

# 04 Safe and clean environment

Everyone wants to live in a safe and clean environment. We are working to improve the quality of the environment for those who live in, work in and visit the Borough for now and for the future. We are encouraging everyone to take responsibility for helping us to keep our area clean, safe and sustainable for future generations.

## Who's responsible?



**Cllr Neil Harden**  
Portfolio Holder  
for Residents  
and Regulatory  
Services



**Cllr Julie Laws**  
Portfolio Holder  
for Environment  
and Sustainability



**Louise Miller**  
Corporate Director  
for Performance,  
Improvement and  
Transformation

## Last year (2010/11)



### Let's Tidy Dacorum Together

Nationally, **Keep Britain Tidy** has now awarded us in two consecutive years the accolade of Local Authority Champion and the local **Let's Tidy Dacorum Together** project was born from this. Through this project we have involved approximately 6,500 residents including 125 community groups, businesses and schools in taking ownership and pride in their neighbourhoods. Volunteers have collected 1,617 sacks of litter, including 66 sacks of recycling and have reported 442 environmental eyesores.

### A more sustainable council

We've been working to make sure that the council's activities have as little impact on the environment as possible. We have been measuring our energy use so that we can monitor and manage our use of natural resources, have been developing ways to

manage our environmental impacts across the council and have been working with our business partners to encourage them to think about how they can play a part in reducing carbon emissions in Dacorum.

### Safer Dacorum

The Council's CCTV service was directly involved in 504 arrests and our team has seen a reduction of 16% in Anti Social Behaviour across the borough in the last 12 months.

### Waste collection

We've made changes to the waste collection schedule which will make it easier for us to let residents know about any changes to their normal collections. We have also made the collection schedules available on the council's website.

We collected approximately 4.8 million bins over the year. Of these we missed only 0.13% (around 6000).



### Recycling

We've installed new equipment in our recycling facilities that helps to separate mixed materials, such as steel, aluminium and plastic. This will help make sure we are effectively reclaiming and recycling as many materials as possible.



We've increased recycling facilities for blocks of flats. Approximately 90% of flats now having access to dry recycling facilities. We've expanded our recycling service to include schools, collecting plastic bottles, food tins, drink cans, paper, cardboard and green waste from 63 schools across Dacorum.

### Working with the Energy Saving Trust

Over the last year we have been continuing to work in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust to improve our practices and services in relation to energy and fuel use.

Some of the work we have been doing over the last year has included:

- Developing ways to collect data on electricity, gas, water and fuel use;
- Trying out voltage optimisation at Victoria Hall for potential to roll it out to other large operational buildings;
- Using a review of our vehicle fleet to develop action plans to reduce fuel use;
- Providing housing staff with training to show tenants how to control their heating more efficiently;
- Providing training to planning and building control officers on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources;
- Introduced a tool to help planners assess the sustainability of new buildings;
- Developing a car-sharing database for staff commuting; and
- Running awareness campaigns with staff to encourage them to turn equipment off when not in use.



## Plans for this year (2011/12)

- Pursue proposals to make it easier for businesses to go green and install renewable energy facilities at Maylands in Hemel Hempstead. If agreed by the Secretary of State, a Local Development Order for the area would take away the need for businesses to apply for planning permission to install solar panels and railings to support green roofs.
- Investigate an electronic system for our waste collection that shares information from the streets such as inaccessible roads and missed bins with the Customer Service Unit to get more accurate information to respond to complaints and plan the waste collection service.
- Continue to promote and encourage recycling towards a recycling target for the Borough of 50% by 2013/14.