



NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 16th June 2021

To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee

You are summoned to attend the meeting of Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held via the Zoom Video Conferencing platform on 16th June 2021 at 18.00

The meeting will be streamed live via the Town Council's YouTube channel

**Stuart Carter
Interim Town Clerk
10th June 2021**

**Guildhall
Northampton
NN1 1DE**

A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Northants Litter Wombles**
Members of Northants Litter Wombles to give a verbal presentation
- 4. Northampton BID Litter Initiative – Support and collaboration with Town Mayor's litter initiative**
Mark Mullen from Northampton BID to give a verbal presentation
- 5. Town Centre Enhancements and Market Square Presentation**
Officers from West Northants Council to give a verbal presentation
- 6. Northampton in Bloom**
Report on Summer Planting Scheme attached (pages 3 - 5)
- 7. Climate Change Forum**
Interim Town Clerk's report attached (p 7)
- 8. Community Events to Mark the End of the Pandemic**
Interim Town Clerk's report attached (p9)

Committee Members: Councillors Joyce (Chair), Hallam (Deputy Chair), Alwahabi, Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Haque, Meredith, Miah, Soan, Stevens and Tarasiewicz

Distributed electronically to all other councillors for information

Northampton Town Council

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – 16TH JUNE 2021

NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM – REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Purpose of Report: To update Members of the current position with regard to the Northampton in Bloom program of planting and obtain their views on the Bloom Presentation and Awards Ceremony and the establishment of a working group.

Recommended: That members consider the notes and guide officers on the matters relating to the Presentation and Awards Ceremony and the establishment of a working group.

As per the minutes of the NTC Executive Committee on 12th April 2021 I was authorised to work with Alan McGregor (Idverde/Plantscape) and Paul Townsend (West Northants Council) to determine, following site inspections, the most advantageous method of providing impactful new planting throughout the town including approximately £1,000 of items in the ward of each Councillor who had put forward detailed suggestions. An allocated enhancement budget of £30,000 (£20,000 for new planters, hanging baskets etc. and £10,000 for installation costs and watering) was approved.

Orders had already been placed with Veolia/Idverde for the maintenance, filling and planting of all containers and then maintaining and watering them from June to September inclusive before return to the depot. Arrangements for judging community contributions to Bloom and a suitable presentation ceremony, usually at the Guildhall, still had to be agreed.

The Committee felt that enhancing the public contribution to Bloom was a very effective way of announcing to the Town Council's arrival to its constituent communities. There was, however, insufficient time to prepare an agreed scheme and obtain competitive quotations. It was therefore concluded that the best available and most effective solution would be to extend the existing contract with Idverde, whose division, Plantscape, could provide on a rental basis a wide range of containers already planted up for maximum impact. This would then provide the Council with the time to evaluate whether it wished to purchase the planters for the future and add them to its stock of containers.

All Members of the Council had been invited to put forward suggestions of locations which would benefit from additional summer planting and the type of planting they would prefer. The aim was that it might be possible to achieve some form of enhancement in most council wards. Eight Councillors had submitted suggestions and these were considered. It was felt that such an initial approach would provide an immediate impact but would also allow the Council the opportunity to give more measured consideration to future years' schemes in consultation with all relevant local community groups. WNC had advised that Mr Simpson would be able to process all requests for its consent to planters on highways or greenspaces.

The following progress has been made with the Northampton in Bloom project:

- Site visits to all the areas highlighted by Town Councillors were visited and assessed for suitability – Julie Thorneycroft, Paul Townsend (WNC) and Alan McGregor (Plantscape)

- An enhanced scheme to extend the Northampton in Bloom project into new areas of the town was proposed (see appendices 1), this has been agreed by the Chair and Deputy of the Environmental Committee together with Cllrs Birch and Marriott
- Through the help of Derrick Simpson (WNC) all proposed planter locations have been approved by the Highways department (barrier baskets/planters) and Balfour Beattie (lamppost planters)
- The extent of the original commitment to Northampton in Bloom made by Northampton Borough Council in February this year has now been confirmed, additional planting schemes agreed by NTC are set to enhance the existing floral scheme across a much wider area and will be enjoyed by many more residents and communities.
- The main areas highlighted for Bloom enhancement in summer 2021 are Boothville, Westone, Talavera, Trinity, Southfields, Kingsley, St James, Spencer, Semilong, Barrack Road, Wellingborough Road and Abington Street.
- Floral arrangements are being installed in early June and will remain in place until late September (approx. 15 weeks of additional colour in the town)
- Watering and maintenance throughout the summer period will be provided by a combined team from Plantscape, Idverde and K&J Hird.
- A Northampton in Bloom Communication and Marketing plan is in progress, this will involve regular press releases and social media input throughout the summer.
- The Northampton in Bloom logo previously used by Northampton Borough Council is being investigated.
- Paul Townsend (WNC) has advised community involvement in this project has been very limited since the beginning of the pandemic. Unfortunately, community groups and “It’s your Neighbourhood” groups have been unable to meet and work together in their usual way. The Bloom Presentation and Awards Ceremony usually held at the end of the summer is specifically an event whereby the community are given the opportunity to celebrate their achievements not only in horticulture but also in having worked in partnership on a shared theme - members are asked to consider if the Northampton in Bloom Presentation and Awards Ceremony event could be put on hold until next year when hopefully community groups are able to meet and work together and be a part of the overall project.
- Plans for Northampton in Bloom 2022 need to be thought about and actioned early in the year, it is suggested a Bloom working party is formed.
- A full itinerary of all Bloom equipment and assets is still outstanding.

Environmental Committee 16th June - Appendices 1						
Location	Description	Hanging Basket	Holestar Planters	Barrier Planters	3 Tier Planter	1 Metre Square Planter with wooden surround
Lamposts on the approach roads to Lumbertubs Roundabout - Moulton Way, Kettering Road, Booth Rise and Lumbertubs Lane	6 lamp posts identified, 2 half baskets per lamp post. Authorisation for the placing of planters, barrier baskets and Lamp post baskets on the public highway granted 28th April 2021.		12			
Penistone Road near Billing Brook Road	near the junction with Billing Brook Road there is a crossing on Penistone Road linking the footpath on either side of the road			4		
Billing Brook Road near Brookside Community Hub and shops	On Billing Brook Road, the railings on either side of the bridge would accommodate 8 barrier baskets on one side and 6 on the opposite side			14		
Billing Brook road bridge adjacent to the Lake opposite Retford Court	railings adjacent to Cynet Lake - 6 barrier baskets each side			12		
Lings Way and Goldings Junction	4 lamp posts identified, 2 half baskets per lamp post		8			
Southfields Roundabout - Lings Way and Talavera Way approaches	8 lampposts identified, 2 half baskets per lamp post		16			
St Matthews Parade, Kingsley	near the junction 12 barrier baskets St Matthews Parade			12		
Kingsley Road opposite The White Elephant Pub and adjacent to the Racecourse	12 barrier baskets on Kingsley Road opposite the White Elephant			12		
Kingsley Road opposite the White Elephant Pub adjacent to the Racecourse	A concrete slab (previously a bus stop) on Kingsley Road identified as a suitable place for a large tiered planter.				1	
Campbell Street and Barrack Road Junction	9 Lamposts identified each one 2 x half basket		18			
Barrack Road	Footpath entrance to Northampton Racecourse opposite Adelaide Street along				1	
St James Road	St James Square off St James Road, O/S library 138 St James Rd and adjacent to the Post Office				2	
Weedon Road	Grass verges outside St James Post Office 144 St James Road					3
Althorp Road off Weedon Road	Square of concrete named Gammons Place next to "It's a Gift" on Weedon Road				1	
Alliston Gardens Youth & Community Centre	Working with partners from the community centre and WNC community safety team sites for hanging baskets have been identified.	2				
Wellingborough Road	various business premises where brackets are already in place. Heavy duty hanging basket brackets already in place - brackets are on a 3 year test program. Tested March 2021	55				
TOTAL		57	54	54	5	3
Entrance to Southfields, Farmhill Road	Scheme for planting and maintenance agreed.					
Gladstone Road - 5 planters around the Tintern Avenue/Gladstone Road junction	Planting & Maintenance of 5 x Gladstone Road Planters agreed. The 2 x wildflower beds require litter picking and the bare patches of ground re-sowing with wildflower seed. The remaining 3 beds will be planted up with 2ltr berberis thunbergii and dressed with a mulch/woodchip.					
Abington Street - 7 large planters and the Cobblers Last Statue	Scheme for planting and maintenance agreed.					
Authorisation for the placing of planters, barrier baskets and Lamp post baskets on the public highway Section 144 of the Highways Act 1980 was granted by West Northants Council on 28th April 2021.						

This page is intentionally blank

Northampton Town Council

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – 16TH JUNE 2021

CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM – REPORT OF THE INTERIM TOWN CLERK

Purpose of Report: To inform members of the Council's policy to establish a Climate Change Forum and to seek their views and lead on establishing this forum.

Recommended: That members formally consider the means of establishing the forum, its aims and objectives.

At the shadow Town Council meeting on 1 March 2021 the Council considered a Climate Emergency Motion. The minute relating to this is detailed as follows:

Councillor Hallam proposed and Councillor Hill seconded that "This Council notes the previous climate emergency declarations by both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council – as a new Council it is vital that we put the climate emergency at the forefront of any decisions we take, and this Council therefore resolves to declare a Climate Emergency and set 2030 as the date to be Carbon neutral by and asks that the Council draws up a plan to be reviewed by the end of year."

By way of an amendment it was proposed by Councillor Joyce and accepted by the mover of the original motion, that additional words be added to the motion.

Upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED: *That this Council notes the previous climate emergency declarations by both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council – as a new Council it is vital that we put the climate emergency at the forefront of any decisions we take, and this Council therefore resolves to declare a Climate Emergency and set 2030 as the date to be Carbon neutral by, and asks that this Council establishes a local community Climate Change forum to meet quarterly, and annually review targets and progress.*

Town Councils sit at the heart of the community and are well positioned to set up a Climate Change Forum that can act as a strategic leader and facilitator for the community in tackling issues relating to climate change. This can be extended to include initiatives such as active travel, supporting the community in cutting carbon, planting and rewilding etc.

Committee members are encouraged to search Town Council Climate Forums to see work of other Town and Parish Councils. The common themes in these that the Clerk has seen are:

- Audit of Council to ascertain its carbon footprint in order to meet target of being carbon neutral
- Development of a council plan/strategy by the forum
- Enabling and/or facilitating the community through grants/and or resources, reduce CO₂, etc
- Inform the Council decision making process with regards to the potential environmental impact

The Council has a budget of £50,000 allocated to 'Climate Emergency'.

This page is intentionally blank

Northampton Town Council

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – 16TH JUNE 2021

COMMUNITY EVENTS TO MARK THE END OF THE PANDEMIC – REPORT OF THE INTERIM TOWN CLERK

Purpose of Report: To inform members of the Council's support in principle to commemorate the victims of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Recommended: (a) That members formally consider the proposals as put forward by the former executive committee and consider how they wish to proceed.

At the Executive Committee meeting of the 15 March 2021 a proposal was put forward regarding a memorial to local victims of the Covid 19 Pandemic. It was agreed that this should be looked at further by the Environment Services Committee of the newly created Council. The minute from the Executive Committee on this item is as follows:

MEMORIAL TO VICTIMS OF THE PANDEMIC

Councillor Brian Markham asked the Committee whether the Town Council wished to consider providing or facilitating a suitable memorial to local victims of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Chair further suggested that the Council might wish to facilitate or support local community events such as "community get togethers" which could vary in extent according to the wishes of that community. There was evidence that some of the major sports and arts providers and organisers within the town may also wish to play their part. The Committee very much favoured the sentiments behind the suggestions and discussed appropriate actions.

RESOLVED: *That the proposals be supported in principle and the matter be referred to the Community Services and Environmental Services Committees for detailed discussions including inviting via the website suggestions from the community for sharing their covid experiences and commemorative ideas which might include:*

- a) An arbour of trees with suitable seating to provide a lasting memorial and a place for quiet reflection,*
- b) A possible enhancement of the Carnival event,*
- c) An exhibition of images from the community of their covid experiences, and*
- d) A commemorative inter faith church service for all local victims, especially for those whose families who were unable to say farewell in traditional ways.*

From the Clerk's point of view, it is apparent that some sort of public consultation on what they would like is at the forefront of the resolution. In order for officers to develop this and go live it is recommended that some sort of delegation is given to officers in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair to formulate the consultation and publicise it.

The Town Council has a Covid Response and Set Ups costs budget of £50,000.