



NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 22nd November 2021

To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee:

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

Distributed electronically to all other councillors for information

You are summoned to attend the meeting of Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held in the Godwin Room at Northampton Guildhall on 22nd November 2021 at 18.00

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stuart Carter'.

**Stuart Carter
Interim Town Clerk
16th November 2021**

**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 6th September 2021**
(not attached sent out with Council agenda for 25th October 2021)
- 4. Brief on the Combating Climate Change with Circular Economy Changes event held at Northampton University**
Cllr Stevens to give a verbal brief on the event
- 5. Active Travel**
Verbal presentation by John Crick from Living Streets Northampton
- 6. Northampton in Bloom Update**
Report attached (page 3 – 5)

7. Composting Toilets at allotments

Report attached (pages 7 – 10)

8. Allotments Management – Proposed Agency Agreement with WNC

Report attached (pages 11 – 19)

9. Report from Northamptonshire Larger Council Partnership Climate Emergency Forum

NLCP report attached (pages 21 – 26) – Cllr Birch to give verbal briefing

10. Budget Principles 2022/23 – Environmental Services Committee element

Report attached (pages 27 – 29)

Northampton Town Council

Environmental Services Committee

Northampton in Bloom

Report by Julie Thorneycroft – Assistant Town Clerk

Purpose of report: To update the committee on the current position with regards to the Northampton in Bloom project

Recommended: (i) That subject to any comments, the committee note the report and consider schemes for the coming financial year

Environmental Services Committee – 22nd November 2021

Report of Northampton in Bloom - Julie Thorneycroft, Administration Officer

Purpose of Report: To update Members of the current position with regard to the Northampton in Bloom project.

The Northampton in Bloom working party (Cllrs Birch, Stevens, Kilbride and Meredith and Administration Officer, Julie Thorneycroft) has met twice, 23rd September and 15th November.

Further to the positive feedback following the summer Bloom 2021 project all ward members have been invited to make suggestions as to how they would like to be a part of Bloom in their own area for next summer. Optional themes discussed by the Bloom working party have included traditional floral planting, encouraging community gardening, tree planting and consideration has been given to future sustainable planting and wild flower schemes. The suggested total budget to enhance the Bloom scheme as per 2021 is £30,000 (approx. £20,000 planting and £10,000 watering/maintenance). The working party are keen to see Bloom efforts shared across all the Town Council wards, this equates to approx. £1,000 in each area.

To date members from the following wards have responded with their ideas and suggestions as below. Ward Councillors who have not yet responded are encouraged to send their ideas/thought by the end of November. It is critical to place a planting order prior to the end of the year.

Ward	Councillor	Idea
Boothville	Cllr Lane	As per Summer 21 - lamppost baskets around the mini roundabout by the Lumbertubs pub and it's approaches - Kettering Road North - Booth Rise etc.
Briar Hill	Cllr Connolly	2 square floral planters on the roundabout leading to Briar Hill.
Castle	Cllr Alwahabi	Planters in Wellingborough road and park avenue south areas

Castle	Cllr Haque	Corner of St Georges street off Barack road, Pocket park in Spring Boroughs, corner of Lorne Road and top of Cowper street
Headlands	Cllr Miah	Floral planter outside the Headlands pub, 2nd priority is on the lamppost baskets outside the coop and parade of shops at Broadway East
Park	Cllr Kilbride	lamppost baskets or planter at Bridgewater Drive near shops, wild flower areas at 2 x pocket parks
Parklands	Cllr Hallam	planter near Tesco express in coppice drive/Kettering road, by Lumbertubs pub, anything by Morrison's on Kettering road
Phippsville	Cllr Stevens	As per Summer 21 hanging baskets on the barrier opposite the White Elephant pub on Kingsley Park Terrace
Rectory Farm	Cllr Holland-Delamere	Floral lamppost or barrier baskets various areas suggested
Rushmills	Cllr Soan	Billing Road East area and surrounding area
Semilong	Cllr. Les Marriott	3 tier planter at Hester Street outside Co Op, Investigate the possibility of hanging baskets at Doctors Surgery. Hanging baskets at Alliston Gardens community centre
Spencer	Cllr G Eales	as per last year the five existing planters and areas around the shops on the Gladstone Road
St James	Cllr Ashraf	As per Summer 21, Planters and plants on the railings plus planters in St James Square
Trinity	Cllr Birch	10x Barrier boxes, 3 x three tier planters - various areas suggested

The list of ideas will be considered and costed for each area taking into account the following factors:

- likelihood of obtaining permission from the highways department – vicinity of nearby road junctions, will the planter obstruct any pavements or drivers view?
- ease of watering/maintenance
- visibility
- how busy/what footfall is there in different locations
- height of floral containers – will people notice them?
- are the planters likely to get damaged or stolen?

Through the Grounds Maintenance contract (Veolia/Idverde) and other existing agreements all town centre planters have now been removed and returned to the supplier to fill and plant with summer bedding for 2022.

Abington Street Planters

Quotes are to be sought from 3 local companies for the planting of the 8 large planters (including the Cobblers Last statue) in Abington Street. The working group have agreed the planters are a focal point in the town centre, match funding has been agreed with the Town Centre Business Improvement District.

The Northampton in Bloom working party will meet again in December.

The committee will consider its budget at this meeting, and may want to consider enhancing the budget for bloom in order to allow further planting schemes/ and/or increase the watering and maintenance.

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Northampton Town Council

Environmental Services Committee

Composting Toilets at Allotments – Report by Town Clerk

Purpose of report: To update the committee with regards to composting toilets on allotment sites

Recommended: (i) That members note the report and consider setting up a small working group to engage with allotment associations, look at priorities, feasibility and costs if intending to take this forward

Members will recall that at the last meeting that the committee asked officers to gather information composting toilets for allotments. The view was that this would make the allotments more accessible and inclusive with a toilet facility on site.

The Town Council's allotments are currently managed by IdeVerde under a contract between them and West Northants Council (WNC). Accordingly, the Clerk contacted officers at WNC to get more information on the feasibility of this.

WNC confirmed that NBC had installed a composting toilet at a site in 2015 within the old Borough boundary though not on one of the what are now the town council sites. They confirmed that the cost of the toilet, planning, installation, groundworks etc. was circa £15,000. They stated that the majority of the cost was in the groundworks, cess pit digging etc. However, they advised that the elements of the cost were variable depending on location, accessibility etc. NBC had used the company NatSol to provide and install the toilet, see <https://natsol.co.uk/>.

The Clerk also contacted the National Allotment Society who have provided a leaflet which is attached for information. The leaflet details the various options for toilets on allotments and highlights some funding opportunities that may be open to associations. It is understood that there are various allotment associations that operate on some of the allotment sites within the Town Council area. If the Council wants to take this forward then it is suggested that a small working party is created to investigate this further, visit the sites and liaise with associations and plot holders to determine the feasibility of installing a toilet on each site.

The Council has a budget of £26,000 for allotments to meet the cost of maintenance, and utility bills. Budget consideration will need to be given to this if taken forward.

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of your organisation and finances would be taken in to consideration. However we would advise associations with these types of toilets to include an accessible replacement in their development plans.

Finding funding

- Your first step would be to put your case together, why do you need the toilet? How will it benefit present and future plot-holders and the wider community?



- Talk to other sites or look online for those who have obtained funding, search the Big Lottery website for details of previous grants; Awards for All have given a number of grants for toilets.
- Talk to your local councillor, the council may have grants available and local funding information.
- Plan the projects' timelines, list resources needed and produce a budget.

Resource list

- www.humanurehandbook.com
- www.thunderboxes2go.co.uk
- www.natsol.co.uk
- www.waterlesstoilets.co.uk
- www.eco-toilets.co.uk
- www.composttoilet.co.uk/welcome-to-eco-loos-compost-toilets
- www.rotaloo.co.uk
- www.equalityhumanrights.com/publication/what-equality-law-means-your-association-club-or-society
- www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200135/approved_documents

Become a member of The National Allotment Society

Membership of The National Allotment Society comes with a raft of benefits, from discounts on horticultural products through to initial legal advice and horticultural expertise. To become a member visit www.nsalg.org.uk or call **01536 266576**.

O'Dell House, Hunters Road, Corby, Northamptonshire NN17 5JE
T: 01536 266576 • E: natsoc@nsalg.org.uk • www.nsalg.org.uk



Toilet Options for Allotment Sites



A toilet on your allotment site will enable a wider group of people to take advantage of the benefits of allotment gardening. Here are some funding tips and a look at the various options available.

Emptying your bladder on the compost heap is not an option for many plot-holders and, with more and more families gardening together, a risky option for male gardeners. Popping home to use the facilities is feasible for some but many of us have to travel some distance to our plots. However, over the last few years many associations have successfully raised funds to install toilets on their sites. The options available are:

- Mains flush toilets
- Septic tank flush toilets
- Chemical toilets
- Waterless composting toilets

Mains toilets may be the most expensive option to install as they will require connection to the mains sewers, there will be ongoing costs, charges and possible maintenance issues. In colder areas it may be necessary to drain the system in winter to avoid burst pipes. You can find your water and sewerage provider here www.water.org.uk/consumers/find-your-supplier.

Septic tanks are easy to install and cheaper than a mains toilet. The tank is housed in a concrete chamber with a conventional flush toilet above and you will need access to mains water on site. They must be installed somewhere that is accessible for the vehicles who need to come on-site every now and again to pump out the tank. The frequency will depend on the amount of use the toilet gets.

Septic tanks produce small amounts of liquid effluent, either out of the base of the chamber or via a urine-separating device. This needs treating so that it does not pollute groundwater. Septic tanks and soakaways should not be sited less than 10 metres from any ditch or watercourse and preferably not closer than 15 metres to any dwelling. All new soakaways or improvements to existing soakaways require the prior consent of the Environment Agency.

Chemical toilets can be hired, which will include a servicing fee for disposing of the waste products. They can also be purchased and housed in an adapted hut or even bought ready built in to a converted steel container; however the association will then have the task of disposing of the waste. These toilets require chemicals and special toilet paper.

Waterless composting toilets do not use chemicals or water to take away the waste. There are many different designs on the market and grants are available to assist local societies to install them. There is a list of the various companies that provide compost toilets at the end of this leaflet; they are all very helpful and will provide advice and guidance.

- Bennetts Road Allotment Association received a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery Awards for All fund which has been used to obtain a revolutionary new fully organic waterless toilet for their site. The Kazuba loo, supplied by WaterlessToilets.co.uk, works by harnessing wind and solar power to dehydrate and evaporate waste into a safe, odourless material. Housed in an attractive cabin, the loo is fully accessible for people with reduced mobility and can easily accommodate wheel chair users and parents with small children.
- Runwell Allotments also obtained money from the Big Lottery for a composting toilet. This involved applying for planning permission from their local planning authority, which they did with the support of their Parish Council. With help from a local farmer, willing plot-holders and a local building firm a NatSol composting toilet was installed in 2014.

Waterless, dehydrating and evaporating toilets work by separating liquids and solids; this allows the solid waste to dehydrate and the matter, which is reduced by 90%, break downs into pathogen free compost. The liquid either evaporates or is diverted to a soakaway. For some models each time the toilet is used organic cover material must be placed in the bowl to soak up liquids, prevent smells and aid decomposition.

The resulting solid waste is removed from the toilet at regular intervals and left to rot down for a further period. An added bonus is that the resulting fertiliser can be used around flowers, shrubs, fruit bushes and trees. However the compost must not be placed directly onto vegetables patches; it is a very small risk, but there is one type of roundworm egg that can survive outside the human body even after a long compost period.



Cleaning

All toilets need a management regime to keep them clean and ensure the waste is removed at appropriate intervals.

Handwashing

Handwashing facilities must be provided, in a waterless toilet this can be in the form of an anti-bacterial hand-wash. Plot-holders with muddy hands may need to rinse them before using the toilet.

Planning Permission and Building Regulations

You will need planning permission for a mains toilet or septic tank and will need to check with your planning authority about whether planning permission is required for a composting toilet.

...over the last few years many associations have successfully raised funds to install toilets on their sites.

Equality Act 2010

When looking at options for a toilet on your site you will need to take in to account the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. As an association you have a duty to make reasonable adjustments that will enable a disabled person to use your services. This duty is anticipatory, which means that you should not wait until a disabled person becomes a plot-holder to make the adjustment. The sensible option would be to choose a model with disabled access regardless of the present make-up of your plot-holders.

In addition to the model of the toilet you will need to look at the positioning of the toilet on the site and the pathway leading to the cabin.

DIY

It is possible to build a DIY compost loo and there are many older examples around on allotment sites, however many of them have a raised toilet cabin and would need a very lengthy ramp to make them accessible. A physically disabled person using the site could ask the association to make reasonable adjustments to enable them to use the toilet. Although you are not required to do more than it is reasonable for you to do and the size

Environmental Services Committee

Allotments Management – Agency Agreement with WNC

Report by Town Clerk

Purpose of report: To consider the updated agency agreement with WNC for the management of the allotments

Recommended: (i) That the committee considers the agency agreement and makes any comments or recommendations

(ii) That the Clerk be given delegation to seek formal legal advice on the issue

When Northampton Town Council officially came into being the ownership of 8 allotment sites within the boundary passed to the town council from the former borough. Councils have a statutory obligation to provide allotments where there is demand as set out in the Small Holding and Allotments Act 1908. It is usual that these allotments are passed/owned by the Parish Council where one exists in the area, hence the transfer on 1 April 2021. The allotments within the NTC boundary and now under the town council's ownership/responsibility are at Billing Road, Broadmead Avenue, Glebeland Road, Graspin Lane, Harlestone Road, Parklands, Rothersthorpe Road and Southfields.

Management and the day to day running of the allotments is carried out by IdeVerde, as part of their contract with West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). This for the town council seems like a practical arrangement at least for the duration of the IdeVerde contract as allotment administration and site management takes up considerable resource. When the contract is nearing the end then it will be for the Town Council to consider what to do next, i.e. bring management in house, tender, extend the contract etc.

As previously discussed WNC have drawn up the attached agency agreement to formalise the relationship between them and NTC. The agreement is attached for consideration.

The costs of day to day management of the allotments are currently met by WNC. In return they keep all income generated from the allotments as detailed in 5.1 of the attached agreement.

Both the Clerk, and the Clerk of Far Cotton and Delapre have raised concern over the section in 5.3 referring to 'Special Expenses'. Under the agreement WNC reserve the right to charge local residents a "special expense" to cover associated costs. "Special expenses are charges to parts rather than the whole authority and are normally associated with covering the costs of maintain parks and other open spaces not covered by parish councils". Under the agreement the NTC also has the option to negate the introduction of any proposed special expense by making a contribution to WNC for the running costs of the allotments. WNC officers have stated that these costs might be administration costs of the WNC officer(s) managing the sub-contract with IdeVerde. They have also said that there is no current intention for WNC to recharge any of the expenses of running the allotments, however the agency agreement does include it therefore making it a possibility.

On this issue, the Clerk contacted the officer at WNC on Special Expenses and its inclusion who stated:

"For clarity, the point of the provision in the draft agreements is to provide a mechanism for the PC to prevent WNC levying a special expenses charge, should it do so in the future. It would

entirely be the PC's choice whether it used those provisions or not. As long as WNC is providing services to the allotments there is an unavoidable risk it might decide to levy a special expenses charge. This is built into the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and none of us can change it.

The only way of avoiding any risk of WNC levying a special expenses charge would be for the PCs to decline to enter into any agreement with WNC, and WNC to stop providing services for the allotments. That is the PCs' sovereign choice, and WNC would not try and prevent them doing so. However, obviously the PCs would then immediately have to pay for those services."

The committee should consider the agency agreement and instruct the Clerk on what steps they would like to take next. It is recommended that the Clerk be permitted to run the agency agreement past the council's solicitor for their comment and oversight.

Clerk's note: Further to the above, at the recent Policy and Finance Committee meeting, clarity was sought on the income generated from allotments and how IdeVerde managed them in terms of inspections, etc and how those sites with allotment associations fitted in with this, i.e. what their role was. WNC have been contacted and asked to provide this information.

Dated

2021

ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Between

[] PARISH/TOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

And

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

THIS AGREEMENT is made the _____ day of _____ 2021

BETWEEN

1. [] PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL of [] (“PC”)
2. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL of One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton, NN1 1ED (“WNC”)

EXPLANATION

- A. [] allotments (the “Allotments”) were transferred to the ownership of PC on the day of its creation under Regulation 9 of the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008.
- B. The Allotments were previously owned by a predecessor council of WNC and as such the management of these had been incorporated into a contract for environmental services with Veolia
- C. WNC and PC have identified it would be beneficial WNC’s duties towards the Allotments to be fulfilled by PC.
- D. PC is empowered under regulations made under Section 9EA of the Local Government Act 2000 to make arrangements for the discharge of its functions including by means of the executive of another local authority. WNC is such a local authority.
- E. This Agreement makes provision to that effect.

NOW IT IS AGREED as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 For the purposes of this Agreement the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated below.

Breach	WNC carrying out the Functions (including failing to carry out the Functions) such that PC has a material risk of being found responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A breach of the Functions.• A breach of other legal obligations, including obligations relating to health and safety or to environmental protection.
Breach Notification	A notification by PC to WNC under clause 3.2.
Contact	The contract entered into between Northampton Borough Council and Veolia Environmental Services Limited for the provision of a range of environmental services from 4 th June 2018 and to which WNC is now a party.
Contribution	A sum which PC may make to WNC in respect of WNC carrying out the Functions.
Functions	PC’s duties and powers to manage and maintain the Allotments.
Management	Risk assessments, safe systems of work, procedures, work

Documents	records, inspection records and any other document or record which shows how the Functions are to be, are, or were, performed.
TUPE	Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees) Regulations 2006.
VAT	Value Added Tax or any similar tax or charge.
Year	The period of 12 months from 1 st April to 31 st March.

1.2 In this Agreement, unless the contrary intention appears:

1.2.1 Words in the singular include the plural and vice versa.

1.2.2 Clause headings are for ease of reference only and do not affect the construction of the Agreement.

1.2.3 Any reference to any Act of Parliament or to any order, regulation, statutory instrument or the like shall be deemed to include a reference to any amendment or re-enactment of it.

1.2.4 The expression “including” means “including without limitation”.

1.2.5 References to clauses and sub-clauses are to clauses and sub-clauses of this Agreement.

2. GENERAL DUTIES OF WNC

2.1 WNC shall:

2.1.1 Carry out on behalf of PC the Functions.

2.1.2 Provide all workers (whether employed by WNC or otherwise), equipment, consumables and anything else necessary to carry out the Functions.

2.1.3 Comply with all legal obligations including obligations relating to health and safety and environmental protection whilst carrying out the Functions.

2.1.4 Dispose itself of all waste generated as part of carrying out the Functions.

2.2 WNC may carry out the Functions more comprehensively or to a higher standard than is required under this Agreement (but see section 5).

2.3 WNC shall ensure it carries sufficient insurance to cover carrying out the Functions.

3. OVERSIGHT

3.1 WNC shall on request by PC provide access to or copies of its Management Documents or any of them.

3.2 PC may notify WNC if PC has reasonable grounds to believe a Breach has occurred or is likely to occur. Such notification may be verbal or in writing, but if verbal shall be followed up in writing as soon as practicable.

3.3 WNC shall respond to a Breach Notification in writing as soon as practicable. Such response shall set out what action WNC proposes to take.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 Prior to commencing carrying out the Functions WNC shall ensure it has in place suitable and sufficient assessments Management Documents, training and workers (whether employed by WNC or otherwise) to ensure, insofar as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all persons who may be affected by the carrying out of the Functions.
- 4.2 Management Documents shall include as a minimum:
 - 4.2.1 Risk assessments.
 - 4.2.2 Method statements.
 - 4.2.3 Safe systems of work.
 - 4.2.4 Personal protective equipment (PPE) log.
 - 4.2.5 Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) records.
 - 4.2.6 Training records.
- 4.3 WNC shall ensure that that at all times its Management Documents, training and workers (whether employed by WNC or otherwise) remain suitable and sufficient to ensure, insofar as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all persons who may be affected by the carrying out of the Functions.
- 4.4 In the event that PC communicates (including a Breach Notification) a concern with the way WNC is carrying out the Functions or with PC's Management Documents which could adversely affect the health or safety of any person, WNC shall give due regard to PC's communication.

5. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 WNC shall be entitled to receive any income generated from the Allotments or the carrying out of the Functions.
- 5.2 Subject to 5.1, WNC shall carry out the Functions at its own expense, and shall not be entitled to payment from PC for carrying out the Functions unless PC decides to pay a Contribution.
- 5.3 If PC wishes to or is considering paying WNC a Contribution in order to remove or reduce a special expenses Council Tax charge WNC would otherwise levy on the parish of PC in the following Year then on written request WNC shall provide in writing information on the level of Contribution which it would need to receive in order to reduce to nil the special expenses charge it would otherwise levy.
- 5.4 If PC confirms in writing to WNC that it will pay a Contribution in relation to costs WNC incurs in carrying out the Functions prior to 1st February in any Year than:
 - 5.4.1 WNC shall take the proposed Contribution into account in setting any special expenses Council Tax charge on that PC's parish in the following Year.
 - 5.4.2 PC shall pay WNC the Contribution no later than 1st June of the following Year or by such other date or dates as WNC and PC may agree in writing.

- 5.5 In the event that a Contribution is liable to VAT, WNC shall provide a proper VAT invoice. Provided a proper VAT invoice is provided, PC shall pay the Contribution together with VAT on the Contribution.

6. RECORDS AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 WNC shall keep and maintain adequate and comprehensive records relating to performance of the Functions.
- 6.2 WNC shall make such records available for inspection at reasonable times and on reasonable notice by any officer employed by PC and authorised for that purpose and likewise to PC's auditors or inspectors.
- 6.3 The parties shall co-operate fully with each other in dealing with data protection and freedom of information requests (including environmental information requests) and shall co-operate in responding to any enquiries in the course of investigations carried out by the Local Government Ombudsman or any other relevant statutory body.
- 6.4 On termination WNC shall provide to PC copies of records it holds in relation to the Allotments which PC reasonably requires to assume delivery of the Functions.
- 6.5 If the end of this Agreement (by whatever means) appears likely or certain to happen within the following six months, WNC shall provide PC with such information it holds about the Allotments as PC reasonably requires in order to be ready to assume delivery of the Functions.

7. STAFF

- 7.1 The parties are of the opinion that no persons would be due to transfer under TUPE to the employment of WNC or any person engaged by WNC to carry out the Functions.
- 7.2 Should notwithstanding clause 7.1 it be established that a person is due to transfer under TUPE to the employment of WNC or any person engaged by WNC to carry out the Functions the parties shall co-operate to secure compliance with TUPE.
- 7.3 If the end of this Agreement (by whatever means) appears likely or certain to happen within the following six months, the parties shall co-operate in securing compliance with TUPE, if it is applicable.

8. LIABILITY

- 8.1 WNC and PC shall each indemnify and hold harmless each other for any action or default of WNC under this Agreement and shall indemnify PC against any liability, expense or action thereby arising.

9. TERM AND TERMINATION

- 9.1 This Agreement shall commence on the day it is complete and shall continue until the end (by whatever means) of the Contract or this Agreement is terminated.
- 9.2 Either party may give the other at least three months' written notice to terminate this Agreement. The Agreement will terminate at the end of the Year following three months from the date the notice was given.

- 9.3 If PC has given a Breach Notification and WNC not responded compliant with clause 3.3, or if the Breach the Breach Notification relates to could result in criminal sanctions or which has resulted in the service of notices against WNC or PC under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 or regulations made under it then PC may terminate the Agreement with immediate effect by giving notice in writing.
- 9.4 If this Agreement comes to an end (by whatever means) the following provisions shall remain in full force and effect:
 - 9.4.1 Section 1.
 - 9.4.2 Clause 3.1.
 - 9.4.3 Clause 5.2.
 - 9.4.4 Section 6.
 - 9.4.5 Clause 7.3.
 - 9.4.6 Section 8.
 - 9.4.7 Clause 9.4.
 - 9.4.8 Section 10.

10. STATUS OF AGREEMENT

- 10.1 This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with English law and the parties submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
- 10.2 If any provision of this Agreement is declared by any judicial or other competent authority to be void voidable illegal or otherwise unenforceable the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect and the parties shall in good faith amend that provision in such reasonable manner as achieves the intention of the parties without illegality.
- 10.3 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as the creation of a separate legal entity or a private partnership.
- 10.4 This Agreement does not create any right enforceable by any person not a party to it under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

Execution

Executed by as a DEED by [] PARISH/TOWN
COUNCIL :

Authorised signatory

Executed as a DEED by WEST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL :

Authorised signatory

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Northamptonshire Larger Councils Partnership 10 November 2021

Danny Moody opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees and introduced the keynote speaker, Councillor Ed Gemmell. Ed is a parish councillor and chairman of the Climate Emergency Working Party in Hazlemere and on NALC's climate emergency committee. He is also Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillor sitting on the Transport Environment and Climate Change Committee in Bucks and a member of the LGA's Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board. Ed also works as Managing Director of Scientists Warning Europe (a limited company and charity whose work is to promote science led action on the climate crisis) and is the founder of No Disposable Cup Day. He stood in the General Election in 2019 with only one policy to "reverse climate change".

Ed gave a summary of the events leading up to COP26 including the 1992 warning from over 1000 scientists of the impending climate crisis and the warning from 15,500 scientists in 2017. Scientists Warning Europe have written to the Prime Minister and is calling for leaders to lead, but leadership is required from all levels of the local government sector and parish councils can really make a difference.

Hazlemere PC has a net zero carbon target of 2030 and has declared a climate emergency, but has also started to put measures in place to deliver the target. The working group page on their website has lots of information: [Hazlemere Climate Change Working Party • Hazlemere Parish Council](#)

To achieve net zero the following projects are being worked on:

- Switching to a green energy supplier
- Using a smart meter
- Using battery storage
- Solar panels and heat pumps
- EV charging points at 3 council buildings
- Solar Streets (Need 10 residents to obtain a good price on installation)
- Community energy schemes
- Advanced recycling (collection of crisp packets, coffee pods, Hasbro games) [Recycling - Climate Action NOW !!](#)
- Food waste awareness
- Repair cafes [Home | Repaircafe](#)
- Hazlemere climate talks occur on the first Monday of each month
- Repair café (2 hour event with seamstress, electrician, handyman)
- Youth group

Every tree is essential, while planting is good, much better to not cut down in the first place. TPO's are critical and the amenity value can now extend to climate change and environmental concerns. Get residents to walk the streets to prepare a map to show where trees could be planted in verges, when trees are then planted ask the families around that tree to look after them to keep ongoing costs down.

Wildflower meadows are being planted to help pollinators, WWF reported that 17 bee species are regionally extinct, so we need pollinator corridors to let bees travel between areas. Hazlemere has the Bee Squared project: [Bees - Climate Action NOW !!](#) Residents were asked to use 1m² of their lawn for wildflower planting. Seeds and envelopes were purchased which equated to 28p/household and the envelopes were posted through each letterbox. Sponsors covered the cost so it did not cost the parish anything.

Neighbourhood Plans and planning applications can be a way to influence the climate by making sure trees and green spaces are not overlooked.

Older people have been very keen to get involved and it has been a challenge to get the youth group started, but it is possible.

<p>Marion Turner-Hawes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you considered schemes to leave cars at home or to have electric vehicles? 	<p>You have to make sure you include the whole community, getting the message out about not idling your car outside schools is very important. On average you need to have 50,000 miles of electric vehicle driving before you see the climate benefit, car sharing is a better way.</p>
<p>David Brede</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you considered 20mph zones? 	<p>20mph zones are difficult to police and enforce. Both EV and fossil fuel cars should drive more conservatively to help with fuel consumption and emissions.</p>
<p>Julie Bainbridge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance to achieve carbon neutral would be really helpful to parish councils. • Julie launched the Bertie Bottle campaign and has written a book which is aimed at primary age children, really would like a school to review. 	<p>Not using single use plastics is a great idea. As a family we go to MacDonalDs and take our own containers and cutlery so we don't use their packaging.</p>
<p>Andrew Dutton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How popular are your repair cafes? 	<p>Its early days but really popular so far. (Wellingborough and Kettering have them)</p>
<p>Dez Dell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm a unitary and town councillor and am finding it much easier to get things done as a town councillor. 	<p>All levels of local government should make a difference. Boris Johnson could make a grand gesture at COP26, we will wait and see.</p>

Danny thanked Ed for his time and contribution to the meeting and opened the floor to find out what town and parish councils are doing in Northamptonshire.

Around 1/3 of the NCLP councils have declared a climate emergency and 99% felt there was a real climate emergency.

Jane Birch

- NTC have declared a climate emergency. We have gone paperless (as far as possible), we buy local, use local contractors, invest in the local economy and use environmentally responsible suppliers. Northampton in Bloom – we want to use more sustainable plants that will last longer than the summer season. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Alan Bottwood

- Need to educate as well as doing things.
- Should work with developers in the early planning stages so you can steer environmental developments.

Rosie Smart

- You can google teracycle to find out what recycling opportunities are in your local area.

Sam Kilby-Shaw

- There is a lot of information about climate change, but some climate change is part of the normal process for the planet. Need to understand more before spending lots of money on this.

Peter Allen

- Mature trees being retained in new developments can cause issues with roots.
- Solar panels are not standard on new builds as they say the grid is not able to cope.

Marion Turner-Hawes

- [Transition Network | Transition Towns | The Circular Economy](#)
- The National Lottery has a fund available but the deadline for grant submission is 18 November: [Together for Our Planet | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

Ali Moses

- At Brackley, when we remove the bedding flowers we post out on social media for residents to come and help themselves to them from a trailer, which they do within a few hours and are very happy with this and often post pictures of the flowers replanted in their gardens
- We have a community orchard, tree planting, wildflower meadows (although some people don't like them as they are untidy). The challenge is to change the mind of the community to make meadows more acceptable.
- New hall in Brackley is lovely, but it hasn't got solar panels or heat pumps. Planners need to do more to make this happen on new builds.

Danny Moody

- The Northants CALC partnership with Weedon-based Clear Utility Solutions (CUS) is paying dividends, both in terms of cash savings and carbon reduction. The scheme started in Autumn 2020 and to date parish and town councils have between them saved a whopping £30,000! More importantly, as a result of CUS switching councils to greener energy suppliers for the long term, nearly 200 tonnes of CO2 will now not be dissipating into the atmosphere. The buying group is open to all member parish and town councils in Northamptonshire. To see if your council can save money and/or carbon now, please visit <https://www.clearutilitiesolutions.com/ncalc-partnership>
- If your council is part way through a fixed-term contract and not ready to renew just yet, CUS will take a note of the contract end date and send you a helpful reminder when it is time to start looking at renewal rates.
- Northants CALC had planned to arrange a Climate Change Conference, but Covid struck. Very happy to re-arrange this.

Meeting chat:

Tina Charteress

- offered to arrange a Bertie Bottle book talk in Wootton's new library

Dez Dell

- Is everyone aware of the Climate Action - West Northants (CA-WN)?
In the North Northants there is a NN Eco Forum group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nnecoforum>
- I was at the UoN COP26 week last week and Freegle are trying to get established in Northants - email councils@ilovefreegle.org

- Carbon Literacy training will be available for town and parish councillors in the new year, once trained you can train other cllrs - <https://carbonliteracy.com/toolkits/local-authorities/>
- A report on EV Charging points came to the NNC climate change advisory panel in September here: <https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s3169/Agenda%20Item%2005%20-%20CCEG%20EAP%20Report%20on%20EVCPs.pdf>
- You can suggest other sites for EV CP's as part of the consultation here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WNNHVPACH3>
- There's an NNC covid recovery grant available 'which supports the move to Net Zero' details here: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/discretionary-recovery-and-innovation-grant>
- [Bee-friendly-circle.pdf \(saveweekleyhallwood.com\)](#)
- Big banks such as Barclays, HSBC, Santander, Natwest have invested billions in fossil fuel companies. There are ethical banks that don't - most building societies, Triodos, Nationwide don't invest in fossil fuels

Marion Turner-Hawes

- Have you thought about creating an edible landscape, creating sustainable planting that people can grow, eat and clear?
- NNC Climate Conference on 16th Nov [NNClimate21 - Speakers and timetable | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](#)

Julie Bainbridge

- Could we have the bus stops shelters in town be roofed with pollenating plants?

Elaine Wiltshire

- The reason that commercial business on the trading estates do not have solar panels is because the grid cannot take the extra electricity generated until they have been upgraded
- The WNC Document on Climate Change was written jointly by SNC and Daventry District Council prior to Unitary. The Document was passed to WNC to implement at the last Full Council of each District Council. I was part of the working group at SNC for the last 2 years and helped to put it together.

Kevin White

- In Moulton I'm hoping to get our PC to agree to a small 'permaculture' trial. It's not a well known technique but, after getting established, is self sustaining-capturing carbon, providing food, but not requiring infinite inputs. I will share more information as we progress.

- Excess power from solar panels is sometimes literally 'dumped' into the ground. A travesty for sure. The solution may be in so-called 'smart grids', battery-based solutions (this is a weak point) to smooth out the peaks/troughs. EVCs can form part of the smart grid.

Paul Enright-King

- The installation of solar panels as standard, together with better insulation requires primary legislation, just as was achieved under Disability Discrimination legislation, where doorways are required to be wider in newbuilds and front steps have been lowered for wheelchair users. perhaps builders should be offered incentives, but since they are companies who contribute massively to greenhouse gasses, in the use of concrete for example, they should be 'encouraged' to consider improving their game.

Lesley Sambrook Smith

- **On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme guidance for local authorities** The application process is open to relevant local authorities throughout the UK. OZEV defines 'local authority' using the 'public authority' definition as listed in Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For the purposes of the scheme, the applicant authority must have the explicit support of the relevant highways authority that has responsibility for maintenance of the highway on the residential streets where chargepoints are to be located. This support must be obtained before any application is submitted in the form of a formal letter or email.

- Parish councils are public authorities according to Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000
- [On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Next steps:

- Northants CALC to have a dedicated webpage to climate change: [Climate Change | Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils \(northantscalc.com\)](#)
- Northants CALC to host a climate change conference

Environmental Services Committee

Budget Principles 2022/23 – Environmental Services Committee element

Report by town Clerk

Purpose of report: Top ask the committee to set their budget for the cost headings under their management to go to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.

Recommended: That the committee puts forward its recommended budget for consideration by the Policy and Finance Committee

Members will be aware that the council has begun its budget process for 2022/23. The principle of this have been set by the Policy and Finance Committee. The details of which are there should be no increase in the Band D average that residents pay within the Northampton Town Council parish boundary.

The Environment Committee has some key budget headings within its remit. These are:

- 4536 – Northampton in Bloom £30,000 (in addition to the £46,800 for the town centre planting in the events budget to be transferred by WNC)
- 4400 – Allotments Repairs and Maintenance £26,000.
- 4560 – Climate Emergency £50,000 (already agreed that any unspent will go into an earmarked reserve)

The budgets managed by this committee are likely to increase in number as the Town Council takes on more responsibility.

The process for setting the budget is as follows:

1. Committees consider their elements and make recommendations
2. Policy and Finance Committee consider these and draft final budget for recommendation to the Council
3. Council considers final budget and subject to any final amendments approves the final budget in January
4. The precept request is sent to the WNC who are the precepting authority and collect it on behalf of town and parish councils and the police and fire authority.

The Finance Committee has confirmed the principle that they do not want the Band D average to go up in the forthcoming year. This is possible and there are funds available to add to items such as bloom without increasing the band D average.

Northampton in Bloom is the major project at present, which has been jointly managed and delivered by NTC and WNC. Next year it will almost entirely be down to NTC, and with councillors wanting to see enhancements to bloom, in the initial draft budget prepared by officers and consulted on with the Chairs and vice Chairs, additional spend of £20,000 has been added to this heading (in addition to that coming over from WNC). The committee however, may want to ask for more, or less, that is for the committee to decide.

Regarding the Climate Emergency, the Council has agreed to earmark any unspent in the coming year. The amount for next year is recommended to be kept at £50,000. Town and Parish Councils play a key role in setting the tone on climate change and this funding will be crucial as we begin to establish our goals.

Eight allotment sites were handed over to the town council from WNC upon its creation. It is usual that town and parish councils manage and administer these and have staff to do this. However, we have inherited the contract with IdeVerde which runs for a few more years. They manage and administer the allotments on our behalf and take the income from them to do this. There is £26,000 in the budget to meet utility and maintenance costs. The issue of composting toilets will have already been discussed and may feed into whether or not the committee would like to see this budget heading increase or not.

The draft budget headings for this committee are detailed below. The committee are therefore asked to consider whether there are any changes it would like to make to these.

Environmental Services

		2021/22			2022/23	
		Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Proposed
210	Open Spaces & Environment					
4536	Northampton In Bloom	£30,000	£29,663	£30,000	£0	£50,000
4560	Climate Emergency	£50,000	£0	£50,000	£0	£50,000
	Movement to/(from) EM Reserve	(80,000)	(29,663)	(80,000)		(100,000)
230	Allotments					
4400	Repairs and Maintenance	£26,000	£0	£0	£0	£26,000
	Movement to/(from) EM Reserve	(26,000)	£0	£0		(26,000)
	Environmental Services - Income	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Totals	Expenditure	£106,000	£29,663	£80,000	£0	£126,000
	Movement to/(from) EM Reserve	(106,000)	(29,663)	(80,000)		(126,000)