



## **NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Community Services Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**To: Members of the Community Services Committee:**

Councillors Birch (Chair), Holland-Delamere (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, G Eales, T Eales, Fuchshuber, Hallam, Hibbert, Ismail, Lane, Marriott, Miah and Soan

**You are summoned to attend the meeting of Community Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held at 18.00 on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in the Godwin Room at Northampton Guildhall**

This committee meeting is open to the public and press to attend and those attending the meeting shall be informed that it is being recorded. Public participation is in accordance with the Town Council's public participation policy. Members of the public wishing to take part or ask a question of the committee are required to contact the Town Clerk in advance.

Cc'd electronically to all other councillors for information

**Stuart Carter  
Town Clerk  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and ask questions as to the progress of any items (not attached, circulated with Council agenda for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022)**
- 4. To receive the minutes of from the last Grants Sub-Committee meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for consideration of their recommendations** (p 3 – p 13)
- 5. The Poetry project (deferred from last meeting)**  
Mr James McInerney to talk about the project

- 6. Knife Angel visit to Northampton**  
Cllr Holland-Delamere to speak to this
  
- 7. 2022/23 Events**  
Report attached (p 15 – p 18)
  
- 8. Christmas 2022**  
Report attached (p 19 – p 21)
  
- 9. Councillor Grant Applications for consideration before then end of the Financial year**  
Summary attached (application forms available on request) (p 23)
  
- 10. Events agreement with WNC**  
Report to be tabled
  
- 11. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**  
Chair to give a verbal update
  
- 12. Community Needs Audit**  
Verbal update to be given
  
- 13. Afghan Refugees – Welcome event**  
Chair to give a verbal update
  
- 14. Covid Memorial**  
Chair to give a verbal update

## Northampton Town Council

### Grants Sub-Committee

#### Minutes of the meeting held at 11.00 am on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Held in Room 5, Town Council Offices, Northampton Guildhall

**Present:** Cllrs Birch (Chair), Holland-Delamere and Hibbert

**Officers:** Mr S Carter (Town Clerk) and Mrs J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk)

#### 11. APOLOGIES

No apologies had been submitted.

#### 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Birch declared a non-pecuniary interest in applications CCF46, CCF47, CCF52 of the Councillors Grant Scheme, as they had been supported by her and would be allocated for her fund.

Cllr Hibbert declared a non-pecuniary interest in application CCF52 of the Councillors Grant Scheme as it was supported by him and would be allocated from his fund.

#### 13. GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY GENERAL FUND FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

The members of the Sub-Committee considered each application and the supporting information included in the agenda. It was noted that the grant awards could be made in accordance with the General Power of Competence which the Council held.

It was noted that to date from the General Community Grants Fund, the Town Council had allocated/awarded funding of £47,838 of the £50,000 budget in the current year. This left £2,162. It was likely that any grant award would come from the 2022/23 allocation which had been increased to £150,000.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the decisions as detailed in the table below are taken to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee for adoption.

Name of Organisation & brief description of project	Total grant requested (£)	Recommendation of Sub-Committee	Comments
Northampton Hope Centre – CGF21 – Crisis intervention and ongoing support	£2,500	Declined	Funding is for core costs for the organisation rather than for a specific project

Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust – CGF22 – In memorium (covid reflections project)	£5,000	Agreed	Noted that the Town Council was involved in this project by supplying some of the images and also with the Poetry project. Excellent project, keen to foster relationship with Delapre Abbey
Sport4Fitness CIC – CGF23 – Upgrading of car park	£10,000	Declined	Noted that Town Council have already awarded a grant to Sport4Fitness. Belief that work to car park which is owned by a third party is not within the remit of the grants scheme and should be funded by the landowner

#### 14. GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE COUNCILLORS COMMUNITY FUND

The members of the Sub-Committee considered each application and the supporting information included in the agenda. It was noted that as with the General Grants the awards could be made in accordance with the General Power of Competence which the Council held. It was noted that the budget heading for the Councillors Community Fund was £75,000 (£3,000 per councillor) in the present financial year increasing to £4,200 per councillor for those who had opted not to take their allowance.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the decisions as detailed in appendix A are taken to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee for adoption.

It was noted that some councillors had not spent their full allocation. Given that this was the first year it was **RECOMMENDED** that any unspent grant awards be rolled over and earmarked in addition to the 2022/23 allocation, but that this be the arrangement for this year only.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

Signed.....Chair

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App No	Organisation	Project Name & Synopsis & Amount requested (£)	Ward	Councillor	Amount recommended and any comments
CCF27	Friends of Dallington Park	Additional plants in the secret sensory garden plus two additional benches and more trees in the Queen's jubilee year. £2,100 We are going to use this grant to add more plants to the secret sensory garden, two additional benches, more trees in the Queen's jubilee year. To provide more facilities in the park for the current users and future users. We are trying to bring the community together to help us plant the trees and tidy the park.	Spencer	Cllr G Eales	£2,100.00
CCF28	Friends of Eastfield Park (Northampton)	The provision and installation of a wildlife interpretive board £950 The project involves the provision and installation of a wildlife interpretive board, mounted in a secure frame on a lectern-style base. The board will illustrate the most common waterfowl found on and around the lake in Eastfield Park and will be installed close to the lake. Most, if not all, of the illustrations used will be photographs taken within the park. The board will also present information about the birds and will request visitors to not to overfeed them and not to feed bread to them at all.	Eastfield and Headlands	Cllr Paul Joyce, £600 Cllr Turon Miah £350	£950.00
CCF29	Cats Protection, Northampton Branch	Provision of neutering for cats in areas of deprivation £1,000 To provide a means of increasing the numbers of pet cats that are neutered in a timely and safe fashion in those areas of Northampton where deprivation is high, to prevent the birth of further unwanted kittens and to reduce the number of feral colonies.	Talavera Ward	Jackie Fuchshuber	£1,000.00
CCF30	Bradlaugh Fields and Barn	Provision of a dishwasher £500 We would like to get a dishwasher for the kitchen so that we can use the mugs for the tea/coffee rather than paper cups. Reasons; * Infection and health and safety for our volunteers - a dishwasher would remove the necessity for volunteers to handle mugs and utensils which may have germs/virus on them - (Covid 19 plus other viruses)	Kingsley Ward	Cathrine Russell	£500.00

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		<p>* Infection and health and safety for public - mugs and utensils would be cleaner.</p> <p>* Stop using paper cups which are damaging for the environment if not recyclable, but also involve disposal of which takes time/energy and resources. They are also expensive.</p>			
CCF31	Northampton communities alliance	<p>Wellbeing events to support communities coming out of covid £500</p> <p>The fund will be used to organise events to support communities coming out of covid. The events will be wellbeing and social interaction based, such as sports, fitness, and interaction sessions such as afternoon tea where all ages can interact and share experiences.</p>	Castle	Cllr Jamal Alwahabi	£500.00
CCF32	NBA Gateway Centre (Northampton Bangladeshi Association)	<p>Workshops for young people (PS5) £500</p> <p>The project aims to provide and promote young people’s education and achievement through provision of a range of informal workshops such as grooming, drug awareness and knife crime. The NBA would like to purchase a PS5 on which young people can play when attending</p>	Headlands ward	Councillor Turon Miah	£500.00
CCF33	Lings Primary School	<p>Playground Development– Early Years/Pre- School £1,500</p> <p>We currently have a large pond area situated near the lower playground area of Early Years. This area is severely overgrown and out of control. The area has not been used for several years. We feel that it is dangerous and not a safe area for our pupils to play. The fencing is broken. If this area is refurbished we would fill the pond in and arrange for the area to be developed into a wet play area for our Early Years pupils. We are a two form entry Primary so we have 60 children in Reception Classes and we also have opened a Pre-School which has approximately 30 children on roll. This area would be developed with suitable play equipment for this age group – therefore at least 90 children would benefit from this project.</p>	Talavera	Dennis Meredith	£1,500.00

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CCF34	Kingsley and Links View Residents Association	<p>Support for resident's association £500</p> <p>Providing continuous support to the residents of the Kingsley ward, ensure the area is as safe and clean as possible and that all residents through the residents committee have ease of access to any services they need</p>	Kingsley Ward	Cathrine Russell	£500.00
CCF35	Parklands Community Association	<p>Memorial Bench £1,422</p> <p>To install a memorial bench in the area known as Parklands open space in the memory of long standing committee member and treasurer to the association</p>	Parklands	Mike Hallam	£1,422.00
CCF36	Friends of Northampton Racecourse	<p>Contribution to new notice boards and signage £500</p> <p>The notice boards around The Racecourse are old and need replacing. These will give information about events , sports teams, booking information and community activities. There has been a request to have new signage showing the distances form one landmark to another. This helps encourage walking and running and gives participants a measure of their progress.</p>	Trinity Ward	Jane Birch	£500.00
CCF37	Hope Enterprises Food Club	<p>Funding for food club at Blackthorn £1,000</p> <p>We are seeking help with the funding of the Food Club. This works through a series of pop up shops across the most deprived areas of Northampton.</p> <p>We are asking specifically for help with the funding of our Blackthorn pop up shop, which take place on Friday mornings at Blackthorn Community Centre.</p> <p>This is the very busiest of all our food clubs, feeding about 50 households involving about 200 people, each week with a balanced range of food including fresh vegetables. It's an essential service to local people, as they can attend 52 weeks a year: the people we see are amongst the most vulnerable. Other foodbanks, who can't feed people for more than a few weeks refer people to us for ongoing support.</p>	Talavera Ward	Jackie Fuchshuber	<p>£1,000</p> <p>Assurance requested from Hope Enterprises that funding would be specifically earmarked for Blackthorn</p>

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CCF38	Learn2Live	<p>Purchase of equipment for movies nights £658</p> <p>Improving the Life Chances of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and those with No Resource. The project will also help with isolation caused by the pandemic and to encourage people to interact with their community. We are the only voluntary group in Northampton supporting people who are refugees.</p>	St James	Rufia Ashraf	£658.00
CCF39	Park Avenue Network (PAN) of Friends	<p>PAN of Friends lunch &amp; exercise session for older adults £1,000</p> <p>The project is a form of outreach of the Park Avenue Methodist Church aimed at providing activities and social events for the ever-increasing number of lonely people and isolated elderly people living in the area who may be unable to get out and about as they used to. We help these to regain lost confidence and become part of the local life again. Currently there are 26 benefactors attending the Lunch Club and 12 the Gentle Keep Fit Group.</p>	Phippsville	Andrew Stevens	£1,000.00
CCF40	Pearls of Peace	<p>Cooking project to encourage integration £2,000</p> <p>We will give volunteers a small amount of cash -(£15/week) to buy ingredients and to cook a traditional dish from their cultural heritage. We want this to be away for the women to connect to each other and to understand more about each other's cultural heritage. The times during lock down have given women a feeling of detachment and isolation, we want to bring back these severed connections and strengthen the community</p>	St James Ward Castle Ward Abington Mounts Ward Castle Ward Abington Headlands	<p>Cllr Rufia Ashraf £400 Cllr Enam Haque £250 Cllr Walter Tarasiewicz £250 Cllr Fartun Ismail £250 Cllr Jamal Alwahabi £250 Cllr Bob Purser £350 Cllr Turon</p>	<p>Noted that the allocated amount from cllrs equals £2,000 not £2,500. Recommended £2,000. Subsequently confirmed that the amount requested was £2,000</p>

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				Miah £250	
CCF41	St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) Weston Favell parish group	<p>Outing for 25 vulnerable children and their parents/carers to Wicksteed Park £1,000</p> <p>The Family Outing Project aims to provide a Summer day's outing at Wicksteed Park, Kettering for up to 25 vulnerable children and their parent/carers, who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unlikely to have a holiday in 2022</li> <li>- facing food and/or fuel poverty</li> <li>- reliant on benefits or low income</li> </ul> <p>The objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to provide the families with a fun day out and a day to look forward to</li> <li>- to improve the mental health of participants</li> <li>- to provide an enrichment activity to vulnerable children which enhances self-esteem and broadens horizons</li> </ul>	Talavera Ward	Jackie Fuchshuber	£1,000.00
CCF42	St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) Weston Favell parish group	<p>To provide an evening of food, fun and companionship for the over 60s £1,000</p> <p>The Evening for the over 60s project aims to provide a warm, safe meeting place with a meal, fun and music for a maximum of 50 people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- are over 60 years of age</li> <li>- may feel isolated</li> <li>- live alone</li> </ul>	Talavera Ward	Dennis Meredith	£1,000.00

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CCF43	Abington Youth Group	<p style="text-align: center;">Support for Youth Club Primary/Secondary £250</p> <p>The aims are to improve the young people socialising skills and allow them to mix freely with one another. This will help improve their mental wellbeing especially after being unable mix during lockdown. We have been in touch with the Local primary schools and many of the local children have started to come and we have posted on Facebook and sent notices to all the homes locally informing them of the youth group and we have found this has increased over time through word of mouth, more and more families joining us.</p>	Headlands Ward	Cllr Turon Miah	£250.00
CCF44	Friends of Dallington village	<p style="text-align: center;">Landscaping and planting in neglected area for Queen's Jubilee £2,100</p> <p>We have two areas that have been neglected over the years. We would like to sympathetically landscape them in line with the conservation area and include planting four new cherry blossom tree to celebrate the Queens jubilee. The work will enhance the beauty/nature of the village for residents, alongside bringing the community together, improving mental health to complete the project and take pride in maintaining the area.</p>	Spencer	Cllr G Eales	£2,100.00
CCF45	United African Association	<p style="text-align: center;">African Food Bank £600</p> <p>We supply food parcels to primarily African households in Northampton suffering with food parcels. The food parcels mainly cater to the African diet and include food items such as maizemeal, fufu, garri and fresh meat and vegetables. We supply to those facing food poverty and includes those on universal credit with large families, those with young babies who are struggling with the high cost of nappies and formula milk, those with no recourse to public funds and those with health issues struggling to get by.</p> <p>We currently have 50 households we are providing food parcels on a regular basis to. We get self-referrals, those from other charities and foodbanks that are not able to provide the African food items and we also get referrals from Northamptonshire Childrens Trust as well as adult social services and also</p>	Castle	Cllr Fartun Ismail	£600.00

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		from NHS staff.			
CCF46	Holy Trinity Sewing Bee	<p>Project Linus, making quilts for sick and traumatised children £350</p> <p>Project Linus is about making quilts for sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers. These provide a comfort for children and babies in hospital, in care, being fostered and going through difficult times. The name comes from the Peanuts and Snoopy cartoons where a small boy, Linus, carries a comfort blanket. This group have been given the task of co-ordinating a local project to make quilts.</p>	Trinity	Jane Birch	£350.00
CCF47	U3A ( University of the Third Age)	<p>Music and choir, support for choir £250</p> <p>This choir meet once a month with 30 -60- participants to sing as a group. They make friends, participate in a group activity and enjoy singing.</p>	Trinity	Jane Birch	£250.00
CCF48	Indian Hindu Welfare Assoc	<p>Westone Defibrillator £899</p> <p>There is no local defibrillator within the Westone Town Council Ward, nor one in the wider Headlands Unitary Ward, so by having this vital life saving device located at the Weston Favell Parish Hall ensures we are centrally located to support a catchment of more than 8,000 people. With the device maintained and insured by the company providing the defibrillator, AED Donate, we can ensure that the device will provide assurance and peace of mind, while having the scope to save lives within an area currently deprived of this piece of life saving equipment.</p>	Westone	Michael Brown	£898.99
CCF49	Indian Hindu Welfare Assoc	<p>Support for Gardening Project £700</p> <p>IHWO started this gardening project 4 years ago to make the outside area more attractive and enter Northampton in Blooms competition. First year we entered the competition we invited Girls Guide group to join and we were</p>	Westone	Michael Brown	£700.00

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		also supported financially by Cllr Brian Markham. First year we won Silver Gilt and best New comer award and following 2 years we won Gold. This has been a huge confidence booster for all our volunteers who support the gardening. We also involve children who are given Sunflower seeds to grow at home and some volunteers bring their grandchildren to water the plants in school holidays. We also have men group “Chai pe Charcha” group support the gardening project. This project has been crucial in promoting community spirit and boosting the confidence and self-esteem of our willing volunteers who started this great gardening project and continue. We have also installed boxes to encourage disabled participation. Girls guide also put up bird boxes on all the trees for birds.			
CCF50	Umbrella Fair Organisation	<p>Support for bike recycling project and shop £250</p> <p>We launched our bicycle recycling project in 2015, taking donated bikes bringing them back to a usable condition. We also carry out repairs. A supervisor checks all work for safety. The work is carried out by volunteers, mostly people in supported living or with mental health issues. Such volunteers are amongst the beneficiaries of the bike shop as are local people who can but a low cost and very serviceable bike to get to their employment or for family outings.</p>	Eastfield	Paul Joyce	£250.00
CCF51	Abington Community Assoc	<p>Removal of folding doors for better use of space £1,000</p> <p>Sorting issue of broken doors to aid the community centre’s use by various groups</p>	Eastfields and Headlands	Paul Joyce & Turon Miah	£1,000.00
CCF52	Frank Bruno Foundation	<p>Boxing for All – Purchase of tracksuits, protective wear and gym equipment £2,500</p> <p>Our aims are to help people of all ages to feel healthy and confident, but also to help keep the young people of the streets and give them something to do. Our classes are for the eastern side of Northampton as they really don’t have a lot to do. This will help around 85 people a week, it will also give young people the chance to take their boxing career further if they so wish, we will</p>	Riverside	Cllr S Hibbert	£2,500.00

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		be able to fund them to travel and provide the kit need			
CCF53	Northampton Bangladeshi Association	<p>Procurement of a photocopier £750</p> <p>NBA Gateway Resource Centre provides and facilitates opportunities for members of the BME and wider communities in the social and economically deprived Wards of Semilong, St James, Spencer and Castle Wards of Northampton to develop individual and communities ck here to enter text. NBA Plan to buy a photocopy with the Company Ricoh. Currently the photocopy machine is broken and is unrepairable. People of all ages, ethnicity, religion and gender use the services in NBA, from April 2015 to April 2020 there have been 7,721 people that have used the NBA Centre and have benefited from our services. We have classes held at NBA that require to photocopy important paper and documents</p>	Caste	Cllr Haque	£750
CCF54	Eastfields Residents Association	<p>New Planter for residential area £1,000</p> <p>We would like to purchase a planter box and locate it on the shopping parade in Broadmead Avenue in Eastfield, this will greatly benefit our local community and brighten the shopping parade up</p>	Eastfield	Cllr Joyce	£1,000

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## Community Services Report – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### 2022 Events Report - Julie Thorneycroft – Assistant Town Clerk

**Purpose of Report** – to update members of the current position with regard to planned events in 2022

**Recommendation:** it is recommended that the committee agree urgent decisions relating to events are delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk in consultation with the Clerk, the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Community Services Committee.

It is recommended that NTC appoint a photographer to attend NTC events.

### 2022 Schedule of Events

#### **Laforey Memorial Parade**

The 78th Anniversary Parade to commemorate the sinking of HMS Laforey takes place on Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> by the Northampton Sea Cadets, the Mayor is invited to the event.

#### **Bands in the Park, Abington Park Bandstand**

##### **£10,000 budget agreed**

Local and Regional Bands have been invited to play on the bandstand in Abington Park, dates offered are from the first Sunday in April (3<sup>rd</sup>) until the second Sunday in September (11<sup>th</sup>). The dates to use the bandstand have been booked with WNC. The bands charge fees ranging from between £200 - £600 and they play for between 90 - 120 minutes, the Town Council have allocated an estimated budget of £10,000 for this event. A media and marketing campaign will commence as soon as the Assistant Town Clerk has finalised the schedule with the various bands.

#### **Oak Apple Day – 29<sup>th</sup> May**

A Civic event managed by the Civic and Mayoralty Officer. All Saints Church is the venue and discussions with the Church are led via Lizzie.

#### **Knife Angel Parade – 7<sup>th</sup> May**

WNC and the community group Off the Streets NN are leading on an event to mark the Knife Angel coming to All Saints in the Town Centre (29<sup>th</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> May). This will be a youth led event with Stalls and a staged event featuring DJ's from Radio 1 Xtra at Becketts park.

#### **Eid Festival – Proposed in May and July**

##### **Agreed Budget £10,000**

The Eid Management Group have registered as a constituted group with a bank account and are keen to expand on the celebration of Eid this year and to build this as an annual event. Currently communal prayer time is offered at the Racecourse between 8:30 and 9:30am in line with lunar activity. The group have met to discuss the options around holding a bigger family orientated

event. Considerations to a bigger event include marquees, provision of toilets, security, power, children's rides/inflatables, waste bins, parking and food hygiene.

### **Queens Platinum Jubilee Events**

#### **Saturday Parade, Town Centre - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June midday**

A pageant is being organised by WNC and partners, this will be the largest parade Northampton has ever done with a provisional number of 2,300 in the pageant to combine the military, civic, blue light services, schools, the seven faiths and community/voluntary organisations. This will be followed by a drumhead service in the Market Square.

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, WNC Big Lunch at Delapre Abbey**

Large picnic and food event at Delapre Abbey open for all to attend

#### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, NTC Afternoon Tea Platinum Event**

##### **£10,000 budget agreed**

The NTC Platinum Working Group are working with Stage Right Ltd to organise an early evening event (approx. 4-6pm) to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Light entertainment and afternoon tea will be served in the Great Hall/Court Yard for invited guests.

#### **Beer Festival, Becketts Park – 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June**

##### **£5,000 allocated funding**

As per previous years Showtime Events will deliver this event, NTC have been approached to support funding for waste bins, litter pickers and staging /pa systems etc.

#### **Carnival – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June Town Centre and Racecourse**

##### **Agreed budget £10,000**

The Northampton Carnival Arts Consortium are responsible for delivering the Carnival event including the production of an event management plan and supporting documentation, road closures, traffic managements, site booking etc. NTC have agreed to provide funding for this event, the Assistant Town Clerk is organising a meeting with Morcea Walker and Myrle Roach (NCAC) to agree what aspects of the event the NTC funding will cover and how best to support the annual carnival. It is likely the funding will cover security costs, first aid and additional waste bins.

#### **NMF 22 – provisional date 19<sup>th</sup> June**

##### **£10,000 agreed to support this event.**

The Assistant Town Clerk is meeting with the organisers of NMF22 to establish the best ways to support this popular event – NTC funding will be utilised for staging/pa costs, waste collection and litter picking.

#### **Armed Forces Day – 25<sup>th</sup> June**

##### **£5,000 budgeted to support the event**

A military event led by the Armed Forces and the Royal British Legion. The Lord Lieutenant (LL) will take the formal salute by the Armed Forces on parade and the Mayor and High Sheriff are

normally in attendance on the platform stage. The LL delivers a short speech to those present. The event includes various military support organisations on stalls on the Market Square which are managed by WNC's Market Manager. Stage Right produce the event management plan, ancillary documents and source the stage, PA and security for the road closure. NTC will fund the stage, PA and security and apply to West Northants Council for any road closures.

**Pride LGBTQ – 26<sup>th</sup> June**

**£2,000 budgeted to support the event**

WNC LGBTQ Forum lead event with partners

**Town Festival, Racecourse – 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

**£5,000 budget agreed to support the event**

The Town Show is held as a commercial event run by Showtime Events. Showtime took over delivering this event from NBC - used to be the old balloon festival. NTC funding has been agreed to support this event funds will be used for waste collection, litter pickers and staging / pa systems.

**Party in the Park**

**£5,000 budget agreed to support the event**

Party in the Park is a commercial event introduced by Showtime Events in 2021. NTC funding has been agreed to support this event funds will be used for waste collection, litter pickers and staging / pa systems.

**Diwali Light Celebration – 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

**£5,000 budget agreed to support the event**

Diwali is a community event that has traditionally been held in the town for over 20 years, it is organised by IHWO. Partner meetings are in the process with IHWO to discuss the plans for this event. The closure of the Market Square from June will impact on the usual venue location, alternative town centre venues are being investigated. Funding from NTC will help to provide a stage/pa and traffic management. WNC will apply for any necessary road closures.

**Fireworks, Racecourse – 5<sup>th</sup> November**

**Budget - £35,000**

A family event held on the Racecourse, the site and firework display team have been provisionally booked.

To be arranged - source hot food units (income generation) / source quotes for toilets, security, screens, tower lights, first aid, marques, entertainment and event management plan etc. to be arranged.

**Remembrance Day – 13<sup>th</sup> November**

**Budget Agreed - £5,000**

A military event led by the Royal British Legion. Partner (NTC, WNC, Armed Forces Groups, Church, LL, Mayor etc.) meetings usually commence in April. Considerations include road closures, traffic management, liaison with the police. Changes due to the Market Square closure may incur additional costs.

Interviews for the Events and Projects Officer post are being held on 9<sup>th</sup> March. There were over 50 applicants, which was filtered down to 5 by the panel consisting of Cllrs Birch, Marriott, Hibbert, Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk.

## Community Services Report – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### 2022 Christmas Report – Julie Thorneycroft, Assistant Town Clerk

**Purpose of Report** – to update members of the current position with regard to Christmas plans

**Recommendations:** it is recommended that the committee agree decisions relating to the Christmas campaign are delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk in consultation with the Town Clerk, the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Community Services Committee.

#### Christmas 2021 – overview of activity

NTC worked alongside partners (Northampton Town Centre BID, West Northants Council and Stage Right Productions Ltd) to present the 2021 Christmas campaign.

Activity on the Christmas Lights Switch On day (20<sup>th</sup> November) included a stage on the Market Square and entertainment from the local theatres, choirs and bands. The lights were switched on by Father Christmas, the Mayor and invited guests at 5pm.

Christmas Decorations in the town were as below:

- 4 x 40-foot Spruce Christmas trees, 1 each located in the Market Square, Guildhall o/s Ask, All Saints Plaza and Abington Square.
- 2 x 14-foot Spruce Christmas trees in front of the Guildhall
- Various cross street Christmas Lights installations at Abington Street, Guildhall Road, Drapery, Gold Street, Bridge Street, Derngate, All Saints, North Gate Bus Station, Guildhall, Market Square, Abington Street Memorial Garden, St Giles Square and All Saints.
- 200 x 5 foot Christmas trees in brackets with lights on various town centre buildings.

Additional activities jointly funded by NTC and the BID were a Santa's Grotto in the Grosvenor Centre with activity gift pack for all children who visited. The annual Frost Fair organised by WNC was held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November on the Market Square. NTC funded the introduction of an augmented Christmas Trail 'A Christmas Story' using the Explore Northampton App, 2,000 people downloaded the App, 80% updated it following the addition of the Christmas Story. The Golden Ticket Prize Draw was provided by the Town Centre BID and launched in early November until mid-December.

3 x Christmas Saturdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December were provided by NTC, activities included Stage performances, choirs, dancers and activity on the Market Square plus additional roaming activity and street entertainment including stilt walkers, unicyclists, jugglers etc. in and around the town centre.

Other activities were Christmas Crafts with the Mayor, the Christmas Shop Window Competition, a Shop Local Showcase, a 24 hour Christmas Radio Station and Christmas FREE PARKING in WNC car parks from 3pm every day and all day at weekends from 20 November through to 1 January.

#### Christmas 2022 – Review Plan

Due to the regeneration of the Market Square commencing in the summer the Market Square will no longer be available as the main community events space for the following 2 years. Therefore, an early decision is required to decide and action our Christmas plan for the next couple of years.

Alternative sites to hold a Lights Switch On in the town centre could be outside the Guildhall or in Abington Street at the cross section with Fish Street, All Saints or at the top of Abington Street (Radio Northampton end). Any required road closures will be subject to permission from WNC.

The amount of large Christmas trees could be reduced to 3 x 40 foot trees or a fourth tree could be (subject to permission) positioned on the Abington Street/Fish street intersection; a 6 metre square space is required with a nearby power supply.

Considerations might be to consider expanding the Christmas project into other areas of the town in a similar way to the Bloom project, it is dependent on how town centre focussed we think the project should be.

Other entertainment options can be investigated, perhaps have Showcase Large Screens in the Town Centre, pockets of entertainment in different areas, Oompah Band, Jazz Quartet etc.

The date for the Christmas Lights Switch On event is generally set as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in November which will be 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Christmas trees are usually ordered in April.

Lights are refurbished every 2 years.

All fixtures and fittings are owned by NTC.

It seems a sensible approach for NTC to lead on the Christmas campaign as did NBC in previous years, other partners i.e. Delapre & Far Cotton and East Hunsbury Parish Councils and the Business Improvement District who have far less requirements can be invoiced accordingly.

The contractors who are generally employed to assist with the Christmas campaign are:

Elveden Christmas Trees – complete Christmas tree service – provision of tree, install, take away.

G M Lawrence Electrical Ltd to test the electrical fittings/connections and lamp posts annually.

Ultralite Ltd for testing the Cross street light fittings, requirement for testing is every 3 years.

### **Small 5-foot Christmas trees**

NTC own approx. 200 small 5 foot Christmas trees for use in the town centre brackets hanging basket/tree. The brackets are sited on various premises throughout the town centre in previous years' businesses have been charged approx. £30 to have a Christmas tree installed. The trees are in situ for approximately 6 weeks.

Currently the lighting used for the majority of the small trees is battery powered on 6 hour timers, the project requires at least one battery change throughout the period.

The brackets in Guildhall Road has 240-volt power which can be accessed enabling LED lights.

Bearing in mind our climate change agenda and the use battery powered lights plus disposal costs a review is recommended.

Given the complexity of the lights and the changes that will have to be enacted due to the closure of the Market Square, the committee is asked to give delegated authority to manage the lights, trees etc as detailed in the recommendation at the start of the report.

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<b>App No</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Name, Amount &amp; Synopsis</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
CCF55	70th Northampton Brownies and Rainbows (Parklands)	Brownies and Rainbows Trip to Twycross Zoo £805 Coach Hire and Group Entry for a visit to Twycross Zoo	Parklands	Cllr Hallam
CCF56	St Georges Con Club	Community Grant to help celebrate the Queen's Jubilee £200 We intend to hold a 1950's style garden party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee to which all local residents will be invited. It will be publicised on social media and we hope to leaflet many surrounding households.(St George's Ave, Homestead Way, Trinity Avenue & Kingsley Road at least.) The event will be entirely free from any political bias or propaganda.	Trinity	Cllr Birch
CCF57	71 <sup>st</sup> Northampton Guides	Outdoor learning, exploration and deepening friendships post covid £667 Our goal is to make the second half of the summer term all outdoors, including a weekend activity day and a weekend camp in June. Although the guides will be making their usual termly financial contribution to the unit, the majority goes to cover the annual census payment and rent for first half of term, leaving little for activities. We would love to be able to explore all the green spaces Northampton and the surrounding area provides whilst allowing the girls to deepen friendships, learn new skills and most importantly have fun and start to recover from the past 2 years	Parklands & Boothville	Cllr Hallam £234 Cllr Lane £433