



Northampton Town Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Tel No. 01604 349310

Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 15th February 2023 – 18:00

To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee:

Councillors Stevens, (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Alwahabi, Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Haque, Joyce, Meredith, Miah, Soan, and Tarasiewicz

Distributed electronically to all other councillors for information

You are summoned to attend the meeting of Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held in the Town Council Committee Room at Northampton Guildhall on Wednesday 15th February 2023 at 18.00 or upon the conclusion of the Extraordinary Council meeting, whichever is later.

Public participation is in accordance with the Town Council's public participation policy. Members of public will need to contact the Town Clerk in advance if they wish to participate

Stuart Carter
Town Clerk
9th February 2023

Guildhall
Northampton
NN1 1DE

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting [held 28th November 2022](#) (not attached, sent out with Council agenda)

- 4. Consultation on improvements to Abington Park walking and cycling routes**
Covering report attached (p 3 – p 4)
- 5. Northampton in Bloom**
Report to follow
- 6. Environmental Services Budget update**
Latest budget report attached (p 5)
- 7. Climate change forum report**
Report to follow – spending plan attached (p 7 – p 8)
- 8. Allotments**
Clerk to give a verbal update
- 9. Woman’s Cycle Tour**
Report attached (p 9 – p 10)
- 10. Closed churchyards**
Report attached (p 11)
- 11. Items for future agenda**

Environmental Services Committee

Consultation on walking and cycling routes in Abington Park

Report by the Town Clerk

Purpose of report: To inform the committee of a WNC consultation regarding the walking and cycling routes in Abington Park

Recommended: That the committee consider if and how to respond to the consultation

West Northants Council have launched their consultation into the Walking and Cycling Routes in Abington park.

Taken from the press release: *'People across West Northamptonshire are being invited to provide their views on plans to improve walking and cycling routes in the Abington Park area and encourage more active ways of travelling.'*

Residents, businesses and community groups can provide their feedback on West Northamptonshire Council's consultation from Wednesday 1 February to Wednesday 15 March.

The Abington Park Area Active Travel scheme proposes the introduction of segregated cycleways and footways connecting Abington Park Crescent with Wellingborough Road, Bridgewater Drive, and Park Avenue South, as well as improvements to the junction of Billing Road and Rushmere Road. These proposals support safe active access to Abington Park and nearby Bridgewater Primary School.

The proposed changes seek to encourage improved active travel and provide better alternatives to driving which will reduce traffic and increase safety for walkers and cyclists.

The proposals include:

- Abington Park Crescent - a new two-way cycleway which will be separated from the road, and a new upgraded crossing at the junction with Park Avenue South*
- Bridgewater Drive - a new two-way cycleway towards the school and new road crossings are proposed*
- Park Avenue South - new cycleways that merge into existing cycling facilities*
- At the junction of Billing Road and Rushmere Road, there has been a longstanding request to improve facilities for pedestrians at the junction. The scheme proposals for the junction will provide new safer controlled crossing facilities which will also include diagonal crossings to shorten the current routes taken by pedestrians, especially*

children travelling to and from the schools in the area. The proposals will also look to remove the islands at the junction and simplify its day-to-day operation.

Cllr Phil Larratt, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste at West Northamptonshire Council, said: "We want to make walking and cycling for short journeys safer and more pleasant. The creation of new cycleways and crossings will allow residents and visitors to safely travel around the Abington Park area, as well as providing a safer route for children to walk or cycle to Bridgewater Primary School.

"The proposals will improve the quality of our cycling and walking infrastructure through these safe and direct routes. I'd encourage everyone to have their say on these proposals so that we can ensure the scheme works for all the community."

West Northamptonshire Council is hosting a drop-in event at Abington Park Museum on 16 February 2023 between 2pm and 8pm. Members of the project team will be available to answer questions about the scheme and speak to people about the proposals and consultation.

The consultation will take place between 1 February and 15 March 2023. People can view the proposals and provide their feedback by [visiting the council's Consultation Hub](#)

The Committee should consider if and how it would like to respond to this consultation. The consultation can be viewed at <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/place/abington-area-active-travel-scheme-consultation/>.

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 09/02/2023
Committee Report

Month No: 11

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Environmental Services								
210 Open Spaces & Environment								
1537 Northampton in Bloom Income	0		73388	0	(73,388)		0.0%	
Open Spaces & Environ	0		73388	0	(73,388)			0
4536 Northampton In Bloom	0		48303	50000	1697	1395	302	99.4%
4560 Environmental Projects	87		3760	50000	46240	80	46160	7.7%
Open Spaces & Environ	87		52063	100000	47937	1475	46462	53.5%
Net Income over Expenditure	(87)		21325	(100,000)	(121,325)			
230 Allotments								
4400 Repairs and Maintenance	0		21063	26000	4937		4937	81.0%
Allotments :- Indirect £	0		21063	26000	4937	0	4937	81.0%
Net Expenditure			(21,063)	(26,000)	(4,937)			
Environmental Service	0		73388	0	(73,388)			0.0%
Expenditure	87		73126	126000	52874	1475	51399	59.2%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(87)		262					
Grand Totals:- Income	0		73388	0	(73,388)			0.0%
Expenditure	87		73126	126000	52874	1475	51399	59.2%
Net Income over Expenditure	(87)		262	(126,000)	(126,262)			
Movement to/(from) £	(87)		262					

Environmental Projects Budget
DRAFT 2 year Programme 2022-24
(produced by AS, Chair of ESC)

Northampton in Bloom

Allotments

Environmental Projects

<u>CATEGORY: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT</u>	<i>Category Totals</i>	<i>Sub-Totals</i>
<u>Climate Cafés, Hubs & NTC Stalls</u>		£2,507.21
<u>Grosvenor Display</u>		£2,280.00
<u>Schools Engagement & Support</u>		£2,316.80
Walk to School Week 2022-3		
Walk to School Week 2023-4		
No Idling Banners		
Air Quality Toolkit for Schools		
CATEGORY TOTAL	£7,104.01	
<u>CATEGORY: GREENING the TOWN</u>		
<u>Planters in the town centre</u>		£3,670.00
<u>Tree planting</u>		£15,000.00

'Nature Needs Nurture' £1,000.00

CATEGORY TOTAL £19,670.00

CATEGORY: AIR QUALITY &
TRANSPORT

'Every Journey Matters' £10,000.00

Air Quality Monitoring £20,000.00

AQ 'Breathe In Better' £2,500.00

CATEGORY TOTAL £32,500.00

CLIMATE CHANGE GRANTS SCHEME

Grants 2022-3 £10,000.00

Grants 2023-4 £30,000.00

£40,000.00

GRAND TOTAL £99,274.01

CLIMATE EMERGENCY (RESERVE) £50,000.00

Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 15th February 2023

Report by Julie Thorneycroft – Assistant Town Clerk

Women's Cycle Tour 2023 – Early June 2023

Purpose of the report: to update the committee regarding the forthcoming Women's Cycle tour returning to Northampton in June.

Recommendation: That the committee consider their involvement (who and how) in the Women's cycle tour when the event takes place in early June.

The Women's Cycle tour is looking to return to Northampton in June this year, WNC are working with Sweet Spot (organisers of the Women's tour) to bring the Women's Cycling Tour back to the town in **June 2023** (exact date TBC but likely to be 8th June in the morning). It is understood that Northampton would be the starting place of one of the stages of the tour. The event will start outside the Guildhall and end in Derby, lasting approximately 3-4 hours.

The organisers are setting up an Event Management Board and would like (if possible) a representative from NTC to sit on the board. The Community Services Committee have suggested the Environment Services Committee may wish to consider being involved through its active travel group and also through Northampton in Bloom whereby vintage type bicycles decorated with flowers could add to the stage setting on the day. The bicycles could remain in situ throughout the summer and display sponsorship by Northampton Town Council (other ideas listed below)

The aim is to stretch out the event by having stalls and a stage with entertainment and to keep visitors in the town centre for as long as possible.

They require support with promotion and outreach and will be asking businesses to sponsor the event and to get involved.

Possible NTC involvement:

- Outreach- have our own stall
- Performances- encourage our community groups and contacts to take part in stage performances
- Northampton in Bloom- decorate stationary bicycles with flowers and NTC Logo signage – ask to have one on the stage as well as a 'selfie station' at our own stall
- Promotion of the event

Peter Cox (WNC) is targeting (mid-Feb) to start the event planning groups/conversations. He is hoping to get meeting invites out shortly to give partners ample time to squeeze into busy diaries. He wishes to know how the Town Council wishes to support the event planning, involvement in planning

groups, support with route planning, conversations with local businesses, links to potential sponsors etc.

Through the active travel group John Crick and Cllr Stevens have nominated Tom Burns to be the ambassador for the Women's Tour, Tom has agreed to take on the role and this will be discussed further at the next CCF meeting on 24th February.

Environmental Services Committee

Closed Churchyards

Report by the Town Clerk

Purpose of report: To inform the committee of the current position regarding closed churchyards in Northampton

Recommended: That the committee note the report

The Chair asked that this item be included in the agenda so as to inform the committee on the current position of closed churchyards in Northampton.

Members will be aware that there are a number of closed churchyards in the Northampton parish. Traditionally, when a parochial church council obtains an order in council (from the Privy Council) to close a churchyard, it can then – provided the churchyard is in good order – resolve to pass the responsibility for maintenance on to the local authority. The local authority in question is the parish council for the area, if there is one, and if not the district council etc. If the transfer is to a parish council then the parish council has three months to resolve that instead the duty should pass to the district council. If it does so, the duty passes on.

In Northampton's case there was no parish council therefore they were passed to the former Northampton Borough Council, which have subsequently been passed to WNC. WNC officers have confirmed that the basic legislation does not contain any provisions to allow responsibility for a closed churchyard to be passed back to a parish council in those cases when it has ended up with the district council.

To pass responsibility for a closed churchyard to a parish council there are four options:

- A local Act of Parliament – rather expensive even if time could be secured for it.
- Perhaps, an order under the Local government Act 1999 (best value) or the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act, but not clear how this would be done and that the government would give time for this to be done
- Use of the powers to make orders regarding property etc. associated with local government reorganisation. However, this was not done upon the creation of the town council and WNC therefore this would not be possible
- An agency agreement between the district/unitary council and the parish council. The statutory responsibility remains with the district/unitary council but the parish council takes it on at its own cost.

In summary, closed churchyards in the town are the responsibility of WNC. It is possible that WNC would approach the town council about taking them on, though it seems unlikely that any of the above provisions would be enacted other than an agency agreement. At present the Town Council does not have any policy or position on closed churchyards. Any proposal to take them on would have to go through the committee and council structure, be costed etc.