

**23 April 2024 13:00**

**Climate and Ecological Emergency - Recycling**

**In Attendance:**

East Suffolk Council Officers Kate McFarland (Waste and Recycling Contract Manager) and Sophie Underwood (Waste and Street Scene Monitoring Officer)

Lowestoft Town Council Cllrs Wendy Brooks and Deborah Ray

Lowestoft Town Council Officer Taylor Williams (Committee Clerk)

Cllr Ray had mentioned at the previous meeting that the group 'Use It All' needed data on bin collections and informed the officers of East Suffolk Council (ESC) that the group intended to work in the High Street area. Cllr Ray would put the group in contact with Kate McFarland to provide them the data.

Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) had recently signed up to be the lead for Lowestoft on Plastic Free Communities and were in the process of setting up a steering group and it was queried if there was interest in ESC having a representative on the group. Kate McFarland would check if this was feasible with the ESC Sustainability team.

LTC had been informed of an initiative called 'East Suffolk is Amazing' and queried if they would be able to provide input to the scheme. Kate McFarland would ask the relevant ESC officers to contact the LTC Committee Clerk to progress this.

Regarding LTC's bulky waste scheme it had been agreed that ESC would provide fly tipping data and LTC would provide feedback on the progress and success of the scheme.

LTC had seen a consistent use of their service with the previous months fully booked for collections.

Kate McFarland had received the following statistics on fly tipping in Lowestoft, noting that the figures could not be differentiated by ward or postcode:

Month	Count
Sep-22	74
Oct-22	48
Nov-22	74
Dec-22	32
Jan-23	77
Feb-23	67
Mar-23	65

Month	Count
Sep-23	72
Oct-23	56
Nov-23	63
Dec-23	58
Jan-24	100
Feb-24	72
Mar-24	106

ESC reported their bulky waste collection had been running as normal and they were unable to identify trends or reasons for the uptake in fly-tipping in 2024, though it was suggested this may be due to residents becoming more likely to report fly tipping.

It was suggested to target areas where fly tipping occurs with more signage and perhaps have temporary CCTV installed. As the Environmental Protection team oversaw penalties and prosecutions and have the relevant enforcement powers, LTC should contact Ben Ablett to discuss the fly-tipping and review possible solutions.

Sophie Underwood informed the attendees that a common issue was the public not understanding that dog waste could be disposed of in a normal litter bin, which their team were attempting to correct with applying stickers to these bins to indicate that dog waste could be disposed of. Sophie Underwood offered to provide these stickers to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee so that LTC could assist with this and as the stickers would not act as a penalty notice they did not need to be applied by an authorised officer.

Another common problem was bins being left outside properties. ESC maintained a list of properties where bins were left out and explained owners of such bins were provided an educational letter to explain why the bin needs to be brought back into the property and if the incident is repeated then it is handed over the Environmental Protection for enforcement action. Sophie Underwood explained that there was often an issue in confirming the ownership of the bin.

ESC confirmed they could update their website to inform Lowestoft residents, who are unable to afford the ESC bulky waste collection scheme, of the free-to-use LTC bulky waste collection. The wording for the website would be provided to Kate McFarland by the LTC officers.