

Thursday 15th July, 2021**Electric Vehicle Charging**

The installation of four pairs of charging points for the use of taxis has been completed in town centre car parks in Northampton. The installation was funded by a grant from the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles together with section 106 contributions. It is planned to hold press launch in late July or early Aug

COVID19

The Environmental Health and Licensing team and are continuing to provide advice and support to businesses on the requirements of the frequently changing COVID19 legislation/ In situations of sustained non-compliance when advice is ignored, officers also undertake enforcement action, serving notices and issuing fixed penalty notices. As we move into the new situation post 19 July, the team will continue to support and advise businesses in the return to the new normal. The team continue their active involvement in outbreak investigation and infection control advice in workplaces and schools working closely with a wide range of partners. The partnership work that has taken place during the pandemics is one of the great positives of the situation. New working relationships have been forged, partners have gained a better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities and this is proving very beneficial in the development of joined up services in West Northamptonshire.

Trading Standards

Colleagues in Trading Standards continue with their work with the aim of ensuring a safe and fair-trading environment in West Northants. In recent weeks the team have promoted Scams Awareness fortnight and Rogue Trader week. During Rogue Trader week the team were involved in a multi-agency check which involved engagement with 19 traders. Work continues to investigate cases of doorstep crime. Following a break due to COVID19, the team have recommenced visits to investigate cases of illicit tobacco sales. The new authorised officer and apprentice who joined the team last year continue their training and have now been able to go out on visits and put some of their training into action.

Silverstone Grand Prix

The Environmental Health and Licensing team have been working to support the delivery of the event. They have provided advice to campsites on the steps that are required to comply with legal requirements, dealing with the complexities of differing requirements applying inside and outside the boundary of the circuit. Working in partnership with colleagues from Buckinghamshire, the team have carried out the normal food hygiene and licensing checks in relation to the food provision. Members of the team have also been involved in the Emergency Planning support of the event over a very busy weekend.

Food safety

Whilst much of the team's time has been diverted to work around COVID19 they have continued to carry out inspections of high-risk food premises and dealt with complaints, investigated accidents and infectious disease cases. They are now returning to dealing with more of the "day job" prioritising the inspection of newly registered food businesses and continuing to ensure that businesses returning to operation are provided with advice and support. Members of the team recently carried out the delivery of first face to face food hygiene training.

Air quality

The air quality annual status reports for 2020 have been submitted to DEFRA. These reports relate to the sovereign Council area as they cover the past year. Once these reports have been ratified, they will be published on the Council's website. The reports give an insight into the impact of the pandemic on traffic pollution. Work continues to monitor air quality across the area and to work together with partners to develop plans to tackle areas of poor air quality.

Building control

The team are providing joined up service across the Northampton and South areas, with the service in the Daventry area continuing to be provided by the partnership with Rugby and Warwick. The team are very busy dealing with significant numbers of large and small developments.

Fly tipping and Environmental crime

The team are working closely sharing resources to deal with environmental crime across the whole area. Partnerships are being developed with a range of agencies including the Canal and Rivers Trust, recognising that tackling the complex issues of fly tipping requires joined up working to be effective.

We are conscious that there are several fly tipping hotspots across the area and will be working to develop a clear strategy to address this through a combination of education and enforcement. Investigations are currently ongoing into options for use of CCTV to monitor.

Recent prosecutions have provided opportunities to carry out communications to stress that fly tipping is unacceptable. In addition to prosecutions, extensive use is made of fixed penalty notices, for example in the Northampton area 45 fixed penalty notices have been issued between 1 April and 30 June.

Plans for PSPO

Work is being progressed to consult on an updated Public Spaces Protection Order. This will look to ensure the continuity of powers to deal with dog fouling and the requirement to keep dogs on leads in sensitive locations in addition to a range of other anti-social behaviour.

Town & Parish Council Forum Meetings

This month the Housing and Communities Team, myself and Councillor Anna King are meeting with parish and town councils across West Northants. We met with Daventry Town Council and parish councils in the Daventry locality on 2nd July and town and parish councils in the South Northants locality on 7th July. We will be arranging a meeting with Northampton Town Council and parish councils in the Northampton locality later this month. In the meetings we are updating town and parish councils on:

- The first 3 months of WNC
- How to contact the new council
- Work underway to develop a Community Funding Policy for WNC
- Local issues specific to the locality e.g. planning; community assets

We are also asking town and parish councils how they would like us to work with them in the future.

Community Safety Partnership

On 16 June we had our first meeting of the new West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board. This replaces the two previous community safety partnerships that covered the Northampton and Daventry & South Northants areas. The meeting had good representation from a wide range of partner agencies including:

- Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire
- Northants Police
- Fire Service
- Health

Our new CSP will develop and evolve over the next 12 months with WNC and key partners working together closely over this period. Key priorities for the new CSP include:

- Domestic abuse & sexual violence
- Neighbourhood crime
- Anti-social behaviour and hate crime
- Community one – the new approach to community policing

A major piece of work that WNC and partners will start working on over the coming months is the development of a West Northants CSP that we hope to be finalised in early 2022.

Councillor David Smith

Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, and Regulatory Services