

Northampton Town Council

The Guildhall St Giles Square Northampton NN1 1DE

Tel No. 01604 349310

Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 28th November 2022 – 18:00

To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee:

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

Distributed electronically to all other councillors for information

You are summoned to attend the meeting of Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held in the Town Council Committee Room at Northampton Guildhall on Monday 28th November 2022 at 18.00

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

Stuart Carter
Town Clerk
22nd November 2022

Guildhall Northampton NN1 1DE

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence
- 2. Declarations of Interest
- 3. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held 7th September 2022 not attached, sent out with Council agenda for 24th October 2022
- 4. Northampton in Bloom

Report attached

(p3 - p8)

5. St Katherine's Gardens restoration project

Mr Peter Brothers from the RBL to speak to the committee on plans for the garden – information also attached (p 9 - p 20)

6. Climate Change Forum

Chair's Report attached

(p 21 – p 22)

7. WNC Fly Tipping Strategy

Information to follow

8. WNC Bus Strategy Consultation

Report attached (p 23 – p 24)

9. Budget Principles 2023/24 – Environmental Services Element

Report attached (p 25 – p 27)

10. Items for future agenda

Environmental Services Committee

Northampton in Bloom

Report by Louise Hannam-Jones, Events and Projects Officer

Purpose of report: To update the committee on 2022's Northampton in Bloom project and to discuss next year's project.

Recommended: That subject to any comments, the committee note the report and consider a budget for the coming financial year. Officers will work with Northampton in Bloom Working party, keeping them informed as the project progresses.

2022-2023

Visual Impressions

This year saw the installation approximately 500 baskets of a summer colour mix of flowers, within the town centre and Town Council wards.

The impact of oranges and pinks brightened up areas and in response we received an abundance of positive comments from our residents (see Appendix 1).

A special planter in red, white and purple accompanied by a banner was dedicated to the Queen's Jubilee and stood pride of place opposite The Guildhall (Appendix 2).

Operations

Officers Julie Thorneycroft and Louise Hannam-Jones worked closely with Idverde and West Northants Council to finalise the environmental contract and create maps of where the planters will be installed for future years. This provided an agreed understanding between all partners. As the contractors cannot take on any extra watering and maintenance than the present amounts, it has been agreed that any further planters will be looked after by resident associations and community groups, with a sustainable element to coincide with the Britain in Bloom marking criteria. Over the next year the Town Council will establish these groups and support the sustainable planting through the Sustainable planting Bloom Grants.

The Bloom Working Party Group was developed further, with the addition of key Northampton partners such as Nicola Clarke, Idverde, Nicola Powell, Veolia, Vikkie Malone, WNC Parks, to name a few. In preparation for the Bloom judging for the RHS Britain in Bloom, partners came together to prepare for the sustainability and community aspects of the judging in 2024.

Environment and Sustainability

The Climate Change Forum started the sustainable planting for the Town Council off by sourcing a planter made from sustainable materials to be planted on Abington Street and maintained by St Giles

Music Shop. This is the start of hopefully many more in the CCF's aspiration to 'Green the Town'. The Volunteers are finalising the planter to made in conjunction with The Hope Centre, and will plant themselves. An information panel will accompany the planter to explain about sustainable planting and include partner logos. 'We are feeding the Bees' signs were created to be placed in wildflower areas next Spring/Summer to spread the awareness of sustainable planting.

Community Groups

We have started to collate partners and community groups that may like to be incorporated into Community Groups. These include WNC's 'Garden in the Park' at the Racecourse that utilises a space for community planting and the recycling of park waste.

James McInerny's wellbeing poetry quotes were incorporated into designs to accompany the flowers. A 'soft launch' commenced with banners on the Market Place, Bus Station and Carparks and will be launched as a full wellness walk when 2023's summer flowers are installed (Appendix 3)

It's Your Neighbourhood Awards

Five Community Groups: IHWO, Friends of Abington park, Friends of Dallington Park, Friends of Eastfield Park and Hope Gardening entered the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards section of the RHS Britain in Bloom. The Town Council hosted the awards ceremony to present certificates and prizes in the Mayor's Parlour, complete with coffee and bloom-inspired cakes!

Basket Locations

We have assessed the Cllr preferred locations that went out this year and have made a few adjustments for next year based on what worked well and what didn't. These are noted in the table below:

Ward	Councillor	Idea							
Abington	Cllr Purser	Marefair - 4 barrier baskets along the railings or in front of St Peter's Church or perhaps at the entrance to Chalk Lane as part of the Northampton Gateway.							
Boothville	Cllr Lane	Lampposts on the approach roads to Lumbertubs Roundabout - Moulton Way, Kettering Road, Booth Rise and Lumbertubs Lane, Northampton 6 lamp posts identified, 2 half baskets per lamp post.							
Briar Hill	Cllr Connolly	2 square floral planters on the roundabout leading to Briar Hill.							
Castle	Cllr Alwahabi	Hanging baskets in Wellingborough road – change to lampposts as too high/not visible as hanging baskets? and park avenue south areas							
Castle	Cllr Haque	Removal of the 1 x 3 tier planter of St George's/Barrack Road Change of the 1 x 3 tier planter on Lorne Rd/Barrack Road to a 1 tier planter. Pocket park in Spring Boroughs 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 and Birchfield Road East.
Park	Cllr Kilbride	lamppost baskets or planter at Bridgewater Drive near shops, wild flower areas at 2 x pocket parks. Landcross Drive shops — Dig out soil, land slabs on compacted sand. Supply and install 2no single tier planters with wooden surrounds.
Parklands	Cllr Hallam	An even distribution of barrier baskets along Kettering road outside parade of shops at Spinney Hill opposite Cynthia Spencer Hospice and on barriers adjacent to Morrisons on Kettering Road. 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	Co Op Lamposts L4LES, L5LES, L3LES, L6LES, L7LES Junction Great Billing Way, L64LMQ and LS5 LMQ - Junction Rectory Farm Road Great Billing Way L56LMQ, L55 LMQ, L54LMQ Lamposts roundabout Well Rd and Cherry Lodge Road L107 LNN and L106LNN
Rushmills	Cllr Soan	Billing Road East area and surrounding area. Lamppost baskets at Billing road East, 3 Tier Planter at Billing Road East Removal of 4 barrier baskets on Rushmere Road due to getting lost amongst the natural habitat
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, 2 x planters in the shopping area at St James Square, 3 x floral containers along the verge at Weedon Road.
Talavera	Cllr Meredith	16 lamp post basket at the Southfields Roundabout - Lings Way and Talavera Way approaches.
Trinity	Cllr Birch	10x Barrier boxes, 3 x three tier planters — Kingsley Road — 4 x Barrier boxes Plinth on Kingsley Road - 3 Tier Planter Top of St Georges Avenue - 2 x Barrier Boxes Lights Opp Brick Kiln Lane - 2 x Barrier boxes Racecourse entrance - 3 tier planter Kingsthorpe Grove opposite school - 2 x barrier baskets Barrack Road entrance to Racecourse - 3 tier planter

Budget

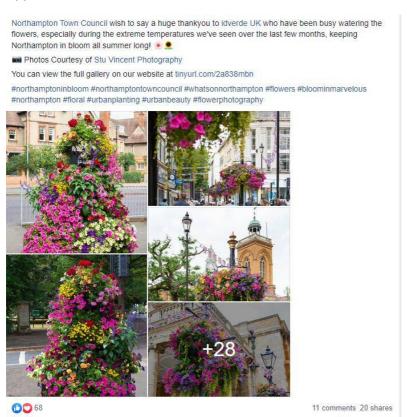
Year	WNC's budget transferred	NTC Budget	Total Budget	Total spent	Balance left	Notes
This Year 2022- 2023	£32547	£50,000	£82,547	£48,016	£34,531	Out of this year's budget, we need to order 2023's flowers. Based on this year= £18,000 (but could be up to £30K due to increase in costs)
Next Year 2023- 2024	£23,021	ТВС	TBC	TBC	TBC	Add 20% this year in accordance with rise in prices

Next Year 2023-2024

Based on this year's ordering, our contractors Idverde advised us that they were at full capacity with their teams for maintaining the number of planters in the various wards. Therefore, if Bloom were to expand in size we would need to find alternative options. East Midlands in Bloom has a heavy focus on the Community and Environmental elements for judging, so perhaps it is wise that we encourage community groups to create further Bloom planters in their areas- perhaps this could be supported with the sustainable planting scheme of the Climate Change Forum, as well as the Bloom £200 Councillor start-up grants.

We have also obtained access to the Northampton in Bloom Facebook page where we can liaise with community groups that used to partake in Northampton in Bloom, and add new groups to.

Appendix 1



So pretty	The flower displays this year are really lovely,
	well done to all concerned
The flower displays were so lovely .	The flowers have been fabulous this year. Well
Congratulations to all who took care of them.	done x
They give such pleasure	I love to see these beautiful floral displays when I visit my home town. So good for well being, they really lift the spirits.
These are stunning and much appreciated	There is a tower opposite my house. It's
	beautiful & I always thank the chap who waters
	it when I see him.
Well done	They are lovely
They lift your spirits when seen x	Looks real good
Absolutely gorgeous!!!	Glorious , well done [
They really have done a great job! Flowers have	looked fab all summer and still going strong! •

Appendix 2



Appendix 3



RBL St Katherines Gardens



Woman with a Fish, Northampton



View image | gettyimages.com

The photograph above shows the unveiling of Sir Frank Dobson's sculpture 'Woman with a Fish' at St Katherine's Gardens in the centre of Northampton in the early 1950s. It was first exhibited at the 1951 Battersea Park sculpture exhibition.

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Today, as my photograph below shows, you will find it in the gardens at Delapre Abbey.



Current pictures















With the help of the Branch members

- We can complete the initial activities required to bring it up to scratch
- On going upkeep of the garden
- Garden we can be proud of of, giving something back to the community,
- Current, ex service personnel, and the general public.
- Fun by entering and winning the best RBL Garden contests.
- Lasting legacy for now and the future
- Thanks for listening, looking forward to being a part of this marvellous project.

Climate Change Forum – Chair's Report to Environmental Services Committee 28-11-22

CCF Membership: NTC - Cllr. Stevens (Chair), Cllr. Joyce, Cllr Birch, Stuart Carter, Louise Hannam-Jones, Jo Haines, Rachel Thomas. **Community Volunteers (CVs)** - Clare Marriott-Robinson, Dave Pearson, David Garlick, Eluned Lewis-Nichol, John Crick, Mike Longman,

CURRENT PROJECTS.

1] Public Engagement.

Events. After 3 Climate Cafes in the Grosvenor centre earlier this year, there was a Climate Change 'hub' (I.e. a 'cafe' without the 'cafe' element) event at Weston Favell Hub 22/10. A Grosvenor Centre Shop Window display is due to be placed in early 2023, and other 'hubs are likely for 2023, incl. at UoN and Northampton Museum. CV Clare Marriott-Robinson contributes a lot of time to these events, and NTC Events Officers support these as well.

Climate Change Grants Scheme. Launched late October, details on NTC Website. Process for assessing applications is currently that CCF sub-group provides opinion to ESC for final decision, BUT this could be unwieldy time wise as ESC only meets c. 5 times per year. So, under review, depending on uptake of the Scheme.

Working with other Northampton area Councils. Parish Councils - of the 13 other Parish Councils in Northampton written to by the Chair on 15/8/22, 5 replies to date rec'd from: Kingsthorpe Parish (Cllr Sam Kilby-Shaw attended Oct CCF), Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council, Wootton Parish, Billing Parish (reps these 3 are due to attend the Nov CCF) and Hardingstone Parish (who declined involvement). The Town Clerk and Cllr Stevens have liaised with NCALC about parishes across a wider area than only the Town working together.

- **2]** <u>Greening the Town.</u> WNC permission has been given for the Abington St planter which has been ordered from the Hope Centre Workshop. Possibilities for a tree planting programme in the Town are still being considered by the CCF. Options for a 'Nature Needs Nurture' campaign that could support small scale biodiversity actions by town residents, and augment NN in Bloom community biodiversity projects will be considered in early 2023. CV Clare Marriott-Robinson and NTC Events Officers have spent time on these activities.
- **3]** <u>Active Travel.</u> 'Every Journey Matters' this "increasing awareness and behavioural 'nudge' campaign" is to be launched in Spring 2023. CV John Crick has contributed significant time outside CCF mtgs to planning this campaign.

Why this Project? a] It fits with national and local govt environmental ambitions. E.g. UK Govt: The second cycling and walking investment strategy (CWIS2, July 2022) outlines the government's ambition to make cycling and walking the natural choices for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey by 2040. WNC's Corporate Strategy from Dec 2021 states: We want to be an authority that puts the environment first and considers the carbon cost in all of our own decision-making, but also encourages and supports others to do the same, help us shape a cleaner and greener West Northants.

b] People who choose to walk or cycle benefit themselves fitness, health-wise and financially, and these people plus those choosing to bus or scoot instead of car travelling help to reduce air pollution and climate change causing emissions for all town residents.
c] More journeys by foot of bike should also benefit car, van and lorry drivers moving around the town as traffic congestion and air pollution are reduced.

Components: An 'accessible to the public' library of information via NTC website, a publicity campaign, advisory support for people who would like to try to be more Active Travellers by signposting people to some safer and more pleasant routes around and through the town. Supporters, to date: WNC – Nicky Hyde-Pulley. Principal Travel Choices Officer (Road Safety and Sustainability) has said they would support in whatever way they could; Jackie Browne, Sports Northamptonshire have said the same.

4] <u>Monitoring air quality in Northampton</u>. This project would purchase and install self-sufficient air quality monitors (AQ) for NOx, 02, PM10, PM2.5, PM1, temperature, pressure and humidity every 15 mins. in 8-10 locations around Northampton, and collate data over a one, possibly, two-year period. (CV Dave Pearson has contributed significant time outside CCF mtgs to planning this campaign, and Climate Action-West Northants (CA-WN) have provided advice on AQ monitors).

Why this Project? According to the Northampton Town Council Low Emission Strategy 2017 – 2025 "in 2010, across Northampton, 6.1% of people aged over 25 will die prematurely each year because of particulate air pollution: equivalent to 102 deaths per year or 1,168 associated life years lost." One of the challenges of implementing measures to improve air quality is that the public don't know if our air is dangerous. Apart from some WNC NOx tubes around the town, there is only one DEFRA air quality monitoring station in Northampton, at Spring Park in Kingsthorpe. This project would collect air quality data from sites in Northampton, and the data could then inform NTC if there is a case for a number of possible publicity campaigns on AQ which would not only lead to improved public health outcomes but may have the potential to lower emissions of the greenhouse gases that are causing climate change.

- **5] Possible Joint Project of the CCF with University of Northampton**. Zoe Taylor, Senior Lecturer in Illustration would like to get her students involved in a CCF project.
- **6] Engaging with local businesses**. The CCF is now a member of UoN's Sustainability Forum which has c. 70 County businesses as members to date.

Environmental Services Committee

Bus Service Review

Report by Town Clerk comments from Cllr Holland-Delamere

Purpose of report: To seek the committee's views on the bus service review response

Recommended: That subject to any further comments or amendments that the response as detailed below be submitted

Members will recall that an email with accompanying letter was sent out to members informing them of a bus review being conducted by SCP on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council. The letter, which was sent to all town and parish councils in the area asked a number of questions.

Detailed below are the questions and a response which has been drafted by Cllr Holland-Delamere.

The timing of the consultation means that it cannot be presented at the Planning Committee as members may have expected.

The committee are asked to consider the comments and subject to any additional comments and/or amendments ask the clerk to submit them in response.

Is your community served by a local bus service and if so, are residents satisfied with the service?

The Northampton Town Council area is served by a network of routes with varying frequencies. The main service provider is Stagecoach with Uno and some smaller operators serving some areas of the town. Depending on which community residents live in will depend on how satisfied they are. We do have areas between the main routes which are not served at all which is a problem for mainly the elderly and disabled without their own transport. Other areas have low frequency services for example Parklands which is hourly, Southfields which is half hourly. At times services keeping to timetable can be a challenge with buses ending up travelling in convoy along the same route. The frequency reduction since covid means the waits can be longer if buses are late. Sunday services in some areas do not exist in others for example Southfields.

Evidence of any barriers to bus use in your community (excluding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic) – for example concerns about frequency, routes, destinations, times, fares?

The frequency on some routes has reduced. The main routes pre-pandemic used to be every 10 minutes, now every 15 minutes. As usage hasn't returned to pre-pandemic levels the reduction hasn't yet had an impact with overcrowding during peak times but may do in due course. Voi scooters may have also reduced bus usage in some demographics. Residents are concerned about the cost. Young people at a recent meeting attended by a local councillor commented about how expensive it is. A young person's day pass is £3.20, week pass £12 and 28-day pass £45.30. Over the course of the last 10-15 years the cost of a 28-day pass with the main operator has over doubled from around £28 to the current £60.40. Lack of Sunday services in some areas as previously mentioned. This could be a barrier for some attending Sunday events organised by the Town Council.

What do you think could be done to make bus use more attractive?

Improve affordability and restore frequency. The main operator's fleet of buses has grown older, they do need to invest in their fleet with more environmentally friendly vehicles. There are break downs occasionally due to the age of the vehicles which causes delays and cancelations.

Do you have any ideas or options which you believe should be included within the review?

Slightly later buses in the evening, extend by 30 minutes to an hour. Ensure at least half hourly bus services on main routes in particular to the north and east. Investigate additional park and ride options.

Environmental Services Committee

Budget Principles 2023/24 - 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 2023/24. 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 £50,000 (in addition to the money allocated as part of the agreement with WNC)
- 4400 Allotments Repairs and Maintenance £26,000. We have a clearer idea of allotment costs in relation to utilities.
- 4560 Climate Emergency £50,000 (split into £25,000 for Environmental Grants and £25,000 for projects).

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 this year has been entirely managed NTC officers (last year it was jointly delivered with WNC). The report considered earlier in the agenda makes recommendations regarding the budget, suggesting a further 20% be added to meet rising costs.

Regarding the Climate Emergency the chair has set out proposed expenditure in the current year. There is also an earmarked reserve of £50,000 from the last financial year. £25,000 has been taken

for Environmental Grants which has just been launched. This leaves a further £25,000 for further projects. 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. Members will need to consider whether they want to retain a similar budget, increase or decrease.

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 IdVerde 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 Town Council have begun to pay the water bills though the billing is intermittent and as of yet we have not been able to develop a pattern. The Finance Officer is recording all bills on a spreadsheet which will allow us to monitor water usage and see patterns in usage in cost. It is likely that a further year is needed to get a true cost for the allotments.

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.

Page 1

Annual Budget - By Committee (Actual YTD Month 8)

Note: Environmental Services

		2021/2022		2022/2023				2023/2024		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Actual YTD	Projected	Committed	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Enviro	onmental Services									
<u>210</u>	Open Spaces & Environment									
1537	Northampton in Bloom Income	0	0	0	32,547	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	0	0	0	32,547	0	0	0	0	0
4536	Northampton In Bloom	30,000	29,663	50,000	47,963	0	0	0	0	0
4560	Environmental Projects	50,000	206	50,000	1,552	0	668	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	80,000	29,869	100,000	49,515	0	668	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(80,000)	(29,869)	(100,000)	(16,968)	0		0		
<u>230</u>	Allotments									
4400	Repairs and Maintenance	26,000	1,028	26,000	18,107	0	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	26,000	1,028	26,000	18,107	0	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(26,000)	(1,028)	(26,000)	(18,107)	0		0		
	Environmental Services - Income	0	0	0	32,547	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	106,000	30,897	126,000	67,622	0	668	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(106,000)	(30,897)	(126,000)	(35,075)	0		0		
	Total Budget Income	0	0	0	32,547	0	0	0	0	0
	Expenditure	106,000	30,897	126,000	67,622	0	668	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(106,000)	(30,897)	(126,000)	(35,075)					