

Council



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Report by Cllr Peter Stevens Waste and Property Portfolio	
Report No:	COU/SE/15/005 [to be completed by Democratic Services]	
Report to and date/s:	Council	24 February 2015
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 Operations

1.1.1 Operational staff worked hard over the Christmas period to make sure the extra waste generated by families over the festivities was collected. This included working over three weekends to catch up after the bank holidays, so our thanks must go to them for maintaining high levels of service.

1.1.2 Work is underway to make the collection of brown bins more efficient, which result in savings of £135 000. Working with the council's GIS team using mapping information on our rounds, Officers have identified that by redesigning the routes the brown bin collection vehicles take one vehicle can be removed from the road. The changes will affect approximately 25 000 homes who will be informed by addressed letters delivered the week commencing 23 February. Further information showing the areas affected will be placed on the website and the changes will come in to place the week commencing 9 March 2015.

1.2 Enforcement

1.2.1 Officers have continued with their award winning project – "Operation tip-off" working with the Police to identify vehicles illegally transporting waste across the borough. These offenders are most likely candidates to fly-tip waste, so this proactive work will get the message out that illegal operators are not welcome in Suffolk.

1.3 **Community Action**

- 1.3.1 Officers have been working with the probation service to improve the appearance of Kempson and Dettingen Way in Bury St Edmunds. Over eight sessions during December and January, probationers spent 280 hours edging paths, pruning hedges and trees and litter picking. 26 bags of litter were cleared along with over 6 skips worth of green waste.
- 1.3.2 Community groups have started getting ready for the annual Suffolk Spring Clean by booking litter picking equipment through council Officers. Any group wishing to arrange a litter pick in their local area can call and book equipment such as litter picking sticks, gloves, high-vis vests and hoops and also arrange for the waste to be collected afterwards through our waste and street scene services team.
- 1.3.3 Talks have been given at three schools within the borough to educate children on the process involved in recycling all of the materials we collect through the blue bin scheme. Two of the schools have eco-clubs who showed particular interest in the work officers do.
- 1.3.4 Lastly, just before Christmas Officers arranged for 2 pallets of soft toys to be delivered to the YMCA in Haverhill. The toys had been collected from service families moving house and were donated in time to be redistributed before Christmas.

2. Environmental Management

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

- 2.1.1 Improvements in energy efficiency deliver immediate savings generally with short financial paybacks. In addition, achieving certain levels of building energy efficiency is a requirement for the highest renewable energy tariffs.
- 2.1.2 With Forest Heath District Council, we launched the West Suffolk Greener Business Grant in 2011 to support local businesses to become more energy efficient. Since the launch of the Greener Business Grant, we have helped 51 local organisations in the Borough improve their energy efficiency delivering predicted annual energy savings of £57,000 and over £880,000 lifetime savings.
- 2.1.3 From a total grant pot award of £44,000, this demonstrates excellent value for money. The Council agreed in December 2014 to top up the grant pot by £15,000 to allow us to support more businesses in the Borough.

3. Property & Asset Management

3.1 Estates Management

3.1.1 Haverhill - In Strasbourg Square Haverhill, on the Chalkstone estate, a regeneration project is under way to provide much needed improvements to the safety and aesthetics of the original 1970's square around the parade of shops which should be finished by the summer. The Chalkstone and Leiston Community centers are currently the subject of a proposed community asset transfers to the River of Life Church and the Town Council respectively. The Commercial units on Hollands road remain fully let and further commercial development activity is anticipated on the nearby Haverhill Business park with the disposal of the remaining parcels of land coming forward.

3.1.2 Bury St Edmunds - An empty retail unit at 99 Risbygate street has attracted much interest and it is anticipated that a new tenant will take occupation at the end of February.

The temporary relocation of the popular scout and guide shop from the Guildhall to a more accessible location with car parking at Lake Avenue has been confirmed as permanent .

Generally it has been announced that scaffolding which has covered Cupola House for the last 3 years since a devastating fire took hold will be reduced in size shortly to give some relief to the tenants in the Buttermarket and improve the vista generally.

4. Rural Affairs

4.1 Rural Initiative Grant Scheme (RIGS)

4.1.1 Applications for this grant may be made throughout the year, although an individual organisation cannot re-apply for funding from the council within two years of a grant being awarded for up to £4,000 and three years for grants approved between £4,001 and 10,000. All applications are considered by the Grant Working Party which will normally consider grants through an email voting system.

4.1.2 Funding allocated for financial year 2014/15 is as follows:

Organisation	Activity	Funding Approved
Lidgate Parish Council	Play facilities	£2,909.00
Barrow Village Hall	Play facilities	£10,000.00
Barrow Archery Club	Community activities	£1,500.00
Great Barton Parish Council	New village sign	£2,000.00
Honington and Sapiston Village Hall	New kitchen	£6,303.00
Rougham Playing Field Association	Defibrillator	£948.00

Organisation	Activity	Funding Approved
Bradfield St Clare Village Hall	Improved community facilities	£450.00
All Saints Church Rooms, Stanton	Improved community facilities	£2,185.00
Bradfield Combust Village Hall	Exterior restoration	£4,000.00
Pakenham Parish Council	Defibrillator	£500.00