

## **COUNCIL – 9 DECEMBER 2021**

### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**(1) Question from Mr David Webb to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning (Cllr Mulroney)**

**Question**

What strategies is Veolia and the Council going to put into place to raise the pink, food, garden recycling and reduce black sack tonnes in 2021 and 2022?

**Answer**

The Council and Veolia continue to work in partnership to deliver actions to improve recycling rates. This currently includes:

- school education activities.
- volunteer engagement.
- social media campaigns.
- engagement with businesses and local communities regarding correct recycling.
- seasonal recycling information for example at Christmas.
- Regular updates of the recycling information on the Councils website.

**(2) Question from Mr David Webb to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection (Cllr Terry)**

**Question**

How many fines for fly tipping were handed out in 2019, 2020 and 2020 and what was the total for each year?

## **Answer**

The Council's environmental enforcement policy prioritises recycling education and engagement before formal enforcement action, to ensure that residents and business have the opportunity to comply with environmental legislation.

In 2019/20, 31 Fixed Penalty Notices and 19 statutory notices for littering, fly-tipping and duty of care infringements, were issued by the Council.

In 2020-21, the Council undertook 300 investigations into fly-tipping, 71 warning letters were issued and 30 duty of care inspections relating to businesses were carried out, although further formal enforcement activity was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the current financial year to September 2021, 271 fly-tipping investigations have been undertaken, 103 warning letters have been issued and 63 duty of care inspections relating to businesses have been carried out.

The Council has recently recruited an additional Enforcement Officer to carry out enforcement activity in hot spot areas of fly-tipping.

### **(3) Question from Ms Lydia Hyde to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning (Cllr Mulroney)**

#### **Question**

It was great to see women's sport have a platform in Southend recently with the Ladies bike tour. However, the largest team sport for women in the UK is netball, and rather staggeringly there are over one hundred active teams in Southend alone, including adult, youth and non-competitive groups. There are even 'walking netball' clubs for those with mobility challenges.

Despite this popularity in our city, the local facilities do not match demand, especially with the outdoor courts at Garon Park falling into disrepair. This has forced the leagues and many teams to need to travel out of borough to play and train. This is not only frustrating for players, and causing congestion on our roads, but is also a loss of revenue for the Council, with bordering authorities drawing in thousands each week from netball courts.

Would the portfolio holder consider investment into our netball facilities, with appropriately surfaced courts and flood lighting, allowing the thousands of keen netballers in Southend to train and play locally, and attracting much needed revenue into the Council?

### **Answer**

Thank you for raising this point about netball provision in the area which I know is being delivered at variety of sites, some of which are outside Southend's boundary. Participation in sport is important and I have asked our officers to actively investigate this matter and identify what improvements could be possible with appropriate partners for more provision in the Borough. I have asked that this investigation be undertaken as soon as possible, especially into potential funding opportunities.

#### **(4) Question from Ms Lydia Hyde to the Cabinet Member for Transport, Asset Management and Inward Investment (Cllr Woodley)**

### **Question**

Cuckoo corner is a busy roundabout that provides a vital junction between Victoria Avenue, Prince Avenue, Manners Way, and Priory Crescent. However, at peak times this can often get clogged up by traffic waiting for one exit, including by HGVs, therefore blocking other users from traversing the roundabout and unnecessarily exacerbating the congestion. This is extremely frustrating for residents who live on these roads, who have considerable time added wherever they try to drive to and from their homes, as well as for people in the East of the borough for whom this is their only viable route home.

Would the portfolio holder agree to have an engineering assessment at this roundabout to install a box junction at the bottom of Manners Way to alleviate this issue and allow for freer movement of traffic?

## **Answer**

Having recently completed the Bell Junction improvement works and a systems recalibration exercise, it is important that the Council evaluate the results of this work before undertaking any possible interventions. As a result, we will monitor the traffic behaviour for a period of 3 months then evaluate the data and determine if additional works are required.

### **(5) Question from Mr Owen Cartey to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection (Cllr Terry)**

#### **Question**

It has been promised by councillors across the Southend Borough since 2019 that adequate CCTV provisions would be made alongside Ambleside Drive and other areas where criminal activity is providing extensive social damage to the livelihoods of the communities that live there. These are promises that predate the Covid-19 pandemic.

I am certain that everybody in this place agrees that it should be the Council's priority to help our dedicated community groups like Project Southchurch, SHIP and others to reclaim our streets from the prostitution and drug activity that has taken hold, so that our public spaces can be used by our children and our community.

For the last three months posts have been erected along Ambleside Drive, but with no cameras attached to them.

Could the Cabinet Member please confirm to me when this promise from 2019 will finally be fulfilled and working CCTV fitted in these sites?

## **Answer**

The £2 million upgrade to the Council's CCTV system is the biggest programme of works to the network for over 20 years. In total, 42 new column installations will take place, all analogue cameras will be replaced with digital, and a new operating system will be installed in the control room. This work is due to be completed by April 2022.

The upgrade work at Ambleside Drive, which includes fitting cameras to the new columns and connecting the infrastructure to the CCTV control centre, is due to be completed by the middle of February 2022.

Once the cameras are live at Ambleside, in addition to monitoring the cameras directly, the Council will have the ability to send direct live feed to Southend Police Station and Essex Police Headquarters at Chelmsford.

Both the Police and the Council's Community Safety Teams are aware of the current issues in Ambleside Drive, and a number of actions to address these are in hand, including a review of lighting at the site.

## **(6) Question from Mr Kevin Ryan to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning (Cllr Mulroney)**

### **Question**

How much tree planting has taken place across Shoeburyness this year?

## **Answer**

Tree planting for the 2021/22 financial year takes place during the winter, therefore works on the ground to plant trees have only commenced recently. As of 3 December 2021, 31 standard trees have been planted in the Shoeburyness area this year.

Planting will continue throughout this winter, and it is anticipated that over 700 container grown standard trees will be planted across the Borough this planting season.

I would like to urge residents and businesses of Shoebury and the Borough to also take part as much as they can in tree planting on their own property, so that we can enhance the canopy cover of the Borough overall.

### **(7) Question from Mr Kevin Ryan to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning (Cllr Mulroney)**

#### **Question**

Given the global, national regional and local interest in the declaration at COP 26 to the promise to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, what additional steps do the Council plan for the next 8 years for Southend on Sea and specifically Shoeburyness?

#### **Answer**

The Council's parks and climate change teams will continue to work collaboratively to assess opportunities across the Borough for increased tree growing across Council owned land. Tree planting, alongside the enhancement of green infrastructure in development, will be supported by strengthened policies in the forthcoming Local Plan.

Through its stakeholder engagement programme, the Council will be supporting communities across the Borough in delivering tree planting in and around their homes, but we would urge residents and businesses to plant more trees on their own land because the Council cannot do this on its own, and if we want a greener Borough everyone needs to play their part.

**(8) Question from Ms Shahid Nadeem to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning (Cllr Mulroney)**

**Question**

Residents of Prittlewell heard the news of development and planning about Roots Hall stadium. Could the cabinet Member please tell me how many new houses are planned for the new development on the site of Roots Hall?

**Answer**

The application proposes 502 new homes for the Roots Hall site under planning application reference 19/01985/FULM.

**(9) Question from Ms Shahid Nadeem to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning (Cllr Mulroney)**

**Question**

What impact will this have on parking and other civic facilities for existing residents in the area and what mitigation will the Council and developers do to address these issues?

**Answer**

The development has been found to have an acceptable impact on parking in the area. The scheme provides 504 car parking spaces in full compliance with the Council's adopted parking standards. This includes 1 for 1 parking for each of the homes proposed and 2 car club parking spaces. The scheme also includes a policy compliant 502 cycle parking spaces and 16 motorcycle parking spaces. The controls on the application secure the provision of travel plan measures to encourage travel by non-car modes in this sustainable location and funding to explore the introduction of a controlled parking zone. More generally the scheme has been designed to facilitate pedestrian movements.

In respect of other civic facilities, the scheme provides a number of new open spaces and will be making financial contributions to the provision of education facilities in the Borough. In addition, it will be required to make payments under the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy. Under the terms of the planning controls imposed the existing stadium will not be able to be removed until the first phase of the new stadium at Fossetts Farm has been delivered.

A full assessment of the development in all regards is available in the officer report prepared on the application. This is publicly available on the Council's website and can most easily be found using the application reference number 19/01985/FULM.