

## **Portfolio for Community Safety Councillor H Faccio**

### **Report to Council – 9 October 2024**

#### **Hot Spot Patrols**

Funding of £19,291.66 over 2024/25 was successfully applied for through the Police for Hot Spot Patrols in Eastwood to address ASB, Violence and Environmental ASB. Patrols are being delivered by Communities and Environment Officers.

#### **Safer Streets 5**

The two Help Points in Beeston will be installed in October/November with the delay due to a newer version being produced with the capability of web access. Car park ticket advertising has been purchased with the underspend and these will be installed into the machines when they are next topped-up.

#### **Potassium**

There has been a successful bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund the Potassium project delivered in Beeston last year in the north of the Borough for 9 months from July 2024.

#### **Counter Terrorism**

The 2024/25 Nottinghamshire Counter Terrorism Local Profile is being produced and a countywide workshop is being held to identify content for the Broxtowe Situational Risk Assessment which will be produced before the end of the year.

#### **Golden Triangle of Protection – Social Media Webinar**

A series of three successful webinars took place week commencing 8 July 2024 aimed at parents, teachers and community groups. The webinars addressed how social media can negatively affect young people backed with research and gave practical tips to approach this subject. The webinars were led by University of Oxford, Doctoral Research Fellow, Ellen Froustis, MEd, MA, DPhil (C).

A total of 44 people registered their interest in the webinar and slides were distributed to primary and secondary schools in Broxtowe Borough. Parents, teachers and community groups found the sessions useful and commented on the importance of addressing the influence social media has on young people. Ellen also included her intern Amelia as a young voice to share her thoughts to parents, teachers and community groups.

## Equation GREAT Project

Equation is a specialist provider of Relationships Education and has funding from the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver it's GREAT (Good Relationships Are Equal and Trusting) Project and the Equate Project to all Primary and Secondary Schools in Broxtowe and Rushcliffe.

The GREAT Project is delivered to year 5 or 6 classes over a period of 4 weeks (2 hours per week). The project covers topics such as healthy relationships, domestic abuse, gender equality in a sensitive and age-appropriate way, leaving the children equipped with support services if ever needed. The project is positive and fun, filled with activities and engaging video content. To find out more and book in, please contact [ilda@equation.org.uk](mailto:ilda@equation.org.uk) - GREAT Project Coordinator.

Equate is delivered to Secondary School classes or assemblies. Some of the topics covered are: Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships, Gender Equality, Personal Space, Consent and Controlling Behaviours. The hour-long sessions are engaging and positive. To find out more, please contact [molly@equation.org.uk](mailto:molly@equation.org.uk) - Equate Project Coordinator.

## Night Angel

The Night Angel Project is continuing providing personal safety, Strut Safe and Ask Angela information. Anti-spiking straws, anti-spiking glass covers and personnel alarms have also been distributed to members of the public enjoying the night time economy.

## White Ribbon

This year's White Ribbon 16 days of action' events are being set up with the White Ribbon Flag Raising being a key event, we have confirmation of attendance by the mayor, several partner organisations and elected members. Stapleford Town Council are also holding a Flag Raising event giving greater coverage across the Borough.

White Ribbon informational materials are now available around several venues in the Borough including surgeries, churches and leisure centres.

A White Ribbon presentation was given to the Annual Parish Council Meeting and parishes were encouraged to get involved and spread the message where possible.

The White Ribbon message has been promoted across the Borough through promotion and information stands at a variety of local community events to ensure that we are raising awareness of the campaign as much as possible.

## **Heathy Relationships Teaching in Schools**

Members of the Communities Team alongside Broxtowe Women's Project and a White Ribbon Ambassador will be visiting schools on the lead up to White Ribbon Day in November. Workshops, assemblies and the chance to paint 'kindness rocks' will be delivered to Lawrence View School, Priory Catholic School and Springbank. These sessions focus on teaching young people about healthy relationships, what is and isn't appropriate in relationships and how to act with kindness towards other people.

## **Sanctuary Scheme**

Broxtowe Sanctuary Scheme is running effectively and all policies and procedures relating to the sanctuary scheme have recently been updated in line with a County-wide effort to standardise procedures across the County and Broxtowe has recently taken over the task of undertaking property assessments from the Police.

There has been a notable uptick in sanctuary applications this year. It is not yet clear what the cause is, as it could be due to housing shortages making staying in a property the best option or that the new standardised and streamlined process has made it clearer to DA workers when/if they should apply.

## **Serious Violence Duty**

The South Notts Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Response Plan is on track for being completed and a countywide workshop is being hosted in October by the Violence Reduction Partnership to assist countywide organisations to input into all CSP Response Plans.

## **Environmental Health**

### **Food Safety and Infectious Disease Control**

The inspection plan for 2024/25 is on track to meet the yearly inspections. There is a peak of inspections due January-March 2025 due to bunching of inspections following COVID-19. The team is working to bring some of these inspections forward for inspection to ensure a more even spread of visits throughout this and future years.

The turnover of businesses and number of new food businesses continues to impact the team. There have been 60 new food business registration forms received since 1 April 2024. Officers are finding that many of these new businesses require assistance prior to opening due to lack of food safety knowledge, adding to their workload.

There has been seven reportable disease notifications and investigations for July and August, which has included one confirmed Legionella case requiring water sampling at their home address to attempt to find the source of the infection. These samples are currently being processed by the laboratory.

Regular monthly food and environmental sampling has taken place with officers following national sampling plans. Whole raw shell eggs (non-Lion Branded) and pre-packed cheeses are the current projects and re-sampling at a butchers (environmental swabbing and food samples) has also taken place following poor results earlier this year.

### **Health and Safety/Special Projects**

There have been six reportable accidents at businesses where the Council is the enforcing authority for health and safety over the last two months. These are being investigated by Officers.

As a response to the events at Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull and East Riding, the government requested the assistance of Councils to check on all funeral directors and premises in their area. There is currently no national oversight or regulation of the sector apart from general health and safety legislation enforced by local authority health & safety inspectors. The Borough has 11 funeral homes split between five providers (two national companies, one regional company and one local company) ranging in size from a small office with a chapel of rest to larger premises that include storage of the deceased and mortuary facilities (one with chilled storage for up to 96 people). The team responded to the request to check on:

- dignity of the deceased,
- fair practice in the selling of pre-paid funeral plans,
- traceability of the deceased and their possessions throughout, including the final collection of ashes; and
- general health and safety and infection control.

All eleven sites were visited in July and August and 2-3 hour audits undertaken with full co-operation from managers/owners of the businesses. They were all found to be well run with the care and traceability of the deceased the primary aim of the providers. A couple of health and safety issues were noted at two funeral homes and officers are working with these premises to ensure the safety of their employees. The results of the project will be fed back to government and will aid in deciding on what future regulation, if any, is placed on the industry.

### **Animal and Special Treatments Licensing**

The owner of an unlicensed commercial dog boarding kennels in the Borough has been successfully prosecuted. Officers worked with the Police and the RSPCA to bring a successful prosecution. Mr Craig Halls pleaded guilty to two offences of causing unnecessary suffering to dogs and to operating a commercial dog boarding kennels without a licence in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, between March and August 2023. He was sentenced on Wednesday 31 July 2024 to a 26-week custodial sentence, suspended for 18 months; and an indefinite disqualification order preventing him from owning, keeping, dealing and transporting any animals.

The defendant was also ordered to pay £500 costs to the RSPCA and a £1000 contribution to the Council's costs.

The team continues to receive allegations of unlicensed dog breeders and home boarders in the area. These allegations are being investigated and, if evidence of illegal activity is found, will be followed up by appropriate enforcement action. Investigation of the breeding and selling of puppies is complex with information being requested from local veterinarians, national online animal selling platforms and microchip companies to try and build a picture and prove a case.

One new home dog Breeder has been inspected and licensed in the last few months.

There are a total of eleven animal activities businesses with their licences due for renewal by the end of December 2024. Renewals have been sent out and Officers will ensure that the businesses are inspected and re-licensed.

There have been three new registration applications received for skin piercing activities in July and August (acupuncture and tattooing). One new special treatment application has been received, inspected and processed (chiropractor).

### **Environmental Health Joint Working with Other Agencies**

The team continues to work with partners within the council and at regional and national level:

- Joint working with the RSPCA and Police led to the successful prosecution of Mr Halls for animal cruelty and running a dog boarding kennels without a licence.
- Over the last 12 months' contacts have been made with local veterinarians in and around the borough to look into allegations of unlicensed dog breeders.
- The team have worked with the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and to successfully execute the funeral homes project in the Borough. This has included joint working with other Nottinghamshire Authorities to ensure a consistent and effective approach.
- The team continues to work with UKHSA, assisting in trying to locate the source of infectious disease.

### **Environmental Health – Environmental Protection**

#### Enforcement

Community Protection Warnings – 1

Community Protection Notices – 3

Abatement Notice – 1

The team continues to be responsible for over 50% of resident complaints received to the Environmental Health service. There has been a Prosecution for Breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order, and not guilty plea entered now listed for Court February 2025.

A Prosecution file has been submitted for breach of Abatement Notice, causing smoke nuisance and disposing of waste in a manner likely to cause harm to human health and/or environment. A Local property developer has been charged with five offences and the Court hearing was 9 September. This followed numerous advisory visits and warnings. An increase in bonfire and waste disposal complaints is usual during the warmer summer months.

An Abatement Notice was served relating to a Beeston pub for noise nuisance from live/amplified music and speech and failing to control external customer noise after 11pm.

Several licenced premises are causing issues locally with noise and require ongoing monitoring. Premises in Giltbrook and Kimberley are being monitored regularly at the current time and are likely to require formal action.

The smoke control order revocation has been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. Once approved a new smoke control order can be sealed and brought into effect in May 2025.

## **Licensing**

Since the last report we have received the following number of applications:

Personal Licences = 10  
Temporary Events Notices = 37  
Vary Designated Premises Supervisor = 11  
Premise Transfer = 3  
Full Variation = 2  
New Premise = 4

New taxi licences issued (June, July August)

1 new driver  
10 new vehicles

Two licensing hearings for new premise licence applications have been completed.

The Lion at Brinsley - the applicant amended the application slightly at hearing and the licence was granted with the following variations/conditions:

- The withdrawal of the provision of recorded music and live music outdoors
- All music to cease at midnight on Fridays and Saturdays only.
- Withdrawal of seasonal variations for St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St George's Day and St Andrew's Day.
- To add a condition for the management to notify neighbours of planned events that will continue past midnight.

- To add a condition not to remove and dispose of glass in the glass bins between the hours of 11pm and 7am.

The Queen's Head, Kimberley application was rejected in its entirety and here is link to the article that Notts TV, BBC and The post ran: <https://nottstv.com/new-licence-for-kimberley-pub-rejected-by-council/>

Beeston, Eastwood and Kimberley Pub watches have been attended and safeguarding training to taxi drivers has been delivered.

### **Licenced Premises Checks**

Licence premises checks are being carried out including some evening and weekend visits and joint visits with the Police Licensing Officer or Local Beat Team. This can be proactive such as during the Euros where premises were showing football or if there has been a reported issue. Whilst completing licensing checks in B&M in Beeston, the Licencing Enforcement Officer was able to apprehend a shoplifter. They are also working with B&M to ensure removal of their abandoned shopping trollies in and around the area. Spot checks and patrols have been taking place in Stapleford and Eastwood reporting any issues such as graffiti and broken glass outside licensed premises. Patrols in Eastwood are funded by the Police Hot Spot Patrol fund.

### **Taxi Spot Checks**

Taxi spot checks are being carried out on Broxtowe drivers throughout the Borough. Taxis' that are not licenced in Broxtowe such as Wolverhampton, are checked for defects and issues are reported to the appropriate Council. Spot checks on Broxtowe drivers are also being carried out in the city centre and surrounding areas.

Two Broxtowe Borough Council taxi drivers have recently had their licences revoked for public safety, one for plying for hire in the city centre and the other for an ongoing Police investigation.

### **Licensing Safeguarding Training**

Safeguarding training is being delivered for new taxi drivers and existing taxi drivers on renewal of their three-year licence. Safeguarding training including the Ask Angela Campaign and the White Ribbon information is being delivered to Pub Watch groups within the Borough. Training in Eastwood and Kimberly has already taken place and Stapleford will be delivered in early September, Beeston and Chilwell sessions will then be arranged.