

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2023  
AT 6:00PM AT ABINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHEATFIELD ROAD SOUTH, NORTHAMPTON

**PRESENT:** Councillors Stevens (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Alwahabi, Ashraf, Miah, and Tarasiewicz

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** S Carter (Town Clerk) and L Hannam-Jones (Events and Projects Officer)

Also in attendance were 5 members of the public

Before the formal start of the meeting The Chair welcomed the members of the public and stated that the committee was holding this meeting out in the community to try and engage with residents and have an open dialogue. The Chair encouraged those present to raise their hands should they wish to contribute to the discussion.

### 36. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Haque, Joyce, Meredith and Soan.

### 37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were submitted.

### 38. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**RESOLVED:** That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 as a true and accurate record.

It was reported that officers had made contact with Voi and that they were prepared to attend a meeting, however they had been unable to send a representative to this meeting. Both cllrs and members of the public expressed their concern with the use of the scooters and how they were managed highlighting that often they were left strewn across the path. It was noted that rental bikes had also recently been introduced by Voi. In response to a question it was stated that it was believed that Voi did not pay anything to WNC as it was part of a government pilot scheme. Officers stated that they would follow up with Voi about attending a meeting.

Discussion extended to the food delivery riders who often used electric bicycles and whether they were licenced. Often, they would ride anti socially, on paths etc which presented a danger to pedestrians.

It was also noted that unfortunately the Woman's Cycle Tour had been cancelled due to the loss of a major sponsor. Therefore, the stage scheduled for Northampton would not take place.

### 39. WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CONSULTATION TO VARY THE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROL AND PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN PUBLIC SPACES) 2022

A report was circulated with the agenda detailing the consultation which centred around dogs and tobacco in public spaces, particularly parks and children's play areas.

The committee were supportive of the proposal.

**RESOLVED:** That a response be submitted by the Town Clerk.

The following response was submitted:

*The Environmental Services Committee of Northampton Town Council recently considered the consultation on varying public spaces and protection orders.*

*The Town Council is supportive of the proposals regarding dogs, and also those to be imposed regarding tobacco, tobacco related products and smokeless tobacco products.*

*Regarding dog control, the town council particularly support the introduction of a maximum limit that one person can walk at a time. The uptake in the dog walking industry needs some regulation and the intention to introduce a licence and/or code of conduct is welcomed.*

*Regarding the orders on smoking, again the council is supportive of these proposals. Children are influenced by their parents/carers and minimising their exposure to smoking will have beneficial effects in supporting healthy living and setting a good example. It was suggested that the dropping of cigarette butts should be included in the proposal as these have an environmental impact both from a visual standpoint and in terms of making their way into streams and rivers, etc.*

*When this order is agreed then we would encourage WNC to publicise it widely so that the various groups that will be impacted by this are fully aware of it and how their actions could contravene the order. In addition, it is believed that enforcement is key and we would encourage WNC to enforce these new orders wherever possible.*

#### **40. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – BUDGET UPDATE**

Circulated with the agenda was the budget update for information. It showed that there would be a surplus in the current year.

**NOTED**

#### **41. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM**

Circulated with the agenda was a report updating the committee on Northampton in Bloom. It highlighted the sustainable Coronation Planter installed at the top of Guildhall Road and also plans for the Big Help Out to be held at St Katherines Gardens.

Conformation of the dates of the wellness walks was sought.

*Clerk's note: Provisionally planned to start 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.*

A members of the public congratulated the Council on the Bloom project and explained that they planned to apply for a bloom grant to undertake some sustainable planting at Abington Park.

**NOTED**

#### **42. WALK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN**

A report was attached detailing a proposed walk to school campaign as part of Walk to School Campaign 2023.

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

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

An invitation to participate with details on the WTSW campaign and funding offer had been sent out to primary schools in Northampton, publicised on the NTC website, social media and via press release. Officers and CCF members would review the response from schools based on a first come first served basis with consideration of number of classes per school and will assess how funds can be fairly distributed.

Packs would then be ordered in bulk from and delivered direct to each school.

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

It was noted that a number of schools from outside the town council's parish boundary had requested packs.

**RESOLVED:** That the town council support this initiative with the purchase of packs but only for schools in or on the boarder of the town council area. Those schools clearly in another parish would be directed to the appropriate parish council.

### **43. AIR QUALITY SCHOOL TOOLKIT**

Tabled was a report detailing some work done on air quality around schools.

It was explained that NTC's Climate Change Forum members had been working with Officers to review and implement an Air Quality School Toolkit called the Clean Air Project (CAP) ready for promotion and distribution within local schools; this project utilised research and resources from a similar initiative previously developed by the London Sustainability Exchange for schools in London.

*What is CAP and what are its aims? The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the main sources and health effects of air pollution emissions among the school community. The main objectives of the project are listed below. It is expected that this initiative can contribute to the behavioural change that is needed to tackle air pollution. Every day decisions can have an impact on the air we breathe. We all have a role to play and we can all be part of the solution.*

- *To increase awareness and understanding of air pollution issues amongst pupils, parents, teachers and school governors*
- *To empower the entire school community to adopt less polluting behaviours such as walking to school – and to encourage others to do the same*
- *To reduce car idling activities around sensitive areas*
- *To increase cycling; and the use of public transport.*

The report explained that the Air Quality School Toolkit provided science teachers with a series of interesting scientific activities to present to pupils, which were expected to promote understanding of the causes and impacts of air pollution, as well as tools to identify areas of poor air quality around the school.

The equipment and resources required were being sourced from UK based suppliers and costs considered per class per year group. Work was underway to establish how many items were needed to be purchased per toolkit.

Once the Toolkit and instructions have been approved and finalised by the CCF, invitations will be sent out to local schools within Northampton to take part. Interest will then be reviewed and a report will follow as to how funds can be allocated per class and the quantity of equipment needed. The project will be branded and a logo will be designed for promotion and to raise awareness on the key issues.

It was commented that this could be extended, for example Chain Walk outside the maternity unit at the hospital had large traffic movements which had implications for new-borns on the unit.

It was also commented that there was a lack of electric buses in Northampton which was a contributing factor.

It was noted that Airly <https://airly.org/map/en/> had live information on air quality for many locations including Northampton.

Whilst supportive the committee requested further information on costs before giving the formal agreement.

**NOTED**

### **44. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM REPORT**

The Chair gave a brief update on the work of climate change forum, highlighting the work of the past few months and also encouraging those present to get involved. The Chair thanked those present and highlighted that their involvement was key for this committee and the town council as a whole.

**NOTED**

### **45. CLIMATE CHANGE GRANTS SCHEME**

The Chair reported that three applications had been received but of which only one was of a suitable criteria.

The application from South Court Environmental included the costings for employing someone to undertake the work, which whilst not out of scope for the Environmental Grants, was for the general grants.

The Chair stated that he knew of the company, which was Northampton based, and that they did some great work on environmental issues.

Committee members asked that more information including the application be provided in order that they consider it fully.

**NOTED**

#### **46. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

No items were raised.

The Chair thanked all in attendance and stated that he had thought that the community location had worked well. The informal setting and conversational interaction between councillors and members of the public had been productive.

**MEETING CONCLUDED: 20:05PM**

**X**

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Cllr. Andrew Stevens

Chair of the Environmental Services Committee