste can still get it composted by taking it to either the Household Waste Recycling site at Haverton Hill or the green waste container at Newham Grange Leisure Farm Coulby Newham. Start dates for commencement in 2016 will be published in due course.
2. Work continues with the Street Champion's initiative, working with local residents across the Town to assist the Council in maintaining environmental standards and seeking local community support to keep their local streets / alleys in good order.

#### Recycling

3. The TUPE processes to bring kerbside recycling back in-house is on target and the Council will be taking over collections from 6th October 2015, Due process and full consultation has taken place in respect of the staff concerned and the public will not see any noticeable difference in their collection arrangements.

#### Enforcement

4. In September 2015 officers from the Environmental Crimes Unit responded to complaints of renovation waste, which included brick, rubble, doors, and household fixtures and fittings, abandoned in alleyways across the University and Gresham areas of Middlesbrough. Following an investigation a misunderstanding between a student housing company and their renovations contractor was found to be the cause. Multiple piles of waste were subsequently removed by the housing company, under the watch of the Enforcement team, and local residents.

### **ENVIRONMENT SERVICES**

#### Area Care

5. Works to fell, top or remove dead wood from ten trees situated within Stewart Park commenced on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Two of the trees, which are moribund with no chance of recovery, are to be 'topped' allowing for enhancement of wildlife habitat within the park. The felled trees will be replaced in the near future.

#### Response to Flooding

6. The Council's Highways Maintenance and Area Care teams responded effectively to the sustained torrential rainfall and associated flooding of becks, carriageways, gullies and footways on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. Crews were active from 4-00am throughout the day and responded to 42 requests to specific flooded areas and numerous additional calls for assistance. Despite this no major instances of property damage or disruption were encountered, the most significant issue being the temporary closure of South Bank Road, which was closed during the morning rush hour period and reopened at approximately 1-00pm. The staff and managers who worked so hard during this difficult period have been thanked for their efforts.

#### Response to Graffiti

7. Environment staff recently responded extremely rapidly to a significant outbreak of offensive graffiti in the Hemlington area, which attracted significant attention from the Police and local media. All of the offensive areas were cleansed on the same day as being reported with a small number of minor instances being mopped up in the following days.

#### Winter Preparedness

8. Workshop staff have now fully recommissioned the gritting fleet and salt stocks have been replenished in advance of the approaching winter weather. Staff and management duty rotas are in place in order to ensure the highway network remains free from ice in sub-zero temperatures, and is subjected to the minimum of disruption should severe winter weather be encountered.