

# Portfolio Briefing Clean and Green

## Clean & Green Key Achievements 2021/22:

Area	Key Achievement																																																		
Volunteers	<p><b>Great British September Clean:</b> The annual Great British Spring Clean event ran from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The theme for this years campaign was #MillionMileMission where (KBT) created a formula to convert individuals litter picks into the amount of miles they covered (1 hour litter picking = 3 miles).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Group</th> <th>School</th> <th>Individual</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Event</b></td> <td>39</td> <td>10</td> <td>198</td> <td>247</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Event hrs</b></td> <td>67.5</td> <td>8</td> <td>278</td> <td>353.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Attendance</b></td> <td>348</td> <td>189</td> <td>229</td> <td>766</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Volunteer hrs</b></td> <td>604</td> <td>157.75</td> <td>319</td> <td>1080.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Bags</b></td> <td>724</td> <td>26</td> <td>547</td> <td>1297</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SROI £</b></td> <td>5,266</td> <td>1,376</td> <td>2,782</td> <td>9,424</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Miles</b></td> <td>1,812</td> <td>473</td> <td>957</td> <td>3,242</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Additional Community Litter Picks led by Volunteer Coordinators:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bags</th> <th>Total volunteers</th> <th>Total volunteer hrs</th> <th>SROI</th> <th>Total events</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>442</td> <td>209</td> <td>506.5</td> <td>£4,417</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Total volunteer interaction Jan 2021 - Oct 2021</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Volunteer Hours = 8646 hours</li> <li>• Number of bags collected = 16,064 bags</li> <li>• Social Return on Investment = £78,958</li> </ul> <p><b>School involvement</b></p> <p><b>1) Poetry competition:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 winners were selected, 1 from each year group</li> <li>- There was a socially distant award ceremony. Poems were displayed in libraries across Walsall and broadcast on the radio.</li> <li>- 12 schools were involved 184 entries were received.</li> </ul> <p><b>2) Litter pick/ACT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 23 schools have engaged in ACT / litter picking</li> <li>- With covid ACT was difficult to run but we did work with schools to provide virtual assemblies</li> </ul> <p><b>Shine a Light Virtual Litter Pick March 2021:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> 402 bags were collected</li> <li> 102 volunteers took part</li> <li> They were out litter picking for a total of 115 hours</li> </ul> <p><b>Litter charter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 shops have signed up</li> <li>• 5 in Blakenall, 1 in Pelsall, 1 in Bentley</li> </ul> <p><b>Awards Acieved:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won the Keep Britain Tidy award for Community Engagement 2021</li> <li>• Shortlisted for the LGC Environmental Service Award 2021</li> </ul>		Group	School	Individual	Total	<b>Event</b>	39	10	198	247	<b>Event hrs</b>	67.5	8	278	353.5	<b>Attendance</b>	348	189	229	766	<b>Volunteer hrs</b>	604	157.75	319	1080.75	<b>Bags</b>	724	26	547	1297	<b>SROI £</b>	5,266	1,376	2,782	9,424	<b>Miles</b>	1,812	473	957	3,242	Bags	Total volunteers	Total volunteer hrs	SROI	Total events	442	209	506.5	£4,417	24
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	<p><b>Other Activity :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivered webinars the Black Country Business Festival on CSR and another for One You</li> <li>• Started delivering information sessions with the trailer</li> <li>• Run 6 play scheme sessions with HAF</li> <li>• Promotional work around littering with BBC radio</li> <li>• Leading on the Environmental task force for the CSR branch of the Walsall economics board</li> </ul>
<p><b>Annual Team Awards 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Clean &amp; Green</b> (as a whole team) – <b>WINNER of the ‘Proud to Serve’</b> category for the exceptional work throughout the pandemic, ensuring key front line services have faultlessly been delivered to residents of Walsall, with recognition to all staff across waste, grounds, street cleaning, fleet services, parks &amp; countryside, infrastructure maintenance, trade unions, management and support staff.</p> <p><b>Steven Dobric</b> (individual) – <b>WINNER of the ‘Outstanding Employee’</b> category, for his dedication and commitment to keeping everyone safe during the pandemic, with risk assessments, safe systems or work, communications and depot infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>KBT awards winner 2021</b></p>	<p>Walsall 2021 winner for the Community Engagement Award at the Keep Britain Tidy Network Awards 2021</p> <p>The Keep Britain Tidy Community Engagement Award rewards action that has empowered communities to take responsibility and contribute to improving the quality of their local environment.</p>
<p><b>COVID-19</b></p>	<p>a) Continued <i>‘Business as Usual’</i> for domestic refuse collections, trade waste, HWRC sites, street cleaning, fleet services and grounds maintenance operations in light of the pandemic.</p> <p>b) Staff welfare and safety management including: risk assessments, PPE provision, depot safety measures, social distancing in vehicles, track and trace, protection and support for highly vulnerable (shielding) and BAME employees</p> <p>c) Trade union engagement, communications and staff consultation and support</p>
<p><b>Coventry MRF Project</b></p>	<p>Regional Materials Recycling Facility (Coventry MRF) is moving ahead with the signing of contracts and start of construction.</p> <p>Walsall Council will have a 19.6% shareholding in Sherbourne Recycling (wholly owned company by eight local authorities). Each council will provide capital for the MRF’s construction and commit to a ‘long-term’ waste supply agreement, including all items collected from local residents for recycling.</p> <p>The MRF will be fully operational by Autumn 2023, this enables the Council to secure processing and disposal outlets for the recyclable materials that they are obligated to collect. It will provide a sustainable solution for maximising the benefits and reducing costs of processing local residents recyclable waste.</p> <p>Sherbourne Recycling will also support the Council’s determination to improve Walsall’s recycling rate of 40% with the aim of reaching the national recycling target of 65% for household waste by 2035.</p>

<p><b>HWRC &amp; Transfer Station Super Site</b></p>	<p>Good progress is being made to deliver sustainable waste management solution for the long term in Walsall.</p> <p>Our existing sites are in need of improvement, but do not have enough space to grow to meet future needs. The proposals give us the opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide more space, meaning residents will be able to recycle a wider range of items.</li> <li>• Provide well designed, modern and easier to use facilities.</li> <li>• Reduce the amount of Walsall’s waste going to landfill and improve Walsall recycling rates.</li> <li>• Introduce a facility for local small businesses to dispose of their trade waste responsibly.</li> <li>• Introduce reuse shops at both sites. - Residents can take unwanted items which can be up-cycled or repaired. - Residents can buy pre-owned, repaired and refurbished items cheaply.</li> <li>• Generate renewable energy by installing solar panels on both sites.</li> <li>• Build flexibility to react to future government policies</li> </ul> <p>A planning application for the new site at Middlemore Lane is being prepared, including assessing a number of environmental matters to ensure that any potential impacts are minimised.</p> <p>We held public information events during October 2021, where residents could find out more about the new facilities and speak to a member of the team. This period of engagement closed on Sunday 31 October 2021. There will be further opportunities to comment as part of the planning process going forward.</p>
<p><b>Waste</b></p>	<p><b>Tackling contamination:</b>  Early days, but lots of work invested in driving contamination figures down. Trending at 14%, recent October out-turn has shown 2% reduction. A continuing reduction of this scale will deliver savings equivalent to employing 4 barrowmen for a year or the annual hire of 3 precinct sweepers.</p> <p>Working to sustain and further reduce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with contact centre</li> <li>• Crew development and training</li> <li>• Improved communication and education with customer</li> <li>• Work with SUEZ and Casepak on quality control at transfer station</li> </ul> <p><b>Bulky Waste Service</b>  Residents continue to be able to arrange for 3 items to be collected for £10.</p> <p><b>Household Waste Recycling Centres</b> continue to operate 7 days a week. CCTV provision allows the service to monitor and maintain access and ensure safe working practices on site.</p> <p><b>Bin stickers</b> – successful application of 105,000 bin stickers to green wheelie bins across the borough to promote recycling and reduce contamination.</p>
<p><b>Grounds</b></p>	<p><b>Grass cutting</b> - All mowing crews now working off an improved mapping system. Following problems with contractors fulfilling commitments on highway weed treatment, operations completed any outstanding work using in house teams. Looking at long term solution of carrying out such tasks with existing workforce.</p> <p><b>Line marking solutions</b> - Trialled new robot sports pitch line marking machine. This can reduce time spent marking pitches by up to 50%.</p>

	<p><b>Safety on banks</b> - New remote controlled spider mower for cutting grass banks is being utilised reducing the need for operatives to work on inclines.</p> <p><b>Trees</b> – Tree planting arranged for 2021 autumn season to deliver manifesto pledges.</p> <p><b>Town Centre Planters:</b> 40 double cube planters and 10 x 3-tier planters installed in Park Street, Bridge Street and St Paul’s. In addition over 50 barrier baskets installed in and around the Arboretum. All part of a temporary seasonal summer project.</p> <p><b>Protection from traveller incursions:</b> Trip rails, bunding and other measures have been installed to secure green spaces. Installed around 4,000 metres of steel trip rail and soil bunding to deter UEs on 7 sites across the borough.</p>
<p><b>Street Cleansing</b></p>	<p>Delivery of manifesto pledges to improve cleansing standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-static barrowmen service now operates across 18 wards.</li> <li>• Additional resources have been allocated to keep Walsall TC clean with an extra precinct sweeper and additional barrowman.</li> <li>• Hawking to address pigeon problems in town centre</li> <li>• Weed spraying continues to take place. In-house service delivery at short notice in September 2021 to address ongoing problems with contracted services. An in-house delivery model is being devised for 2022/23 to improve service delivery, standards and reliability.</li> <li>• Town centre deep clean carried out in Autumn. 14 nights hot washing paved areas in Walsall Town centre to remove chewing gum and pigeon faeces.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Schools sweeper naming and livery competition</b></p>	<p>Walsall council invited the young people of the borough to come up with names for our hard working sweepers.</p> <p>Each winner had</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have their logo and name on their sweeper</li> <li>- Win a free clean for their school playgrounds</li> <li>- A certificate and sticker</li> <li>- A photo with their sweeper when they are fully branded</li> </ul> <p>The winners were announced at the finale litter pick of the Great British Spring Clean in Walsall town centre in April 2021.</p> <p>Winners included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freddie the Litter Critter</li> </ul> <p>The Clean Machine</p>
<p><b>Education and promotional campaigns</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Enviro leaflet sent to all residents via the Council Tax booklet to promote ‘recycling it right’ messages</li> <li>b) Livery on council vehicles to promote Covid safety measures – hands, face, space</li> <li>c) Dog mess campaign to encourage dog owners to be responsible with their dog waste</li> <li>d) Litter bin sticker campaign to deter fly-tipping</li> <li>e) ‘Recycle it Right’ sticker campaign on all green wheelie bins to encourage good recycling and reduce contamination</li> <li>f) 30mph sticker on wheelie bins along Fordbrook Lane and Coronation Road to promote speed awareness.</li> </ol>

<b>Fleet services</b>	<p>a) Work progressing with Agilisys to deliver automated booking/on-line solutions, progressing well</p> <p>b) Explored the purchase of electric quad bike for in house highway spraying. In addition have trialled electric chain saws, strimmers and hedge cutters.</p>
<b>Healthy Spaces Team</b>	<p><b>Allotments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Allotment sites leased, with 10 more progressing.</li> <li>• Borough-wide allotment consultation complete 30/09/2021, results are currently being analysed.</li> <li>• £260K capital awarded for allotment boundary improvements – tender out, works due to start in December.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fishing Pools:</b> Development work taking place with groups on sites, lease being drafted with support from Legal.</p> <p><b>Holiday and Food Programme (HAF):</b> Successfully delivered HAF programme throughout the Summer Holiday. Further sessions to take place over XMAS. Programme has drawn in just under £27K of extra funding</p> <p><b>Play equipment upgrades:</b> New equipment installed at KGV, Palfrey Park, Willenhall Memorial Park and Walsall Arboretum</p> <p><b>Black Country School Games:</b> Successfully delivered the event at Wolverhampton University (£5K external funding), further £9.5K for sports specific competitions.</p> <p><b>Obesity Funding:</b> Awarded £15,449 to deliver activity up to 31 March 2022</p> <p><b>Bloxwich Towns Fund:</b> Awarded £1.8M for green space improvements and £350K for allotments. Projects to be developed to draw down funding.</p> <p><b>Concessions:</b> Arboretum Visitor Centre Café concession newly awarded Arboretum summer children fairground rides concession success</p> <p><b>Sessional Activity</b> All sessions successfully back up and running after Covid including: Couch 2 5K, Nordic Walking and Walking for Health groups.</p>
<b>HST Volunteers</b>	<p><b>Walsall Conservation Volunteers</b></p> <p>Sessions started 4 May 2021. Initially monthly, very successful now bimonthly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Conservation Volunteer Events = 11 events</li> </ul>
<b>Green Flag - Achievement of Green Flag Awards in parks across the borough, with external recognition of quality standards.</b>	<p>2019/20 Awards include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fibbersley Park</li> <li>• Kingshill Park</li> <li>• Blackwood Park</li> <li>• Palfrey Park</li> <li>• Willenhall Memorial Park</li> <li>• Merrions Wood</li> </ul>

	<p>Plus new for 2021 /22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King George Vth Playing Fields</li> <li>• Walsall Arboretum</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parks and Countryside</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defra Funded national project ;</li> <li>- Green Recovery Challenge Fund – increasing biodiversity and tree cover in the borough</li> </ul>	<p><b>£100,000</b> for the <b>Purple Horizons Project</b> funded by Defra and working in collaboration with Natural England:</p> <p>The project aims to enhance existing heathland sites and restore heathland-wetland-woodland-grassland mosaics. It will target improved heathland habitat connectivity between Sutton Park NNR and Cannock Chase SAC and an area with a high potential for improved access to nature. It will also target areas of peat and engage farmers in carbon sequestration activities. Furthermore, it will develop a detailed Green Investment Prospectus: including stakeholders, market and trading opportunities. In the first year, the project will focus on restoring 15-20 Ha of heathland and grassland habitat mosaics.</p> <p><b>£275,000</b> for <b>Green Recovery Challenge Fund Canal and River Trust Project</b></p> <p>This funding is creating a fixed term Nature Recovery Project Officer role, enable 3 Kickstart placements to be provided, fund planting and woodland management works, lake and pond improvements and increase biodiversity of grasslands on several council owned nature sites and green spaces. The grant would also fund Canal &amp; River Trust (CRT) works on the Wyrley &amp; Essington and Walsall canals.</p>
<p><b>Recruitment and retention</b></p>	<p>a) Maintained service continuity in light of risks associated with National driver shortages. Good staff retention.</p> <p>b) 3 new environmental operative apprentices employed in operations on 30 month programme.</p> <p>c) 2 new apprentice fleet technicians commenced in Autumn.</p>
<p><b>Systems</b></p>	<p><b>Alloy</b> – the Alloy system with new in-cab technology went live in Clean &amp; Green during the summer and has been well received by front line staff. Work is currently underway to integrate Alloy with the new CRM (Dynamix) to provide efficient workflows and a significantly improved on-line customer experience.</p> <p><b>OneSource</b> - In July 2021, Successful transition to on-line systems for over 200 front line staff for payroll services, overtime payments, stand-by and payslips</p>

Simon Neilson  
Executive Director  
Economy and Environment

November 2021

Councillor Oliver Butler  
Portfolio Holder Clean and Green

November 2021