



Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

Tel No. 01604 349310

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 30TH JANUARY 2023 AT 6PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES IN THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Cllrs Birch (Chair), Holland Delamere (Vice-Chair), Fuchshuber, Hallam, Hibbert, Kilbride, Marriott, and Soan

OTHERS PRESENT: Cllr M Brown, Darrel Canvin (Senior Regeneration Officer, West Northamptonshire Council)

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr S Carter (Town Clerk), Mrs J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk), Miss F Barford, Mrs L Hannam-Jones and Miss J Haines (Events and Projects Officers).

40. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Ismail and Lane.

41. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hallam declared a pecuniary interest in minute 47 as he is a cabinet member at WNC who ultimately will make the decision on this item.

42. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th December 2022 and ask questions as to the progress of any items

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

43. To receive a presentation demonstrating the timeline for the Market Square and wider projects in future years

Darrel Canvin (Senior Regeneration Programmes Officer) presented on behalf of the regeneration team at WNC.

Mr Canvin explained the Market Square public consultation was completed in April 2021 and enabled the public to choose a design. A summer 2024 opening is anticipated. The market traders have been temporarily relocated to Commercial St Car Park.

In response to a question, Mr Canvin explained the WNC Market Square project manager was in regular dialogue with the market stall traders. A Councillor raised there had been questions regarding the type of public art that will feature in the new Market square, Mr Canvin explained that national heritage funding was being sourced to develop some initial designs and a public consultation exercise would then follow. In response to a question posed relating to the new planting and vegetation on the site exact details were to be confirmed by WNC. In response to a further question indicative ongoing maintenance costs for the new market would be provided by WNC.

Other town centre public realm schemes in the pipeline include a project to improve a section of Abington Street leading from the Market Square, this will be new pedestrian access, seating and tree planting to facilitate a new community space and encourage outdoor dining. A Cllr raised the point on pedestrian safety in relation to cyclists, it was responded that vehicular restrictions would be implemented.

A Cllr requested confirmation of the schedule of works as loss of Abington Street and the Market Square has major implications for any large town centre events such as Remembrance Sunday, Diwali and Christmas celebrations.

Mr Canvin will confirm the arrangements for current fixtures and fittings that enable the Towns Christmas lighting and trees.

A further project at 24 Guildhall Road, phase one was almost complete, phase two to be completed in Spring 2024.

The plans for Four Waterside (land adjacent to the train station) will bring a hotel, a mix of housing and offices, this plan is currently under tender at WNC. Plans for 35-45 Abington street are to provide a high-quality residential development with retail space at ground level.

The project to develop the Old Black Lion has received national lottery heritage funding to enable the project, the building will be utilised as new head offices for the church's conservation trust.

The Marefair heritage park will be an opportunity to provide green spaces to the local housing developments within the area. Currently public consultation is being undertaken with the Spring Boroughs residents, a focus group will be formed to assist with the design of the park. Providing accessibility, play equipment with community garden space and a programme of small-scale community events are key to this project. Key historical assets will celebrate the castle and its rich history.

The extension of 78 Dergate House, delays have occurred in procuring the glazing however the project is hoped to be completed very soon.

A Cllr asked what was happening with the former Northampton Bus station site at Greyfriars, Darrel stated that intentions had been set to develop the space. It was requested some green space could be made in the town.

A Cllr asked about the Waterside project, had the former NBC drawings etc been utilised? Darrel explained they had been utilised to assist in the procurement exercise.

A Cllr raised that more green space be provided for the new residential developments within the Town Centre as the majority of new residents will living in flats with no gardens. Darrel stated this would be a consideration in the next phase of the plan.

Mr Canvin was thanked for attending the meeting.

44. The King's Coronation Event – discussion around the event

The Chair updated on the plans to date for the King's Coronation activities (**6th, 7th and 8th May**). The report as detailed below was circulated at the meeting:

NTC are looking to work with local partners including The Museum, Royal & Derngate, WNC, 78 Derngate, Delapre, Town Centre BID, it is hoped a partners meeting can be arranged early February (8th,9th) to discuss an overall plan.

Funding opportunities are available, £10K National Lottery Community Fund – Awards for All – deadline mid-February – pin badges, mugs for school leavers – The Big Help project within/for the community could source funding from this.

Friday 5th – *Father Oliver Coss to hold a service at All Saints at approx. 6pm, Town Councillors to be invited to take part in a local Civic procession?*

Saturday 6th – *The Coronation Service to take place in the morning - Encourage people to watch from home (advice from Lord Lieutenants Office)*

Sunday 7th – *“The Coronation Big Lunch” - Community Street Parties, multi-cultural involvement, Morris men children’s entertainment and live music. Possible to have a street party at St Giles Square, work with partners. Also, the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle could this be shown on a big screen depending on timings. Bite Street concept and surrounding food businesses participation – street food, local suppliers and seated area. NTC could provide a printed programme of events similar to that produced for the Queens Platinum Jubilee event.*

Monday 8th – *“The Big Help Out” Encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and support the local area.*

*In collaboration with the Climate Change Forum the events team would like to suggest an idea for the Coronation Big Clean up at **St Katherine’s Gardens:***

Veolia clean up needles etc in the morning

Then volunteers collect rubbish (work with The BID businesses). Possible sponsorship opportunities for nearby businesses Park Inn and MacDonald’s.

Welcome boards on the entrances to the Gardens

Hope Centre Sustainable Planter and flower bed planting as part of CCF’s Greening the Town project

RBL are hoping to work with the university to create a poppy sculpture- would give them a better environment to house the sculpture in. Would need permissions from the Church due to consecrated grounds – consult with faculty officer at the diocesan office at Peterborough.

Could also display James McInerney poems.

It is hoped the scheme will encourage more park users as a result and make the area more attractive and safer.

RESOLVED to set up a Kings Coronation Working Party consisting of Cllrs, Birch, Soan, Holland-Delamere, Marriott and officers. The group will work with partners to be a part of the overall event.

45. Consideration of additional Projects/Events for 2023

a) Electronic Music Festival, a report from Cllr Michael Brown had been circulated with the agenda

Cllr Brown explained that there was a rich heritage of electronic music in Northamptonshire and many young people were interested and are key to the Electronic music scene however Cllr Brown was concerned there is no outlet for people interested in this style of music. Cllr Brown explained that he had previously assisted on successful electronic music projects in the Kettering Area. Cllr Brown proposed a proof of concept event to provide an outlet for people in Northampton to partake in electronic music. in addition to community outreach to those who wish to understand and learn more about creating electronic music at home with their standard pc.

In response to a question posed relating to the venue possibly utilising Midsummer meadow, near UoN Campus or Delapre Abbey. A Cllr raised that Delapre and UoN fall-outside the NTC boundary. In response to another question posed - had Cllr Brown contacted the Roadmender or other local promoters who may be interested in sponsoring the event, Cllr Brown believed he would be able to gain supporters from the promoter scene.

Cllr Brown stated he could scale the project down if required. Concern was raised over whether the officers had enough time to support, Cllr Brown stated he could source assistance himself for the event.

A Cllr asked whether this event could be combined with another genre of music. Cllr Brown stated that Electronic music is very niche and is not easily linked with other types of music.

It was commented that £23,000 was a large sum for seed funding. Cllr Brown stated he was open to holding the event next summer (2024) as the Events team have expressed concerns regarding timing and funding.

A Cllr suggested Cllr Brown could host a stall to act as a taster at the Music Festival (NMF23) in September 2023 with a view to putting on the event in its own right in 2024.

RESOLVED that the Electronic Music Festival in principle be supported (up to £10,000, plus £10,000 in match funding) with a view to holding the full event in 2024, Cllr Brown to build contacts and gain momentum for the event throughout 2023.

b) St George's Day - Cllr Daniel Soan

Cllr Soan gave a presentation on the proposed St George's Day event (23rd April)

It was Proposed in the week leading up-to St George's Day there would be displays of achievements of notable English people to be displayed around the town. It was suggested the Museum had already carried out research and had a list of notable people previously used in the "We are Northampton" exhibition. It was suggested that some sort of link to Northampton/Northamptonshire for the people featured would be preferable.

A Cllr raised that A3 sizing might be overlooked due to their size. It was posed by a Cllr whether posters could be into shop windows to entice people in and suggested working with the BID.

It was commented that equal representation was important.

The Town Clerk raised that it would need to be checked if the Guildhall were planning to host any St George's Day events themselves this would prevent any duplication of activity.

It was suggested the Guildhall Courtyard/Guildhall road could be used to focus people's attention. Complete some printed media. It was suggested that the middle of Abington Street was a good focal point. In response to a question it was explained that the printing quotations enclosed within the report were lower than expected due to being sourced from Vistaprint.

It was suggested whether the banner could be tied in with the Coronation to maximise usage. In response to a question The Town Clerk explained that a parade may not be feasible due to the amount of resource required and limited time.

Cllr Soan stated the event would be a starter event, it was hoped it would be a larger event next year with more preparation and budgeted.

A Cllr posed whether vinyls be used. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that lamppost banners on Abington street could be used if secured.

It was mentioned the event would be costed to the General Events Budget Fund.

RESOLVED to support the St Georges Day event as per the proposal put forward by Cllr Soan, the event to be funded up to £3,000 through the General Events Budget.

c) Women's Cycle Tour – a report was circulated at the meeting

It was reported that WNC were working with Sweet Spot (organisers of the Women's tour) to bring the Women's Cycling Tour back to Northampton in June 2023 (exact date TBC but likely to be 8th June in the morning)

The event stage would start outside Northampton Guildhall and end in Derby, lasting approximately 3-4 hours. The organisers were setting up an Event Management Board and would like a representative from the town council to sit on the board.

The aim was 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 required support with promotion and outreach and would be asking businesses to sponsor the event and to get involved.

Possible NTC involvement was discussed:

- Involvement of CCF Active Travel- Cllr Stevens and John Crick (sit on the board?)
- 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) was targeting (mid-Feb) to start the event planning groups/conversations. He was 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.

RESOLVED: Northampton Town Council would like to assist with the community engagement side of this event however it was felt the project fits better with the council's climate change forum (part of the Environment committee) . The project will be further discussed by the Environment Committee at their next meeting.

d) **Northampton Windrush Day - 75 Year** Celebration – a report was circulated at the meeting and a discussion took place regarding the following proposals:

22nd June 2023

Midday – Flag raising has been agreed, WNC and NTC to work together.

A suggested timetable of events was circulated with the meeting agenda.

There is some funding available aimed at the longevity of this event – all parties can apply for funding.

One idea was for NTC to work on transport arrangements to help enable people, specifically elders to come to the event – possibly working with Voluntary Impact Northampton (VIN).

Who to supply refreshments at the Museum – Is this something NTC could offer or are the Museum providing this? Caribbean style cuisine talked about, pending conversation with the Museum regarding the catering contract e.g. BoxFood 'who work within the community / Windrush generation'

NTC to look into Steele drums at the flag raising

Budget to be agreed.

Partner meetings are ongoing.

RESOLVED – the town council will continue to work with partners with a view to looking into the provision of door-to-door travel service be provided for the elder members of the community, refreshments subject to the Museums contract and the provision of a souvenir leaflet featuring information about the history of the event.

46. Update on the bleed kits project

The Chair thanked the Events team for the comprehensive report that had been circulated.

A Cllr asked about the ongoing cost, it was explained that the bleed control kits will be replenished by "Off the Streets." It was highlighted the largest cost was the cabinets themselves. In response to a question posed, it was explained that a bleed kits would be commissioned and installed in Abington Park as part of the overall project.

RESOLVED the committee agreed to the locations/premises where permissions have now been granted and agreed. The committee will advise the Events and Projects Officers of any queries or suggestions on pending locations/premises and possible contacts.

47. WNC budget consultation including parking charges – a report was circulated with the agenda pack

Cllr Hallam had left the meeting whilst this agenda item was discussed.

It was explained that WNC were proposing to introduce significant changes to parking charges across the town.

The Chair explained that the Racecourse had been suggested for parking charges to be implemented however this had been paused for the time being.

A Cllr raised that the removal of the Towcester to Northampton Bus Service on a Sunday might bring more vehicles into the town.

A Cllr raised it was a major concern for local businesses and the impact any increase in parking charges would bring. There is always competition with other shopping competitors in Northamptonshire (some have no parking charges) and the people who attend places of faith on Sundays.

RESOLVED: that an extraordinary full council meeting be held to discuss and agree a statement on the proposed town centre parking increases.

MEETING CONCLUDED: 20:08