

CABINET STATEMENT

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR KYRLE

Waste

Throughout COVID19 the waste operatives have received a range of messages of support and gifts from the Public reflecting the feelings of appreciation from residents across the borough, for their continuing work during the health emergency.

Residents have made great strides with recycling, following the successful pre-Covid re-launch of our Food Waste service, and increasing numbers of households who have been taking up our garden waste offer, which is great news.

We are developing proposals to create a Tree Nursery scheme, which will help enable us to deliver 160k trees by the end of the decade.

Climate and Environmental Emergency

Last month Cabinet agreed an update to the Climate and Environment Emergency Action Plan, stepping up our response to this very important issue. There has also been a good response to the new Climate Manager Role, announced at the last Full Council, which we are hoping to recruit to shortly. We have also expanded our Ecology team which will enable more work to be done on the Biodiversity Action plan and deliver more work in this important area.

Local Response

The wider position within Local Area Services, has resulted in officers assisting with the Local Recovery, supporting vulnerable residents and even helping provide celebration food to care homes for VE Day. Animal Welfare continues to be better supported, with key staff gaining their professional qualifications.

Country Parks

The Country Parks are incredibly important to nature and the health and wellbeing of our residents, both parks and trails have remained open throughout lockdown. To facilitate this the team have increased site patrols to provide a greater visual presence for the public and to help reduce an increase in anti-social behaviour and littering. This has been well received by the public with the team receiving superb feedback from members of the public:

- My boys will be so happy they love exploring the woods and seeing the cows. Hope all are safe and well and you have a good rest of week ☺
- Thank you for keeping your car parks open so we can responsibly walk our dog. As a NHS worker I need some down time with my dog before facing another shift. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.
- Still all quiet- thank you for remaining open - grateful NHS worker x
- Meant to also say the staff are always friendly and helpful, especially when I'm trying to juggle a pram, hot drink and hyper five year old so please pass along my thanks ☺

- Thank you for staying open - you have been a lifeline for me
- Thank you for staying open - you have been nothing short of a life saver and yes, once a day for me.
- We have just been there, very well monitored, everyone very respectful.
- Was very quiet today / thank you / as NHS worker need your top field x

More recently the Toilets, Play Areas and Café have re-opened to the public at both Country Parks. Tenants across both parks have returned to operations and many were supported to provide modified services as quickly as possible as government guidance changed.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all our Waste and Street Scene Operatives, Officers in Direct Services, the Countryside Service and Officers across the Council for all their hard work during this difficult time, which I know is very much appreciated by residents within our communities and across the whole Borough.