

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

## **REGULATORY SERVICES**

### **Trading Standards**

The team have carried out some illegal tobacco visits over the last couple of weeks with Northamptonshire Police, Environmental Health/Licensing and a tobacco detection team. They have visited 15 shops in Northampton with one seizure of 1129 packets of illegal cigarettes and some illegal hand rolling tobacco and another of 2483 packets of illegal cigarettes and some illegal hand rolling tobacco

This is part of a national disruption exercise funded by HMRC. Lord Toby Harris, Chair of National Trading Standards, said:

*“The trade in illegal tobacco harms local communities and affects honest businesses operating within the law. The National Trading Standards initiative in partnership with HRMC is playing a significant role in disrupting this illicit trade and is helping to take illegal tobacco products off the streets.”*

Sentencing is due to take place in the coming weeks following guilty pleas by, E.Asthampton Ltd, Martin RYAN and Joseph RYAN to fraudulent trading. Operation Haggard, the investigation into this complex fraud has involved he amounts of work for members of the team over the past four years. A more detailed press release will be issued once sentencing has taken place.

The team are working hard to ensure that businesses are aware of their new responsibilities under the Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019. (Natasha’s Law). This legislation extends allergen labelling requirements to food items which are prepacked for direct sale.

### **Environmental Health**

The environmental health team are working to prioritise inspections of the new food businesses which have registered with the Council during the last 18 months. They are following guidelines outlined by the Food Standards Agency in their recovery roadmap. The team continue to carry out some work in support of the partnership efforts to deal with COVID 19 and continue to support investigations of outbreaks and promotion of vaccination but have been able to carry out more of their routine work.

The officers dealing with environmental crime have recently had some success with prosecutions for flytipping and littering offences

### **Building Control**

The team continue to deal with a large number of inspections reflecting the high levels of activity in the construction industry. They have also dealt with a number of dangerous structure cases in recent weeks. These were caused by incidents including fires in a cannabis factory and a vehicle crashing into a house.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

The second meeting of the West Northamptonshire Community Safety took place on 8 September 2021. The meeting included:

- An update on the positive outcomes being delivered by “True Knowledge” a youth project offering young people support from youth workers as they need it, at their pace, with people they trust and in spaces they feel confident. The project works with young people to build on their strengths as opposed to a traditional assessment of needs that can focus on deficits. The programme is open to 10-17 year olds in the Blackthorn, Spring Boroughs, Kings Health and Bellinge areas of Northampton.
- Approval of the delivery of a West Northants Community Safety School Engagement Programme to be delivered by agencies in the partnership to primary school aged pupils. The programme includes: face to face delivery of key community safety subjects in 12 priority schools and a virtual learning package for all local primary schools.

### **Beat the Streets**

West Northamptonshire Council working in partnership with Public Health Northamptonshire and NSport have attracted Sport England funding for Beat the Street Northampton. Beat the Street is a fun, free initiative that will see Northampton transformed into a giant game! Participants get a Beat the Street card which contains radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology and tap them against sensors called ‘Beat Boxes’ located on lamp posts across the area. Players receive points for each box they tap. The game encourages residents to get involved and provides an opportunity to form teams linked to schools, community groups and businesses promoting people to get more involved in their local community alongside becoming more physically active. The game will start on 22 September and end on 3 November 2021. To get involved go to: <https://www.beatthestreet.me/northampton>

### **Community Funding**

In recent months West Northamptonshire Council has been developing its approach to community funding for community projects and initiatives. The Council’s approach to Community Funding will be considered at the Council’s Cabinet meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October and the scheme will be launched shortly after that. People who want to keep up to date regarding the launch of the community funding scheme, the process and when funding rounds will open visit our “Community Funding and Grants” pages on the council’s website: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/community-grants-and-funding>

### **Community Events**

Over the past 8 weeks, officers have delivered several community events, including Srebrenica, Love Parks Week and Northampton Pride which bring our local communities together to promote diversity and foster good relationships. In addition, officers have worked with our partners to deliver awareness campaigns around anti-social behaviour, bike theft and knife crime and have held 12 engagement days of action in our neighbourhoods to tackle environmental issues, crime and anti-social behaviour.

### **Resettlement of people from Afghanistan**

Over recent weeks officers from a range of teams across the council have worked at pace with other statutory agencies, North Northamptonshire Council and voluntary/community sector partners to develop a comprehensive package of wrap around support to people who have fled Afghanistan and are currently being accommodated in hotel-type accommodation booked by the Home Office within West Northamptonshire. A separate report outlining more details is included in the reports for this meeting of Full Council.

**Councillor David Smith**

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement and Regulatory Services**