



INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
WASTE PREVENTION	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT	12 NOVEMBER 2019	8
CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

This report is to update members on the collaboration between Fylde Council and Trinity Hospice on the trial doorstep collection of real Christmas trees. Residents are able to arrange a collection of their real Christmas trees from their home address in return for making a donation to the Charity.

In January 2019 a collection service was offered to households in postcode areas FY3, FY4 and FY8 which proved successful. 528 trees were collected from the Lytham and St Annes areas which provided a total of £4,813.50 in donations to Trinity Hospice.

Plans are in place to extend this offer to other areas of the Borough for Christmas 2020.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Waste Prevention Team

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

Members will be aware of the drive to deliver convenient, cost effective ways for Fylde residents to recycle as much household waste as possible, together with the benefits of collecting real Christmas trees for the ongoing Sand Dunes Restoration Project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Clare Blyth, Waste Prevention and Enforcement Officer

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1. Fylde Council's Waste Collections team have historically provided households with the opportunity to recycle real Christmas trees at home via the green bin collections or the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Lytham.
2. Residents can also take real Christmas trees to one of the collection sites which are set up on a temporary basis on council car parks/village halls. However, this is a very resource intensive operation and it is necessary to hire crowd barriers for these sites, at a cost to the Council, to ensure an area can be cordoned off to set out safe, contained drop off points. The team are always looking at ways to reduce costs and operational demand whilst maintaining customer service.
3. In 2018 Fylde Council introduced an additional option by supporting a trial doorstep collection service for real Christmas trees which was being offered to Blackpool residents through a collaboration with Trinity Hospice. Fylde residents living in FY3, FY4 and FY8 areas of the borough were able to book tree collections in exchange for a donation to Trinity Hospice.
4. The introduction of this service allowed for a reduction in the number of temporary collection sites, providing a saving to the Council of £500 in barrier hire costs alone. There were also significant operational savings due to the reduced requirement to collect and transport Christmas trees from the collection points to North Beach car park for the Sand Dunes Restoration work.
5. On Saturday 12 January 2019, Snowdon Road Depot was set up as a base for Trinity Hospice to brief volunteers, offering refreshment breaks/toilet facilities under the supervision of the Waste Prevention team. The team, along with other volunteers, assisted in collecting 528 trees from the Lytham and St Annes areas, generating a total of £4,813.50 in donations to Trinity Hospice. This money has helped to provide essential care to people with life threatening or limiting illnesses across Fylde.
6. The Christmas trees were planted on St Annes beach between 29-31 January 2019 as part of the ongoing sand dunes restoration project. The trees help to reduce the erosion of the dunes that provide a unique habitat for many plants and animals and also act as an effective soft sea defence for the local community.
7. It is necessary to take a phased approach when rolling out this doorstep collection service across the borough as Trinity Hospice is heavily dependent on volunteers with/without suitable vehicles giving up their free time to assist with tree collections. It is therefore necessary to ensure adequate resources are in place to meet customer demand. Following the success of last year's trial, plans are now being finalised to extend this offer to other areas of the borough, including parts of the PR4 areas.
8. Kirkham Town Council has agreed the use of William Sagar Park and Pavilion which will provide a base for volunteers and will be used as a central drop off point for real trees. In addition, William Sagar Park has been identified as a more suitable location for a temporary collection point for residents to take their trees rather than the previously used Mill Street car park, which is restrictive in terms of size and manoeuvrability when transporting trees.
9. Other areas of the borough not yet included in the extended Trinity Hospice trial will again have access to the temporary collection points and be able to recycle real Christmas trees in their green bin or via the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Lytham.
10. The Trinity Hospice offer will take place over the weekend of the 11th and 12th January and volunteers are once again encouraged to offer their support to ensure the repeat success of the trial. Full details of the various Christmas tree collection options services will be promoted via the website, social media, local press and on this year's Christmas collection bin tags which will be attached to all grey bins in November.
11. An assessment of the extended trial will take place next year with a view to extending it to even more areas of the borough if viable.