

Ian Shenton

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Climate Change Portfolio Holder's report as at 22/12/2021

Climate Change

I met with the UK100 organisation (along with Dave Barber and Allan Rhead of WDC) this week. They represent a network of highly ambitious local government leaders and they offer political help with getting the messaging out to not only councillors of all parties but also residents and businesses. It is essential that we bring everyone along on this journey. They have had around 100 local authorities get in touch with them and we made it into the interview stage which was held Tuesday 21/12/2021. They will whittle those down to just 4 authorities. They will then provide someone to spend up to one day a week with the portfolio holders and members helping to get the messaging right. It's free and will eventually be published as case history. The reason that they are particularly interested in our application is because we are working with WDC, have an ambitious program and have approved the application to merge. I'll keep you all updated on progress. More details on the organisation by typing this into your browser www.uk100.org

Garden Waste subscription

We will be suspending green waste collections for two weeks over the Christmas period (w/c 27/12/2021 and w/c 3/1/2022). This is common practice in many councils to assist with the extra amount of recycling that is normally presented at this time of year. The situation is more difficult this year, due to the national driver shortage coupled with seasonal sickness, covid etc. The waste industry relies on HGV drivers for the 26 tonne RCV's that you see on our streets.

Don't forget that real Christmas trees can be put out alongside the green bin for collection, they do not need to go in the bin. Trees over 1.5 metres must be cut into pieces no bigger than 1.5 metres. We can't take artificial trees with the green bin service. Please let your residents know if possible although we have publicised this.

Garden Waste permits

I have proposed a small increase in the charge for the next financial year. With CPI inflation running at around 5% and RPI at around 7% it is still good value and is within inflation so we are just keeping pace and securing buying power. In addition the cost of collecting waste will increase substantially from 1/8/2022 with the new contract so there is no suggestion of profiteering.

Waste Contract generally

The new blue bins for WDC have been ordered along with the food caddies for both authorities. Delivery of the food caddies is likely to be around April/May time. The new fleet of trucks is also on order. Progress on the mobilisation of the new contract that commences 1/8/2022 is going well.

Parking and Footfall Numbers

The numbers of vehicles in our car parks during the 4 day Victorian Christmas was 17,458 whilst in 2019 it was a 3 day market with 12,211 vehicles a 42% increase in vehicle numbers. Most visitors were on the traditional 3 days of Friday to Sunday with 14,516 visiting during that time an increase of 2,305 vehicles or nearly 19% (on a like for like basis).

I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Ian Shenton

Climate Change Portfolio Holder

22/12/2021