

**ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO
COUNCILLOR HELEN SKINNER****Portfolio Holder's Report to Council– 14 December 2022**

The Environment team has been working very hard on its commitment to engage with residents on green issues, increase biodiversity in the Borough and the delivery of the frontline services. 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:

Leaf Fall

The Autumn and Winter months are always a busy time for the street cleansing teams due to the annual leaf fall. The programme of activity primarily focuses on strategic leaf fall routes keeping carriageways and gullies clear. Other priority areas include high footfall areas, such as town centres and main pedestrian routes. Whilst the work is planned and scheduled there can be challenges during periods of bad weather when high winds result in an acceleration of the leaf fall. Please can Members report any areas of concern to the Environment Team.

Chewing Gum removal funding

In the summer of 2022 the Environment team were extremely pleased to find out that they had been successful with their bid to the Chewing Gum Task Force. The £15k grant enabled the Environment Team to purchase equipment for gum removal. Teams are currently working across the four town centres to remove the worst of the gum staining. This work will be followed up with new behaviour change signage which will be erected to encourage visitors to the town centres not to drop gum. Previous pilots in other areas resulted in a 64% reduction in gum littering following the erection of the signage.

Climate Strategy Refresh

In July 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and committed to become carbon neutral by 2027 for its own operations. In 2020 the Climate Change and Green Futures programme was established to assist in the delivery of this ambition. Since 2018/19 the Council has seen a 16% reduction in its carbon emissions, which is very positive but we still have much more to do.

The current climate change strategy is nearly three years old, with 90% of its actions either having now been completed or in progress. To ensure that the strategy, and the subsequent Carbon Management Plan, are as current as possible, the key documents, strands and actions are currently in the process of being reviewed and refreshed. The revised Climate Change Strategy will go to Cabinet in March 2023 for Members to approve

We have all experienced this year the impacts that climate change can bring. The summer months of 2022 were some of the driest on record and the fourth hottest ever recorded. On the 19 July 2022, the Met office issued its first ever red weather warning and the UK also recorded its highest ever temperature of 40.3°C.

Green Rewards and Free Trees

Across the current Nottinghamshire platform there are 5,466 Green Reward members, who have undertaken 126,566 actions, which has avoided emitting 325 tonnes of carbon.

From a Broxtowe perspective our registration level is over 2,000 households which shows how committed and invested our residents are in tackling climate change.

Broxtowe residents have:

- Avoided emitting 75 tonnes of carbon
- Actively travelled 31,484 miles (by walking, cycling)
- Travelled 37,915 miles by public transport
- Saved enough water to fill 23,037 baths by having a 4-minute shower
- By washing at 30°C saved enough energy to power 658 average homes for the day.

Broxtowe's free tree offering this year was partnered with Green Rewards. The scheme this year proved very popular with 750 trees to give away. Residents had a choice of either plum, apple or a pear tree. Applications operated on a first come first served basis and applicants will hear if they have been successful in the next couple of weeks. Residents will have their free tree delivered in late January 2023.

D2N2 Shared Charging Network

The Council are currently looking into working in partnership with Nottingham City Council and other D2N2 partners for access to a shared electric vehicle charging network across Nottinghamshire.

The costs for the installation of an extra four electric vehicle charging points at Kimberley Depot are able to be funded through the Future Transport Zones funding which was awarded to Nottingham City. Becoming part of D2N2 shared network will enable the Council, and other partner organisations, to charge electric vehicles at different destinations with the electricity costs being invoiced directly back to the relevant organisation.

Trees

The Council has recently taken delivery of over 90 trees. The trees have been supplied for the start of the winter planting programme with 69 of the trees being allocated through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. The Council was awarded over £29k through this fund to plant and maintain the 69 trees. This is the second year in succession that the Council has been successful in securing funding through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund.

On Friday 25 November 2022 there was a tree planting event at Chetwynd Road Open Space as part of the Queens Green Canopy initiative. Fifteen trees were planted together with a mixture of smaller plants and bulbs. The event was attended by the Mayor, local Members and children from Chetwynd Spencer Academy and was very well received by all.

The Queens Green Canopy is a nationwide initiative to create a living legacy with a target of over a million trees being planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Chetwynd Road Open Space will join Coronation Park and Queens Elizabeth's Park as sites where trees have been planted for the Queens Green Canopy.

Christmas

Christmas is nearly here and it's at this of year we all buy presents for our loved ones. 45% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions relate to the things we buy, how we use them, and how we dispose of them. By recycling, re-using items, cutting food waste or not buying things in the first place we can all make this year's Christmas a more sustainable one. Making small change adds up to a big difference, so if you are not sure if an item can go in the recycling bin, this can either be checked online using Broxtowe's A to Z of waste, or, check the front of the new bin collection calendar which has recently been delivered to all householders.