



INFORMATION ITEM

| REPORT OF | MEETING | DATE | ITEM NO |
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| RESOURCES DIRECTORATE | OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | 10 NOVEMBER 2020 | 6 |
| CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTIONS – TRINITY HOSPICE | | | |

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 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 2020 a collection service was offered to households in postcode areas FY3, FY4, FY8 and parts of PR4 which proved successful. 658 trees were collected from the Lytham St Annes and parts of PR4 areas which provided a total of £6,289.80 in donations to Trinity Hospice.

Due to the COVID restrictions plans to extend this offer to other areas of the Borough for January 2021 have been put on hold. We are hopeful that we can continue offer this service to existing areas adhering to the current COVID-19 health and safety guidance and suitable 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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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. Since 2018 Fylde Council has offered an additional option by supporting a doorstep collection service for real Christmas trees which was being offered through a collaboration with Trinity Hospice. In January 2020 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 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 11th and Sunday 12th January 2020, Snowdon Road Depot (Lytham St Annes) and William Segar Hodgson Pavillion (Kirkham) were set up as bases 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 658 trees from the Lytham St Annes and parts of PR4 areas, generating a total of £6,289.80 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 4-6 February 2020 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. It was hoped that following last year's successful roll out to parts of PR4 postcode area, that we would be in a position to extend this offer further this year to other areas of the borough. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential shortage of volunteers isolating or shielding, we feel it is necessary to focus our efforts on existing areas over a smaller more manageable footprint with a view to extend the trial further in January 2022 if it is safe to do so.
8. This year Kirkham Town Council agreed the use of William Sagar Park and Pavilion which provided a base for volunteers and 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 Streetcar 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 once 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 is scheduled to take place over the weekend of the 9th and 10th January 2021 and volunteers are once again encouraged to offer their support to ensure the repeat success of the trial. Health and Safety adjustments will be put in place to protect volunteers collecting trees during the

pandemic, this includes a virtual volunteer brief 1 or 2 days prior to the weekend of collections, staggered start and finish times to restrict the number of people at each base, reduce volunteers to 2 per vehicle (previously 3) and where possible ensuring family members are assigned together. Additional PPE items will be provided in volunteers packs, including face masks and hand sanitising gels. 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 trial will take place next year with a view to extending it to even more areas of the borough if viable.