

**Portfolio for Environment and Climate Change  
Councillor T Marsh**

**Report to Council – 14 October 2026**

Environment continues to deliver a wide range of activities that support the Council's priorities and contribute to the quality of life of residents across the Borough. Significant progress has been made across waste and recycling services, parks and open spaces, environmental enforcement, biodiversity and climate change initiatives. The service remains focused on delivering high-quality frontline services, protecting and enhancing the local environment, and supporting residents and communities to play an active role in creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Borough. This report provides an update on key achievements, ongoing projects and planned activity across the portfolio.

Food Waste

Preparations for the introduction of food waste collections across the Borough continue to progress ahead of the required implementation date of 1 October 2027. A pilot scheme will commence on 16 October 2026 in selected areas of Nuthall and Watnall, providing an opportunity to test collection arrangements, assess participation levels and identify any operational issues before Borough-wide implementation. Residents within the pilot area have received information and collection containers, supported by a programme of engagement activities. The findings from the pilot will help shape the future delivery of the service and support a smooth transition to full implementation. Food waste collected during the trial will be processed at a facility in Colwick.

Simpler Recycling

Good progress has been made following the introduction of Simpler Recycling earlier this year. Residents can now recycle a wider range of materials through their green-lidded bins, including plastic pots, tubs and trays, Tetra Paks and foil. Early results are encouraging, with contamination levels reducing by more than 3% compared with the same period last year. This improvement demonstrates the effectiveness of the changes introduced, alongside the continued support of residents in recycling correctly. Lower contamination levels enable a greater proportion of collected material to be successfully recycled and improve the overall efficiency of the service. The Environment Team will continue to work with residents to further improve recycling performance across the Borough.

Bulky Waste Days

The Council continues to support residents through a programme of free bulky waste collection events delivered as part of the Clean and Green campaign. Successful events have recently taken place in Eastwood and Stapleford, with a further programme scheduled for:

**Monday 2 November - Nuthall**

- Ash Crescent / Laurel Crescent: 8.00am to 9.30am
- Temple Crescent / Temple Drive: 10.00am to 11.30am

**Monday 16 November - Chilwell and Toton**

- Mountbatten Way / Sherman Drive, Chilwell: 8.00am to 9.30am
- Carrfield Avenue / Portland Road, Toton: 10.00am to 11.30am

**Monday 7 December - Kimberley and Watnall**

- Almond Close / Cornfield Road, Kimberley: 8.00am to 9.30am
- Hillcrest Close, Watnall: 10.00am to 11.30am

**Monday 14 December - Beeston**

- Beeston Fields Recreation Ground Car Park: 8.00am to 9.30am
- Imperial Road / Silverwood Road: 10.00am to 11.30am

Refuse teams will be on hand to collect the following:

- Furniture.
- Mattresses.
- Electricals including TVs, kitchen appliances. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept Fridges and Freezers due to ongoing issues with disposal.
- Broken toys and play equipment.

Further waste days will be planned for 2027. If Members are aware of areas that are experiencing high levels of fly tipping and would benefit from this type of collection, please contact [depot@broxtowe.gov.uk](mailto:depot@broxtowe.gov.uk) with the location details.

**If you would like further information regarding the waste days, please contact [environment@broxtowe.gov.uk](mailto:environment@broxtowe.gov.uk)**

**New Team Member**

The Environment Team welcomed a new Waste and Recycling Engagement Officer during August. The role will support the Council's ambitions to increase recycling rates, reduce contamination and maximise participation in the forthcoming food waste collection trial. Through targeted engagement and education activities, the post will strengthen the Council's work with residents and support the continued development of recycling services across the Borough.

**Drainage Checks**

As the Borough enters the autumn and winter period, drainage inspections are being undertaken at locations known to be vulnerable to flooding. This proactive work will help identify blocked or restricted drainage systems and ensure issues are reported promptly to Nottinghamshire County Council for investigation and remedial action. Members are

encouraged to continue reporting drainage concerns to support efforts to minimise flood risk during periods of severe weather.

### **Parks and Open Spaces**

The Parks and Open Spaces Team continues to deliver a programme of improvements across the Borough through the Pride in Parks Capital Programme. Current projects include play area enhancements, accessibility improvements, habitat creation and climate resilience initiatives. Funding applications are being developed for projects at Queen Elizabeth Park and Flixton Road Play Area which, if successful, could secure significant external investment and deliver enhanced facilities for local communities. Consultation on the new Parks and Play Strategy has also been completed and will help inform future investment priorities, external funding bids and the allocation of developer contributions.

A range of access improvement projects are progressing across parks and open spaces, including works at Hall Park, Eastwood, The Spinney, Archers Field, Stapleford the Nottingham Canal, Chetwynd Road Recreation Ground and Banks Road, Toton. In addition, a major funding application is being developed for Pit Lane Recreation Ground to improve accessibility, connectivity and biodiversity across the site.

### **Nature, Trees and Biodiversity**

Work continues to enhance and protect the Borough's natural environment. Plans are progressing to designate Bramcote Quarry as a Local Nature Reserve, creating stronger links between existing sites and further enhancing the Borough's network of protected green spaces. Improvements to access and infrastructure have already been completed and additional external funding has been sought to support habitat creation, biodiversity improvements and visitor facilities.

The development of an interactive walking trail is also underway and will complement the extension of the D. H. Lawrence Trail in the north of the Borough. Both initiatives aim to encourage residents and visitors to explore local heritage, landscapes and green spaces.

Winter tree planting programmes are currently being developed following the successful award of external funding through the Trees for Climate programme, supporting biodiversity, habitat enhancement and climate resilience objectives. Preparations are also underway for a new interactive Tree Trail at Bramcote Hills Park.

### **Parks Standard Survey**

The annual Broxtowe Parks Standard Survey was completed during August and achieved an increased response rate following changes to the survey format and enhanced promotion. The results will help target future investment and service improvements while providing a stronger baseline for measuring resident satisfaction.

Feedback continues to demonstrate strong support for biodiversity-focused management practices across the Borough's parks and open spaces and a report will be presented to Cabinet in December.

### Watercourse Inspections

The annual programme of watercourse inspections is continuing across the Borough. These inspections help identify opportunities to reduce flood risk, improve biodiversity and support engagement with landowners regarding their responsibilities for maintaining watercourses. Where issues are identified, they are referred to the relevant organisation, including the Environment Agency or Nottinghamshire County Council, as appropriate, for investigation and remedial action. Following inspections, correspondence is also issued to riparian owners to remind them of their responsibilities and encourage ongoing maintenance of watercourses adjacent to their land.

### Brinsley Headstocks

Further progress continues to be made on the restoration of Brinsley Headstocks, one of the Borough's most significant heritage assets. However, progress on the project has been slower than originally anticipated following the discovery of a previously unmapped mine shaft during site investigations.

The discovery of the shaft has required further technical assessments, and additional remediation works to ensure the long-term safety and stability of the site. Contact has been made with the Mining Remediation Authority, formerly the Coal Authority, following identification of the shaft, and the Council will continue to pursue discussions with the Authority as part of efforts to secure support towards the costs of capping and remediation works.

Following the completion of new foundations, additional funding has now been secured, and a specialist contractor has been appointed to construct the replacement timber structure. Assembly on site is expected spring 2027.

### Hedge Cutting

The summer hedge cutting programme has now been completed, with work progressing on the second annual maintenance cycle. The service manages hedging across approximately 450 Council properties and 195 additional sites throughout the Borough. In addition to maintaining Council-owned land, the team continues to undertake work on public rights of way and highways on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, helping to ensure safe and accessible routes for residents and visitors.

### Grass and Verge Cutting

The Grounds Maintenance Team remains actively engaged in the delivery of grass and verge cutting across the Borough. This includes the maintenance of the adopted

highway network on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, grounds maintenance within Housing land, and the management of the Council's parks and open spaces. This work helps to maintain safe, accessible and welcoming environments for residents and visitors alike.

The team is preparing to undertake its autumn programme of vegetation management along the A610 corridor, with works scheduled to take place between 13 and 18 October 2026. This major programme is essential to maintaining highway visibility, managing vegetation growth and ensuring roadside infrastructure remains accessible for inspection and maintenance. Disruption to road users will be minimised wherever possible, including careful consideration of traffic management arrangements and the timing of operations.

The Council appreciates Members' continued support in identifying areas of concern and encourages them to continue raising any grass cutting, verge or highway vegetation issues with the Grounds Maintenance Team for investigation and action where required.

#### Weed Control

Work to control weeds on the adopted highway and within town centre locations continues on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council. While the peak growing season is beginning to ease, staff have continued to respond to weed growth across the Borough to help maintain safe, accessible and well-presented streets and public spaces.

Members will recall that Cabinet approved a trial of alternative weed control methods alongside the suspension of pesticide spraying in high-footfall parks and play areas. The trial is continuing and will help inform the Council's longer-term approach to weed management and pesticide use.

As with many aspects of grounds maintenance, weed growth can vary considerably depending on weather conditions and location. Members receiving enquiries or complaints relating to weeds are encouraged to refer these directly to the Environment Team so that issues can be logged, assessed and prioritised appropriately.

#### Environmental Enforcement (WISE)

Environmental enforcement activity has remained robust throughout the reporting period. Between April and August 2026, WISE officers issued 1,687 Fixed Penalty Notices while maintaining a visible presence across the Borough. Work to tackle fly-tipping has remained a priority, supported by targeted monitoring of hotspot locations and proactive enforcement activity. Monitoring has also been extended to sections of the Nottingham Canal corridor to help address environmental offences in locations that can be more difficult to oversee.

Alongside enforcement activity, WISE continues to support community initiatives and environmental improvement projects. This balanced approach helps promote

responsible behaviour, improve local environments and maximise the social value delivered through the contract.

### Neighbourhood Wardens

Neighbourhood Wardens continue to provide an important frontline service across the Borough. Since the start of the financial year, the team has responded to 188 abandoned vehicle reports, resulting in the removal of six vehicles, alongside managing 132 dog-related complaints and 16 stray dog cases. Community engagement remains an important element of the service, with wardens supporting campaigns, community safety events and seasonal roadshows throughout the Borough. Planning is also underway for the annual Santa Paws event at Bramcote Hills Park, which continues to be a popular and well-supported community initiative.

### Climate Change

The Council remains committed to addressing climate change and supporting residents and communities to reduce environmental impacts. Activity during the reporting period has focused on engagement, education and practical initiatives that encourage participation while supporting progress towards the Council's climate objectives.

### National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis

Two free public screenings of the National Emergency Briefing on the Climate and Nature Crisis have been successfully delivered within the Borough. The events provided an opportunity for residents to learn more about the challenges associated with climate change and biodiversity loss and to participate in discussions around local responses and solutions. The Council has also supported delivery of a community screening in Nuthall and continues to work with partners, town and parish councils and community groups to encourage wider engagement on climate-related issues.

### Green Festival

Although adverse weather conditions resulted in the Green Festival being brought to an early close, the event still attracted more than 200 visitors and involved 36 stallholders. Positive outcomes included improved event planning processes, increased participation from food traders and the involvement of a number of new exhibitors. A review has been completed and lessons learned will inform planning for next years Green Festival.

### Green Rewards

Resident engagement through the Green Rewards platform continues to grow, with 3,735 residents registered as of September 2026. The platform remains a key tool for encouraging positive environmental behaviours and has recently been enhanced through the introduction of the Green Home Guide, providing practical information on reducing both household costs and carbon emissions. The biodiversity ward prize

continues to encourage participation across the Borough, with Greasley securing the latest award. Projects selected by residents will be delivered before the end of the year.

### East Midlands Combined County Authority Festival of Retrofit

The Council is supporting the East Midlands Combined County Authority's first Festival of Retrofit in partnership with Greening Beeston. The programme includes a guided EcoTrail-NG9 walking tour designed to showcase examples of retrofit projects and encourage residents to consider opportunities to improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of their own homes.

### Free Trees Giveaway

Plans are underway for the annual free tree giveaway programme following the successful format introduced last year. Residents will be able to collect fruit trees and fruit plants from events across the Borough during January.

The Environment Team will be out across the Borough as follows:

- Beeston - Council Offices, 16 January, 9:00am – 11:00am
- Stapleford – Walter Parker Memorial, 16 January, 12:00pm – 2:00pm
- Kimberley – Sainsburys Foyer, 23 January, 9:00am – 11:00am
- Eastwood – Morrisons Foyer, 23 January, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

The initiative continues to support biodiversity, food growing and community engagement while encouraging participation in Green Rewards.

### Carbon Footprint 2025/26

The Council's operational carbon emissions reduced by 11% during 2025/26 compared with the previous year, representing an overall reduction of 58% against the 2018/19 baseline. This reflects the positive impact of continued investment in carbon reduction initiatives across Council operations. A significant contribution has come from the replacement cremators at Bramcote Crematorium, which has resulted in substantially lower gas consumption. Further detail will be included within the Climate Change and Green Futures report to Cabinet later in the year.