



# Newark TOWN COUNCIL

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Councillors

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Sub-Committee at **6.30pm** on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, in the Pickin Room at the Town Hall.

Yours sincerely

**MATTHEW GLEADELL**  
Town Clerk



# A G E N D A

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

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**Committee membership**    Cllr L Roulstone (Chairman)  
    Cllr E Cropper (Vice-chairman)  
    Cllr S Crosby  
    Cllr G Rix  
    Cllr M Skinner





# Newark TOWN COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Sub Committee held at 6.30pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 in the Pickin Room at the Town Hall.

<b>Membership Present:</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	Lynn Roulstone (Chairman)
	Councillors	Esther Cropper Susan Crosby Mathew Skinner
<b>Apologies for Absence:</b>		Glenis Rix
<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Town Clerk</b>	Matthew Gleadell
<b>Venue:</b>	Pickin Room, Town Hall	

### CCWG/01/24/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr. Glenis Rix were noted.

### CCWG/02/24/25 Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change Working Group held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

### CCWG/03/24/25 Declarations of Interest from Members

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### CCWG/04/24/25 Environmental Stewardship Sub Committee Remit and Strategy

Members reviewed the draft remit presented to FGP and previous objectives declared by the previous climate change working group. It was agreed with some small changes to merge the 2 into a single document for presentation to FGP for adoption.

A number of other ideas for future projects and issues that may be pursued were mooted including bee apiary's, greater awareness

for all staff of the Councils climate friendly ambitions, and also reviewing firework use however it was noted that events this year are trialling laser shows as an alternative to fireworks.

#### **CCWG/05/24/25 Solar Panel Installation**

The Clerk updated members in respect of the planning applications for the 2 sites and shared images of the planning application proposals.

It was again noted that Tolney Lane may be subject to planning challenges but that calling the application in would hopefully result in a positive outcome.

Difficulties with the chosen contractor for supply and install of the panes were identified by the Clerk in respect of their approach to supporting the planning process. Agreed to give the Clerk authority to work with the different potential suppliers and find a suitable solution.

The costs for planning work for the Town Hall solar panels were noted as significant and a big risk to take incurring with no guaranteed outcome. Agreed for the Clerk to write to the MP to seek planning reform that allows for a more common-sense approach to solar power use on buildings and to allow time to see how new government changes may impact on the position. Agreed to hang fire on this pending completing other projects and assessing any possible planning policy changes. A pre application process with NSDC was considered as possibly helpful before pursuing a full application.

#### **CCWG/06/23/24 Town Hall Decarbonisation**

Members noted the Clerks update and his efforts to combine this work with a more wider condition report for the building in an effort to save costs but that after investigation it was evident that savings will be minimal and therefore the work is to be commissioned forthwith.

#### **CCWG/07/24/25 Sustainable Floral Displays and Peat Free**

Members received an update from the Clerk as to the progress to date with the peat free and sustainable floral displays. Noted that there are big cost savings already evident from the change in approach, that so far the new peat free and sustainable displays albeit very different to previous displays are working well (albeit some have indicated they prefer the mass of colour from annuals). Noted that the displays will improve further as plants become more established.

Members were reminded they will need to consider the hanging basket approach for the future noting that a sustainable basket is not something we can sell year on year and so income from baskets would diminish.

Noted that a full review of the displays will be reported to members at the end of the season and that the consultants are returning to assess themselves and provide further maintenance training in August.

#### **CWG/08/24/25 Cycling and Active Travel Development**

Members considered an update from the Clerk as to progress in this area. It was noted that NSDC are developing their own active

travel strategy.

Members noted that Dr. Bike had declined to attend for free and would require payment for any delivery in Newark.

It was resolved to invite an officer from NSDC to the next meeting to present NSDC plans and strategies and explore possible partnership opportunities.

**CWG/09/24/25      Budget Monitoring**

Prior to commencement of this item members resolved to exclude press and public due to the sensitive financial information involved.

Members reviewed and noted the current financial forecasts which included sensitive quotes for solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall.

<b>Meeting Closed:</b>	<b>21:15</b>	<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>
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**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Solar Panels</b>

**1. Recommendations**

That members note the update provided in this report.

**2. Background**

**2.1** Members will be pleased to note that planning consent has been given for solar panels to be installed at Tolney Lane toilet block. This site was always a concern based on initial informal planning advice. It is therefore pleasing that consent has been received.

**2.2** At the time of writing this report a lawful development approval is awaited for the Sherwood Avenue pavilion. The application was submitted at the same time as the Tolney Lane application and as such a decision is expected imminently.

**2.3** Just as soon as the consent for Sherwood Avenue is received works will be commissioned to install panels and batteries on both sites in accordance with previous resolutions.

**3.0 Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues**

No matters relevant for this report.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<b>Working papers</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b> Tel: 01636 684801    Email: <a href="mailto:matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk">matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk</a>



**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Nottinghamshire Nature Recovery Strategy</b>

**1. Recommendations**

That members consider how they wish to engage and support the strategy as a Town Council.

**2. Background**

**2.1** The Chairman of the sub-committee recently attended a virtual meeting regarding the Nottinghamshire Nature Recovery Strategy and will report to members at the meeting.

**2.2** Since the meeting the Council has been asked to complete a survey and identify sites that can help with the strategy.

**2.3** More details can be found here:

[Notts Nature Recovery](#)

**3.0 Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues**

No matters relevant for this section.

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<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b> <b>Tel: 01636 684801</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk">matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk</a></b>



**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Highways and Transport</b>

**1. Recommendations**

That members invite key stakeholders from other Councils and agencies to a meeting at the Town Hall as detailed in this report.

**2. Background**

2.1 The ESSC has recently been given an additional remit for highway and transport issues.

2.2 The Chairman of this sub-group has helpfully compiled a list of various issues and concerns that have been sent to her by a number of members. That list is attached as Appendix 1. The list is merely a brief bullet point list for further consideration and discussion at the sub-committee meeting.

2.3 As highways and transport is an area that is outside the remit of the Town Council, it is difficult as Clerk to fully advise on how the various concerns / ideas might be addressed.

2.4 Many of the issues will likely be already on the radar of other Councils and agencies. There may be plans already to tackle some issues, other issues may not be able to be addressed due to budget or legal restraints.

2.5 It is suggested that the Town Council invite relevant stakeholders to come and update the Town Council on their current and future workstreams, objectives and working challenges so that the Town Council better understand the background to some of the issues identified. From here the Town Council can then consider what further steps it may wish to take in relation to the issues and concerns (if any).

**3.0 Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues**

No matters of relevance for this section.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<b>Working papers</b>
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### **Transport**

#### **Cars**

Problems with traffic at the of town centre shopping centre, will be worse if a Sainsbury's happens.

Lorries going through town when problems on A46

Problems when roads closed, e.g. Queen's Rd.

Problems at Asda

Cars using roads such as Carter Gate and Boar Lane, that are in theory closed to traffic at certain times.

Parking in inappropriate places, -story about Boundary Rd in Advertiser. Clinton Street, problems with pushchairs.

Parking in general

Barnby Gate Surgery parking

Turning right by Boyes when instructed not to do so/ Also Asda from Victoria Street

#### **Public transport**

Trains, will there be more on Castle line? Good thing, but impact on the road

LNER reliability

Bus linking both stations?

Better bus links specifically to Nottingham via villages not on train

Bus to connect places in Newark, leisure centre hospital town centre

Transport to King's Mill.

Better connection to industrial estate from Northgate Station

#### **Cycling**

Updating cycle tracks

Problem with pavement cycling, Trent Bridge is a problem.

More cycle storage

Bike schemes

#### **Walking**

Footpaths in poor state of repair

Encouraging more walking

Open more paths on the river

Footpaths to villages, one to Kelham overgrown. Better signposting

#### **Roads**

Level crossing on Great North Rd

Potholes causing various problems

Low traffic networks?

#### **Other ideas**

Scooter hire

Scheme to exchange tokens in shops for free parking or bus tickets (market)

#### **How to proceed**

Neighbourhood plan

Work with NSDC, NCC East Midlands Mayor, MP

Work with other agencies, Canal and Riverboat Trust, Environment Agency



**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Sustainable Planting</b>

**1. Recommendations**

1.1 That sustainable planting is now extended to all planting displays.

1.2 That hanging baskets continue with peat free compost but with annual bedding plants.

**2. Background**

**2.1** In 2024 sustainable planting options were pursued in town centre areas only with planters on the periphery of the town continuing with annual bedding plants.

It is suggested that the sustainable perennial based planting option is now extended to all planters in 2025.

**2.2** Hanging Baskets have responded well this year to peat free compost with minimal noticeable difference in the quality of the plants.

Notwithstanding that sustainable basket options have been presented by the planting consultants, it is considered that the maintenance and care needed for these will be prohibitive. Maintenance would involve heightened feeding requirements and pruning that would be quite labour intensive.

Having sustainable baskets will remove an enterprise that does generate some revenue for the Council.

It is considered that the complete removal of all colour will be detrimental to the feel of the town during the summer months.

The peat free compost represents a positive step on a climate level however moving completely to sustainable basket options is believed to be a step too far.

**3.0 Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues**

Financial – Even with the inclusion of consultancy fees the financial savings on the annual planting scheme costs is now expected to be £15,000 (approx). This is likely to increase to £22,000 (approx) in the 2025/2026 financial year.

In addition to financial savings, significant staff time and resource is saved by not being involved in a period of intensive annual planting up of the displays every year.

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<b>Working papers</b>
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**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Active Travel Network</b>

**1. Recommendations**

That members note this report and additional verbal report from the Clerk following a meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

**2. Background**

2.1 This sub-committee and the working group before it has discussed active travel on many occasions, however, any particular initiatives have never quite landed in a way that would warrant any investment or resource from the Town Council.

2.2 As Clerk I have recently received an invitation to join the D2N2 Active Travel Alliance.

2.3 The first meeting I will attend is on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and so a full report will be given to members at the sub-committee meeting the following day.

2.4 Members can learn more by visiting the following web page:

<https://www.derwentvalleytrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/D2N2-Active-Travel-Alliance.pdf>

**3.0 Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues**

Nothing warranted for this section of the report.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE**

<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Matthew Gleadell</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Decarbonisation of Newark Town Hall</b>

**1. Recommendations**

That members note the initial draft report from Guy Taylor Associates.

**2. Background**

2.1 Following the commissioning of professional support in undertaking an assessment of the Town Hall for decarbonisation retrofit opportunities, the first phase of assessment and associated report has now been received and is attached separately as **Appendix 1**.

2.2 The next step of the process as outlined in the report is assessment by specialist energy assessors that will help in understanding the impact of various interventions on a decarbonisation level.

2.3 Members will note a range of opportunities for works in the building have been identified. It will be important to understand the impact of the different measures and the cost of implementation so as to develop a cost benefit analysis.

2.4 It is likely that implementing the various options could take many years on a phased rolling programme basis and will be influenced by the availability of funding and resource to undertake the various initiatives.

**3.0 Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues**

The various elements will be better understood once the further parts of the assessment process are concluded and from there the financial implications can also be better explored.

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