



Newark TOWN COUNCIL

Thursday 19th March 2026

Dear Councillors

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Sub-Committee at **6.30pm** on Thursday 26th March 2026, in the **Committee Room** at the Town Hall.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Gleadell'.

MATTHEW GLEADELL
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026

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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 Thursday 21st August 2025 in the Pickin Room at the Town Hall.

Membership Present:	Councillor	Lynn Roulstone (Chairman)
	Councillors	Susan Crosby Mathew Skinner Glenis Rix Esther Cropper
Apologies for Absence:		None
In Attendance:	Town Clerk	Matthew Gleadell
Venue:	Pickin Room, Town Hall	

ESSC/01/25/26 Apologies for Absence

None

ESSC/02/25/26 Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship Sub Committee held on 13 Feb 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13th February 2025 were approved as a correct record.

ESSC/03/25/26 Declarations of Interest from Members

There were no Declarations of Interest.

ESSC/04/25/26 Newark in Bloom

Members received a presentation from Kay Bellhouse regarding the operations of Newark in Bloom. Kay detailed various work and initiatives that Newark In Bloom had been, and are working on, including plans going forward which involved a number of new initiatives.

Members were grateful for the attendance of Kay Bellhouse and the information and update she provided which was welcomed and noted by the Members present.

ESSC/05/25/26 Highways and Transport – Kings Mill Service and Other Highway/Transport Issues - Update

Members received an update from the Town Clerk regarding the Kings Mill Bus service.

It was noted that the Town Clerk had spoken with and discussed the matter with officers at NSDC who had also been pursuing this particular matter.

The Town Clerk advised Members that a contact at the County Council who he had been referred to, had failed to respond to several emails regarding this issue.

It was also noted that transport matters are to fall under the remit of the new East Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority and that opportunities for lobbying through this channel should be explored.

Members also reviewed the list developed which included a variety of other highway and transport related concerns. It was noted that a Neighbourhood Plan in particular would help with addressing some of the elements detailed within that list, and that as and when a Neighbourhood Plan develops those elements can be introduced where appropriate.

ESSC06/25/26 Cemetery Spraying - Reviews of Trials

Members reviewed the report received from the Asset Maintenance and Operations Manager.

Members were very keen to state that they are desirous of finding alternative options and solutions and noted that further tests of other products may be undertaken.

Members were also keen to demonstrate to external campaigners that they do take the issue seriously and will continue to investigate the matter going forward.

ESSC07/25/26 Town Hall Decarbonisation Update

The Town Clerk explained that the company commissioned to carry out the work had as yet failed to get underway, that they were being chased, and that further updates will be provided in due course

ESSC 08/25/26 Active Travel Event – Proposal from Chairman

The Chairman set out the ambition for a suitable event and various ideas were discussed.

It was agreed that to be successful, the event would need to involve other stakeholders, in particular Newark and Sherwood District Council.

It was resolved to contact Newark and Sherwood District Council to seek their input and views on potential event in the future.

ESSC09/25/26 Solar Panels Update

The Town Clerk advised Members that with the evolving likelihood of significant works to the Town Hall roof, it would be sensible to take the opportunity to install solar panels subject to Planning Permission being obtained as part of the roof works.

The Clerk explained that pre-application advice had been received from the District Council and that for the first time they did indicate that provided certain requirements are met, the possibility of gaining suitable consent exists.

The Clerk noted that it was significant because prior to this point the general consensus from District Council officers had been one of extreme concern over the addition of solar panels on such an historic and significant building.

ESSC10/25/26 COP 30 School Program Proposals

Cllr L Geary attended the meeting to set out her proposals for a COP 30 event, which were supported and welcomed by the Members present.

It was resolved to recommend to Full Town Council that a COP 30 event be held and delivered at the Town Hall.

Meeting Closed:	19.45pm	Next Meeting:	TBC
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SUBJECT:	Environmental Stewardship
REPORT BY:	Matthew Gleadell

1. Recommendations

- a. That members consider their desire to pursue a decarbonisation assessment of the Town Hall.
- b. That members determine if they wish to invest in blister pack recycling schemes.
- c. That members note the present position relating to use of Herbicides in the Cemetery.

2. Background

TOWN HALL DECARBONISATION

- 2.1 Members have previously resolved to commission a report that assesses decarbonisation of the Town Hall. Unfortunately, the original consultants appointed failed to carry out the work despite several chase ups and consequently their appointment was terminated at no cost to the Council.
- 2.2 An alternative company was approached for the work in consultation with the committee chairman. Their initial proposal resulted in a fee proposal that was hugely above the cost of the original report commissioned (£15,000 approx compared to the previous £5,000 approx).
- 2.3 A revised proposal has been obtained which keeps the cost at around £5,000 (see attached Appendix). The level of detail is of course much reduced.
- 2.4 Members are asked to consider if they now wish to progress the new proposal.
- 2.5 Until a report is obtained it is difficult to predict precisely what sort of measures may be proposed and what the costs of each measure will be. Consequently, it is also hard to advise on funding and budget implications.
- 2.6 I have met with the new potential consultants and was impressed with their presentation and the detail of work they have done for other clients.
- 2.7 It is likely that in order to reach full efficiency at the Town Hall many many years of work and investment will be necessary and so this is very much a long term ongoing project.
- 2.8 The report may be helpful in securing funding for solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall (subject to Planning Permission being secured at the relevant time).

BLISTER PACK RECYCLING

- 2.9 A member has suggested we invest in blister pack recycling bins for public use. Bins would likely be located in the Buttermarket.
- 2.10 Please visit the following website for details of how the scheme operates.

<https://shop.terracycle.com/en-GB/products/empty-medicine-blister-packs-zero-waste-box>

- 2.11 Recycling boxes can be purchased for between £90.00 and £151.20 which once full are then posted for recycling.
- 2.12 Boots Pharmacies and Superdrug also offer blister pack recycling services.
- 2.13 Members are asked if they wish to pursue offering a recycling service in the Town Hall.
- 2.14 It is anticipated that the box will likely be used as a general waste bin in addition to blister packs requiring a level of staff resource to sort through the box once full.

HERBICIDES IN THE CEMETERY

- 2.15 There are a number of members who are keen to seek alternative options to herbicides in the maintenance of the Cemetery.
- 2.16 In 2025 the ground staff carried out a trial with an alternative product in a defined section of the Cemetery.
- 2.17 The product requires monthly application as opposed to a single annual application and is much less impactful in growth suppressant. A full report was provided at the last meeting of the sub committee.
- 2.18 As a reminder herbicides are used to suppress grass growth around graves. This creates a small mowing margin that helps to avoid strimmers and mowers getting too close to graves and reduces the risk of graves being damaged during grass cutting operations.
- 2.19 As previously reported the spraying can be eliminated with the employment of more staff who can then undertake more careful strimming more often. A single full time operative would likely cover the work saved by spraying operations. The cost for this including all on costs is circa £40,000.
- 2.20 Cemetery visitors and grave owners on the whole expect the Cemetery grass to be cut and maintained so ensure that graves do not become overgrown and are accessible. It is generally an area where wilding is inappropriate albeit some older areas of the Cemetery where graves are no longer visited have been allowed to grow naturally with minimal cutting.
- 2.21 The Council has a new Operations and Asset Maintenance manager. He will be asked to trial another alternative in the forthcoming grass maintenance season however, it is widely accepted in the industry that glyphosate combined with a long term growth suppressant is the best option for the job.
- 2.22 The purpose of spraying in the Cemetery is quite unique compared to general weed suppressant on open areas and footpaths which can be more easily be maintained without herbicide using alternative methods. It is the number of graves and tight spaces which present the real challenges for this problem.
- 2.23 The newly appointed Operations and Asset Maintenance manager will be tasked with exploring other options in the forthcoming season however it is the Clerks opinion that the only viable option to eliminate herbicides, if the expectation is to keep grass cut and maintained, is increasing the man power. That is of course a difficult decision and a big cost during challenging financial times.

3. Financial, Legal, Equality, Environmental & Risk Issues

- 3.1 All relevant matters contained in the report above.

Background Papers:	Working papers
Lead Officer:	Matthew Gleadell Tel: 01636 684801 Email: matthew.gleadell@newark.gov.uk

