

Environment Portfolio Holder Update 12th June 2024

Welcome one and all to a new Civic year. For those of you who are sitting on this committee again this year, hello, and for those of you who are new to this committee, welcome. I'm sure you will find this to be an enjoyable experience.

Well, last time I updated you dear reader, we were in purdah due to the Mayoral elections. This time is however very different. This update is going to be a bumper edition with lots of juicy gossip from the man from Glossop!.... Scrap that, I hear Mr Sunak has decided on a General election after all - so I'm back to square one! Purdah again means a limited edition update again – but do not fear dear reader, old big mouth here can still divulge a thing or two, or three even to keep you entertained.

Before I reveal all, I would like to congratulate Bromley on their promotion to the Football league for the first time. It has been a memorable season and I hope that next year is even more memorable as they will finally get to find out who exactly Accrington Stanley are.

Revelations from a Portfolio Holder – Part One

Now, my first revelation. There has been a change in personnel. Cllr Turrell has sadly departed for pastures new and my new Executive Assistant is Cllr Turrell. Why would Cllr Turrell want to depart I hear you ask? it all started when he called me one Friday morning and overheard that I was listening to ABBA. Unaware that Cllr Turrell wasn't a fan, I engaged him in trivia, which left such a mark on him that he felt it was very much a Knowing Me Knowing You moment as he has since gone to the GLA to convalesce. So, with a new EA to be found, I thought if you can't get a man to do it, get his wife to do it instead (and she'll probably do a better job!). Therefore folks, I would in the same breath like to sincerely thank Cllr Turrell (henceforth known as Mr T) for all the work he undertook for both the former Portfolio Holder and yours truly, and congratulate Cllr Turrell on her appointment as Mr T's successor. We have already met with officers and Cllr Turrell has hit the ground running... which is super trouper!

I would also like to congratulate both Cllr Turrell and Mr T on their recent election victories. At these harsh times when the winner takes it all, they bucked the national trend of Conservative candidates finally facing their Waterloo to stick with us.

Trees

Now that another planting season is over, I'm delighted to provide information relating to our planting achievements this year.

2021/22	1472
2022/23	1588
2023/24	1531

This data is for both our 1250 Tremendous trees, as well as additional trees planted within the season. This information gives me absolute hope that we will be able to plant the remaining 1250 trees before the end of next March.

As the planting season has finished for another year, planning and preparations do take precedent for the next year, but we also turn our attentions to the watering season. Now folks, this year has almost been biblical. The wettest spring in 200 years might make you think there isn't a need to water – but there is. The newly planted trees will still need the help of a weekly drink to get themselves established in the ground, along with those trees which haven't taken as well as we would've liked. The weekly watering started around three weeks ago and will continue through the summer months.

Platinum Jubilee Fund

I know this is in the agenda pack, so I won't spend too much time on this one. The list below is where we are on current projects.

- The Mottingham pathway project commenced last Monday.
- Palace Square Playground has just been delivered and I believe they had their painting day two weeks ago.
- McAndrews Playground was finished off last week. Their community painting day will tie in with the Big Bromley Brush Up.
- Betts Park's obelisk has recently been completed.
- The learn to ride area at Coney Hall Rec has been completed and they had a fundraising event for the second phase a week last Saturday.
- Queensmead Playground has been completed.
- The path at Darrick & Newstead wood will be starting in June.

I can also confirm that we've almost spent all the money, money, money. (oh dear, dear reader. You'll be calling for an SOS by the end of this – if you make it that far!)

Big Bromley Brush Up

This one is back after a brief period on the side lines. I hope that this year's Big Brush Up from 20th June – 17th July, can help draw attention to the many benefits of living in a clean area which is tidy and free of rubbish and litter.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank all our volunteers across the borough for the tremendous efforts they make in keeping Bromley the clean, green and beautiful garden of London we call home. For more information, I have attached a link to the website which has many useful tools to help you get involved such as a checklist, and how to report a problem:

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/street-care-cleaning/big-bromley-brush>

SELCHP

I was pleased to hear that the committee were able to repeat the SELCHP, Westminster, and Veolia visit which Cllr's Bennett and Grant accompanied me on in February. I hope that those of you who attended found it stimulating and the

experience helped you to better understand what we do in Bromley, and how we do it too. I also hear that Cllr Fawthrop behaved and throwing him into the incinerator wasn't required.

Grand days out

Due to the elections, I have been limited on Grand Days out. I have been able to get one or two in when allowed.

I had a lovely, if wet, Grand Afternoon out with Cllr Stammers and Co at Chislehurst Recreation Ground where I got to see firsthand all the hard work that she, friends, and Idverde have put into improving the play equipment and general facilities available for the public. I even got to be the ticket collector as the photo album shows.

I had a Grand Afternoon out in Beckenham as I attended the opening of the Bowie Bandstand. As the weather was nice I decided to only give a speech and not sing! It was good to finally see this project finally get over the line.

I was due to have a Grand Evening out with Friends of The Earth but this has been put back to September (unless there is another election!)

Photo Album

And finally... Just the one today for you (luckily!) TTFN

