



INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	9 NOVEMBER 2021	8
CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS – TRINITY HOSPICE 2021			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

This report provides Members with an update on the collaboration between Fylde Council and Trinity Hospice for the doorstep collection of real Christmas trees. Residents can arrange a collection of real Christmas trees from their home address in return for making a donation to the Charity.

In January 2021 a collection service was offered to households in postcode areas FY3, FY4, FY8 and parts of PR4 which proved successful. A total of 722 trees were collected, providing £10,107.25 in donations to Trinity Hospice.

The scheme will be extended Borough wide for the coming Christmas period, adhering to COVID-19 health and safety guidance with appropriate risk assessment mitigations.

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 or Gareth Matthews, Senior Waste Prevention and Enforcement Officers

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Report

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 temporary collection sites set up on certain council car parks/village halls. However, this is a very resource intensive and costly operation and relies on residents transporting their own trees to the drop off points. The team constantly look for ways to reduce

costs and operational demand whilst maintaining customer service.

3. Since 2019, Fylde Council has offered an additional option by supporting a doorstep collection service for real Christmas trees in collaboration with Trinity Hospice. In January 2021, Fylde residents living in FY3, FY4, FY8 and PR4 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 savings to the Council in excess 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 9th and Sunday 10th January 2021, Snowdon Road Depot (Lytham St Annes) was set up as a base for Trinity Hospice, offering welfare facilities under the supervision of the Waste Prevention team. The team, along with other volunteers, assisted in collecting 722 trees from the Lytham St Annes and parts of PR4 areas, generating a total of £10,107.25 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 8th to 10th February 2021 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 act as an effective soft sea defence for the local community.
7. It has been 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. This has helped to ensure adequate resources are in place to meet customer demand. It was anticipated that following the successful roll out to parts of PR4 postcode area in January 2020, the service would be extended to other areas of the borough the following Christmas. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the shortage of volunteers (isolating or shielding), it was necessary to focus efforts over a smaller footprint and plans are now in place to extend the service to all Fylde households in January 2022.
8. Kirkham Town Council has previously agreed the use of William Sagar Park and Pavilion as an additional base for volunteers and drop off point for real trees. This arrangement will continue in January 2022.
9. As the doorstep collection of trees extends across the borough, the number of temporary collection points will be reduced, generating further savings, and reducing operational demand. Residents will also still be able to recycle real Christmas trees in their green bin at home or via the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Lytham free of charge. Details of the various collection/disposal options will be promoted to customers via the website, social media and in the local press.
10. The Trinity Hospice service is scheduled for the weekend of the 8th and 9th January 2022 and volunteers will be encouraged to offer their time in support of the initiative. Government guidance will be reviewed closer to the time in respect of Covid-19 to ensure the most update to date Health and Safety measures are in place to protect volunteers and customers. PPE will be provided for volunteers, including face masks and hand sanitising gels.