

**Environment and Climate Change Portfolio  
Councillor H E Skinner**

**Report to Council – 15 October 2025**

I'm pleased to give an update to Members on the work taking place across Environment. Teams continue to work at pace and with commitment, always focused on our overarching aim of protecting the environment for the future. Whether through strategy development, partnership working, or operational delivery, this remains the guiding principle behind everything Environment do.

Waste and Recycling

Free Bulky Waste Days

This year, the Environment team have already undertaken two events in Stapleford and Bramcote, with a further four planned for the following locations:

**Wednesday 5 November 2025 – Nuthall**

- Basil Russell Park 8am – 9.30am
- Woodland Drive 10am – 11.30am

**Wednesday 19 November 2025 – Chilwell**

- Inham Nook Recreation Ground 8am – 9.30am
- Ribblesdale Court 10am – 11.30am

**Wednesday 3 December 2025 – Beeston**

- Leyton Crescent, Beeston Rylands 8am – 9.30am
- Beeston Fields Recreation Ground, Central Avenue 10am – 11.30am

**Wednesday 17 December – Eastwood**

- Princes Street 8am – 9.30am
- South Street 10am – 11.30am

To encourage as much participation as possible, can Members encourage their residents to bring their bulky waste items for collection.

Further dates and locations are being planned for 2026. If Members are aware of any fly tipping hotspots in their area that would benefit from a visit from the team please get in touch with the Environment.

Round Review

Waste and Recycling is currently undertaking a full review of refuse collection rounds, with proposed changes due to be implemented in April 2026. The last review of bin rounds was carried out in 2018, and since then, the Borough has seen a significant increase in new developments, which has placed added pressure on existing routes. This review presents an important opportunity to improve service reliability, ease

operational strain, and prepare for the introduction of food waste collections in October 2027.

To ensure members and residents are kept informed a communication plan is being prepared, this will include:

- A leaflet to be delivered in November 2025, which will explain the upcoming changes, detail the upcoming Christmas and New Year collections and provide a QR code to online calendars.
- Social media posts and updated information on the website.
- A bin collection calendar, along with information on round changes and garden waste subscriptions for the new season, will be delivered to all properties in February 2026.

### Simpler Recycling

Simpler recycling will be introduced to all households from the 31 March 2026. This will mean that residents will be able to put additional items in the green-lidded recycling bin and includes:

- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Foil and foil trays
- Tetra pak cartons

The Environment team are working alongside other Nottinghamshire authorities and Veolia to deliver a consistent message to residents. The introduction of simpler recycling will help reduce confusion, improve recycling rates, reduce contamination and support environmental goals.

### Missed bins

I'd like to update Members on a positive development in Refuse in that there's been a noticeable reduction in the number of missed bins. Comparing the same five month period to that of last year, missed bins have reduced by 17%. That's a great result, and it reflects the continued hard work and focus of the team. The teams remain committed to driving this number down even further.

### Drainage Checks

As we head into storm season—and having already experienced our first named storm, Storm Amy, at the beginning of October—Waste and Recycling will be undertaking drainage checks at known flooding hotspots. These include areas that were affected during previous storms such as Babet and Henk. This proactive approach is designed to help prevent flooding by identifying and reporting any blocked drains. While the Council does not carry out drainage clearance itself, any issues found will be passed to Nottinghamshire County Council for action. I would also encourage Members to report any blocked drains they come across directly to the County Council, to help ensure swift response and reduce the risk of flooding.

### Environmental Enforcement

The Council's environmental enforcement pilot, launched in April of this year in partnership with WISE. In four months, over 1,105 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued—primarily for littering, with a small number for fly-tipping. The vast majority relate to cigarette butt littering.

Early indicators suggest a positive impact: fly-tipping incidents are down by 70% compared to the same period last year, and the amount of waste collected has reduced by 20%. While it's still early days, these are encouraging signs that the enforcement approach is helping to improve street cleanliness and reduce environmental harm.

Importantly, the pilot comes at no cost to the Council. There is some income from the fines, and this is being reinvested back into community initiatives like free bulky waste collection days, helping to prevent future fly-tipping. It also helps to support fly tipping clearance.

Resident feedback has been largely supportive, with many welcoming the visible improvements and firmer action. The Council continues to ensure fairness and transparency in the process, with a clear route for challenging fines where appropriate.

An initial review of the pilot has been presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in late September, offering an early look at the progress being made. A full review of the pilot will be brought to Cabinet in January 2026.

### Climate Change

#### Green Festival 2025

I am delighted to report that despite the weather, our Green Festival on Saturday 20 September at Coronation Park, Eastwood was our biggest to date. 46 stallholders were visited by 250 attendees braving the weather to learn from a wide variety of experts during the three-hour event. The second Green Festival School Competition saw creative writing and artwork entries from three schools from the Borough, submitted by 58 children from the following schools:

Lawrence View Primary and Nursery School  
The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy  
Fairfield Spencer Academy

Each child has received a small gift for entering, with larger prizes for the winner of each category and age group. The overall winner was from Fairfield Spencer Academy who will receive £250 towards their eco school activities.

Next year's Green Festival will take place on Saturday 19 September 2026, at Coronation Park, Eastwood.

#### Free trees 2025/26

The Council will once again offer 500 free trees to residents across the Borough during 2025/26 and will be linked in with Green Rewards.

There will be a selection of fruit trees on offer, as well as soft fruit plants (these are available for those residents who have limited outside space).

The Free Tree Offer will be returning in January 2026, but with a slightly different approach to previous years. Rather than applying online and having trees delivered, residents will be invited to collect their free tree or plant from one of four designated collection points across the Borough. These will be open on two Saturdays—17th and 24th January—and trees will be available on a first come, first served basis. To take part, residents must be signed up to Green Rewards, and those who aren't yet registered will be able to sign up on the day with help from the Environment team. Further details on the scheme and how to obtain a free tree or plant are scheduled for October 2025.

### Green Rewards

There are currently 3,276 residents (as of 26/09/25) signed up to the Green Rewards platform.

The Council has launched a Green Rewards Survey which is available for all residents across the Bough to complete either online or by picking up a paper copy from any of the following locations:

- Beeston Council Offices
- Stapleford Library
- Beeston Library
- Eastwood Library
- Kimberley Library

The closing date for the survey is 31 October 2025, and all respondents have the chance of entering a prize drawer for a £50 Love2Shop voucher.

I am also pleased to inform Members that the latest ward to win the Green Rewards Biodiversity Ward prize is Beeston Rylands. Users of the Green Rewards platform within this ward were asked to vote on their preferred biodiversity project for the area and they chose the installation of bird and bat boxes. Local bird and bat groups are hand making these boxes and installation will be taking place in November 2025.

### Climate Change Forum

Following the huge success of the Climate Change Forum in March earlier this year, plans are now underway for next year's forum to keep momentum, conversation and actions going. The next forum will be held on Saturday 11 April 2026 at The Walled Garden in Beeston. Speaker invitations and placeholders will be sent out soon.

## Parks and Open Spaces

### Developments at Bramcote Hills Park

#### Walled Garden and Sensory Garden

The Parks Team have been busy making improvements to the parking and entrance area to the Walled Garden at Bramcote Hills Park. This is first part of a longer-term aim to develop the Walled Garden into a more welcoming, accessible area with interest for a wide variety of park visitors.

The improvements include a tarmac surfaced parking area, marked with accessible parking bays and new paths to the Walled Garden and Sensory Garden areas. All the newly surfaced areas are accessible and built with sustainable drainage features, ensuring surface water is retained on site.

The Sensory Garden features planting and landscaping to stimulate all the senses and will be further improved and developed as the team receive feedback from park users.

Following the recent parks consultation at Bramcote Hills Park, the highest priorities identified by users included sensory spaces, and support for wildlife. In response, the Parks Team plans to include pollinator-friendly grassland as the next phase of the project. This will feature native wildflowers in the grass areas approaching the Walled Garden, helping to enhance on-site biodiversity.

#### Oak Sculpture

A new lease of life has been given to a dead oak tree on Bramcote Hills Park following the completion of carving work that pays homage to the Borough of Broxtowe.

After the loss of a sizeable branch a few years ago, the large Oak tree underwent extensive work to make it safe and to try and save it - unfortunately, it didn't work. However, the Parks Team decided to repurpose the tree, commissioning a carving to engineer the remaining trunk into a piece of art.

The design takes inspiration from the Broxtowe Borough Coat of Arms with a badger, known by the old English name 'Brock', sitting atop.

Honeybees, representing industry, and the rivers Trent and Erewash are incorporated into the design, originally taken from both the Beeston and Stapleford Coat of Arms. Bears, originally from the Basford family arms and former Basford Rural District Council seal also feature in the main body of work on the trunk.

A winding wheel pays tribute to Broxtowe's mining heritage, while Broxtowe's parks and wildlife are referenced with birds, butterflies, and flowers throughout. The helmet of an esquire, signifying that Broxtowe is a local authority and a circlet signifying a Borough Council form the remainder of the design, along with the word 'Broxtowe' and the year of Broxtowe's creation, 1974.

### Brinsley Headstocks and Colliers Wood update

Work recently took place at Colliers Wood to improve an area known as the small pond. This has increased water storage capacity on site and opened up an extensive wetland area, which will be planted with native plants to benefit biodiversity. The wetland should be large enough to attract wading birds such as the Snipe and Lapwing onto site.

Bulbs and seeds have arrived at Kimberley Depot for underplanting the Miners' Memorial Orchard at Brinsley, with several thousand bluebells, snowdrops and wild daffodils ready to go in. Volunteers from the Friends of Brinsley Headstocks will be working alongside local schoolchildren and our grounds maintenance teams to complete the task this autumn.

Hay cutting and baling operations have now been completed at both sites, as part of ongoing management to develop and improve the extensive meadows. Each year, the diversity of recorded plant and insect species on site continues to grow, which is a really encouraging sign of the habitat improvements being made. The team hopes that these grasslands will once again resemble the wildflower meadows that were once a familiar part of the traditional British countryside—over 97% of which has sadly been lost in the last century.

### Boundary Brook Natural Flood Management Update

Works are progressing well on the Boundary Brook Natural Flood Management measures in Trowell, with contractors now moving from the Pit Lane area into the lower reaches, close to Trowell Road. The Pit Lane section features a series of ponds, shallow scrapes and leaky dams, all designed to store and slow down flood water. The habitat created through this work will be particularly beneficial to amphibians and dragonflies. A diverse flora will be introduced to complete the work and benefit pollinators. At the lower section of the brook a meandering section will be created, removing the straightened channel. This will help to slow flow rates and add further water storage.

### Blue Infrastructure Audit

Blue infrastructure audits across all six brooks in the Borough are currently in progress. The audit will also include Nottingham Canal for the first time, with a focus on exploring potential plans to improve the canal for both visitors and wildlife. Following the audit, riparian owners will be contacted to remind them of their responsibilities in relation to the watercourses on their land. These responsibilities include keeping banks clear of obstructions, maintaining vegetation, and ensuring that water can flow freely, important actions that help reduce flood risk and support biodiversity.

### The Nottingham Canal

Work is now underway on this exciting project, with over 500 meters of the canal being cleared and de-silted. This continuous stretch of open water will provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl, fish, insect life and a notable endangered species, the Water Vole. The first stage of bridleway and path resurfacing has also

started, with more planned to improve accessibility. This will allow equitable access for all visitors and enable them to enjoy this remarkable piece of industrial heritage, which is now a haven for endangered wildlife.

#### Grounds Maintenance Winter Projects

As the Grounds Maintenance team moves into the autumn and winter season, a number of projects are planned that will significantly improve the quality and delivery of the service for next year.

One of the main priorities will be hedge reduction across the Borough. Using both in-house resources and contractors, hedges in key locations will be reduced to five feet—particularly those that are wide and currently obstruct pathways. This work will be completed ahead of the new growing season.

There will also be a renewed focus on housing estates and amenity spaces. These areas are being mapped, and a calendar of maintenance is being developed to guide detailed work throughout the winter. In-house teams and contractors will be working together to carry out this maintenance across sites.

Shrub and garden bed maintenance will also continue, with around 50% of beds across the Borough being rested this year. This will allow them to recover and be fully fit for planting and growth next season.