

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 2 November 2015

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 6:30 PM WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES.

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 21st September 2015.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone to make a statement on: "The need for an anti-poverty strategy".

9. REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF PARISH

(Copy herewith)

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Davenport to propose and Councillor Smith to second:

“This Council notes that abandoned trollies are still an ongoing problem in Northampton. They can be a real nuisance in our communities.

This Council therefore resolves the following,

- To note the success of the Trolleywise scheme, particularly their smartphone app.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to all local supermarkets to ensure they are part of the Trolleywise scheme.
- Suggest to the Cabinet that they consider how best the Trolleywise scheme can be promoted to the general public but also consider what other powers they have at their disposal to help eliminate this problem.
- This Council does not currently collect abandoned trollies. We ask the Cabinet Member to consider adopting a policy of collecting trollies (by our Neighbourhood wardens) and then charging the supermarkets for costs of removal, storage and disposal. We would like the Cabinet member to report back to full Council in his report on Monday 14th December 2015”.

ii) Councillor Duffy to propose and Councillor Russell to second:

“This Council agrees with the present Central Government policy of free schools meals in the first three years of primary school (Year R, Year 1 & Year 2).

This Council further agrees that healthy free school meals are of enormous benefit to young children in Northampton.

This council asks the Chief Executive to write to our local MPs (Northampton North, Northampton South, Northamptonshire South) asking them to lobby Central Government to keep this important policy for the long-term and safe from any Spending Reviews”

iii) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Russell to second:

“This Council notes that Central Government has announced it is introducing a ‘national living wage’ of £9 per hour by 2020.

This Council further notes the government rate is based on median earnings while the Living Wage Foundation rate is calculated according to the cost of living. Therefore the Living Wage Foundation rate is at present higher.

There is a concern that the benefits of the Government’s new national living wage will be outweighed by big cuts to tax credits.

This Council resolves to

- 1) Use the Living Wage Foundation rate in paying our staff.

- 2) Seek accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation. In order to be accredited we must pay all our directly employed staff the Living Wage and have a plan in place for contracted staff
- 3) Support the introduction of a Living Wage to all sub-contracted staff.
- 4) Use our influence as a major local employer and provider of services to urge other local employers to pay the Living Wage according to the Living Wage Foundation”.

iv) Councillor Meredith to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second:

“Council notes that the lakes in the Eastern District are in an ever worse state, with dropping levels leading to higher pollution and an increasingly unattractive visage and smell.

Council further notes that these lakes are important to the area for a number of reasons, giving a leisure space to local residents and a home to local wildlife.

Council therefore resolves to assign a lead officer to solving the problems of the Eastern District lakes who will be empowered to investigate and action potential solutions, including but not limited to seeking that controlled sources of water be increased, and tackling inward pollution into the lakes from all sources”.

v) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

“The “Changing Places” campaign states that “People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably.”

And further, that “Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability.”

Council desires Northampton to be an inclusive, accessible town with a diverse and vibrant community, and notes that accesses to basic facilities are essential for this end.

Council therefore resolves to work with developers to ensure that as many new developments in Northampton, and all developments in which the Borough Council is directly involved, will have “Changing places” accessible toilets”.

vi) Councillor Markham to propose and Councillor Hadland to second:

“This Council recognises that St. Giles Street offers a unique shopping experience with many independent and niche market businesses that local residents are rightly proud of.

St Giles Street is a vital part of Northampton town centre, and that is why this borough council is investing £3 million into improving the experience for visitors and businesses by widening pavements and installing additional parking bays.

This council:

- welcomes the achievement of St Giles Street in being shortlisted as a finalist in the

2015 Great British High Street competition;

- recognises the hard work of the traders and their co-operation with each other that helps make St. Giles Street the success that it is, and;
- calls upon all Northampton residents and businesses to back the campaign to make St Giles Street the winner in the City Location category of the 2015 Great British High Street competition”.

vii) Councillor Hallam to propose and Councillor Marriott to second:

“This Council recognises that 78 Derngate is a tremendous asset to Northampton and that the volunteers and team behind it do a fantastic job.

2016 is the 100th year of the refurbishment that Charles Renee Mackintosh carried out for W.J. Bassett Lowke. The Council re-affirms its commitment to 78 Derngate and to working to support plans for its 100th anniversary celebrations”.

11. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

The Guildhall
Northampton

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

Public Participation

1. Comments and Petitions

- 1.1 A member of the public (or an accredited representative of a business ratepayer of the Borough) may make a comment or present a petition on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. A comment or presentation of a petition shall be for no more than three minutes. No notice of the nature of the comment to be made or of the petition is required except for the need to register to speak by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

(Public comments and petitions will not be taken and the Annual Council Meeting or other civic or ceremonial meetings.)

NOTES

- Comments may be on one or more subjects but each person has no longer than three minutes to have their say.*
- The same person may make a comment and present a petition on different subjects. In such instances that person will have three minutes to make their comment and a separate three minutes to present a petition.*

2. Member and Public Questions

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:
- be submitted in writing and delivered, faxed or e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
 - include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.
- 2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

(Questions will not be taken at the Annual Council Meeting or at civic or ceremonial meetings or meetings called to deal with specific items of business.)

NOTES

In respect of paragraph 2.1 above, questions may be rejected on certain grounds that are set out on page 4-12 of the Council's Constitution and which may be viewed at www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1919 or by seeking advice using the contact details below.

3. Motions

- 3.1 A member of the public may register to speak to a motion under the 'Notices of Motion' item on the agenda. Registration to speak must be made to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the day to the meeting. Speaking to a motion is restricted to three minutes per person.

(The 'Notices of Motion' item will not be taken at the Annual Council meeting or meetings called for civic or ceremonial purposes.)

4. General

A member of the public may make a comment, present a petition, ask a question or speak to a motion at the same meeting subject to the restrictions set out above.

5. Contacts

Democratic Services: e-mail democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk

Tel 01604 837722

Mail Democratic Services
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton NN1 1DE

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 21 September 2015 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Flavell (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Caswell, Choudary, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, Eales, Eales, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Hill, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith and Stone

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Hadland, Larratt, Nunn and Golby declared personal, non-pecuniary interests in Item 13, Motion i) as Members of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillors Bottwood, Oldham, Hallam and Lane declared personal, non-pecuniary interest in Item 13, Motion i) as substitute Members of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillors G Eales, Stone, Smith, Marriott, McCutcheon and Ashraf declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in Item 13, Motion ii) as Members of a Trade Union.

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June 2015 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Eldred, Malpas, Walker, Russell, Gowen, Beardsworth and Meredith.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, sent condolences to Northampton Borough Council Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Planning Mr Steven Boyes, on his recent bereavement.

The Mayor informed Council that the Gala Ball would be held on the 20th November at the County Cricket Ground. Tickets would be £40 each and urged members to purchase tickets from the Mayor's Office.

The Mayor mentioned that there had been a presentation of the Ushakov medal for the arctic convoy veterans which was held at the Guildhall on the 18th September

2015 and further noted that she had met with Twining Association visitors from Marberg.

The Mayor advised that she completed her Wing Walk on the 20th September 2015 to raise money for charity the total amount was yet to be confirmed. She also informed Council that her son Charles completed a Marathon whilst in Iceland, raising £697 including gift aid for the Mayor's charity.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Dr Ron Mendell President of the Trade Union Council submitted a petition to the Council. He advised the petition dealt with the Trade Union bill which the Trade Union Council found unnecessary and unjust. Dr Mendell mentioned that strike action and activity was currently low and that the bill would be unjust due to the restrictions it would impose on civil liberties. He noted that the use of agency immigrant workers was not cohesive to social cohesion.

Mr Tony Mallard addressed the Council on homelessness. He mentioned that the welfare state was created by society during the latter days of the great depression and noted that during the era homelessness was non-existent. He advised the Council that homelessness was, however, becoming a major issue in Northampton Towne Centre today and urged the Council to end the indignity.

Mr Hufferdine Smith addressed Council on the Housing Cabinet report. While he was pleased to see work was about to commence on the new housing strategy he mentioned that 250 voids and 4,000 homes were behind schedule. He asked the Council to urge builders to build on Brownfield sites rather than Greenfield and suggested needs assessment be carried out on Travellers by the Council. Mr Hufferdine Smith asked the Council to use their position to address the needs of the poor, homeless and vulnerable.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 4 questions had been received from Councillors and members of the public and that the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

Questions and answers given were as tabled (included in an updated agenda on the website) unless states supplementary questions were asked – detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 2, Councillor Bottwood advised that the campaign terminology with regards to "Don't be a tosser" was not to their liking and therefore not used.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 3, Councillor Hadland explained that not all parties could be pleased regarding the Medieval Knight's trail.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Markham submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She congratulated the Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District (BID) over the past 5 years and wished them success in the ballot, which would close on the 29th October 2015 at 5pm. It was noted that there had been a lot of Town Centre activities, including a return of the Beach, and 'Love Northampton – Let's Keep it Clean'. She also referred to the active programme of multi-agency working, looking at addressing Child Sexual Exploitation. She thanked Members who has attended the services marking VJ Day and spoke of future commemorations.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Markham explained that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with NPH was underway and extensive work had already been undertaken. She also confirmed that with regards to rogue landlords and unlicensed HIMOs, a confidential hotline had already been put in place which would be publicised more once the University term resumed. With regards to the current refugee crisis, Councillor Markham commented that meetings with CLG had been diarised which had been put in place prior to the crisis and noted that the lead was very much from Government. In response to further questions, Councillor Markham explained that officers had met with the prospective consortium, at a very early stage, but that the concern of the administration was looking after the public purse. She confirmed that officers were dealing with parties involved and that the Council remained as owners of the land. It was further confirmed that officers were working closely with the Department of Work and Pensions to ensure the transition to Universal Credits was well maintained.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He explained that Audit Committee training would be held on the 9th November 2015 and commented that it was for all members of the Council and not exclusively for Audit Committee members. He thanked officers for their hard work stated that the projected underspend of £271,000 was very positive. In response to questions asked, he explained that the reason for the high turnover of staff was down to the needs of individuals. He further confirmed that LGSS were not failing even though numerous people had left the Revenue and Benefits department, despite it having been one of the best in the Country. He further stated that £3.6 million had already been saved since working in partnership with LGSS.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and stated that over 500 people had taken advantage of the Heritage Open Days. In response to questions asked, Councillor Hadland commented that an examiner had been appointed to assess the Spring Borough Neighbour Plan and stated that Neighbourhood Planning was the most localised forms of Planning and that the National Planning Policy Framework attached great value to Neighbourhood Plans and the administration recognised the work that had gone into the Spring Borough Neighbourhood Plan. He also informed Council that the café in the Skatepark was not exempt from paying business rates.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that Abington Park and Delapre Abbey had recently been awarded the Green Flag Award. It was also noted that Northampton had received the Silver gilt in the Bloom Awards. In response to questions asked, Councillor Bottwood explained that the wild flower beds recently installed around the town would hopefully be extended once a cost review had been completed. He also noted that there was a concern about the amount of rubbish and fly-tipping and asked that members of the public and Councillors use the App to report instances to resolve the problem.

Councillor King submitted her Cabinet Member report and in the absence of Councillor Eldred, his Cabinet Member report too. She noted that all the forums would be doing a workshop on the 26th October to celebrate Diwali. It was noted that there had been an increase in overall crime and that the recent increase in the number of violent crimes against the person could be attributed to the change in reporting. Crimes committed on mobile phones and the internet was also being recorded. In response to questions asked Councillor King confirmed that they already worked with the voluntary sector and would continue to do so. She also explained that this year there had been a record number of visitors to Delapre Alive. She also mentioned that 'Love Northampton' was being advertised on websites, pamphlets and radio.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. It was explained that a permanent Private Sector Housing Manager had been recruited and that work had commenced on the development of the Housing Strategy which would be cross party.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Gareth Eales stated that the Trade Union Bill went against the ethos of the Labour Group. The Government had commented that the Bill would bring about democratic legitimacy to Trade Unions and reported that the Bill had very strict rules on picketing and lifted the ban on using agency workers if there was strike action. He commented that the Bill was an ideological attack on Trade Unions and commented that it was reminiscent of McCarthyism. He further commented that he was a proud Trade Union members and that he worked hard to represent working people; intervention having been productive and progressive in resolving less sick time and increased productivity. He urged the Leader and the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary expressing opposition to the repugnant Bill.

Councillor Markham responded by commenting that the Trade Union Bill was to create a balance to assist businesses so strikes would need fewer balloters and that there was a need to agree the Bill to ensure that schools stayed open and public transport continued to run as the recent strikes by tube drivers had been astronomical.

Responding, Councillor Eales suggested that the Miners' strike of 1984 could have been avoided should there have been more dialogue between the Unions and the Government.

9. CIL - APPROVAL OF THE CABINET REPORT

Councillor Hadland submitted a report which sought approval to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Councillor Bottwood seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the CIL Charging Schedule be approved in accordance with Regulation 25 of the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) to take effect from 1st April 2016 (Appendix 1 of attached Cabinet report)
2. That the CIL Regulation 123 List attached at Appendix 2 of the report be approved
3. That Exceptional circumstances relief be not applied to Northampton Borough
4. That the CIL policy on payments in kind and the Instalment Policy (Appendix 3 of the attached Cabinet report) be approved

10. DEVOLUTION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POWERS ON CROSS BOUNDARY PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND IN RESPECT OF AN APPLICATION RELATING TO LAND TO THE REAR OF COTTINGHAM DRIVE, MOULTON

Councillor Hadland submitted a report which sought Councils approval of the devolution of development control powers on cross boundary planning applications.

Councillor Lane seconded the report.

Councillor Larratt stated that he voted against a previous similar application and he was against the recommendations and that if approved, the Council would not receive any Section 106 monies and the interest of the residents of Northampton would not be protected.

RESOLVED:

1. That Daventry District Council be devolved the discharge of this Council's planning control functions under Section 70 (1) (Part III) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to determine a proposed cross boundary planning application in relation to residential development on land to the rear of Cottingham Drive, Moulton.
2. That Planning Committee be delegated the discharge of the Council's planning control functions under Section 70 (1) (Part III) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to determine cross boundary planning applications until the end of the municipal year.

11. EXEMPTION FROM CALL-IN AND URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS.

Councillor Hadland submitted a report that sought the Council to note a decision that had been exempted from call –in; the decision being taken was urgent.

Councillor Markham seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2014-15

Councillor Hallam submitted a report requesting Council to note performance in relation to its bowing and investment strategy for 2014-15.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the treasury management performance for 2014-15 (outturn), and updated treasury management data for quarter 1 of 2015-16 be noted.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

- i) Councillor McCutcheon proposed and Councillor Birch seconded:

“This Council notes that the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy has not worked out entirely to the benefit of Northampton.

This Council notes that much development will be placed just outside the Borough Boundary.

This Council further notes this means Northampton will have the challenges that come with large scale housing development. However, South Northamptonshire District Council and Daventry District Council will keep the additional Council Tax income and New Homes Bonus that will come from this new development on Northampton’s doorstep.

This Council believes the Borough Boundary, in the longer-term, should be extended to incorporate SUEs, as outlined in the Joint Core Strategy, which are immediately outside Northampton and also other very close developments such as Grange Park. So this Council believes there should be a limited expansion of the Northampton Borough Boundary.

This Council further believes if there is a review of the borough boundary it must be done with full public consultation”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

Mr R Mendell addressed Motion ii) and commented that he supported the Motion. He commented that as a Union member, he had thought it necessary to strike 7 times in 23 years and stated that the Trade Unions didn't always favour disruption and industrial action but that it was considered a necessity in certain cases. He also stated that Trade Unions offered day to day assistance with employees and also developed and shaped policies and their value should not be diminished.

ii) Councillor G Eales proposed and Councillor Stone seconded:

“This Council recognises that in order to provide confidence to the staff at all levels, the senior leadership of the Council must work in close partnership with the Trade Unions who represent our employees. Northampton Borough Council will only deliver excellent public services when Trade Unions, councillors and senior management work together.

So this Council believes that it is important to develop a reputation as a good employer and to build a relationship with staff and their representatives based on mutual trust.

To this end the Council agrees the following:-

1. The Trade Unions have an important role to play in a democratic and accountable public authority.
2. To have regular local joint meetings with all the recognised staff Trade Unions.
3. To guarantee sufficient facility time and resources in order that the Trade Unions can properly represent all their members.
4. To re-enter national pay bargaining for local government”.

Councillor Markham proposed and Councillor Hallam seconded an amendment:

Amended motion read:

“This Council recognises that Northampton Borough Council has undergone fundamental change over the last few years, and that in order to provide confidence to the staff at all levels the senior leadership of the Council must work in close partnership with its employees and their representatives. Northampton Borough Council will only deliver excellent public services when staff, councillors and senior management work together.

So this Council believes that it is important to develop a reputation as a good employer and to build a relationship with staff and their representatives based on mutual trust.

To this end the Council agrees the following:-

1. To commit to undertaking a full and transparent review of the current culture at Northampton borough Council and work to develop a climate where people can excel and are trusted to deliver the range of services residents across the borough expect.
2. That Trade Unions have a role to play in a democratic and accountable public authority”.

Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Council debated the substantive motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

iii) Councillor Cali proposed and Councillor Haque seconded:

“This Council notes that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a cultural practice that makes some young girls in our local communities very vulnerable. It is often referred to as ‘cutting’ and is a form of child abuse. It happens to young girls in our county and in our town.

This Council believes we can act together to stop it happening in our town.

This Council will do the following:-

- Work with the Police and other agencies so that we understand the scale of the problem.
- Ensure all relevant front line staff through training are aware of this issue, how to support victims and how to support campaigners against the practice

This Council resolves to identify the groups that are campaigning against this practice in order to

- Sign post vulnerable girls and their families to them
- Support the campaigns by disseminating any appropriate literature
- Ensure the relevant local campaign groups are aware they have the support of this Council”.

Councillor King proposed and Councillor Patel seconded an amendment:

Amended motion to read:

“This Council notes that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a cultural practice that makes some young girls in our local communities very vulnerable. It is often referred to as ‘cutting’ and is a form of child abuse. It happens to young girls in our county and

in our town.

This Council believes we can act together to stop it happening in our town.

This Council will do the following:-

- Continue to work with the Police and other agencies so that we understand the scale of the problem.
- Ensure all relevant front line staff through training are aware of this issue and how to support victims.
- Continue to work with groups such as the Women's Forum and to support events such as International Women's Day in order to raise awareness of these issues.
- Acknowledge the work of the Scrutiny Panel into Interpersonal Violence, and the contribution to this work of groups such as the Women's Forum, BME SRP, Northampton Women's Aid

This Council resolves to identify the groups that are campaigning against this practice in order to

- Sign post vulnerable girls and their families to them
- Support the campaigns by disseminating any appropriate literature
- Ensure the relevant local campaign groups are aware they have the support of this Council".

Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Council debated the substantive motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

Mr Hufferdine-Smith addressed Council on Motion iv) and congratulated the parks on being given their Green Flag status, but questioned what was being done about the other parks in the Borough. Amey and Enterprise, had not, in his opinion, undertaken a thorough job and there had been poor mowing and strimming and asked that more resources be given to Parish Councils to service the parks they are responsible for.

iv) Councillor Bottwood proposed and Councillor Ansell seconded:

"A Green Flag flying above a public open space recognises that the space meets the highest possible standards, is maintained beautifully and has excellent facilities. This Council welcomes with pride the award of Green Flag status to Abington Park and

Delapre Park.

This Council recognises the hard work of the staff, Friends groups and volunteers who have worked throughout the year to make these awards possible.

This council recognises the wealth of green and open spaces that Northampton has to offer, is rightly proud of these spaces and commits to protecting them and maintaining them to a high standard”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

14. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

None.

The meeting concluded at 8.41pm

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

21st September, 2015

Northampton's Sports Clubs

In keeping with our commitment to support our sports clubs, we have approved a loan to Northamptonshire County Cricket Club to help support it through its restructuring process. County Cricket means a lot to many of our residents, and the economic benefit of our sports clubs to the town is such that we have a duty to lend our support.

Construction work continues to progress at Northampton Saint's Franklin Gardens ground, where the new Barwell Stand has been made possible by the investment of the Council. With new spectator seating now being put in place, we look forward to the opening of these fantastic new facilities in the coming weeks.

The situation at Northampton Town Football Club continues to be a concern for supporters, residents and councillors alike. Our priority is to protect the public purse and ensure that the loan is repaid in full, while also offering our support to safeguard the future of the Football Club.

Northampton Borough Council Culture Change

The Council, and indeed the town, has been through a period of rapid change over the last few years. Understandably this has also been a period of change and uncertainty for staff. I have therefore commissioned, jointly with the Chief Executive, a review into the culture of Northampton Borough Council so that we can ensure staff are working in ways, and in an environment, that allows them to deliver the excellent services our residents expect. Initial meetings have taken place and the process will now roll out across the council. I would encourage all staff to fully engage with this process, I'm determined for this to be as open and honest discussion between the staff and leadership of the council about how we operate and our future, and that can only happen if people grasp the opportunity.

Customer Service Awards

Northampton Borough Council aims to provide excellent customer service all year round, but National Customer Service Week gives us the opportunity to recognise those staff who have achieved excellence. Congratulations to all those individuals and teams who were nominated.

Customer Excellence Accreditation

Northampton Borough Council Customer Services has been awarded the Customer Excellence Accreditation. In a recent assessment, NBC's Customer Services were not only recognised as fully compliant in all areas but also received a 'Compliance +' rating, the highest score you can receive, in four new areas: empowering staff; performance management; partnership working; supporting local communities.

Town Centre activity

The Council continues to support the town centre and is proud to note that this month St Giles Street has been recognised by the Great British High Street Awards as a nominee in the City Location category. It is clear that people across the country are recognising the importance of this unique area which is home to many independent traders and local businesses. The judges visited on Friday 23rd October and we are awaiting the result

November 19th see's the launch of the town centre Christmas celebrations, this year we welcome back the German Market and our full programme of events will be announced in the coming weeks.

Night Safe

I went out on the Night safe operation on Friday 16th October to see and experience first-hand the night-time economy and the challenges facing our officers and the other agencies we work with to make Northampton and better and safer place. As a result of this and the current consultation on PSPO I have arranged a working group to determine a strategy together.

Business Breakfast Meeting

We had over 50 businesses attend the recent breakfast meeting at the Guildhall. We continue to work closely and support the Town Centre Business's and a special thanks to the Communications team for all their help and support in organising this successful event which was appreciated by all the people who attended.

Landlords Forum

I attended the Landlords Forum on 20th October and was heartened by how much progress has been made in working together with our good Landlords. All credit to the Officers and the Cabinet Member for Housing, I actually received emails the following day from Landlords to say how valuable and constructive the meeting was.

Commemorations

The town's annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony will take place on Sunday 8th November and I hope that members, colleagues and residents will be able to attend. The Mayor will attend the Abington Square Memorial on the Sunday and there will be the annual Armistice Day wreath laying at the Memorial on the Wednesday 11th November at 11am.

The Council is delighted that the Royal Anglian Regiment are planning to exercise their Freedom of the Borough by parading through the Town next year, and further details of this will be announced in the near future.

We also look forward to our annual Diwali celebrations that will take place on Saturday 7th November.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

2nd November, 2015

Finance

The medium term financial planning and budgeting process is well underway within the Council. Directorates are currently reviewing their budgets for the continuation of services, a process that will identify any cost pressures that may arise. In addition work is being undertaken to assess opportunities for efficiency savings in next year's budget. Such efficiencies will give the Council a head start in meeting challenges it faces over the medium term.

As reported previously the Council currently has a balanced financial position for the current year and next financial year too. However, over the medium term the Council has a substantial funding gap of £7m per annum by 2020 it needs to develop plans to close. To this end work has started, linked to the update of the Corporate Plan, to develop strategies to raise revenues and reduce the cost base of the Council.

It should be noted the medium term financial position is based on a number of assumptions, which may change. Key areas for potential change are Government Policy announcements and the Spending Review 2015. The Spending review is due to report in late November and the Council's financial position will be updated to reflect any announcements after this. There have been a number of announcements made already for example a reduction in housing rents of 1% per annum, proposals for the "right to budget" of tenants and for business rates to be retained locally. At this stage these announcements have been high level with little detail. However, the Council is using its networks and intelligence sources to understand potential implications on both its finances and service provision.

Revenues and Benefits

The Department is entering a busy period, as it prepares a range of options for consultation on the 2016-17, Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Service managers and the cabinet member for finance will be available to discuss these options as part of planned public consultation at the Guildhall on the 19th October 2015. The Council will also make the consultation available to the public via its website and also communicate plans for the scheme as part of its overall budget setting process for 2016-17.

The team are also supporting the external audit of our 2014-15 housing benefit subsidy claim. This return has a value of over £60 million and requires the Governments appointed external auditor to verify a huge amount of in year processing conducted by the service and to further verify its accuracy before a final claim is agreed.

Support for the implementation of Universal Credit also continues. The services Partnership and Development Officer will be meeting with key partners and focus groups over the coming months in readiness for the initial phase of the roll – out of this new benefit at the end of November 2015. In the meantime the Council are in the process of agreeing the Local Delivery Partnership Agreement that will deliver support to those claiming the new benefit both during the application process and after they start to receive Universal Credit. LGSS and Northampton Borough Council are committed to supporting this early phase of implementation and will ensure support is fully resourced to meet the new demand of services and most importantly our service users. Details of this initial phase of Universal Credit will continue to be communicated to all parties over the coming months.

LGSS continues to perform well against its key performance indicators despite some ongoing resource challenges. Turnover of staff within the team continues to be high and to support maintaining levels of performance the service are continually recruiting to vacant posts. LGSS have an award winning training and development team and therefore the service remains highly capable in terms of continually training both new and existing members of the team.

Improvements to the now separate Revenues and Benefits telephony service continue to be implemented and the service will be investing resource in this area to ensure we can deliver to service users' levels of expectation.

In addition to the services established posts, a resilience team will be in place for the service and operational by December 2015. This team will start to manage peaks removing excess work, improving performance and also creating an income stream to the partnership during off – peak periods. This is an important part of the future service offering for the partnership and ensures it capable of supporting a number of future scenarios faced as a result of reforms to welfare.

LGSS continues to attract interest from prospective partners and are currently engaged with a number of other Council's interested in either joining the partnership or using our services. Growth of the partnership remains very important in order to manage the challenges faced over the coming years in terms of performance, alongside supporting the need for cost savings for the Council.

An important consultation will be commenced shortly to start to engage with local partners and recipients of Council Tax Reductions. This consultation will start to consider options for the 2016-17 schemes and will support any proposed changes to the existing scheme in operation in 2015-16.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 2 November 2015

Four Waterside

Four Waterside comprises 225,000 sq. ft. of commercial space within the heart of Northampton town centre and forms a key part of the EZ. The scheme will provide flexible spaces and high quality design. Importantly, it would be the first commercial development in the town centre for 20 years and as such has been designated an EZ priority. The land has been cleared, is ready for development and is in the ownership of the Borough Council.

Negotiations are ongoing with Kier to develop up to 60,000 sqft of office development with the Council taking a lease on up to the first 30,000 sq ft. It is anticipated that a planning application for the development will be submitted in January 2016 and the building completed for occupation sometime during 2017.

Greyfriars

An expression of interest exercise has commenced with an advert for a development partner for the Greyfriars site being placed in the trade press in August 2015. There has been substantial interest in the Greyfriars site and we're expecting first phase expressions of interest to be submitted by 6 November 2015.

Delapre

Restoration works to Delapre Abbey continue and works are due to be completed in July 2015 with opening anticipated in August 2016.

Overall budget profile is within acceptable parameters and within the overall budget figures.

Additional capital and revenue monies have been requested of Cabinet and these will be considered at the 21st October 2015 Cabinet meeting.

We are all looking forward to the opening of Delapre Abbey next Summer.

St Giles Street

On Friday 23rd October we welcomed judges from the Great British High Street of the year awards, following our application based on the diversity of the business community on St Giles Street and our overall strategy (past, present and future) for the regeneration of the town centre.

St Giles Street has been shortlisted alongside two other locations from 230 applications from around the country.

Public Realm

St Giles Street public realm improvement works have been discussed with traders at a Breakfast event in October 2015. Follow up visits by the Project Manager have been

completed to each business. Further dialogue will be completed with the traders as the design continues to be developed.

It is anticipated that works will commence onsite in January/February 2016 – the period which represents minimal impact on trading conditions.

Enterprise Zone

To date, the following outputs have been achieved:-

- 1,251 jobs created or brought into the EZ
- 31 new enterprises in the EZ
- £153m private sector investment levered into the EZ
- 36,087 sq m new floor space created
- 4.3 ha of land developed.
- N/2015/0334 – the planning application for the proposed development of a new primary school at Malcolm Arnold Academy was approved by the Planning Committee on 29th Sept 2015.
- N/2015/1040 – reserved matters application for the development of 1198 beds of student accommodation, supporting ancillary facilities at the University of Northampton Nunn Mills site has been received and currently under consultation.

Car Parks

The council commenced the refurbishment works to Lifts L7 & L8 (next to Primark) in the Grosvenor Centre Car Park and these will be completed before Christmas.

The planned replacement of the pay on foot parking machines in the St Johns & St Michaels MSCP will commence in October and will be finished in time for Christmas. The new machines will provide customers with credit card facilities in all the council's multi-storey car parks.

The council continues to invest in its parking services by replacing pay & display machines its surface car parks. A number of machines will be replaced to improve the facilities on offer to customers.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report has been received, and it was successful subject to minor modifications. The next stage is to progress to referendum in 2016.

Community Infrastructure Levy – Northampton Charging Schedule

On 21 September 2015 the Council resolved to approve the CIL Charging Schedule and in accordance with Regulation 25 of the CIL Regulations (as amended) it will take effect from 1 April 2016.

Northampton Local Development Scheme

The new Local Development Scheme for Northampton Borough was approved and brought it into immediate effect on the 9th September 2015. The Council will be preparing two new development plan documents: Northampton Local Plan Part 2 and

the Northampton Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People Allocations Local Plan.

Duston Neighbourhood Plan - Referendum

Following scrutiny by an Independent Examiner, who agreed that the Plan was satisfactory, a referendum on the Duston Neighbourhood Plan will take place on Thursday, 5th November. If approved by the residents of Duston Parish in the referendum, this will be Northampton's first Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 2 November 2015

Community Safety

There has been an increase in overall crime of 2.2% (+409 crimes) since April 2015. Serious Acquisitive Crime continues on a downward trend with a decrease of 2.0% (-52 crimes). All crime types within this have seen reductions; robbery -0.3%, vehicle crime - 1.3% and domestic burglary -3.5%. Violence against the person has increased by 10.5% (+489 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour continues to show a good reduction, decreasing by 7.3% (-1086 incidents) since April 2015 with personal Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reducing by 6.6% (-329 incidents), nuisance by 6.9% (-534 incidents) and environmental by 11.0% (-223 incidents).

A number of engagement events were undertaken at the end of September supporting Fresher's Fortnight at the University of Northampton Park campus and St John's accommodation and at Northampton College Booth Lane and Lower Mounts campus. This saw high levels of engagement with students and advice and guidance being provided on personal safety and property security. Specific crime prevention webpages have been developed for students and are now accessible on the NBC website pages.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit has achieved some excellent results in the town centre, seeing 3 of our most problematic street drinkers/beggars receiving Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or Criminal Behaviour Orders.

Consultation is currently underway on the proposals for Public Spaces Protection Orders. Proposals see the re-draft of the Designated Public Places Order for drinking in the street and Dog Control orders. It is also consulting on proposals to manage busking, tackle street begging, flyposting, urinating in the street and the illegal sale of cars on public land. All feedback is welcomed and the questionnaire can be found on the NBC website.

Forums

All Forums have reviewed their action plans with a number of key events being planned and delivered/supported. October saw events being held supporting International Coming Out Day on 9 October 2015 at the Royal & Derngate, and Black History Month, with an event being held in the Guildhall on 30 October 2015. Upcoming events include World Aids Day on 1 December 2015 in the courtyard of the Guildhall and International Day for People with Disabilities on 3 December 2015. This event is being held in the One Stop Shop and will see a range of voluntary organisations raising awareness and providing workshops.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Housing

Northampton Borough Council

2nd November 2015

Collaborative, Multi Agency Working

One of the key priorities of the Housing and Wellbeing Service is to encourage organisations to work more collaboratively with one another to deliver better, joined-up services that improve residents' life chances, safeguard vulnerable people and promote community wellbeing.

I am very proud of the strong leadership that NBC is providing, both within the borough and across Northamptonshire, to improve joint working and achieve the shared objectives of the County Council, the Borough and District Councils and our partners.

This report provides recent examples of the collaborative, multi agency work that the Housing and Wellbeing Service is leading on.

Countywide Protocol for Homeless 16 & 17 Year Olds

No single agency has sole responsibility for homeless 16 and 17 year old young people. Children's Social Care and local Housing Authorities have statutory duties to these young people, and other statutory and voluntary agencies provide a range of services to them.

The Head of Housing and Wellbeing has successfully negotiated the terms and conditions of a new Countywide Protocol that is designed to ensure that, in Northamptonshire, everyone works together to provide a consistent and co-ordinated response to 16 and 17 year old young people (including teenage parents and pregnant teenagers) who present as homeless and are in need of accommodation or accommodation-related support.

As well as helping to prevent homelessness and promote and safeguard the wellbeing of young people, the Protocol for Homeless 16 & 17 Year Olds is being used as the basis for the development of other Protocols (including a Leaving Care Protocol) involving Children's Social Care and the local Housing Authorities. Joint training sessions will improve multi agency working.

Improving Housing's Response to Domestic Abuse

On 7th September 2015, NBC convened and hosted a half day workshop (attended by housing and community safety representatives from the 7 Borough and District Councils, together with the Police and members of NCC's Commissioning & Strategy Team) to agree on how best to develop a "comprehensive safe accommodation offer that incorporates crisis accommodation, move on accommodation and keeping victims safe in their own homes".

At the end of the workshop, everyone - including all of the Borough and District Councils – agreed 7 key action points, including the development of a countywide housing pathway for domestic abuse that is applied consistently (by all housing authorities and housing providers) in Northamptonshire. Other actions include the negotiation of a new countywide funding arrangement for the Sanctuary Scheme, the development of a new business model for the county's refuges, and initiatives designed to prevent homelessness and support move-on.

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

NBC has taken the lead in bringing together the Borough and District Councils to discuss the practical action we can all take to tackle CSE and how we can share the work between us.

On 22nd September 2015, NBC's Chief Executive chaired a very successful working conference in the Guildhall, attended by 90 Officers with responsibility for housing (social housing, private sector housing and homelessness), leisure, licensing, town centre wardens and community safety. The conference was addressed by the Manager of the County's RISE (Reducing Incidence of Sexual Exploitation) Team and practitioners from two unitary authorities: Peterborough and Slough.

Feedback from delegates has been very positive and the Chief Executives of the Borough and District Councils have agreed a series of action points from the conference, including the appointment of a CSE Lead in each area, the development of a Countywide CSE Action Plan and Training Programme, and the achievement of a more consistent, countywide approach (where appropriate) to housing, leisure services, community safety and licensing.

Promoting Community Wellbeing

At a meeting on 24th September 2015, more than 30 members of the NBC-led Northampton Wellbeing Partnership met for a briefing on 2 new initiatives (the procurement of a new computer system and the development of an online forum) that will assist and support joint working.

The new computer system will aid information sharing, monitor and measure customers' progress against agreed outcomes and enable customers to 'score' the service they have received. Commissioners will be able to monitor take-up of the service and financial commitments.

The online forum – devised by members of the voluntary and community sector, funded by NBC and hosted by Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN) – will make it a lot easier for members of the Northampton Wellbeing Partnership to communicate with one another to share ideas, information and expertise, and to discuss a wide range of issues relating to service delivery, funding, residents' health and wellbeing, and NCC's Wellbeing Community Interest Company.

Everyone who attended the meeting was very positive about the 2 initiatives and appreciated their potential for revolutionising the way in which wellbeing services are delivered in Northampton.

Developing Northampton's new Housing Strategy

A half day workshop, organised jointly by NBC and Northampton Partnership Homes was held on 28th September 2015 to kickstart the development of our new Housing Strategy for 2016-21.

Registered Providers, private landlords and representatives from a wide range of organisations (including NBC, NPH and the Northampton Wellbeing Partnership) discussed 4 key issues:

- Affordable housing, new housing, regeneration and growth
- Northampton's private rented sector
- Helping people to achieve and maintain independence
- Reducing homelessness and meeting housing need

These discussions will help shape and inform the borough's housing priorities for the next 5 years and will form the basis of an overarching Housing Strategy that will be underpinned by a number of supporting strategies and policies, including the Homelessness Strategy, Rough Sleepers Strategy, Private Rented Housing Strategy, Empty Homes Strategy, Tenancy Strategy, Older People's Housing Strategy and the Housing Allocations Policy.

Tackling Modern Day Slavery

Officers have been working with the Police, Northamptonshire County Council and other agencies to develop an agreed approach to tackling modern day slavery in Northampton.

The partnership is seeking to raise awareness of the problem of people trafficking and modern day slavery, identify the training needs of local organisations, provide a forum for agencies to share intelligence, best practice and what they are doing to tackle the problem, and ensure that victims receive the support and services that they need from all of the agencies they interact with.

In September 2015, NBC's Private Sector Housing Team was part of a multi agency team that carried out a series of raids on premises where modern day slavery was suspected of taking place.

Northampton's Landlord Forum

On 20th October 2015, the Leader of the Council and I hosted a well attended meeting of the Northampton Landlord Forum in the Guildhall.

Landlords and rental agents were very interested in the presentations from Helen Reay (Housing Solicitor at the Community Law Service) – who described the protection that the Deregulation Act 2015 affords tenants against the practice of retaliatory eviction – and Debi Waite (NBC's new Private Sector Housing Manager) who provided a fascinating, but shocking, insight into the harm being done by criminal and rogue landlords and agents and the action that NBC and its partners (including Trading Standards, the UK Borders Agency, HMRC and the Police and Fire Service) will be taking to identify them, disrupt their operations, and prosecute them.

Where a tenant complains about the condition of a property, the landlord must now respond within 14 days, setting out what s/he intends to do about it and within what timescale.

If the landlord (a) fails to reply or (b) replies by serving a notice of possession or (c) gives a reply that is inadequate, the tenant may then complain to the local authority who must inspect the property. If the local authority then serves an improvement notice or carries out emergency remedial action, any notice of possession already served will be rendered ineffective and no further notice can then be served for 6 months. This will prevent retaliatory (revenge) evictions.

For tenancies which first began on or after 1st October 2015 it will not be possible to give a Section 21 notice in the first four months of the tenancy. Taken together with the statutory notice period for assured shorthold tenancies (2 months), tenants will have some protection from eviction.

Additionally, a Section 21 notice can only be served if the landlord has issued the tenant with (a) an energy performance certificate, (b) a gas safety certificate and (c) a copy of the Department for Communities and Local Government's booklet entitled "How to rent: the checklist for renting in England". If the property is a licensable HMO, the property must also be licensed.

Once issued, a Section 21 notice must be used within 6 months.

Social Lettings Agency

At the time of writing, Officers were preparing a fully costed business case for the social lettings agency. The merits of the social lettings agency were considered by Cabinet on 21 October 2015.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 2 November 2015

Councillor Community Fund

A 100 grant payments have been made from the Councillor Community Fund since April 2015. At the end of September the total amount awarded was £38,357.68, providing support to a wide range of local voluntary organisations and local projects.

Community Grants

The grant year July 14 – June 2015 saw 21 grant payments being made, totalling to £55,518.45. Since the grant year beginning July 2015, 5 grant payments have been made, totalling £14,307.36 from the £50,000 pot. The Community Grants panel continue to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and consider all applications.

Community Centres

The Our Place project continues to progress. Meetings have been held with all community centres involved and their action plans have been refreshed and updated.

Events

The Abington Park Bands in the Park season finished in mid-September after another successful summer season which offered a wide variety of performances on Sunday afternoons and were enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the park.

The Council supported many events throughout late summer including NN4Eight (Far Cotton), Festival of Water & Operation Dredge (Beckets Park), Umbrella Fair & Rainbow Run (Racecourse), Northampton Half Marathon (town centre and surrounding areas) and the St Crispin's Street Fair.

The council is working on a number of key future events including Diwali Celebrations, Remembrance Day, Christmas Light Switch-On, Christmas Trees & Lights and the Christmas German Market.

Culture & Heritage

September saw the opening of 'Stitching Magic' which showcased work by members of the Northamptonshire Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild. The 150th exhibition is continuing to be popular with both young and old, many of them recognising 'Alfie' from the days of Gordon Scott's shoe shop in Abington Street.

'Whose Round Is It?' opened in early October and looks at the part the brewing industry has played in a town that still has over 70 pubs. The private view saw guests have a taste of the 150th 'Museum IPA' brewed by museum staff under the expert tuition of staff at Phipps Brewery along with a number of sponsored pub snacks. Gift packs and etched glasses are on sale in the shop in time for Christmas.

Looking forward, the Northampton Town & County Art Society opens in late November – the exhibition will feature work from talented graduates and non-members alongside the best of Northamptonshire artists.

'A Look Back at Northamptonshire' was a sell out – the archive films from around the county were presented by the Northamptonshire Film Archive Trust and made a net profit. Further film shows are planned for 2016.

Abington Park Museum saw a 'Collector's Day' take place in October – owners and groups were invited to share their collections with the public. Looking forward, the fourth Christmas Craft Fair at Abington is planned for later in November, it is anticipated that all stalls will be sold out at this popular event.

October and November see further talks from the series entitled 'Object in Focus' which explores objects from the collection in more detail. Over 60s talks continue to attract a wide audience and subjects range from 'The History of Wills' to Paintings of the 14th & 20th Century.

Autumn half term workshops and storytelling take place at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and Abington Park Museum saw a 'Haunted Halloween' event and saw many children in fancy dress. A Creative Writing Workshop took place in September led by the 'Creative Writers at the Museum'. Ukulele workshops led by Sara Spade continue to be held over the period September to November.

August saw volunteers offering 695 hours of their time to various projects and events at the Museum. In addition, the Virtual Shoe project funded by the Arts Council England commenced in April and 186.5 hours were completed by volunteers assisting with the photography of the shoes during August.

Customer Services

Great News – DWP Work Coach Referral Scheme

Recent improvements have been made to the Work Coach 'Back into Work' referral scheme within the OSS and the introduction of a dedicated appointment line for the Work Coach has resulted positively with them seeing an increase of customers for advice on job searches, CV advice, training opportunities and work experience.

In a bid to maximise take-up of the Work Coach service and make it easier to make referrals, we have now created a dedicated hotline (01604 838655) for referrals, which will be manned 9.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday. The new improved referral process will mean that the Work Coaches attend the One Stop Shop every Tuesday morning (9.30am – 12.00 Noon) and every Thursday afternoon (1.00pm – 4.00pm). The dedicated hotline has proved to be successful resulting in a fully booked diary helping at least 10 customers a week gain advice on how to get back to work.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 2 November 2015

Environmental Health

Since the beginning of September over 3500 section 46 Notices have been served on residents reminding them of refuse and recycling arrangement. Neighbourhood Wardens are gathering evidence for enforcement action against those residents who are not following the requirements of the Notices (current figures on enforcement will be provided ahead of the meeting)

Officers in the Food and Safety Team have participated in an inter authority audit of procedures for carrying out the rating of Food Premises in accordance with the Food Standards Agency Brand Standard. They been working with colleagues across the County to ensure consistency in the way the standard is applied to ensure that the public can have confidence in the star ratings displayed in food businesses.

Environmental Services

The end of the mowing season is almost upon us, and staff will shortly be switching to winter maintenance. This will include the pruning of shrubs and hedges. It is expected that the winter maintenance will fully commence towards the end of October and continue through to March next year.

There continues to be issues with refuse collection for properties presenting sacks, and discussions are continuing with the contractor to attempt to resolve this situation.

The council continues to speedily remove any sacks that have been left, and the Neighbourhood Wardens and Enforcement Officers are also continuing with enforcement action as required. Due to the council's actions, there has been a noticeable reduction in the amount of extra sacks being presented for collection and a general improvement in the cleanliness of some streets. Improvements have been particularly noticed and commented on in the Semilong area.

As previously stated, the cost for the authority to remove the sacks will not be picked up by the public purse.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

September's "Love Northampton – Let's Keep It Clean" Town Centre Litter Campaign started off with Enterprise and the Neighbourhood Wardens giving out educational material from a stall set up on the Market Square by the fountain. This was also supported by a number of newspaper articles, tweets and Facebook updates by the Council's Press Office. The educational element of the campaign was for the first two weeks of September, which was then backed up with enforcement by the Town Centre Wardens to ensure the message got across to those that did not take any notice of the campaign or did not have any respect for the Town Centre environment.

Some Cabinet Members joined the Town Centre Wardens on their patrols, so that they could see the issues faced by the Wardens on a daily basis. During the last two weeks of the enforcement element of the campaign, 20 fixed penalty notices (FPN's) were issued for dropping of litter.

Northampton has been taking part in Bloom since 2001, each year the amount of participants has grown, this year we received a record number of entrants , 14 schools, 26 community groups, 6 individuals and 10 businesses. Northampton received a Silver Gilt Award in the East Midlands in Bloom competition.

The annual Northampton in Bloom Presentation & Awards Ceremony was held in the Great Hall, Guildhall on Thursday 8th October. Over 200 attendees were invited to celebrate the horticultural achievements and hard work given by Northampton's various gardening groups.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Appendices: 1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
2nd November 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive Office

Report Title	Request for change of name of parish
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Council to consider a request made by Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council to change the name of the parish to “Wootton” so that the Parish Council would be known as Wootton Parish Council.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 consider the request made by Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council to change their name to Wootton Parish Council and agree to changing the name of the parish from Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor to Wootton; and
- 2.2 authorise the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer to take any action necessary to effect this change of name of parish, including the notification and publication of the change as required by law.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 In 2012 Northampton Borough Council carried out a community governance review pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The community governance review process resulted in the Council making a formal Reorganisation Order; *The Northampton Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2013*.

3.1.2 The Reorganisation Order abolished the former parish of Wootton and East Hunsbury and dissolved its Parish Council. It also created the two new parishes and Parish Councils of:

- Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor; and
- East Hunsbury.

It was in effect a split of the former Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council into two new Parish Councils, which took effect from the May 2015 elections.

3.1.3 The Reorganisation Order provided that the name of one of the new parishes would be “Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor” and that the Parish Council would therefore be known as “Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council”.

3.1.4 Since being established in May 2015, Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council has decided that it wishes to change its name to Wootton Parish Council, which requires the name of the parish to be changed.

3.1.5 The name of a ‘parish’ refers to the name of the geographical area concerned and can be changed independently of a community governance review. Section 14(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that a parish council goes by the name “The Parish Council” with the addition of the name of the particular parish.

3.1.6 Section 75(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states:

At the request of the parish council or, where there is no parish council, at the request of the parish meeting, the council of the district in which the parish is situated may change the name of the parish.

3.1.7 Therefore, it is necessary for Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council to make a request to Northampton Borough Council as the relevant district council, to change the name of the parish.

3.1.8 The Parish Clerk sent a formal letter of request to the Chief Executive dated 12th October 2015. This letter is at Appendix 1. The letter includes an extract from the June 2015 minutes of the Parish Council containing the resolution of the Parish Council to change its name. While this resolution is not framed as a request to the district council to change the name of the parish, the intention of the Parish Council is clear and the Chief Executive has therefore accepted this June 2015 resolution together with the Clerk’s recent letter as a formal request from the Parish Council to the Borough Council to change the parish name.

3.1.9 The Parish Clerk has advised the Borough Council of some of the reasons for the request to change the parish name as summarised below:

- a) The current parish name of Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor implies that there are three distinct communities within the

parish, whereas it is considered that there is just one community, (and there is a concern that the current name could be divisive). It has been noted that this point was recognised when Northampton Borough Council considered the electoral arrangements for the parish (and for East Hunsbury parish) in December 2012 because the report considered stated that, as, “**there is no clear division of the community within the two areas**, it is not recommended that either area be warded”. This recommendation was accepted by Full Council.

- b) The name of Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor, is considered to be too cumbersome. This has created some practical issues. For example, it is too long to fit in the space for the parish name on the Council Tax demand.

3.1.10 “Wootton” is the historical name of the parish that served the village. The legislation does not require a consultation to take place on the change of name. The Parish Council have advised that the public have been made aware of the request through use of the public noticeboards within the parish area and via an article in a recent edition of Link Magazine. Wootton Heritage Organisation were also informed of the request by the Parish Council.

3.1.11 There is at least one other Wootton Parish Council in England (in Bedfordshire). However, this does not prevent the name of Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor parish from being changed to Wootton parish. There are other examples of Parish Councils in England that share the same name.

3.1.12 On the basis that the Parish Council voted unanimously in favour of changing the name of the Parish Council and for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.1.9 and 3.1.10, it is recommended that Full Council agree to the request to change the name of the parish from Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor, to Wootton.

3.1.13 Section 75(2) of the Local Government Act requires that notice of any change of name made under section 75:

- (a) *shall be sent by the district council concerned to the Secretary of State, to the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and to the Registrar General; and*
- (b) *shall be published by the district council in the parish and elsewhere in such manner as they consider appropriate.*

3.1.15 It is therefore recommended that Full Council authorises the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer to take all steps necessary to effect the change of name of the parish including notifying the bodies listed in paragraph 3.1.14 above and publishing the change of name in the parish and elsewhere in an appropriate manner.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The report does not have any policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The resource implications arising from this report, if the change of parish name is agreed by Full Council, are the officer time required to ensure that correct notification of the change is provided to the relevant external bodies and any cost associated with publishing the change in the parish area, in accordance with statutory requirements.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The legal considerations are set out in the body of the report.

4.3.2 Further, in relation to the consequence of the change of the parish name, section 75(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that:

“A change of name made in pursuance of this section shall not affect any rights or obligations of any parish or of any council, authority or person, or render defective any legal proceedings; and any legal proceedings may be commenced or continued as if there had been no change of name”.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no direct equality considerations arising directly from this report.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None.

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary & Monitoring Officer
0300 330 7000

WOOTTON, WOOTTON FIELDS & SIMPSON MANOR PARISH COUNCIL**Wootton Community & Sports Centre****Curtlee Hill, Wootton, NN4 6ED****Tel: 01604 705055 Email: parish.clerk@woottonpc.co.uk**

The Chief Executive
 Mr D Kennedy
 Northampton Borough Council
 The Guildhall
 St Giles Square
 Northampton
 NN1 1ED

12th October 2015

Dear Mr Kennedy

I have been asked by Members of Wootton, Wootton Fields & Simpson Manor Parish Council to formally request a change in the name of the Parish to **Wootton Parish**.

The resolution requesting the change in name was tabled on the 17th June 2015 at the full Parish Council meeting; Members voted unanimously by show of hands to **Resolve:** to change the name of the Parish – please find minute reference below.

15/32	<p>Change of Parish Name</p> <p>To agree to change the name of the parish to Wootton Parish Council. The Council discussed the proposal. A vote by show of hands was unanimous.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to change the name of the parish from Wootton, Wootton Fields & Simpson Manor Parish Council to Wootton Parish Council.</p> <p>Action: Clerk</p>
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Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council would be grateful if this request can be placed on the next Full Council meeting to be held on 2nd November 2015.

Members of the public within the Parish have been advised of this request via an article in the latest Link Magazine; public notices are also being placed on the notice boards within the Parish. Wootton Heritage Organisation were also informed at their recent meeting.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Tina L Charteress CiLCA
 Clerk to Wootton, Wootton Fields & Simpson Manor Parish Council