

Decision Session – Executive Member for the Environment

3 December 2018

Report of the Assistant Director (Transport, Highways and Environment)

Update on the York Community Recycling Fund

Summary

1. This report provides an update on the York Community Recycling Fund and other initiatives to minimise fly tipping.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to :
 - Note the update on the York Community Recycling Fund.
 - Note the updates on other initiatives to reduce fly tipping.
 - Approve a pilot of free boxes for recycling to include home delivery by the Council in the absence of being able to find a suitable partner to work with to provide free boxes on a collection only basis.

Reason: To ensure any lessons learnt are captured and improve waste prevention and recycling in York.

Background

3. On 6th March 2017 the Executive Member for the Environment approved the awarding of funding to successful applicants to the York Community Recycling Fund.
4. The Executive Member also requested a future report on the outcomes of the use of the funding to ensure good use of the funds and to assist with the allocation of future Community Recycling Funds.

- At the 22nd March 2018 Full Council meeting, Members requested a future paper looking at how extra efforts to minimise fly tipping can be introduced.

York Community Recycling Fund

- The fund provided the opportunity to community groups to apply for up to £5,000 to support community schemes so that they can make a real impact on the city's recycling and waste prevention performance.
- Projects were awarded funding (11 received the full amount requested, 7 were part funded). The successful projects were a mixture of existing schemes (which requested funds to improve or boost their outputs) and entirely new projects which needed start up funding.

Projects funded

- All participating projects were sent a six month and final (12 month) project evaluation request and this report contains a summary of highlights from those final evaluations returned (14).

This table contains a summary of the projects that are included in this report:

Project organisation/ project name	Project description
Archbishop Holgate's School Bike Hub	Fixing bikes and donating to people in need
Bell Farm Resident's Association (2 projects)	Up-cycling, food sharing, swap shop, waste reduction projects
Derwent Lions	Local Christmas tree collections
Environment Committee of Bishopthorpe Parish Council	January re-use event
Holgate Carriage Garden	Shared garden and multi purpose community space

Planet Southbank	Street recycle and Repair Cafe events
Restoration Works (York City Church)	3 foot project to recycle scaffolding boards and pallets to make compost bins and raised beds
SNAPPY	Aluminium foil, cans, household cable collections for recycling
St Nick's	Fix it Cafe session and reuse workshops
Tang Hall Centre	Create a sustainable hub for the community
York Community Furniture Store	Improve publicity and improve donations to YCFS
York Men's Shed	Helping men facing loneliness, illness and unemployment or bereavement to find new hobbies, friends and feel part of the community – recycling wood and reusing tools
Your Cafe	Pumpkin growing, eating and recycling project

Summary of project responses

- Projects funded were required to demonstrate good value for money by doing some of the following: diverting waste from landfill (this predates the Allerton Park Energy from Waste project opening), engaging with residents, creating jobs or volunteering opportunities, generating social benefits, have the potential to become models of good practice, demonstrate sustainability and help to change people's behaviour.

Wider engagement

- All projects have demonstrated a huge impact on either their local neighbourhood or the wider community of the city; bringing residents together and reaching out to those in need of support and help. Here are some examples:

- 50 refurbished bikes donated to a local charity who have helped some of the poorest families in York (Bike Hub)
- Teaching people how to reuse food that would otherwise end up in the bin (Bell Farm)
- We have posted recipes using “food scraps” and have just found out that a few of our residents are planning on putting together a recipe book and publishing it to help others across York (Bell Farm)
- Our Swap shop is still running once per month and although it did slow down for a few months it has taken off again bringing in people from across York (Bell Farm)
- We collected 288 Christmas trees and engaged with 250 different people who directly benefitted from the project (Derwent Lions)
- Over 120 people attended the January reuse event (Environment Cttee of Bishopthorpe PC)
- Planet South Bank Repair Café engaged with 30 visitors, 17 people volunteered, estimated no of beneficiaries 100 (Planet Southbank)
- We estimate that approximately 700 people per week who visit, work and run from the centre are encouraged to recycle by having our resources available for their use (Tang Hall Community Centre)
- We estimate that 40-60 people so far have engaged and benefitted from our project including young and old people (Restoration Works)
- The project has helped to expand the recycling collection across the city through community venues and helped raise the profile of SNAPPY
- 148 people attended the final Thrift event (St Nick’s)
- Approx 700 people visit the Tang Hall community centre per week and are encouraged to recycle by having the centre’s resources available for their use
- A programme to distribute information to 90,000 York households (York Community Furniture Store)
- We have 16 regular members and are in regular touch with the city and NHS social workers (Men’s Shed)
- At the 2 pumpkin parties we fed over 100 people both pumpkin soup and pumpkin pie

Social benefit

11. Supporting the local community and encouraging community participation has been demonstrated by all groups in supportive and nurturing ways:

- Supporting students at the school to learn something they love and helping York Beesom with bikes for families (Bike Hub)
- Many people who would never have mixed together have come and helped with the planting, the cooking the upcycling...people have started projects that they would never have attempted before (Bell Farm)
- People arriving to hand over various items for recycling invariably find out about people who can use other items and they can commit to saving even more! (Env committee Bishopthorpe PC)
- We continue to make good use of our raised beds, growing crops which are then shared on our food glut shelf which is available for anyone/the local community to access (Holgate Carriage Garden)
- We forged strong links with Good Gym York, who acted as porters/messengers/link people on the day (eg carrying stuff for people) (Planet Southbank street Recycle)
- This project has helped us to build links with the Syrian refugee community in York. This has been positive in a number of ways. Those who have taken part in the project have got involved in a number of community projects since; A second major social benefit would be the confidence in those taking part – in terms of their use of English and work with mixed groups of people from different nations (3 foot Project)
- We have supported the local community by running a variety of events which has encouraged community participation within the scheme (Tang Hall CC)
- The project is supporting local community groups and encouraging involvement in re-use (furniture Store)
- All members have learnt some new skill. Friends of Rowntree Park have asked us to make a duck house. We have offered to make some raised beds for the newly erected building in Hull Road Park which is to open as a cafe (Mens Shed)
- New friendships were formed as a result because those with gardening expertise were able to share their tips with novices (Your Cafe)
- At our Celebration of Thrift we had local people with skills (such as carving, sewing, haybox/solar cooking, making instruments)

teaching residents how to make items out of things that would have been waste (St Nicks)

- The project has engaged with all ages and sectors of the community.

Measured Outcomes

12. All projects have contributed towards waste diversion from landfill. Some project outputs are more easily quantified than others, but the bullets below give an indication of the impact of the funded projects:

- 50 bikes diverted from landfill and fixed and donated, 23 bikes repaired, 64 bikes stripped of usable parts (Bike Hub)
- 6 skips full of furniture, 30 large black bags of clothes, 3 large boxes of shoes, 26 sets of bedding, 20 boxes of trinkets and kitchen items (Bell Farm projects)
- We collected 280 trees and raised approximately £2500 for charity (Derwent Lions).
- 96 pairs of spectacles, 36 Printer cartridges, 23 Mobile phones, 4 bags of aluminium foil, 29 Calendars all collected for charities (Bishopthorpe PC)
- We have reused wooden fencing, 2 church pews, several small desks and an old cast iron bath which we have used to grow wildflowers in the wildlife area (Carriage Garden)
- Street Recycle: 134 household items inc toys, books, 66 items of clothing, 20 kitchen items, 7 pieces of furniture. A further 27 items were fixed or part-fixed at the Repair Café (Planet Southbank)
- We have given out 10 compost bins as part of the project. To make them we re-used 40 pallets “We were really surprised just how much food waste we were putting in our black bin. Normally our black bin would be very full / at capacity on collection days, but since we’ve started using the compost bin it has been up to ¼ less full” (3 Foot Project)
- During the project we collected 1923 kg of recycling for SNAPPY (it more than doubles for the second half of the project!). The number of collection sites has increased from 13 to 41

- Before the centre's recycling project began, as much as 34,320 litres of waste per year go to landfill. Since then, with the introduction of recycling bins and the composting area and food waste disposal we have diverted over 14,500 litres (nearly half of the annual total). (Tang Hall cc)
- When repainting the interior of the building we were given enough paint to complete 50% of the building. This was paint surplus to others needs (Men's Shed)

Project Sustainability

13. One of the main aims of the fund was to support projects which would continue beyond the duration of the fund and be self sustaining without our funding. It is encouraging to read that almost all projects will continue in some way, either a direct continuation of the original project or a tweaked version which allows for the more successful elements to be continued.
14. The funding has also fostered some excellent examples of collaborative working beyond the original remit, for example the 3 Foot Project has focused on working with the local Syrian community and they will continue this by equipping them to grow vegetables and support others to do the same and also help them to run a number of restaurant nights where they cook food from their culture and share it with the wider community.

Shared Learning

15. All projects were asked whether they would be happy to share their experiences with other groups.
16. This is actively happening already as groups such as Bell Farm have started a Bulky items project at the hall funded by the ward and HEIP and have been asked by the Head of Housing to spread this idea across the City, as it has massively reduced fly tipping in the area and will also save items that can be up-cycled from landfill.
17. York Men's Shed is also sharing their experiences with other Men's Shed groups across the UK.

Feedback from the Schemes

18. All groups are grateful for the opportunities brought to them by the fund. This is a selection of the positive comments received:

- Bike Hub “It is always great to see an organisation allow people with little experience have the chance to make a positive change in the local community.”
- Holgate Carriage Garden “We have really benefitted from the fund and it has allowed us to develop our sustainable practice which is fantastic.”
- 3 Foot Project “It gave us a really good start, equipped us well and helped us to engage with a community of people.”
- SNAPPY “The recycling fund has allowed me to make the recycling collection more professional. It has also indirectly led on to a bigger and better project for SNAPPY and a huge increase in the amount of money we can raise for this small charity.”
- Men’s Shed “The timing of us receiving funds was vital to our development and allowed us to set ourselves up in a professional and safe manner.”
- Your Cafe “It provided a focal point for education around food waste and the importance of eating vegetables rather than considering them worthless and throwing them away.”
- St Nick’s “This fund has proved invaluable about engaging with the local community on the ideas of reuse and fixing items instead of buying brand new.”

Fly Tipping

19. The numbers of calls for service regarding incidents of fly tips have slightly reduced over the last two years see table below.

	16/17	17/18	18/19 (6
--	-------	-------	----------

			months)
Calls for Service	2276	2151	1041

Enforcement

20. There are 10 Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers (NEO's) working for City of York Council. They work alongside North Yorkshire Police officers and the council's Anti-Social Behaviour team to form the council's Community Safety Hub. NEOs work in 3 geographic teams covering: the City centre and East, North and West areas of the city.
21. The remit of the team is to work to reduce and deter enviro-crime and low level anti-social behaviour, taking enforcement action when appropriate. The team also run an evening and weekend noise patrol service each Friday and Saturday from 9pm – 3am.
22. The role of the team is wide-ranging, from dealing with domestic noise nuisance, fly-tipping, unlawful waste carriers and scrap metal dealers, domestic and commercial waste presentation and littering offences through to illegal traveller encampments, nuisance buskers, sellers and beggars, straying and dangerous dogs, dog fouling, fly-grazing horses and pests. The team also use anti-social behaviour powers to work alongside police colleagues to target those individuals whose behaviour is having an adverse impact on the wider community.
23. The team are trained to undertake investigations in relation to criminal offences and are responsible for gathering evidence, taking statements, undertaking interviews under caution and submitting prosecution case files for the council's Legal team to present in court. The team recently secured a 12 month custodial sentence for a prolific fly-tipper as a result of this work.
24. The team work regularly with colleagues across the majority of council departments and external partner agencies such as the North Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Policing Team Teams, the Business Improvement District (BID), Make it York, the Environment Agency and local charities.

25. The Neighbourhood Enforcement team will always seek to take enforcement action where evidence is found within a fly-tip.
26. Fixed Penalty Notices for small-scale fly-tipping (less than a small van load) have been issued since the adoption of this power in 2016.
27. 5 successful prosecutions and 13 formal cautions have been issued for fly-tipping in the last 2 years which included the award of a 12 month custodial sentence for one individual.

Duty of Care

28. In February 2018 the Neighbourhood Enforcement team launched the Crime Not To Care campaign in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy. The campaign will run for 12 months and its aim is to highlight to residents their duty of care responsibilities in relation to domestic waste in an effort to reduce fly-tipping, e.g. ensuring householders check waste carriers licences of those to who remove waste on their behalf, not leaving goods out on the pavement for scrap metal/waste collectors to take, not leaving additional bags out next to bins etc.
29. Currently the council can only undertake formal enforcement action via the prosecution route for such offences. However the government is currently proposing to introduce Fixed Penalty Notices for these offences which will we feel will be more proportionate and effective in relation to domestic offences.
30. 6 cautions and 10 prosecutions for commercial duty of care offences have been issued in the past 2 years.

Operation Eyeball

31. City of York Council has worked with the North Yorkshire Police Rural Crime team and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to lead on the development of the Operation Eyeball (cross-county work to reduce fly-tipping).
32. Under the operation, multi-agency meetings, involving CYC, NYCC and district councils, NYP, Environment Agency, NFU and Network Rail are held on a regular basis to share best practice,

coordinate enforcement activity and increase information/intelligence-sharing.

33. The first county-wide day of action was held on the 13th September with another planned on the 5th November. This consisted of coordinated council/police stop and search operations running across the county targeting suspected unlicensed waste carriers and scrap metal dealers.
34. In York 23 vehicles were stopped and checked for waste and 17 notices were served requiring evidence of authority to carry waste or to produce waste information/records. In addition the group is currently in the process of producing an information sheet for farmers/landowners in partnership with the NFU.

CCTV.

35. The council is currently in the process of procuring portable CCTV cameras for use in fly-tipping hot-spot areas. The Neighbourhood Enforcement team is particularly keen to deploy CCTV in rural and semi-rural areas, where there is little natural surveillance from surrounding properties. The aim is to increase opportunities for intelligence-gathering for enforcement purposes.

Charges for the Disposal of Domestic Building Waste and Bonded Asbestos

36. The current charges, detailed below were introduced in 2013

- **Bricks/rubble:** £2 per bag or equivalent
- **Plasterboard** £6 per bag or equivalent
- **Bonded Asbestos** £6 per sheet up to 1.82m x 0.6m
£13 any sheet above 1.82m x 0.6m (Maximum 2 sheets wrapped together) £6 per bag

37. When we introduced these charges the amounts of rubble and plaster board dropped to a level three times lower than when free, based on this, the removal of these charges would result in a cost of circa £70k , with a 50/50 split between reduced income and disposal costs.

Bulky Collection Charges

38. The bulky collection service is undertaken on the councils behalf by Yorwaste
39. The charge is £44.00 to collect up to 10 bulky items and £26.00 per fridge and freezer.
40. This can be seen as expensive particularly if you only have one or two items to dispose off.
41. Part of the project run by the Bell Farm Residents association, (which was funded by the York Community Recycling Fund), included residents clubbing their items for disposal together and when they reached the ten items, a booking was made by the residents association and the cost was spread over that group of residents.
42. The Bell Farm Residents Association has intimated that they would be happy to advise other groups on how to set a similar scheme up in their area.

Waste Supplementary Planning Document.

43. The service continues to work with the planning team to ensure new properties have adequate and appropriate waste disposal facilities.
44. In September 2018 Executive considered supplementary planning document priorities waste was not identified as as currently a priority.
45. The Council currently have 3 approved supplementary planning documents (SPDs):
 - houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)
 - house extensions and alterations
 - subdivision of dwellings
46. These documents are classed as 'draft' as they have been prepared prior to the adoption of the Local Plan, but approved as 'interim planning guidance' and form a material consideration in the planning application process.

Recycling Boxes

47. A decision was taken at the June 2018 Executive meeting to fund the provision of up to two free recycling boxes, if customers collected them themselves.

48. Having consulted with Yorwaste and St Nicks, they have confirmed that they are unable to act as a distribution point for the free boxes.

Options and Analysis

49. The options open to the Executive Member are to:
 - i) Note the update on the York Community Recycling Fund.
 - ii) Note the update on initiatives to reduce fly tipping
 - iii) To undertake a three month trial of delivering free recycling boxes, using the £20k already allocated.

Council Plan

47. The proposals in this report are in line with the Council Plan priorities to Place a Focus on Frontline Services and a Prosperous City for All. The proposals are also in line with the Council's comment to One Planet York.

Implications

48. Financial:

There is no budget provision for a community recycling fund or for the removal of charges at HWRC's. Funding would need to be identified before either of these options could be implemented. There is no available budget within waste services that could be utilised. Therefore the budget provision would need to be dealt with as part of the 2019/20 budget process.

49. Human Resources (HR): There are no HR implications

50. Equalities: There are no Equalities implications

- 51. **Legal:** There are no Legal implications
- 52. **Crime and Disorder:** There are no Crime and Disorder implications
- 53. **Information Technology (IT):** There are no IT implications
- 54. **Property:** There are no property implications

Risk Management

55. The main risks that have been identified with the proposals contained within this report, are those which could lead to the inability to meet business objectives and deliver services, leading to damage to the Council’s reputation and failure to meet stakeholders expectations. The level of risk is assessed as “Very Low”. This means that periodic monitoring is required of the operation of the proposed funding options.

Contact Details

Author:	Chief Officer responsible for the report:		
Russell Stone Head of Operations Tel: (01904) 553108	James Gilchrist, Assistant Director Transport, Highways and Environment		
Tanya Lyon Community Safety Manager Tel: (01904) 555741	Report Approved	√	Date 22/11/18
Specialist Implications:			
Wards Affected:			All ✓

Background Papers:

- Decision Session – Executive Member for the Environment, 6 March 2017: York Community Recycling Fund
- Full Council – 22nd March 2018

Annexes

None