

Staff Consultation Forum Meeting

01/06/2022

Present: Anthony Roche (**AR**), Jo Keshishian (**JK**) Emma Jellis (**EJ**), Alice Ashbrook (**AA**), Christina Corr (**CC**) Keith Fitzpatrick- Mathews (**KFM**),

(Fallon Rumball-Nunan (**FRN – notes**))

Circulation: Global

1. Apologies

Andrew Betts, Louis Franklin, Rebecca Webb, Ian Couper

2. Matters Arising

None

3. NHC update

HR update:

Benefits Survey: [Staff Benefit Survey](#) emailed out Monday - we are keen to hear your views on our current range of benefits as well as ideas on how we can improve, and new benefits which are under consideration so please take the time to complete the survey and encourage your colleagues to do so as well. The Survey will be open until 22nd June, and Ian and Rebecca will be answering questions on benefits at the next Staff Briefing 8th June.

New Ways of Working: Work on this is progressing. It will help to give further guidance and cover questions around returning to the office.

Inclusion Group: The next meeting is Tuesday 7th June, and the discussion topic will be marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, and paternity (including fertility and adoption) and how these may impact upon your experience of working at North Herts. The meeting is at 10am and is open to everyone.

Personal Development morning: Friday 10th June: There is no specified theme for this month, but managers have been reminded of:

- [GDPR e-learning](#) which needs to be completed annually,
- [Annual Declaration Letter](#) which need to be signed and returned by the end of June.
- [Social Media policy](#)
- New Starter get-together.

Wellbeing Update:

[Headspace for work application:](#) Staff are still able to sign up for a year's free premium access to the Headspace app.



[Mind eLearning](#) E learning Grow Zone from the Mental Health charity Mind.

[Vita Health Group Wellbeing classes](#) staff also have free access to virtual wellbeing classes provided by Vita Health, and these range from Pilates, Yoga, Mindfulness and Diet & Nutrition.

Carers' Week 6-12th June: we will be running two lunch time events on Zoom:

- Tuesday at 12:30pm Gail and Maggie will be joined by Carers in Herts to provide information about support available for working carers
- Thursday at 13:00pm Virtual Kitchen for colleagues with caring responsibilities

NHC Update:

Annual Council took place on 26th May, details of cabinet changes can be found [here](#).

4. Employee Queries

None

5. IT Update

None

6. Green Update

Prepared by Alice Sims

Clean Air Day, 16th June – HCCSP Initiative

Hertfordshire County Council have received funding from DEFRA, which will be put towards improving air quality in Hertfordshire through a communications campaign, as well as installing new air quality monitors across the County. The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership will be launching the comms campaign on Clean Air Day (16th June) by targeting idling across the County and involving community groups to take part and target specific locations of their choice during the day.

New Mowing Regime

The first cut for the new regimes of mowing has been completed and the biodiversity benefits are already evident, with more flowers seen in the verges and other areas, including Butts Close.

Hitchin Eco Day

North Herts Council were represented by a stall at the Hitchin Eco Day event on Saturday 14th May. The stall promoted some of the work that the Council has, and is, doing in relation to the Climate Emergency. This includes promoting the Climate Change Strategy, the HEAT energy app, the Herts Sustainable Periods Campaign, and the WWF Carbon Calculator, as well as sharing information on the success of the recent 10,000 trees giveaway initiative. Posters were displayed to provide visual information and QR codes so that individuals could easily access the HEAT energy app and online information.

Climate Change Implementation Group, 20th May

The Climate Change Implementation Group (CCIG) is made up the Leader of Council, relevant executive Members, relevant service directors and the corporate policy team. This group works at a strategic level and the aim of group is to advance the implementation & development of actions from the Council's Climate Change Strategy.



The CCIG aids connecting climate work across council services and the activity of cabinet panel on the environment. Following a review of the terms of reference, a new format has been adopted, where specific actions from the Climate Change Strategy are spotlighted at each meeting to discuss how these can be implemented. The most recent meeting took place on Friday 20th May.

HEAT Energy App

The HEAT Herts Energy Advice Tool, an energy saving app continues to be available for residents to download and use. This is available on apple and android app stores and is accessible to residents throughout Hertfordshire. The app is designed to take residents through their home and fill in a survey to identify how they can reduce their energy usage in order to save money on bills and help the environment.

7. Building Services Update

Questions welcomed.

If anyone has any issues, please email these to propertyservices@north-herts.gov.uk

8. Ideas/Suggestions

None

9. AOB

Recruitment has started for 3 new Apprentices within Finance, Human Resources and Licencing. If you know of anyone suitable, please encourage them to [apply](#).

JSCC Representative, Wednesday 8th June – TBC

Chair for next meeting – Christina Corr

Have something to say?

If you have an issue you think should be brought to the attention of the SCF, please contact any SCF representative via phone, email or in person. They will raise your issue at the next meeting. You will not be identified unless you want to be.

Issues relating to property e.g., broken lift, non-flushing toilets, etc. must always be reported to Property Services in the first instance: propertyservices@north-herts.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can send any issues to the SCF inbox - SCF@north-herts.gov.uk

Representatives (and extension):

Emma Jellis #4312 - MSU team

Christina Corr #4325 - Senior Technical Officer Revenues and Benefits

Andrew Betts #4282 - Contracts Officer Waste Management based at Buntingford

Alice Ashbrook#4235 - Community Protection Apprentice

Louis Franklin#4262 – Admin Support Officer