

Portfolio for Community Safety Councillor H Faccio

Report to Council – 11 December 2024

Operation Potassium

On 4 October 2024 the Councils' Communities Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team and Beeston Neighbourhood Policing Team won a Police Problem Solving Award for Effective Collaboration during Operation Potassium, the Police operation in response to a rise in ASB in Beeston. The operation saw the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the ASB Team working very closely, being innovative in identifying how the problem could be resolved, coordinating work across agencies and successfully applying for funding and implementing diversionary activity. The teams were presented with a glass trophy for the Police Station and a framed certificate each by the Chief Constable Kate Maynell.

The Communities Team successfully applied for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Transform Training to deliver the youth diversionary element of Operation Potassium in the north of the Borough between July 2024 and March 2025 targeting a group of identified young people who are involved in Crime, Violence and Child Criminal Exploitation.

Safer Streets 5

All the elements of Safer Streets 5 have now been implemented with the final two projects to install help points in Beeston Square and Broadgate and purchase carpark ticket advertising for Safer Streets completed in early November.

Refugees

There have been 97 Ukraine safeguarding visits since the start of this year with most of these being rematch cases. This is a contrast from the previous year which has resulted in many more guests with positive experiences with their hosts and vice versa and a lot more guests who have moved on to independent living, even hosting their own guests and family members.

Community Cohesion Event

On 8 November the Council hosted a community cohesion event as part of the Hate Crime Action Plan 2023-2026 which was attended by 50+ guests. The event was in response to the riots earlier this year and brought together the community to celebrate diversity in Broxtowe and our refugees (Syrian, Afghan, Hong Kong, Ukraine).

Young Persons' Event

The Communities Team is working in partnership with the Police and Montrose Court Community Centre Stapleford to host a young persons' event in January, with the precise date to be confirmed. The event will share community safety messages with

young people in Broxtowe and signpost them to relevant agencies, while involving them directly in creative activities.

Kindness Tree Project

The Kindness Tree project is being delivered in partnership with Broxtowe Women's Project. The project will see a kindness tree created from messages from the community. This project was also delivered in the Community Cohesion Event as a kindness and cultural tree and attendees were encouraged to leave a message in their own language. More of these trees are expected to be created at future events and workshops in schools building up to International Women's Day which is in the first week of March 2025.

ASB and Crime

The ASB team continues to work in close partnership with local Police across both the north and south of the Borough to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime. Together, they identify hotspot areas and specific issues within communities, tackling them collectively.

Crime Prevention Advice and Resources

Crime prevention advice and resources have been distributed at events attended by either the ASB team, the Police, and partners such as the University of Nottingham's Student Outreach Team and Ambassadors, helping to enhance community outreach whilst ensuring that resources are targeted towards our hotspot areas or crime types.

As the darker nights bring us closer to Christmas and New Year's Eve, safety tips and guidance on staying safe while out and about, including advice for Christmas shopping will be available through the Council's website.

ASB Initiatives and Events

ASB Awareness Week started on 18 November 2024 with Partnership Day. The ASB team, along with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team and students from a nearby school, led a litter pick in central Beeston and nearby parks. This initiative aims to encourage the community to stand against ASB and raise awareness of actions residents can take to address and report issues.

The ASB team holds regular ASB meetings with partner agencies to review hotspots and implement actions to mitigate ASB in the Borough. This collaborative work often includes targeted, on-the-ground efforts with local organisations where applicable.

Educational Sessions

In the new year educational sessions focused on online safety and understanding sexual offences are being planned. These sessions are aimed at students in years 5 and 6, who are already often active online or very soon will be. Educating this age group on safe internet practices is essential to proactively protecting their well-being and promoting safe online interactions.

White Ribbon Work with Schools

Members of the Communities' team alongside Broxtowe Women's Project and White Ribbon Ambassador Jeff Buck have visited Lawrence View School and Priory Catholic School in the lead up to White Ribbon day on 25 November. Messages of kindness were shared with schools and they were encouraged to integrate the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda and Respectful Relationships programmes into the curriculum. Successful workshops took place with high parent participation in painting kindness rocks as well as workshops helping to foster safer environments and healthier relationships among young people, assemblies and the reading of a poem on kindness by a Communities' Officer.

Substance Misuse Action Plan Development

The Communities Team are starting to develop a broader Substance Misuse Action Plan than the current version following the prioritising of Substance Misuse in the Corporate Plan. The plan will involve the work of partners services such as Change Grow Live (CGL) and Hetty's, a Charity who support families affected by drug and alcohol misuse.

Domestic Abuse

Broxtowe's White Ribbon flag raising happened on 25 November with attendance from the Mayor, Broxtowe's Senior Leadership, Broxtowe Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue as well as many other partners across the Borough.

A successful event for the Odd Socks Anti-Bullying Campaign and White Ribbon campaign took place on 12 November advertising Broxtowe's support for the campaign.

The Communities Team and the White Ribbon Steering Group have promoted White Ribbon at local community events through information stands to ensure awareness of the campaign is raised as much as possible.

A training session for Broxtowe front line staff on coercive control, is to be held in February, organised through Equation.

Sanctuary

There have been 40 applications for Sanctuary made so far in 2024, which is a significant increase on 2023. Nine applications were rejected as they did not meet the criteria.

Since the Council took over the running of Sanctuary property assessments the scheme has been running well however a joint Communities and Housing Repairs database would improve the management of cases, so this will be designed in 2025.

The Sanctuary scheme was audited recently with no major problems arising and we will implement all recommendations that come from the audit team once the report is released to ensure a good level of service is maintained.

Violence

A total of 79 cases from Broxtowe have been heard at multi-agency risk and control meetings (MARAC) including actions to reduce risk taken since 1 June 2024.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty is being delivered and Broxtowe is currently meeting all targets required and is on track with the commitments.

The Communities Team is currently working towards implementing recommendations from the Violence Reduction Partnership around a recent report conducted looking at first time entrants into the youth criminal justice system.

Licensing

Since July 2024 the following have been issued:

Personal licences – 9

Temporary Event Notices – 44

Designated Premise Supervisor Variations – 9

Premise Licence Transfers – 5

New Premise Licences – 2

Minor Variation of Premise Licence – 2

New taxi driver licence – 1

New Hackney Carriage vehicles – 4

Partnership working – Nights of action for the festive season have been planned where Licensing Officers will be carrying joint compliance checks with members of the Police Licensing Team and Environmental Health ensuring that members of the public have a safe night out.

Work with the Business Transformation Officer is underway to increase the number of different licence types that can be paid online using the e-store, therefore improving the customer experience and providing first time resolutions.

Licensing and Appeals Committee

A driver attended a hearing at the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 10 September 2024. Members unanimously agreed the he was not a fit and proper person to hold a taxi licence and agreed to revoke his licence. The court had disqualified the driver from driving for 12 months following an accident where a member of the public was seriously injured by driving a vehicle without due care and attention (DVLA code CD33).

An applicant for a taxi driver's licence attended the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 12 November 2024. Members agreed that the applicant was not a fit

and proper person to hold a taxi licence and refused the licence application. The applicant had previously been a member of an organisation, which is classed as a UK Government proscribed terrorist organisation/group. Members were not satisfied regarding the applicant's background and also his lack of comprehension of English and his ability to communicate without the need of an interpreter.

Environmental Protection

During September and October 2024, 173 requests for service were received resulting in the service of:

Community Protection Warnings – 1

Community Protection Notices – 1

Abatement Notice – 2

Fixed Penalty Notices Issued – 1

The smoke control order revocation has been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. This was expected to have been returned by 31 October but has been delayed by DEFRA. A new smoke control order will be sealed and brought into effect once complete – estimated June/July 2025. An education campaign will be undertaken in Spring 2025.

A Noise Abatement Notice was served on a pub for loud music and patron noise. An appeal has been received and will be heard shortly.

An Abatement Notice was served relating to another pub for noise nuisance. This is likely to have been resolved with the DPS now moving to another premises.

Ongoing investigations are underway for breach of Noise Abatement Notice for another licensed premises.

In September a hearing for breach of an Abatement Notice relating to disposal of waste in a manner likely to cause harm to human health and/or environment resulted in not guilty pleas being entered for five offences and the case has been listed for trial in March 2025. Three officers are involved in this case.

A not guilty plea was also entered in the case relating to a Breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order, and the case is listed for trial in February 2025. ASB and animal welfare offences continue to be reported from residents in relation to this case and two Officers will be required at the trial.

Food, Occupational Safety and Health Protection

Food Safety

The turnover of businesses and number of new food businesses continues at pace and is still having an impact on the team. There have been 92 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.

A new privately operated market that trades on the third Saturday of every month in Beeston town centre was visited in September and October to ensure all food traders were compliant. As a result of these visits separate traders:

- was prevented from selling alcohol due to not having the correct licence.
- was referred to a neighbouring Environmental Health Team due to poor food labelling.
- was referred to another Environmental Health Team due to poor food hygiene and temperature control on site.

Regular monthly food and environmental sampling continues with Officers following national sampling plans. Whole raw shell eggs (non-Lion Branded) and pre-packed cheeses are the current projects.

Health and Safety/Special Projects

There have been seven reportable accidents at businesses where the Council is the enforcing authority for health and safety since 1 September 2024 and these are being investigated by Officers.

Joint working with the new Head of Health and Safety, Compliance and Emergency Planning has been undertaken to start re-introducing Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) for events held in the Borough. In the last six weeks Broxtowe Borough Council's light switch on events and remembrance parades have been reviewed, as well as events being held in and around Kimberley and Brinsley. SAGs will become a regular fixture in 2025 to provide assistance and guidance to event organisers, with the intention of ensuring safe and successful events across the Borough.

Animal and Special Treatments Licensing

Allegations of unlicensed dog breeders continue to be received and investigated. Investigation into the breeding and selling of puppies is complex and requiring formal information requests to local veterinarians, national online animal selling platforms and microchip companies to try and establish the extent of activities taking place.

Animal licence renewals for pet shops, home dog boarders and commercial kennels, which expire at the end of the year are in progress.

Officers are continuing to monitor and ensure compliance at the Borough's only licensed Dangerous Wild Animals site.

Two further Officers have now completed and passed their Level 3 Certificate in Inspecting Licensable Activities Involving Animals after months of hard work. Two officers who joined the team last year are working to finish their qualification.

A lot of new tattooing, piercing and acupuncture registrations have been received and processed over the last three months generating significant amounts of work. In

addition, the team have been dealing with a number of complex queries and renewals for the licensing of lasers used for hair and tattoo removal.