



Council Briefing Note - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## NEIGHBOURHOOD OPERATIONS PORTFOLIO - COUNCILLOR ROBIN BROMHAM

### Neighbourhood Management

#### **Playground refurbishment programme**

- Took six months and was finished just before Christmas.
- Funded with £1.1m from a combination of Council capital and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Completed: Apsley Lock, Durrants Lane, Warners End Upper Valley, Flaunden, Tower Hill, Croft Meadow, Woodhall Farm, Miswell Lane.

#### **Tree planting**

- Forestry Commission grant of £53,600 from the Local Authority Treescaping Fund.
- 69 trees across the borough over this winter in six locations: Aldbury, Berkhamsted, Flamstead, Hemel Hempstead, Potten End, and Tring.
- Sites have been identified as areas in need of replacement planting, following loss due to pests, diseases, etc.
- Native, semi-established trees with a girth of 10-14cm, two to three metres tall.
- 20 species, including maple, rowan, cherry, hazel, birch, lime, and hawthorn.
- Funding includes maintenance and watering for three years.

#### **Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)**

- Phase one works of SANG management plans at Bunkers Park and Chipperfield Common are underway.
- replacing livestock fencing in Bunkers Park around grazing areas and installing a new Cattle pen
- Hedge-laying has been done in Matters, in Bunkers with expert and volunteer involvement – worth a look. More planned, by carpark.
- Designing signage, information boards and waymarked routes.
- Public tree planting event with over 50 volunteers of all ages and abilities creating a new hedgerow; Over 600 trees planted along 200m row in one morning.
- “Friends of” volunteer work parties run monthly at Bunkers and Chipperfield Common
- Habitat management, coppicing etc..

#### **Clean Safe and Green Performance in Q3**

- All 36 reported incidents of graffiti were removed within 7 days. (best performance yet)
- 98% of the 433 reported fly-tips, were removed within 7 days.

#### **Enforcement**

- PSPOs (Public Space Protection Orders) expire in July, and consultations on their replacement are commencing.
- Parking enforcement contract is being revised due to expiry.
- ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) Enforcement contract is being revised due to expiry.

### **Nature Recovery Plan**

- Much support for biodiversity for future generations across public and private sectors.
- DBC is a “supporting authority”, HCC is “responsible authority”

### **Environmental Services (Waste Collection)**

#### **Waste Transfer Station ISO-14001 New Certification**

- Cupid Green Depot achieved certification according to British Standards Institute (BSI) and International Standards Organisation (ISO) ISO-14001 Environmental Management System (EMS).
- Quality management, with principles of “continuous improvement” and procedurisation.
- Framework for cost-efficiency, transparency and accountability.

#### **Bin Collections**

- Q1 to Q3: 69 missed bins per 100,000 collections. This figure is the best ever.

### **Regulatory Services**

#### **Food Safety**

- Annual Food Service Plan ready for final approval before submission to Food Standards Agency (FSA). This shows how DBC protects public health through consistent processes.
- Year to Date:
  - Inspected 272 of the 282 food premises due for an inspection
  - Inspected 93 new food premises
  - Registered 162 New food premises
  - Followed up 254 food service requests from members of the public and businesses
  - All officers trained according to requirements of Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and FSA.
  - Completed two FSA data returns and one HMRC return.
  - Seized over 40 kgs of illegally imported meat and meat products from Bulgaria and Romania due to the risk of African Swine Fever
  - Instigated prosecution against large retailer for rodent infestation

#### **Air Quality Action Plan**

- 5-year plan being finalised, according to statutory requirements.
- Defines and monitors Air Quality Management Areas in Dacorum
- Air Quality Steering Group liaises with internal departments, HCC transport team, HCC lead for Public Health and Air Quality, DBC Planning team, and DBC Climate Emergency Team.