



# Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

## Environmental Services Committee Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 18:00

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

Councillors Stevens, (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Fuchshuber, 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 at the Committee Room, Northampton Town Council Offices, Guildhall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 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 speak on any agenda item, except for item 3.

**Stuart Carter**  
**Town Clerk**  
**7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Guildhall**  
**Northampton**  
**NN1 1DE**

### A G E N D A

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**3. BRIEFING ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S NORTHAMPTON TOWN CENTRE WASTE AND RECYCLING POLICY**

*Presentation by Ms Fiona Unett (Assistant Director for Waste) and Ms Ruth Austin (Director of Regulatory Services)*

**4. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

*Pages 4 - 6*

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUDGET**

*Page 7*

**6. BLOOM UPDATE**

*Written Report Attached*

*Pages 9 -10*

**7. TO DISCUSS PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON'S SUSTAINABILITY, LOCAL INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP AGENDA HUB (SLIPAH)**

*Chair's Report – to follow*

**8. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM UPDATE**

*Chair's Verbal Report*

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6PM  
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ROOM LOCATED IN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

**PRESENT:** Councillors Stevens (Chair), Ashraf, Joyce, Meredith, Miah

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** S Carter (Town Clerk)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** One member of the public

### **9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Fuchshuber, Kilbride and Tarasiewicz

### **10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted.

### **11. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2023**

**RESOLVED:** The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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

Circulated with the agenda was the latest budget update for the committee.

**NOTED**

### **13. NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

The chair explained that in his opinion climate change needed to be at the forefront of every council decision, in terms of evaluating the impact and the balancing this with the overall benefit. The Chair also added that there needed to be a sustainability angle to the events and projects wherever possible and that sustainability needed to be added to the council's environmental policy. It was emphasised that every activity is affected by climate change and therefore this was an issue for every committee to consider when making a decision.

It was noted that West Northants Council was a big authority and their activities were major in terms of climate change, however, Northampton Town Council still had a role to play with its own activities.

It was suggested that tree planting could be a policy that the council could pursue and it was agreed that this should go on a future agenda.

**NOTED**

### **14. APPLICATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE GRANT FORUM – VOLUNTARY IMPACT NORTHAMPTON**

Circulated with the agenda was a report detailing a proposed grant to Voluntary Impact Northampton

It explained that VIN were looking from £5,000 to replace lighting across three floors of their building to lower energy consumption light fittings as well as fitting motion sensors to high

traffic areas. It was estimated this would reduce their CO2 output by 2.18 tonnes a year as well as saving money in energy consumption.

This grant application had been looked at by the Climate Change Forum who supported it. The Council's Grants Sub-Committee had also scrutinised it and recommended their support.

**RESOLVED:** That a grant award of £5,000 be made to VIN.

It was suggested that the council do a publicity campaign around this grant award.

## **15. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM UPDATE**

Circulated with the agenda was the latest Northampton in Bloom update.

It was questioned whether the wellness boards in Abington Park would remain in situ over the winter.

*Clerk's note: It has been confirmed that the boards will be coming down to be replaced by other boards detailing events, but would be installed next Spring/Summer.*

It was commented that the feedback on the wellness boards and the floral displays in general had been really positive and the officers who delivered this project were to be thanked and congratulated.

**NOTED**

## **16. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM ACTIVITY UPDATE**

The Chair briefed the committee on recent activity. He explained that the forum had recently held a couple of stall at the Weston Favell Shopping Centre which and seen some interest from members of the public. Meetings of the forum continued to be held at a regular basis and all members were welcome to attend.

**NOTED**

## **17. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

The Clerk explained that the allotments had recently been added to the risk register due to the lack of information over their management and also because of the sporadic issuing of water bills for the eight sites. Contact had been made with some sites with regular metre readings now being provided. This enabled officers to log them and notice if there was a big increase which could suggest and undetected leak.

Allotments remained an issue that the committee would need to formally consider at a future meeting.

**NOTED**

## **18. COLLEGE STREET MEWS MURAL MAINTAINED**

It was reported that as part of the St Katherine's Gardens project, the BiD were proposing to commission a mural on the side of a building facing the gardens. As part of the approval, the BiD needed to provide assurance that maintenance would be provided if the BID was not renewed at the next vote.

The Clerk explained that if the BiD failed, the Council would be obliged to step in with regards to maintenance of the mural.

It was commented that this was low risk and worth agreeing to in order to get the mural commissioned.

**RECOMMENDED:** That Northampton Town Council agrees to take on maintenance of this mural if the BiD is not renewed at their next election.

## **19. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER CONSULTATION FOR EMPORIUM WAY**

Circulated with the agenda was a report detailing a public consultation that was being carried out by WNC. The proposal was to temporarily close public access to Emporium Way using a public spaces protection order due to the level of anti-social behaviour and other criminal activities taking place there. It was explained that this closure had been requested by the police on order to assist them with policing the area.

Whilst the need to close the area was understood and there was support for the police, the committee expressed disappointment in this proposal saying that there had been alternatives including temporarily siting the market in Emporium Way.

**RESOLVED:** That the PSPO to close Emporium Way is supported but that assurances are provide that it would be refurbished and reopened once the work to the Market Square was complete.

## **20. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Nothing was raised.

**MEETING CONCLUDED 19:37**

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUDGETARY REPORT

The below report was generated by the Finance Officer on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and provides an overview of income and expenditure.

*DSO'S Note: A more recent version of this document would be circulated prior to the meeting.*

|  | Actual<br>Current Mth | Actual Year<br>To Date | Current<br>Annual Bud | Variance<br>Annual Total | Committed<br>Expenditure | Funds<br>Available | % Spent       |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>06/10/2023</span> <span><b>Northampton Town Council</b></span> <span>Page 3</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>11:20</span> <span>Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 30/09/2023</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>Month No: 6</span> <span>Committee Report</span> </div> |                       |                        |                       |                          |                          |                    |               |
| <b><u>Environmental Services</u></b>   |                       |                        |                       |                          |                          |                    |               |
| <b><u>210 Open Spaces &amp; Environment</u></b>  |                       |                        |                       |                          |                          |                    |               |
| 1537 Northampton in Bloom Income   | 0                     | 23,021                 | 23,021                | 0                        |                          |                    | 100.0%        |
| Open Spaces & Environment :- Income  | <u>0</u>              | <u>23,021</u>          | <u>23,021</u>         | <u>0</u>                 |                          |                    | <u>100.0%</u> |
| 4140 Advertising and Marketing   | 0                     | 69                     | 0                     | (69)                     |                          | (69)               | 0.0%          |
| 4536 Northampton In Bloom  | 0                     | 57,124                 | 60,000                | 2,876                    | 535                      | 2,341              | 96.1%         |
| 4560 Environmental Projects  | 0                     | 4,208                  | 25,000                | 20,792                   | 80                       | 20,712             | 17.2%         |
| 4561 Environmental Grants  | 5,000                 | 10,000                 | 25,000                | 15,000                   |                          | 15,000             | 40.0%         |
| Open Spaces & Environment :- Indirect Expenditure  | <u>5,000</u>          | <u>71,401</u>          | <u>110,000</u>        | <u>38,599</u>            | <u>615</u>               | <u>37,984</u>      | <u>65.5%</u>  |
| <b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>   | <u>(5,000)</u>        | <u>(48,380)</u>        | <u>(86,979)</u>       | <u>(38,599)</u>          |                          |                    |               |
| <b><u>230 Allotments</u></b>   |                       |                        |                       |                          |                          |                    |               |
| 4400 Repairs and Maintenance   | 688                   | 5,422                  | 30,000                | 24,578                   |                          | 24,578             | 18.1%         |
| Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure   | <u>688</u>            | <u>5,422</u>           | <u>30,000</u>         | <u>24,578</u>            | <u>0</u>                 | <u>24,578</u>      | <u>18.1%</u>  |
| <b>Net Expenditure</b>   | <u>(688)</u>          | <u>(5,422)</u>         | <u>(30,000)</u>       | <u>(24,578)</u>          |                          |                    |               |
| Environmental Services :- Income   | 0                     | 23,021                 | 23,021                | 0                        |                          |                    | 100.0%        |
| Expenditure  | 5,688                 | 76,822                 | 140,000               | 63,178                   | 615                      | 62,563             | 55.3%         |
| <b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>  | <u>(5,688)</u>        | <u>(53,801)</u>        |                       |                          |                          |                    |               |

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**Environmental Services Committee 13 November 2023**  
**Northampton in Bloom**  
**Report by Louise Hannam-Jones, Events and Projects Officer**

**Purpose of report:** To update the committee on future aspirations of the Northampton in Bloom project and project the budget for 2024- 2025.

**Recommended:** That subject to any comments, the committee note the report. Officers will work with Northampton in Bloom Working party, keeping them informed as the project progresses.

#### **IYN- IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD AWARDS**

There were two entrants for IYN this year within NTC boundaries: the Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation (IHWO) and the Friends of Eastfield Park. Both groups were awarded at an award ceremony held in the Mayor's Parlour on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Both groups won the 'Outstanding' category which was the highest mark, and were presented prizes sponsored by local garden centre Golby's, and Northampton Town Council. A press release documented the ceremony, as well as overall Bloom for the summer and encouraged local groups to get involved next year.

#### **2024-2025**

There have been some minor amends to the Bloom floral order for 2024-2025. One planter was not suitable for the location in one of the wards due to the shady area, so has had the planter swapped to a 1-tier planter and an additional 1 tier planter placed in another street within the ward. Another Cllr had never had any planters within their ward, so 2 x 3 tier planters have been allocated to the ward for next year. Finally, an additional 6 lamp post baskets will be added to George Row in the town centre where there is limited floral planting currently. All have had permissions granted and are included in next year's quotes.

#### **BUDGETS**

##### **2023-2024**

£58,981.16 has been allocated from this year's £60,000 budget, leaving £1018.94 left for the remainder of the year.

##### **2024-2025**

To continue with Bloom activities in the same format as previous years, including a budget allocated to sustainable planting, the estimated costs for next year come to £71,145.25. Therefore, it is proposed that a £75,000 budget be allocated to 2024-2025 budget.

Estimated costs are outlined in the table below. Please note that not all costs have confirmed quotes at present.

| Description  | Value  |
|--|--|
| Bracket load testing (every 3 years)   | £ 4,394.25   |
| Contractual Town Centre summer flowers 2024  | £31,200.00 (estimated cost based on last year's order + 20%) |
| Watering for Cllr additional baskets 2024  | £ 8,000.00   |
| Cllr additional locations for Summer 2024 flowers  | £ 24,551.00  |
| Sustainable planters- maintenance of existing and 1 x further planter to plant + set of new panels | £ 2,000.00   |
| IYN Awards Prizes and frames, refreshments,  | £ 200.00   |
| Additional NTC hanging basket signs  | £ 800.00   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>71,145.25</b>   |

### THE FUTURE OF BLOOM

The Bloom working group party are currently working on a plan to meet the East Midlands in Bloom awards criteria – with the view to be ready for judging in 2025, when the town will have had all renovation work completed. A walking route around the town centre and a driving route (via a Northampton Transport Heritage vintage bus) into the town council wards has been drafted, and plans will progress in the new year with the Bloom Working Group. A lunch will be paid for from the NTC Bloom budget which will thank all partners, volunteers, groups and judges for attending and taking part.

A portfolio from July 24-July 25 will also be created which will document the year of Northampton in Bloom and include and groups/ activities or places that couldn't be fitted into the route. This will be supported by the NTC Communications Officer, who previously worked on the Borough's portfolio.