

REPORT FOR RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 2010

Ringwood and Fordingbridge have been chosen for a trial of new **black refuse sacks**. These are sturdier and less liable to puncture than those in current use. They are delivered in smaller packs but the number of sacks contained is the same as usual. There is less plastic (oil) content used in their manufacture so are seen to be more environmentally acceptable. These new sacks are being delivered to households this week.

A cross scrutiny-panel committee has been established to investigate how to progress the NFDC's powers under the **Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005)**. It is a mix of representatives of Planning, Environment, Housing, Environmental health Panels, and Officers including Commercial Services and the Legal department. There have been only two meetings up to now, but after the summer holidays and time for the legal department to scrutinise the small print of the Act, meaningful progress is anticipated.

There have been discussions taking place at NFDC, after consultants were appointed, over the role of **Scrutiny**. How effective is it and how can it be improved? Options included reverting to the Committee system or reducing the number of panels from 7 to 3 with 12 people appointed to each one. This threw up the spectre of most councillors having no say at all in policy or planning across the services. The truth is that styles vary from panel to panel, some good some not so good. The proposal of cutting down from 7 to 3 is likely to throw out the baby with the bathwater. Decisions have been deferred until either the Autumn or after the May election next year.

Attended a consultation meeting called by HCC regarding **Concessionary Fares**, to identify priorities, and how the rules might need to be changed when the County takes over their administration. My colleagues Cllrs Rippon-Swaine and Treleaven were also present and will be able to answer any queries on this subject.

Cllr Christine Ford
28th July 2010.