

Environment and Climate Change Portfolio**Councillor Helen E Skinner****Portfolio Holder's Report to Council – 12 October 2022****Environment:**

The Environment team has been working very hard on its commitment to engage with residents on green issues and increase biodiversity in the Borough. A number of good things have been taking place which demonstrates the commitment to improving the Borough for our residents. A flavour of the good work which has happened includes:

Climate Change Strategy Review

As we all should be well aware the Council has committed to being carbon neutral by 2027. The Council's Climate Strategy and Green Futures programme was written in 2020. It contains a Carbon Management Action Plan that has 15 themes containing 145 actions. Over 90% of the actions are completed or in progress.

Given the progression and in light of the ever changing circumstances. The strategy requires a review. It is anticipated that a draft document will be complete for review by the end of the calendar year. The Council's carbon emissions for 2021/22 will also be reported to Members in due course following final data verification.

Free Trees

As part of the Council's continued commitment to tree planting a further 750 fruit trees will be on offer to Broxtowe residents from the beginning of October, as the Council's successful free tree giveaway returns for 2022.

Broxtowe residents can apply for an apple, pear or plum tree to plant in their own garden. In order to qualify for the free tree, householder must have signed up to Green Rewards platform.

Residents who have previously received a free tree from the Council are kindly asked to not apply again, as this allows other residents the chance to get a free tree.

This is the fourth year that the Council have run the scheme, which is part of the Council's Green Futures and Climate Change Campaign and is one of many initiatives that will help tackle Climate Change.

Since it began in 2019, 2250 trees will have been given away for residents to plant at home. These trees bring the total of trees the Council has planted since 2008 to over 130,000 – that's more than one for every resident in the Borough.

Green Rewards

Green Rewards now has 4,249 members. 1,182 households within Broxtowe have signed up to Green Rewards accounting for 28% of the platforms users. Broxtowe has the more households subscribed to Green Rewards than any other Nottinghamshire District, including the Nottingham City area.

I am pleased to report that to date Broxtowe residents have undertaken 24,456 actions and have avoided emitting 58 tonnes of carbon.

As we move into year 2, the group over-seeing the Green Rewards project will be looking to include further incentives, such as travel and retailer discounts, to encourage member sign ups and continued engagement. The group are also looking to include local businesses as well as schools on the platform.

Green Festival Events

The last Green Festival event of the year took place on the 24 September 2022 at Hall Om Wong in Kimberley. The events throughout the year have proved popular and form a key part of the Councils commitment to engage with our residents on green issues. This is the first year the Council has held Green Festival events across the Borough. As part of the continual improvement process an event review meeting is planned for the near future so that these events can be enhanced for our residents next year.

Community Litterpicks

Since April 2022 the Environment team have organised 33 green events across the borough. These events include presentations to local groups and schools and community litter picks. If Members are interested in arranging a local litter pick for their area then please contact neighbourhood.wardens@broxtowe.gov.uk or waste@broxtowe.gov.uk

New Pocket Park

On 28 September 2022 the Mayor of Broxtowe officially opened the new Ghost House Lane Pocket Park, Chilwell. The new 'pocket park' includes seating and a picnic area and complements the adjacent green space at Inham Nook Recreation Ground. The story of the Ghost House is well known locally, following a series of strange happenings that led people to believe the area was haunted.

A local chainsaw sculptor has created a special log carving to reflect the site's spooky history and wildflowers were planted at the site with the help of pupils from local primary schools.

Garden waste

From 1 October, the price of the garden waste subscription is reduced for the remainder of the garden season. Whilst garden waste tonnages have been impacted this year by the restricted growing season, with tonnages being down by 15% primarily due to the dry hot summer we have had, this mid-season offer provides a great opportunity for our residents who may want to take advantage of an additional bin at a reduced rate to help with additional garden waste which is generated in the autumn due to the leaf fall.

Fuel Prices

As you will be aware nationally there is an issue with fuel and energy prices. Fuel prices are currently on average around 32% higher than the previous year. The impact of the additional cost of fuel is being reviewed with revised budgets being calculated for the year.

Air Quality

DEFRA has approved the Air Quality Status Report submitted in June 2022 and approved by Cabinet.

In anticipation of the possible increased use of open fires and wood burners over the coming months as people try to minimise fuel bills, we have done some communications on this to try and minimise the adverse impact on neighbours and try and reduce complaints that we have to deal with in respect of this.