



Council Briefing Note – 28 February 2024

NEIGHBOURHOOD OPERATIONS – COUNCILLOR ROBIN BROMHAM

The New Neighbourhood Operations Directorate has a new team of senior managers and is already starting to have an impact in relation to ways of working: focusing on partnership and collaboration as well as tackling performance.

Neighbourhood Management

New play areas

Tenders received and currently being evaluated. Projects will be delivered in two phases, one commencing in June and the second phase commencing in September. A discussion will be held with the successful contractor to see whether any of the programme can be accelerated but avoiding school summer holidays.

HCC Tree Giveaway

On Saturday 9th December 2023, DBC held a tree giveaway event on behalf of HCC and their 'Your tree, our future' initiative.

Due to the demand from the previous years' event, HCC increased the number of trees available to Dacorum's residents from 2,000 to 3,000. This was further increased to 5,500 with additional funding from DBC itself.

Residents who had been allocated free trees attended Cupid Green Depot and were directed through the site by DBC staff to the tree collection area. Each resident was then given their correct allocation of trees from a mix of native species which included field maple, birch, hornbeam, hazel, hawthorn, cherry, rowan and crab apple.

The flow of residents continued throughout the day with staff remaining in good spirits despite the wintery weather.

Many thanks to Cllr England who attended the event with myself.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The annual Christmas Tree recycling day, which has been running in Dacorum for 27 years, welcomed residents to bring along their real Christmas trees to one of three chipping points set up at Cupid Green Depot in Hemel Hempstead, Canal Fields car park in Berkhamsted, and Tring Garden Centre. Local Scout groups and the Hospice of St Francis were once again able to offer tree collections to residents.

Over 5,000 trees were recycled on the day and over 100 bags of chippings were taken away by residents to reuse in their gardens as a weed preventative. The remaining trees and chippings have been taken to a compost facility and will eventually be turned into soil to help new plants to grow.

In total, we collected 45 tonnes of Christmas trees. Unfortunately, this is classified as commercial green waste, so it doesn't contribute to our recycling rate.

Green Flag Award

We have made our annual entry to Green Flag Award – we currently hold awards at Canal Fields, Tring Memorial Garden, Water Gardens, Chipperfield Common and Bunkers Park. This year, an additional entry has been made for Gadebridge Park

General waste and dog bin mapping

Clean Safe and Green have now completed an exercise to digitally map all general waste and dog bins in the boroughs. This will now form the basis of an exercise over the next 12 months to ensure we have the right bin in the right place.

Environmental Services

As part of the Fleet Decarbonisation programme, a trial of electric 26-tonne Dennis and Renault dustcarts is underway.

Communal bin locations are being checked to get the capacity for each type of refuse up to standard wherever possible.

Regulatory Services

The service were in Court for an Animal Welfare Offences in December. Jackie Connolly was found guilty of one count of allowing a cat to suffer unnecessarily and one count of failing to meet the needs of an animal. The cat was removed by officers and euthanised under veterinary advice. Connolly was fined and banned from keeping or owning animals for 5 years.

Health, Safety and Resilience

I would like to welcome Martin Kirk to the Council. Martin started in a new role as Head of Health, Safety and Resilience on the 8th January 2024 and I look forward to working with him.