

Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces update for ECS PDS on 25th January 2023.

The last couple of months have been busy ones for the Portfolio, particularly at Christmas, managing the Veolia contract and holiday waste collection service. The Service has now caught up from its post-Christmas schedule change and normal collection days and times have resumed.

I was invited to a few different Christmas events in our parks, but sadly due to catching a terrible flu I was unable to attend, but I heard that they went very well. Thank you once again to our amazing Friends Groups who organise these festive events! This month, I attended the Countryside Stakeholder Panel and the Friends Forum Partnership meeting, and I also toured Keston Common with their Chair.

I was very pleased that Churchfields re-opened on time prior to Christmas. Well done to our officers in Environment and Property who worked very hard to make this happen!

Jubilee Grant Update:

As I mentioned in my November update, we had 29 applications to the first round of the Jubilee Parks Grant. The applicants have now been notified if their grants have been successful, if their applications are supported in principle but require some further work to assess deliverability, or if they have been unsuccessful, with those applicants receiving critical feedback that they can use to improve their application for the Spring. We are now recruiting a part-time officer to oversee these projects and applications to give them additional attention and to support our communities to make these projects a success, with interviews scheduled tomorrow. We are looking forward to our next round of applications, the deadline for which is April 1st. Please do see our website for further updates: www.bromley.gov.uk/jubileeparksfund

Autumn Leafing Programme:

Our Leafing Programme is coming to an end as we are now in the middle of winter. We did extend the Leafing Programme longer than is normal, due to the warmer summer and period of snow in December. We collected over 1900 tonnes of leaves this season. Huge well done to the Environment Team and Veolia for delivering this year's Leafing Programme.

Recycling Updates:

In early December, I attended the National Recycling Awards with Veolia and members of the Environment Team. We were one of two awards that Veolia submitted this year for our education work with schools around recycling. Sadly, we didn't win, but it was a great way to celebrate the partnership working between Bromley and Veolia!

In January, I visited Veolia's Street Pop-Up Roadshow stall in the Bromley Town Centre High Street. They were promoting ideas for food waste minimisation and recycling, giving away food waste containers. It was very busy for the hour that I was there, with a lot of interest in our recycling and food waste programmes and services! Due to the high level of engagement Veolia and Bromley Council have agreed to extend the trial roadshow over the next six months.

Drainage Update:

The Council is responsible for managing 35,000 road gullies spread across the highway network. They require regular cleaning to ensure they allow rainwater to drain into the Thames Water sewers which carry the water away into watercourses and for treatment. The Council has a cyclical

programme of cleaning road gullies with varying frequencies. Every road gully is cleaned once every two years; where there are areas of a high risk of flooding these are cleaned more frequently with intervals of three times a year.

Seasonal weather changes can impact upon their efficiency, such as during autumn leafing which cause a number of gully grates to block with detritus and leaves. It's at these times we aim to ensure that all of the areas prone to flooding have been cleaned and that our street cleaning contractor has also swept road channels to remove as much debris from the road as possible.

There is still a risk that the road gullies can become overwhelmed with the volume of water when the ground is also saturated. At these times we have a callout arrangement with the Council's drainage cleaning contractor to attend and clear flood water where it is the highest risk to road users and potential for flooding property.