

## INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PLACE AND CULTURE	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	8 NOVEMBER 2022	6
<b>CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS – TRINITY HOSPICE 2022</b>			

### 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 2022 a collection service was offered to households in postcode areas FY3, FY4, FY8, and PR4 which proved successful. A total of 801 trees were collected, providing £11,070 in donations to Trinity Hospice.

The scheme will be extended Borough wide in January 2023, adhering to all current health and safety guidance with the 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, Waste and Fleet Manager and Gareth Matthews, Senior Waste Prevention and Enforcement Officer

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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 2022, Fylde residents living in FY3, FY4, FY8 and PR4 areas of the borough were able to book tree collections via the Trinity Hospice website or by telephoning their booking line in exchange for a donation to the charity.
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 crowd 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 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 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 801 trees from the Lytham St Annes and PR4 areas, generating a total of £11,070 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 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 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 shortage of volunteers (isolating or shielding), it was necessary to focus efforts over a smaller footprint in January 2021 and the plan to extend the service to all Fylde households was delayed. The service was successfully extended to include additional FY3, FY4 and PR4 postcodes in January 2022. Due to this success, tree collections will be offered to all Fylde households in January 2023.
8. Kirkham Town Council has previously agreed the use of William Segar Park as an additional drop off point for real trees. This arrangement will continue in January 2023.
9. As the doorstep collection of trees extends across the borough, the number of temporary collection points will be further reduced, generating additional 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, bin tags and in the local press.
10. The Trinity Hospice service is scheduled for the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and volunteers will be encouraged to offer their time in support of the initiative. All necessary 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.