



Council Briefing Note 27th September 2023

**NEIGHBOURHOODS OPERATIONS PORTFOLIO –
COUNCILLOR ROBIN BROMHAM**

We have made significant progress across my portfolio since the last Full Council meeting. In particular, I am delighted that our new senior management team for neighbourhood services (under the management of our new strategic director, Stefania Horne) is in place and I am very much looking forward to working with them.

One of the major achievements of the last 3 months has been the successful implementation of a new set of waste routes. It is waste management good practice to regularly routes taken and this new approach will allow us to be more efficient and effective and will contribute some significant savings. I am grateful to staff for developing and implementing the plan so that public impact was minimised.

More broadly, we are still awaiting new legislation regarding waste policy consistency, extended producer responsibility and deposit return scheme which could how we deliver our waste collection services. DEFRA have announced that they are looking at introducing new procedures to deliver these proposals set out in the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018.

We have also made significant progress through our Clean, Safe and Green team. Chipperfield Common car park resurfacing capital project - Cricket Ground car park completed, further works to smaller car parks to commence in 2023/24

It was another successful summer for the Gadebridge Park splashpad with limited downtime. Officers will be working over the winter to resolve a few ongoing issues so it is ready to open as scheduled in late Spring/early Summer 2024. We were delighted to hear that the green flag Award has been retained for The Water Gardens, Tring Memorial Garden, Canal Fields, Bunkers Park and Chipperfield Common

We have made some significant investment to provide new goalposts for our football pitches in the borough and we are now working with The FA and Grounds Maintenance Association using their app to improve the quality of the borough's football pitches.

We are also ramping up our work on tree management. The Highway Agency Agreement for tree management with HCC finished on 1st September and DBC is now completing a list of outstanding safety works - all new enquiries are being administered and progressed by HCC.

We have also working with colleagues in HCC Prevent and DBC Safe Communities on a pilot scheme to better monitor extreme stickering/leafleting and graffiti in the borough through the use of an app to get a better understanding of the extent of the issue and provide the Police with better intelligence

Our regulatory services team have had yet more success and acknowledgement - the Stray Dog service this year has won Platinum Paw Print Award from the RSPCA, alongside the work the Animal Welfare Team does with Housing they have also been awarded a Platinum Paw Print Award

Gadebridge continues to be a popular spot with the public but this usage has caused some problems. We have been working closely with teams across the Council and are pleased to report that we are seeing improvements in littering, dog fouling, drifting, and antisocial behaviour in the area.

Early September saw some illegal encampments across the Borough. Regulatory Services have worked with Police, Hertfordshire County Council to ensure that the areas were left as they were found and that the Gypsy and Traveller Community were given access to appropriate welfare facilities.