

Public Services

Weekly update

Week ending 27 April 2018

Message from Zohrah Zancudi, Director for Public Services



There's a real buzz around the place at the moment. I attended the wonderful **Sans Illuminiere at the Minster** this week; the mighty **Vic** has pulled off yet another coup - tickets for **Florence and the Machine** go on sale today; yellow bikes are starting to appear in anticipation of the final stage departure from the magnificent Piece Hall; fabulous independent venues are hosting live music from one end of the borough to the other; and this Sunday Brighthouse BID hosts it's incredible - and largely edible - Artisan Market!
What's not to love about Calderdale?!

Next week, of course, we have **local elections across Calderdale** and it's probably worth reminding ourselves that we are still in purdah and remain so until after the polls have closed next Thursday. This means that as officers we must be careful not to promote or publish material that could be seen as supporting any political party - this includes being careful on social media.

I've been involved in many elections including overseas elections such as post-conflict elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution and saw how important democracy is and can be when threatened. I would encourage all of you to exercise your democratic right and cast your vote at the elections next week.

I remember the first time I voted. To be honest it was a bit of an anti-climax. There was no fanfare, no VIP polling booth for first-time voters and no welcoming committee. Just a disinterested grumpy old man presiding over events. But I've stuck at it and am pleased to say we only have cheerful polling station staff in Calderdale. Next week, **it's Ted's first time** and although he's acting quite cool about it, I'll enjoy taking him to the Polling Station. I know it's not quite the same but I'm looking forward to it [#DogsAtPollingStations](#)



In the last couple of weeks, I've called in at Ainley's Depot and Battinson Road. It's nice to say hello and put some faces to names. The variety of services we deliver as a council is amazing from gritting to managing our fleet - I love our newly branded school buses (thank you to the Comms team). I hope to call in to see most of you in the coming months. Please don't panic, I'm (fairly) low maintenance - a cup of tea and a chat is all I ask for ☺

And on to this week. **At the end of an intensive two day recruitment and selection process, Sarah Richardson was appointed as our Assistant Director for Customer Services. Well done Sarah!**

[#HelloweareNeighbourhoodsandCohesionTeam](#)

As a team we have a wide and diverse portfolio of responsibilities with 4 distinct teams and a variety of cross Council supporting roles. The Staying Well team, Neighbourhood Teams and wardens, Cohesion and Equality Team and the Prevent Team make up the overall service area - each has a very distinct remit.

At a team meeting we can be hearing about another successful grant award to Space@Field Lane and the work being done to support the emerging community group driving this work; the community cooking project bringing together people from Mixenden, Illingworth, Park and Sowerby Bridge to cook curries and Victoria Sponges; the tours of Todmorden Town Hall and the extension of community growing licenses; the 60+ safe space centres for people with learning difficulties and

other vulnerabilities; the briefing on Prevent for foster carers and children's home staff; the next group of families arriving from Syria and the latest training on Modern Day Slavery, all done in collaboration with other parts of the Council and our partners. Our world is anything but dull?



Staying Well began as a pilot funded by the CCG, and over the last 4 years, after a successful evaluation, the team made up of eight staff, are now seconded to deliver Staying Well via 4 community

hubs in the voluntary sector. Loneliness and Isolation is shown to be as damaging as smoking, creates a greater risk of dementia and can significantly affect physical health as well as emotional wellbeing. The team receive referrals and work 121 with people on their skills, talents and interests and help them reconnect and contribute within communities. Alongside this the team work with voluntary and community sector colleagues to build capacity and create activities and opportunities for people to take part in or deliver themselves. This work helps to keep people happy, healthy and independent for as long as possible. The hub organisations also take the opportunity to identify and draw down funding that as the Council, we would be unable to do.

Our Cohesion and Equality Team is 2 full time and 2 part time staff and has a range of responsibilities, most recently managing the Syrian Resettlement Programme funded by the Government. We support other Directorates with Equality responsibilities as well as support the Equality Forum. The team manage hate crime, Safe Places scheme, Inter Faith work, support community engagement on issues such as mental health, child sexual exploitation and most recently were nominated for an award for improving access to 'end of life care' for Muslim communities. The team support policy initiatives including the recently agreed Cohesive Communities Strategy. For information, [Inclusion starts with I](#) is a discussion around the importance of a positive, inclusive work environment. Starring a group of Accenture people, this video demonstrates that bias can appear in both expected and unexpected ways—and that each of us has the power to make a difference.



The Neighbourhood Teams work across Calderdale based in the four localities of Upper, Lower, Central and North and East. North and East is managed via a partnership with the North Halifax Partnership. The Neighbourhood Teams have a wide ranging remit and are quite different in each area. In the Upper and Lower Valley much of the work is supporting existing community groups to develop new projects, events and activities, community asset transfers, community growing and managing the Todmorden Town Hall Project - whilst in Central they are supporting the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, provide one to one signposting and support services, enable access to mainstream services for harder to reach communities and work on health, employment and cohesion issues. Whilst North and East have a focus on youth engagement and employment. The Neighbourhood Teams support local ward members with Ward Forums and Ward Forum grants - as well as managing a range of externally funded programmes and support the multi-agency problem solving 'Safer Cleaner Greener' meetings. The teams were also instrumental in supporting communities in the flood recovery process and continue to be involved in supporting communities to become more flood resilient.

Our Prevent Team supports the Prevent strand of the Governments Contest Strategy - reducing the risk of radicalisation and preventing people from moving down the road into extremism and terrorism. We will be doing an additional feature on this at a later date.

We also lead the Council's approach to Modern Day Slavery, supporting colleagues from across the Council and partners agencies to identify potential victims and provide appropriate support; we lead on Asylum and Migration issues working with G4S and the voluntary sector to effectively support new arrivals and those who are settling; support Town Boards and a whole lot more as and when opportunities arise.

When you have neighbourhood in your title, everything that goes on has some relevance - empowering communities to improve their own neighbourhoods, developing solutions alongside local people and supporting people to make best use of community assets, will, in the end, make

for a borough that continues to be kind, resilient, enterprising and supports all of those aspirations we have for being the best Borough in the North.

News in Brief



Better later than never...Junior Warden Easter Egg Hunt! The rain held off just long enough for our community wardens and HCI team to host a **Easter Egg quiz with the Junior Wardens from Beech Hill School, Halifax.** The rescheduled hunt took place in People's Park on Wednesday afternoon with 30 of our junior wardens. The children loved running around the park and were fascinated by the history that sits right on their doorstep! The children were split into 6 teams and our staff lead the children round the park to complete the 15 questions. The children were then presented each with a Easter Egg. Unfortunately our other Junior Wardens from Christ Church School in Sowerby Bridge were unable to join us, so Jonny and Zameer went into school to present the children before the chocolate...before the staff ate them. **An egg-cellent time was had by all!**



Litter picks at the ready! Due to ongoing complaints regarding litter, staff from Halifax Central initiative, joined by our Housing Improvement Officer, did a litter pick on Armitage Road in the King Cross area, filling over a dozen bags of litter off the streets. Our community wardens spoke to various residents about the issue and gave information and advice about keeping the neighbourhood clean and tidy and how to report issues to the Council. Over the coming summer months the team will be out hopefully with residents to litter pick various trouble spot across Park ward and central Halifax in a bid to keep Calderdale clean and tidy!




A lovely compliment was received for a member of the Safer Greener Team, **Adrian Hill** ...*"I should like to compliment one of your employees. He is Adrian, known as Adi, and is a member of the Elland street cleaning team (or maybe he is the Elland street cleaning team!). I am a member of the congregation of St Mary's Church in Elland, whose graveyard is a public right of way. Unfortunately some members of the public have no respect for the area they are in and consequently we suffer a litter problem - mostly food related packaging. Adrian, although not designated to clear our churchyard when cleaning Church Street, on many occasions puts his hand over the wall to retrieve such litter and helps our small team of volunteers to keep the area a pleasant place to be. He is always polite, enthusiastic and friendly when spoken to with a ready smile and a positive attitude, and very much deserves the pat on the back I am trying to give him."* *"I would like his line manager to pass on my compliment and also remember Adrian when the next round of pay increases comes round. He deserves a reward for going the extra mile."* Well done Adi!




A group of young people from **Mixenden Activity Centre** and supported by Calderdale's Young People's Service cycled day 4 (The Yorkshire Terrier) of the TDY over 3 days. The route is 189.5km long from Halifax to Leeds with nearly 3500m of climbing. The group of differing abilities including 1 young lady who is totally blind who rode a tandem with her pilot set off on a lovely warm April Monday morning and cycled via Hebden Bridge, Skipton and onto Kilnsey. The second day was torrential rain and very windy. After a late start due to the weather the group managed to cycle up Cote De Park Rash which is over 25% climbing and up to 32% for a short period and due to the weather had to cut the day short at Middleham. The 3rd day cycled from Pateley Bridge, to Otley, Pool in




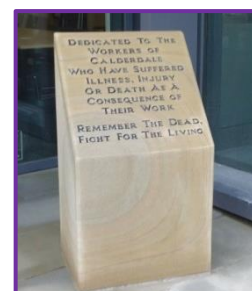
Wharfedale and into Leeds, finishing at the Leeds Town Hall with support from our colleagues at Leeds City Council. **The group raised money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.**


 **Lee Harkis, Rebecca Holton and Almas Murrawat from IT presented Kirkwood Hospice with a cheque for £434 last week.** Thank you to all staff who contributed to the fundraising events on 2nd February or helped us to run the cake stalls, silent auction, scavenger hunt and dress down day. We raised **£868 in total** and split it between Kirkwood Hospice and MacMillan to help people affected by cancer, in memory of Carrie Wilkinson and Steve Sharp.



 **Customer First and the Pathways Team** received the following feedback from the Police ... *“Just a quick email to say thanks to your staff at Customer First for identifying a male who was at high risk of re-offending and was subject to a comprehensive prison licence with one of these conditions being that he is unable to enter Calderdale. The male had only just been released from prison and was not engaging with professionals meaning he was very difficult to manage. Your staff were able to identify him and immediately notified me and ensured that staff checked the CCTV to confirm the sighting. I attended Customer First myself and was welcomed by all staff and arrangements were promptly made for me to view and copy the CCTV and obtain a statement from a member of staff. This positive identification and quick response had led to this dangerous individual being recalled to prison until Dec 2018. Please pass on my thanks to all staff involved and well done to all.”* This highlights an **excellent example of partnership working regarding customers with complex needs!**

 A new memorial honouring people who have lost their lives or been seriously injured at work was unveiled in Halifax on international Workers' Memorial Day (Saturday 28 April 2018). Led by Bereavement Services with assistance from Calderdale UNISON installed a permanent memorial stone outside the new Central Library and Archives, to provide a lasting legacy to remember local people who have been injured or killed in workplaces across the borough. The Council funded the new stone, created by Marshalls, and will be responsible for its ongoing maintenance. The inscription, agreed with Calderdale UNISON, states *“Dedicated to the workers of Calderdale who have suffered illness, injury or death as a consequence of their work. Remember the dead, fight for the living.”*



 With one week to go until the start of the **2018 Tour de Yorkshire**, organisers Welcome to Yorkshire and the ASO have unveiled **more star names who are set to compete** between 3-6 May. Rio 2016 track gold medallist Owain Doull in the Team Sky line up which includes British compatriot Ian Stannard. Three-time Tour de France stage winner Sylvain Chavanel (Direct Énergie) is also set to compete, as is French sprint star Bryan Coquard (Vital Concept), two-time Vuelta a Espana stage victor Magnus Cort Nielsen (Astana), and 2017 Tour de Yorkshire King of the Mountain Pieter Weening (Rompot-Nederlandse Loterij). **There are no-less than 11 Yorkshire-based riders on the provisional start list, equalling the figure from 2017 despite UCI regulations seeing team sizes reduced from eight to seven riders to entice more exciting racing.** These include Great Britain Cycling Team duo Ben Swift and Tom Pidcock who were announced on Wednesday. Ben's cousin Connor will represent Madison Genesis while former British champions Adam Blythe (Aqua Blue Sport) and Russell Downing (Holdsworth Racing) will also be in action. These latest additions follow the big news earlier this month that Mark Cavendish (Team Dimension Data), Olympic road champion Greg Van Avermaet (BMC Racing) and defending Tour de Yorkshire champion Serge Pauwels (Team Dimension Data) will all be present for the fourth edition. Full details on the 2018 Tour de Yorkshire and Asda Tour de Yorkshire Women's Race can be found at <http://letouryorkshire.com>



This week **teams from Safer Cleaner Greener** have been out and about preparing and seeding sites for the **Calderdale corridor of colour** ready for a blast of colour and biodiversity this summer. The theme this year is going to be sunflowers and wildflowers in urban spaces using recycled soil been given free by MJB contractors based locally in West Vale. New sites include Shroggs Park, Shaw Park, Beechwood Park and many other verges and green spaces around the borough.



And finally....

Members of Incredible Edible, Brighouse have started preparing flower beds in memory of **George Collins**. George was a long time friend of one of the group members, Sandra Edwards, but sadly passed away a month ago. George was given a lifetime achievement award for his garden from Brighouse in Bloom (which was when the Build a Brighter Brighouse were involved) due to him winning the “best garden” section several times. He was well known for his garden and people would often go to have a look.



George often shared his beloved garden seeds with Sandra, and Sandra had the idea of planting the seeds in the wigwams at the community gardens at Lawson Road, Brighouse. Runner Beans, Sunflowers and Sweet Peas have been planted and it is intended that with a bit of love, care and attention, that the seeds will flourish and during the summer will create a fitting living memorial to George which would be dearly cherished and appreciated.

If you have read this, please pass on the information to colleagues who may not have access to email. Please think about the environment and only print this if essential.