



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

Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

Tel No. 01604 349310

Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 3rd April 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 at Abington Community Centre, Wheatfield Road South, Northampton NN3 2HH on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 18.00.

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 speak on any agenda item, except for item 3.

Stuart Carter
Town Clerk
28th March 2023

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A G E N D A

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Public Questions and Answers – The Committee will take questions/statements from the public**
- 4. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held 15th February 2023**
Attached (p 3 – p 5)
- 5. West Northamptonshire Council Consultation to vary the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places) 2022**
Report attached (p 7 – p 8)

- 6. Environmental Services Committee – Budget update**
Budget attached (p 9)
- 7. Northampton in Bloom**
Report attached (p 11 – p 13)
- 8. Walk to School Campaign**
Report attached (p 15 – p 16)
- 9. Air Quality School Toolkit**
Verbal report to be given
- 10. Climate change forum report**
Report to follow
- 11. Climate Change grants scheme**
Chair to give an update
- 12. Items for future agenda**
Consideration of any future agenda items members would like to add

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2023
AT 6:43PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES IN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Councillors Stevens (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Joyce, Tarasiewicz, Miah and Soan

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr John Crick (Volunteer and Member of the Climate Change Forum)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr S Carter (Town Clerk) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

The Environmental Services Committee meeting started at 6:43 pm as the Extraordinary Full Council meeting overran.

25. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Ashraf, Alwahabi, Choudary, Haque and Meredith

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were submitted.

27. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

28. IMPROVEMENT TO ABINGTON AREA TRAVEL

The Chair explained that Mr Crick was part of Climate Change Forum as a Co-op member and merely here to present the information on the scheme as he had been following it very closely. Mr Crick stated the Abington Area Active Travel Scheme was formerly known as the Billing Road Corridor Scheme that would be funded by a Government grant to promote active travel and was cited biggest change to transport in 60 years by Government within their Gear Change Policy of 2020.

Mr Crick completed a presentation to attendees and highlighted the following points:

- The rationale behind the Gear Change Policy was that 40% of all journeys completed within a car were less than 2 miles and 70% were less than 5 miles therefore deemed walkable or cyclable.
- 1 in 6 deaths were caused by inactive lifestyles therefore active travel would be beneficial from a Public Health perspective.
- Through studies it was determined the biggest source of CO₂ amongst different means of transport within the UK was due to private vehicles.
- The Department for Transport deemed that changing infrastructure was the only way to encourage people to partake in active travel as many people have been discouraged due to safety concerns.
- The former Northampton Borough Council was successful in a £1.3 million bid for the Billing Road Corridor to enable an active travel link from the East of the Town into the Town Centre, according to figures of the current use of the pre-existing cycle lanes have not been taken up.
- The Billing Road Corridor project was paused due to local residents' objection through a local petition against the project.
- An independent survey of Northampton Residents was completed about walking and cycling and 60% of

residents believe cyclists and pedestrians should be given more priority in town even if this makes things difficult for car users.

- On 28th January 2023 West Northamptonshire Council stated they were working on an alternative proposal with the Department of Transport.
- The Abington Area Active Travel Plan would start along Abington Park Crescent and continue on to Park Avenue South with the footpath, cycle lane and main road separated by kerbs in accordance to the requirement set out by the Department for Transport.
- Included within the plans the cycle lane would splinter off from Abington Park Crescent down Bridgewater Drive and Ellis Way to the Bridgewater Primary School.
- Just prior to the junction of Abington Park Crescent and Park Avenue South there would be a dual crossing for pedestrians and cyclists that would be raised inline with the height of the footpath/kerb.
- The traffic light controls on the junction of Park Avenue South and Billing Road East would be replaced with a diagonal crossing for pedestrians this would be facilitated by all vehicles being stopped via a red light.

In response to a question posed by a Councillor, Mr Crick explained from his overview of the proposed plans the filter light from Billing Road East to Park Avenue South would be removed.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Stevens formulate a response for the Billing Road Corridor Consultation on behalf of the Environmental Services Committee.

29. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM

Councillor Stevens highlighted the Northampton in Bloom report as featured within the agenda provided members with an update on the working of the Mrs L Hannam-Jones (Events and Project Officer) and her collaboration with the Bloom Working Group. He added that the issues with the Public House in Far Cotton in relation to the location of a planter had been resolved furthermore, the Coronation Planter had been arranged.

Councillor Stevens stated that a Big Clean-Up at St Katherine's Church Yard would take place as part of the Big Help Out project on the Sunday after the Coronation of HM King Charles III however, this is subject to approval and that the town council intended to work with IdvVerde and other partners to get this completed.

A Councillor requested an additional basket for his ward. The Chair explained in response that Idverde were at capacity with watering to fulfil an additional planter. The Town Clerk explained we do have the Northampton In Bloom Grant that could be awarded to a Community Group within your area to place an additional basket or planter however they would be responsible for its watering and maintenance.

NOTED

30. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUDGET UPDATE

The Town Clerk tabled the budget report as it was agreed at Full Council each Committee would have a reoccurring standing item to enable the Committee's budget expenditure be reviewed.

Councillor Stevens explained he would maintain communication with the Event and Project Officer to ensure the Climate Change Forum be continuously monitored.

NOTED

31. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM REPORT

The Chair explained he had circulated an E-newsletter that enclosed the Bloom Report and the Climate Change Forum's recent work to keep Members up-to-date. In response to a question, the Chair explained he would

publicise to Councillors any up and coming dates for Climate Change Forum's engagements.

NOTED

32. ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk explained that the Council had made connections with the allotment site representatives and continued to progress the policy of self-management especially the larger sites. He continued that the Finance Officer had been monitoring the metre readings and invoices to identify any patterns. In response to a question posed by a Councillor, the Town Clerk stated that Idverde manage the allotments on behalf of the Town Council in return for plot rents. The Chair explained that allotment management requires development.

NOTED

33. WOMAN'S CYCLE TOUR

The Chair stated a brief discussion was held with Mrs L Hannam-Jones (Events and Project Officer) regarding the Woman's Cycle Tour (stage start from Northampton on 8th June) as they had requested a representative to join their organising group. The Chair had put forward Mr Tom Burns, a local cycling enthusiast who had worked on areas of active travel and cycle engagement. It was noted that a female representative would be preferable given that it was the woman's tour, however at present there was not one forthcoming. It was noted that Mr Burns was active in the cycle community and that he would be a great bridge between them and the TC via the Chair. With no other volunteers it was agreed that Mr Burns be asked to serve on the organising committee and that he would give regular feedback to this committee.

The committee were very supportive of the Women's Tour and it was agreed that it would look to support it by getting involved in some form.

NOTED

34. CLOSED CHURCHYARDS

The Town Clerk explained that Churchyards were legally the responsibility of West Northamptonshire Council as previously there was no parish in the area to adopt them and that the Council could be approached to adopt these. In response to a question posed, the Town Clerk advised that the Council would have the right to decline any transfer of assets. The Chair posed a strategy could be developed on the adoption of Church Yards in case we are approached.

NOTED

35. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

A Councillor raised how e-scooters were implemented as part of the active travel plan within Northamptonshire and despite concerns from the general public regarding their safety they were here to stay. He added that he had visited other cities with e-scooters and rather than riders placing the e-scooters anywhere they must be parked in a specific location and posed whether representatives of Voi e-scooters could attend a future committee meeting.

MEETING CONCLUDED: 20:05PM



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Environmental Services Committee

Consultation on varying public space protection orders

Report by the Town Clerk

Purpose of report: To inform the committee of a WNC consultation on public space protection orders

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

West Northants Council have launched their consultation into the varying of Public Space Protection orders.

The reason for bringing it to the attention of this committee is that it has impacts on our Environment as well as wellbeing, use of public space etc.

Taken from the Press release:

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is seeking to vary the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places) 2022.

We want to continue to promote responsible dog ownership and also to prohibit smoking in certain public spaces in the West Northamptonshire area. The council is now seeking to vary the Order to cover the Northampton Area and include the requirement to keep dogs on leads in Northampton town centre and also at Upton Country Park Phase 2 and exclude dogs from certain public open spaces such as play areas and schools. We are inviting you to read further information about the measures and proposals and complete an online consultation questionnaire to give your views.

I would be grateful if you would provide a response of behalf of the Town Council by Monday, 17th April 2023. The consultation is being supported by a communications campaign across West Northamptonshire so you may already be aware of it.

It would also be appreciated if you could raise awareness of this consultation amongst parish residents, clubs and organisations by displaying the attached poster on public notice boards, in your parish newsletter and via any social media networks as appropriate and encourage residents to complete the online feedback form.

The consultation opened on Thursday 16th March and closes Monday 17 April 2023.

Have your say

Please visit the <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/place/pspo-dog-ownership-smoking-prohibition-2023> for further information about the variation to the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places) 2022.

It is understood that the order would apply to all appropriate areas (e.g. play areas etc), within the old borough border of Northampton.

The requirements and restrictions of the PSPO are summarised as follows. Anyone who is in control of a dog (or dogs) in a public place must:

- *Pick up after the dog immediately*
- *Have the appropriate means to pick up after that dog*
- *Not take or allow the dog/s to enter the following: children's play areas; schools when open and in use by pupils; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and bowling greens*
- *Keep the dog on a lead when in: Cemeteries; burial sites; graveyards; memorial gardens; allotments; car parks; sports grounds, fields, and pitches, when in use for authorised sporting activity; land near the café area at Daventry Country Park and near schools when open and in use by pupils*
- *Put the dog on a lead when requested to do so by an Authorised person*
- *Restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person to a maximum of 4 dogs at any one time. Consideration is being given to the development of a licensing scheme and associated code of conduct for professional dog walkers.*

Additionally, the requirements and restrictions also cover:

The smoking of tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances is prohibited in the following areas:

- *Children's play areas*
- *land outside school entrances and exits when open and in use by pupils*
- *skateparks*
- *tennis courts*
- *multi-use games areas (also known as MUGAs), and*
- *bowling greens.*

A £100 fixed penalty notice (FPN) may be issued for failure to comply with any of the requirements or restrictions contained within the PSPO in line with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, section 68(2).

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>Environmental Services</u>								
<u>210 Open Spaces & Environment</u>								
1537 Northampton in Bloom Income	0	73,388	0	(73,388)			0.0%	
Open Spaces & Environment :- Income	0	73,388	0	(73,388)				0
4536 Northampton In Bloom	26,015	74,318	50,000	(24,318)	23,528	(47,846)	195.7%	
4560 Environmental Projects	0	3,918	50,000	46,082	480	45,602	8.8%	
Open Spaces & Environment :- Indirect Expenditure	26,015	78,236	100,000	21,764	24,008	(2,244)	102.2%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(26,015)	(4,848)	(100,000)	(95,152)				
<u>230 Allotments</u>								
4400 Repairs and Maintenance	677	22,306	26,000	3,694		3,694	85.8%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	677	22,306	26,000	3,694	0	3,694	85.8%	0
Net Expenditure	(677)	(22,306)	(26,000)	(3,694)				
Environmental Services :- Income	0	73,388	0	(73,388)			0.0%	
Expenditure	26,692	100,542	126,000	25,458	24,008	1,450	98.8%	
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(26,692)	(27,154)						
Grand Totals:- Income	0	73,388	0	(73,388)			0.0%	
Expenditure	26,692	100,542	126,000	25,458	24,008	1,450	98.8%	
Net Income over Expenditure	(26,692)	(27,154)	(126,000)	(98,846)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(26,692)	(27,154)						



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Environmental Services Committee 3 April 2023

Northampton in Bloom

Report by Louise Hannam-Jones, Events and Projects Officer

Purpose of report: To update the committee on the summer of 2023 Northampton in Bloom project

Recommended: That subject to any comments, the committee note the report. Officers will work with Northampton in Bloom Working party, keeping them informed as the project progresses.

2023 Summer Orders:

A Minor Change Notice for the Town Centre planters has been agreed and raised with WNC. A Purchase Order has been raised for the Cllr additional baskets with Plantscape. An additional PO will be raised to Idverde/WNC for the watering and maintenance of these baskets.

Bracket testing has been confirmed as included in the contract, so will not incur an extra charge this year, and will be completed by the end of March by Idverde.

Abington area:

Below are details of the annual summer Bloom baskets and planters that will be installed in the Abington and surrounding areas, with a bright summer and pollinator-friendly mix of flowers:

Abington	Cllr Purser	1 x 3 Tier planter at entrance to Abington Park, Wellingborough Road/ Park Avenue South Abington Park Wellness Walk*
Headlands	Cllr Miah	1 x 3 tier outside the Headlands pub, 2 x 3 tier baskets outside the coop and parade of shops at Birchfield Road East.
Phippsville	Cllr Stevens	21 x hanging baskets on the barriers opposite the White Elephant pub on Kingsley Park Terrace
Eastfield	Cllr Paul Joyce	5 x 3 tier Planters outside shops on Broadmead Avenue
Park	Cllr Kilbride	Wild flower beds installed at Bridgewater Open Space 2 x 3 tier planters at Landcross Drive shops

***Wellness Walk:**

Abington Park is going to pilot the first Wellness Walks- a trail of wellbeing poetry quotes written by James McInerney. The quotes are designed in the Northampton in Bloom branding and will be

installed within flower beds in the park once Bloom starts. The trail will be publicised on socials & website.

Coronation Planter

As per the last meeting report, a Coronation planter has been purchased as part of the Climate Change Forum's 'Greening the Town' project which will be installed on 19th April opposite the Guildhall, next to VandB. The planter will have perennial plants to celebrate the King's keen interest in the environment and designed panels will be affixed to all four sides of the planter, detailing the CCF's 'Greening the Town' project, celebrating His Majesty's coronation and information about how the public can plant sustainably at home.



Coronation 'Big Help Out'

The notion of 'The Big Help Out' from His Majesty The King's office encourages people to try volunteering for themselves, to support the local area and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend within the community. Therefore, on Monday 8th May, a collaboration of volunteers from Northampton Town Council, Northampton Bid, The Royal British Legion and local businesses will join forces to improve St Katherine's Gardens.

The theme for the space is influenced by the King's passion for sustainability, biodiversity and the natural world. Volunteers will plant sustainable plants (perennial plants that last all year round), flower beds will be pruned to encourage the growth of existing wild flowers and a general tidy up of the land will happen on the day.



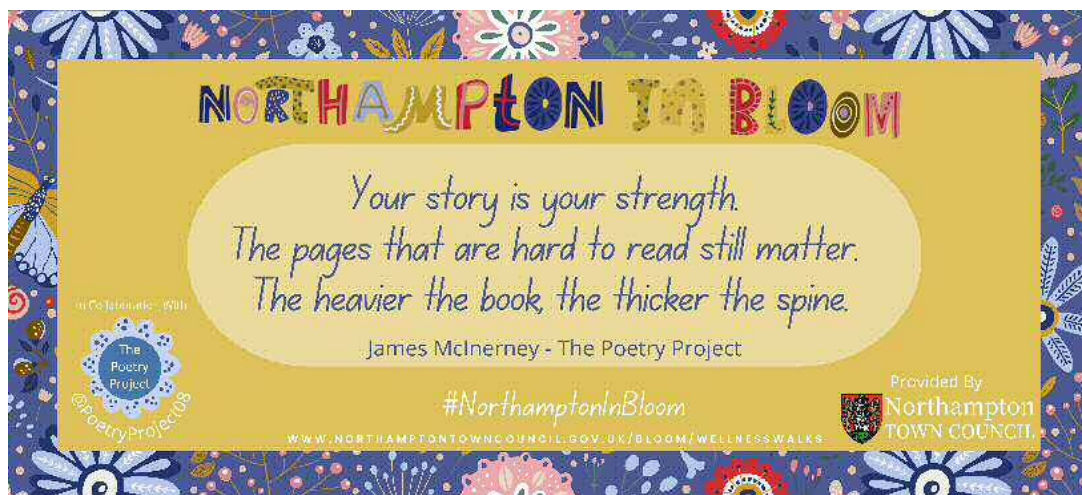
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Early plans subject to permissions, also include the addition of sustainable planters, wild grass and flower areas, seating and the addition of a floral/wellbeing mural to enhance the area.

We would like to invite volunteers from the Environmental Services Committee to come forward to help plant or litter pick on the day. Please apply to Cllr Andrew Stevens or Louise Hannam-Jones if you would like to help.





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Environmental Services Committee 3rd April 2023

Walk to School Week 2023

Report by Josephine Haines, NTC Events and Projects Officer

Purpose of report: To update the committee on the Walk to School Week 2023 campaign and the Climate Change Forum's offer to fund classroom packs for local primary schools.

Recommended: That subject to any comments, the committee note the report and consider/ approve the allocation of funds from the budget for this school engagement project. Officers will work with CCF members and Living Streets UK to implement the campaign with schools and will keep all up to date on the progress and take up of the offer.

Overview:

Working with Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, the Town Council's Climate Change Forum is planning to support primary schools in the local area to take part in Walk to School Week 2023 by funding classroom packs to encourage school, parent and pupil participation.

WTSW will be taking place between Monday 15th May 2023 and Friday 19th May 2023. Pupils throughout Britain are encouraged to travel sustainably to school, whether by walking, scooting, using a wheelchair or cycling; the objective of the campaign locally is to encourage children in healthy exercise and to reduce road congestion and air pollution in Northampton.



Implementation and Costs:

An invitation to participate with details on the WTSW campaign and funding offer has been sent out to primary schools in Northampton, publicised on the NTC website, social media and via press release. Officers and CCF members will review the response from schools based on a first come first served

basis with consideration of number of classes per school and will assess how funds can be fairly distributed.

Packs will be then be ordered in bulk from LS and delivered direct to each school. Orders will be placed with LS by Fri 21st April.

- **£12.50 per pack, *one pack per class/x30 pupils***
- Based on an average of x14 classes per school with an estimated x10 schools participating:
£1750 (ex VAT) + Delivery TBC, *approx. £11 per address - £110*
Estimated Max Total: £2500

During/Post Campaign:

For schools that opt in additional resources from LS will be shared by NTC for families to download and utilise; these include 'Walking From Home' activities and a 'Park and Stride' initiative.

Feedback will be requested from all schools that take part in the campaign to assess how the project was received by parents and pupils, their experiences and to analyse participation in the initiative and evolve the objectives. This will be circulated and collated in the form of a survey.

<https://www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/walk-to-school-week.html>