



Northampton
TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17TH JUNE 2024 – 18:00

To: Members of the Environmental Services Committee:

Councillors Stevens, (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Fuchshuber, Joyce, McNicholas, 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 17th June 2024 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.

**Stuart Carter
Town Clerk
11th June 2024**

**Guildhall
Northampton
NN1 1DE**

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES
2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
3. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM SALLY BURNS (DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH & REGULATORY SERVICES, WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL) ON THE TOWN CENTRE WASTE & RECYCLING POLICY
4. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2024 AND ASK QUESTIONS TO THE PROGRESS OF ANY ITEMS – ATTACHED
Pages 3-4
5. BUDGET UPDATE
Page 5
6. CHAIR'S REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY
Page 7
7. UPDATE ON THE JOINT WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE SUMMIT PLANNING FOR AUTUMN 2024 – REFER TO CHAIR'S REPORT
8. PROPOSAL TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE JOINT WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCIL'S CLIMATE SUMMIT – REFER TO CHAIR'S REPORT

9. BLOOM UPDATE – ATTACHED

Pages 9-10

10. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE – ATTACHED

Pages 11-19

11. CCF UPDATE – REFER TO CHAIR’S REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 8TH APRIL 2024

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2024 AT 6PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM LOCATED IN THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Councillor Stevens (Chair), Miah and Tarasiewicz

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Kilbride (Vice Chair), Fuchshuber, Joyce and Meredith.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

44. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2024 AND ASK QUESTIONS TO THE PROGRESS OF ANY ITEMS

DEFERRED: The authorisation of the minutes from the previous meeting held on 12th February 2024, be deferred to the next meeting due not being quorate.

45. NORTHAMPTON IN BLOOM UPDATE

In response to a question, the Assistant Town Clerk explained permissions had been received to place a large planter outside of the Bushland Road, Co-op Shop.

46. TO REVIEW AND DECIDE TO FUND A STUDENT CHALLENGE SESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON'S SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

The Chair explained he wished to received approval to fund the student challenge session however, expenditure could not be approved due to this meeting not being quorate. The Chair added the deadline to fund a student challenge session would have passed by the next meeting date.

DEFERRED: This item be deferred to the next Environmental Services Committee meeting due to no being quorate.

47. TO REVIEW THE TOWN COUNCIL'S POSITION ON AGREED CLIMATE ACTION

No discussion was held under this item.

DEFERRED: This item be deferred to the next Environmental Services Committee meeting due to no being quorate.

48. TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S AUTUMN 2024 'CLEAN AIR SUMMIT'

The Chair explained a summit would be planned with other interested parish council with members of West Northamptonshire Council to discuss Climate Issues and how the organisations could work together.

DEFERRED: This item be deferred to the next Environmental Services Committee meeting due to no being quorate.

49. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM UPDATE

No discussion was held under this item.

DEFERRED: This item be deferred to the next Environmental Services Committee meeting due to no being quorate.

50. ALLOTMENTS

The Chair explained it was confirmed Kingsthorpe South was within Northampton Town Council's ownership as the entrance was located within our ward boundary, in addition to Studland Avenue Allotment. The Democratic Services Officer stated the Town Clerk informed her that he would begin sourcing costings for the fence repairs for Southfield Allotment and any quotes or developments would be reported to this committee.

51. ANY ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERAITON

No discussion was held under this agenda item.

MEETING CONCLUDED: 6:15PM

X

Councillor A. Stevens
Chair of the Environmental Services Committ...

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUDGET REPORT

DATED 7TH JUNE 2024

07/06/2024

Northampton Town Council

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10:39

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2024

Month No: 2

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
Environmental Services							
210 Open Spaces & Environment							
4015 Travel and Subsistance	0	0	100	100		100	0.0%
4140 Advertising and Marketing	0	0	1,000	1,000	555	445	55.5%
4536 Northampton In Bloom	25,171	64,508	87,172	22,664	315	22,349	74.4%
4560 Environmental Projects	280	280	25,000	24,720		24,720	1.1%
4561 Environmental Grants	0	4,455	25,000	20,545		20,545	17.8%
Open Spaces & Environment :- Indirect Expenditure	25,451	69,243	138,272	69,029	870	68,159	50.7%
Net Expenditure	(25,451)	(69,243)	(138,272)	(69,029)			
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	0	4,455					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(25,451)	(64,788)					
230 Allotments							
4400 Repairs and Maintenance	3,028	(825)	60,000	60,825	950	59,875	0.2%
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	3,028	(825)	60,000	60,825	950	59,875	0.2%
Net Expenditure	(3,028)	825	(60,000)	(60,825)			
Environmental Services :- Income	0	0	0	0			0.0%
Expenditure	28,479	68,418	198,272	129,854	1,820	128,034	35.4%
Net Income over Expenditure	(28,479)	(68,418)	(198,272)	(129,854)			
plus Transfer from EMR	0	4,455					
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(28,479)	(63,963)					

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CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE'S REPORT

1. UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR THE AUTUMN 2024 CLIMATE SUMMIT

The Autumn 2024 Climate Summit was initially proposed by Cllr Joyce, the former leader of WNC, and announced at the WNC Full Council meeting last November. Cllr Adam Brown has expressed his support for this initiative.

An initial planning meeting was held at the end of April, attended by representatives from Daventry and Towcester Town Councils, six Northampton area Parish Councils, two CCF community volunteers, and a representative from Climate Action - West Northants. Apologies were received from Brackley Town Council and three other parish councils.

For further details, please refer to the WNC press release on the [Summit: Councils in West Northamptonshire to Host Summit to Reach Sustainability Goals](#)

The Chair will provide additional verbal updates as necessary.

2. APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR THE 2024 CLIMATE SUMMIT

The second Summit planning meeting is scheduled for June 26th at Delapre Abbey. The scope of the Summit's ambitions and the commitment in terms of resources, including financial support and officer time from West Northants Council and other councils, are yet to be clarified. Given that the Summit was proposed by Northampton Town Council's Climate Change Forum through Cllr Joyce, it is fitting for NTC to contribute resources to ensure the success of the Summit.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM REPORT

The CCF Chair will present a verbal report at the meeting. One key item to be discussed is the proposed resolution for the Full Council meeting on July 8th, 2024. The CCF Chair will propose that the Council consider a Resolution to restate and further define the Climate Emergency Resolution agreed upon in June 2021. The original resolution stated:

"RESOLVED: That this Council notes the previous climate emergency declarations by both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council, as a new Council it is vital that we put the climate emergency at the forefront of any decisions we take, and this Council therefore resolves to declare a Climate Emergency and set 2030 as the date to be Carbon neutral by, and asks that this Council establishes a local community Climate Change Forum to meet quarterly, and annually review targets and progress."

The Chair welcomes suggestions from this Committee.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A review of this Committee's Terms of Reference will be included as an item for discussion at the next meeting.

Please be prepared to discuss these items and provide your input during the meeting.

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Environmental Services Committee June 2024

Northampton in Bloom

Report by Nicole Haviland, Events and Projects Officer

Purpose of report: To update on the Northampton in Bloom project 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.

2024 Summer Orders

Hopefully you have noticed the brightly vibrant floral baskets and planters that have recently been installed in the town centre and wards. They feature a combination of bright summer and pollinator friendly plants. We would welcome any photos of the planters in your area to put on our website and socials if you could kindly forward any our way. Please email Nicole on nicole.haviland@northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk

Bloom Grants Scheme

The Town Council Bloom Grant scheme for the year 2024-2025 is now underway, and we are pleased to announce that four groups have applied for and received the £200 start-up grant to support their sustainable planting initiatives. These organisations include:

- St Giles Community Group
- Northampton BID
- Friends of St Peters Marefair
- Broadmead Community Church

Please visit <https://www.northamptontowncouncil.gov.uk/northampton-in-bloom-start-up-gr> for more information.

IYN- It's your Neighbourhood Awards

The deadline to apply for the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards has now ended. We have received the final entries list for the IYN competition from EMiB, which includes 13 groups from 10 different wards across Northampton. This represents a remarkable 550% increase since 2023 (2 entries in 2023). We will be coordinating visits to each organisation between July and August, accompanied by the respective ward councillors.

The judging process will take place in July or August and we are making plans to provide an awards ceremony. The event is set to take place in October or November, with the presence of the Mayor, and will be an opportunity to come together to celebrate the achievements.

Schools

In addition to the community groups, we are also piloting the school's competition. Greenfields SEN School has been selected as the participating school, and we will be visiting their community garden during the week commencing 10th June. The judges from EMiB will provide valuable feedback which we can take on board for the 2025 entry into East Midlands in Bloom.

Sustainable Planting

Due to the regeneration works, the Abington St. bedding from the Shoe Last planter, along with two sustainable planters, has found a new home at the St. Giles Churchyard project. Additionally, one sustainable planter has been relocated to Eastfield Park to support their initiatives. The Eastfields Residents event was a great success, with the Mayor in attendance and the planters being beautifully planted over a weekend.

The CCF group is actively searching for suitable plants to fill the remaining three sustainable tree planters on Abington Street. Further discussions will need to take place about the remaining planters:

- Coronation Planter outside VandB/ Top of Guildhall Rd
- Gladstone Road shops, Dallington ward

In collaboration with the Northampton BID, the Workbridge group have developed a new planting scheme and have installed suitable sustainable plants at St. Katherine's Gardens.

Wellness Walks, Abington Park:

Abington Park will showcase the Wellness Walks again this year, displaying poetry written by James McInerney. The bedding and display boards will be installed this week commencing 10th June and will be publicised on socials & website when the online map of locations. In addition, Metro Signs have been commissioned to make two roadside boards for Abington Park. The display boards will help to advertise NTC events and the Wellness Walks.

East Midlands in Bloom Awards: Northampton

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 agreed by members of 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.

The next Bloom meeting will be scheduled in late June to early July.

Budgets

2024-2025

£87,172 has been agreed for the Bloom budget in the next financial year. Orders for the summer planting scheme have been approved and committed by the Bloom Working Group party for the year which include floral displays in the town centre and town wards, watering and maintenance of equipment, which total £64,547.

Extra monies have been budgeted for the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards and to assist with preparation for the East Midlands in Bloom Awards which will be judged in July 2025 (financial year 2025-26) but consider work undertaken from July 24 (this financial year).

Northampton Town Council

Environmental Services Committee

Allotments Update Report – report of Town Clerk

Purpose of report: To update committee on the allotments, including the consideration of some maintenance works at Southfield allotment site

Recommended: That the committee note the report and that they instruct the Clerk to undertake the provision of quotes for the recommended work at Southfield allotments.

1. Introduction

Northampton Town Council has recently formally taken on the responsibility for two more allotments namely Kingsthorpe Park and Studland Road. These sites were not included in the original vesting document however legal precedence states that the creation of a parish/town council results in the automatic transfer of responsibility of public authority allotment sites, regardless of whether they are listed.

Legal advice concluded that the original NBC order was defective, in that it partially repeated and partially attempted to contradict the national legislation. This is Regulation 9 of the Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008:

9. Where immediately before the order date land in an area constituted as a parish by a reorganisation order—

(a) is held by a principal council for any purpose of the Allotments Acts 1908 to 1950; or

(b) is vested in a principal council and used for those purposes,

it shall on the order date transfer to and be vested in the parish council for that parish or, if there is no such council, the parish meeting for that parish.

The effect of this is that the allotments owned by NBC (or indeed NCC if there were any) in the area of a newly-created parish automatically transferred to the parish council of the parish in which they were. The reorganisation order cannot change that, and nor can the non-mention of specific allotments in a reorganisation order stop them transferring.

The town council therefore owns the following 10 allotment sites:

- Billing Road East –Bougainvillea Drive/Cavendish Drive, Abington Vale (137 plots)
- Broadmead Avenue – Broadmead Court, Abington (126 plots)
- Glebeland Road – Glebeland Gardens, Kings Heath (8 plots)
- Graspin Lane – Bridgewater Drive, Weston Favell (308 plots)
- Harlestone Road – Harlestone Road (255 plots)
- Kingsthorpe Park – Thornton Park/Tollgate Close (62 plots)
- Parklands – Coppice Drive, Spinney Hill (98 plots)
- Rothersthorpe Road – Briar Hill (66 plots)
- Southfields – Billing Lane (138 plots)
- Studland Road – Studland Road (59 plots)
- Total (1,037 plots)

2. Billing Road East

The Town Council undertook some pipe repairs to this allotment in March. A water leak had been reported with water rising to the surface on one of the access tracks. Pipe replacement work was carried out by BR Own Property Repairs of Northampton. They were recommended for emergency repairs by Idverde. The cost for this work was £1,900. BR Own have said that over the years they have carried out patch repairs to the water pipes on this site at the request of NBC.

It should be noted that this allotment site would transfer into Abington Vale and Weston Favell PC if it is created out of the CGR.

3. Broadmead Avenue

We are about to undertake some minor repairs to leaking water tanks

4. Glebeland Road

Anglian Water recently completed a site inspection of this site in terms of water supply and nothing of concern was reported

5. Graspin Lane

This is a field managed site run by the association. We recently undertook some minor tree work through Idverde.

This site would also transfer to Abington Vale and Weston Favell PC if it is created out of the CGR.

6. Harlestone Road

We have just completed minor work to leaking water tanks at this site

7. Kingsthorpe Park

This site was not included in the original vesting document and there was some dispute over responsibility. As stated at the start of this report legal advice confirmed that it was to come to NTC regardless of it not being on the vesting document. There followed frustration whereby the water was cut off as the bill was not put in NTC's name despite months of requests to Wave Utilities via email and phone call, stating that NTC were to be responsible for the bill but that the bill needed to be in NTC's name. The town council is unable to pay a bill that it is not in its name. This was recently resolved, the bill paid by NTC and water supply has been restored.

8. Parklands

NTC has never received a water bill for this site, we are investigating this through Anglian Water and Idverde

9. Rothersthorpe Road

Nothing to update

10. Southfields

We have had report of ongoing anti-social behaviour at these allotments with people getting onto the allotments and vandalising property. A significant report has been undertaken by a local PCSO putting forward a number of recommendations on what can be done to make it more

secure. This report is attached for members information. A summary of the recommendations made by the PCSO to make the site more secure are as follows:

- Installation of a replacement vehicle entrance gate.
- The replacement of a stretch of vulnerable chain-link fencing with a more secure harder to breach fencing
- Installation of a replacement pedestrian gate

These recommendations will come at a cost and the committee will need to consider how it wants to proceed. The Clerk is minded to get quotes to undertake the work, both on a one job basis (i.e. one this year, one next year, one the year after), and a quote for doing all the jobs at once. The clerk would liaise with the allotment holders to identify which of the recommendations they would regard as most beneficial for site security. The quotes would then be reported back to this committee for consideration.

11. Studland Road

As with Kingsthorpe Park (which is located very near to it), Studland Road was not on the original vesting document. To date we have had nothing reported in terms of maintenance and water.

12. Budgetary Implications

The Town Council has increased its budget to £60,000 to cover the cost of allotment maintenance and utilities. The budget was increased as councillors recognised the potential risk of not knowing what would be required in terms of maintenance at these sites. We are near the start of the financial year and as of 7 June, only a small part had been allocated. This will however increase as the water bills come in for the summer months.

The water bills continue to be erratic in terms of the way they are billed, however, we are getting fairly regular meter readings from some of the sites via individual contacts. We will be reaching out again to other sites requesting that they provide regular readings.