

COUNCIL MEETING ON 15 JULY 2014 – ITEM 7 (II)

Report from Susan Barker, Cabinet Member for the Environment

The Environment portfolio is varied and includes areas such as Waste, Gipsies and Parking as well as the LDF.

The North Essex Parking Partnership met recently and, as at every meeting, reviewed the current levels of Parking Contravention Notices issued, which in Uttlesford over the last few months is around 300 a month on street and 120 off street tickets. Most of these are paid at the discounted rates of £35 and £25 respectively, although a number will be subject to challenge. The partnership is changing systems to allow challenges and responses to be made by e mail which will reduce costs in stationery and postage. The meeting also confirmed that new parking restrictions have been advertised in 11 sites across Uttlesford and the introduction of these are now being planned.

The Essex County Traveller Unit met recently and reviewed the progress made in tackling health and education issues in the traveller population. By building up a rapport with the traveller communities officers have succeeded, since the partnership was established in gaining access to school for 339 additional children, in getting 27 children into further education, in registering 32 new families with their local Childrens Centres and facilitated 218 children to receive primary immunisation as well as 364 flu jabs.

The Traveller unit is also responsible for illegal encampments when these are on Highways land and has protocols in place, which in most cases, result in the Travellers moving on within the required time frames.

On the waste front you will have seen the posters of the whole Essex litter campaign. I attended the launch of this and also helped out at the Thaxted litter pick in a thunderstorm. As Chairman of the Essex waste working party we are looking at ways of working better in Partnership to reduce the level of waste arising, which has recently shown an increase, and to see recycling increase against a recent small fall. Uttlesford was ranked 11th overall in 2012-13 in the National tables.

Susan Barker
30 June 2014