
Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Report by Cllr Peter Stevens Waste and Property Portfolio	
Report No:	COU/SE/14/005 [to be completed by Democratic Services]	
Report to and date/s:	Council	16 December 2014
Portfolio includes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Areas• Waste• Street Scene• Grounds Maintenance• Environmental Management• Property and Asset Management	

1. Waste and Street Scene Services

1.1 Success at National Awards for Fly-tipping campaign

Over the summer the Suffolk Waste Partnership launched "Operation Tip Off" which included multi-agency crack down days to identify and discourage potential fly-tippers and a communications campaign to encourage members of the public to use reputable companies for waste collection. The campaign was recognized as a best practice approach to working in partnership at the prestigious national Chartered Institution of Waste Management awards held in November.

The campaign is continuing with further stop and search events to be held in early December.

In addition there was a successful prosecution against DE Panels Ltd who was fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £612.50 and a victim surcharge of £50 for allowing waste paint in their control to be transferred to a third party who fly tipped it.

1.2 Launch of new recycling service

The new contract with Viridor Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) started on 1 November 2014. Residents can now recycle aerosols, books, metal pots and saucepans and cartons in their blue bins. This is in addition to plastic bottles, tubs and trays, paper, cardboard, cans, foil and textiles that were collected under the previous contract. Information leaflets detailing the changes have been sent to all households across Suffolk featuring Bernie the bin man. There

is also an informative website and video which at the time of preparing this report has had over 12,000 views on YouTube.

1.3 Community Action

We engaged with members of the public at a recycling roadshow outside Moyse's Hall in Bury St Edmunds to answer questions and give information about the new recycling service. Feedback from residents on the new service and the promotional material produced has been very positive.

Officers have also been engaging with staff at RAF Honington to encourage better recycling behavior. At a meeting with Group Captain Miller and 140 RAF officers, we gave information about the local recycling scheme and explained what happened to the materials collected and their economic and environmental value.

Support has been given to the Priory School in Bury St Edmunds following their success in a competition to win a specialist composting bin for food waste. They are currently measuring the amount of food waste they can put into the bin and results about how much waste has been diverted from disposal will be reported back.

Working in Partnership with the local police, Councillors Patrick Chung and Sarah Stamp and local schools, officers organized the hugely successful Southgate Community litter pick. Approximately 20 bags of litter were collected by the volunteers.

2. Environmental Management

2.1 Support to improve energy efficiency, save money and reduce community carbon emissions

The Borough Council is a founder member of the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership which formed in 2009. The Partnership works to support Suffolk's communities, businesses and residents to realise the economic benefits of reducing energy consumption, adapt to the future impacts of climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

Project work has provided direct financial benefits of more than £675,000 to residents, businesses and communities in the Borough over the last five years. One of the Partnership's services provides resource efficiency audits for Suffolk's small and medium-sized businesses and social enterprises. The audits give the business an overview of the size and cost of its carbon footprint and makes recommended prioritised actions for reducing energy spend and carbon emissions.

Since the service began in 2008, there have been 78 business audits in the Borough identifying more than £453,000 of potential annual energy savings and 2,994 tonnes of carbon emissions.

The annual cost to the Council of this and other services provided by the Partnership is £12,857.

3. **Property & Asset Management**

Lettings have recently been agreed for two vacant industrial units in Bunting Road at Moreton Hall. This has reduced the number of vacant industrial units in Bury St Edmunds to three whilst units in Haverhill remain fully let.

We have agreed new terms for the continued occupation of Nowton Nursery and this new arrangement has included the ancillary occupation of the Gardener's Cottage.

In terms of private retail lettings within Bury, Paddy and Scotts have opened their new coffee shop on Abbeygate Street in premises formerly occupied by the West Cornwall Pasty Company, whilst Hart Estate Agents have established themselves at 59 Cornhill. Building work continues to progress on the conversion of the former Collis & Sons jewellers in Abbeygate Street.

4. **Rural Affairs**

Rural Initiative Grants Scheme (RIGS) 2014 / 2015

At the time of writing, 27 November 2014, a total of £38,762 had been allocated to rural projects across the Borough through the Rural Initiative Grants Scheme. Projects were mainly focused on enhancing village play facilities and other rural community facilities. The following areas have all been supported by this grant: Stanton Church Rooms, Rougham Playing field Association, Barrow Village Hall, Wickhambrook First Responders, Bardwell Playing Field Association and Cavendish Cricket Club. There is £67,444 remaining for other Rural Initiative Grant Schemes.