



**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

The Meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th February 2020 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

Members of the Public are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of personal or prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

4. FOOTPATHS

To receive a verbal report from Tom and Eunice Borg the Public Path Liaison Officers, together with any feedback from the Footpath Volunteer Officers Jackie and Martine. A report concerning the work of the Footpath Team has been circulated with the agenda.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme. For those members of the public who have requested to speak, please note, a three-minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue.

(a) Phil Cookson – Climate Emergency and Somerset West and Taunton Local Plan consultation.

6. TO CONSIDER TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr McGuffie has proposed the following points for discussion:-

- "To consider ways of preserving and enhancing the environment of Wellington (built, cultivated and natural) in order to maintain and improve the standard of living and the wellbeing of residents
- by working in partnership with local people, councils and other stakeholders as well as through the council's own initiatives
- in the context of the need to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other use of resources

- The committee will consult with the community stakeholders and draw up a set of policies to implement this terms of reference."

Cllr McGuffie has suggested policy statements concerning paths, benches, street lighting, cycle paths tree-planting, climate change, transport.

7. TOWN BENCHES

(a) TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF A MEMORIAL BENCH AT CHELSTON

A local resident recently contacted the council to query the upkeep of a bench that was installed at the former Co-op site at Chelston. He thought this had been handed over to the Town Council about 7 years ago, but this is not believed to be the case. Cllr Govier has suggested that the council consider adopting and maintaining this bench as it is well used by local residents.

Please note that the purchase of the four benches agreed for installation this year has been put on hold pending the above agenda item as all benches will be purchased on one order.

8. TO CONSIDER ERECTING ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING BETWEEN CLIFFORD TERRACE AND WELLINGTON HIGH STREET

A local resident has contacted the council to request consideration of putting an additional street light in this passageway. This issue was previously raised in 2016 and resulted in a streetlight being installed on the corner nearest Clifford Terrace. Cllr Thorne suggests that there remains a need for some additional 'top up' lighting which could be achieved with a low-level light about halfway along the path.

9. TO CONSIDER WAYS TO TACKLE UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS OF DOG FOULING ON WELLINGTON STREETS

The Council Office has received two complaints recently about unacceptable levels of dog-fouling, as well as feedback from 'WAGS' that the problem with people 'not picking up' appears to be getting worse. Consideration is to be given as to possible ways to address this ongoing problem for the town.

The following extract has been taken from the Blue Cross for Pets website section on laws concerning pet dogs:-

Dog fouling

Dog fouling consistently ranks as the number one thing local councils receive complaints about, and it's easy to understand why. It smells, it gets stuck to your shoes, and it causes a hazard to the environment.

You must scoop that poop in most public places, however there are some areas where picking up is not a legal requirement (unless a specific order or bylaw has been placed), and these are heathland, woodland, land used for the grazing of animals.

Your local authority also has the power to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to curb dog fouling, including requiring dog owners to pick up after their dogs in certain areas or requiring owners to carry poo bags on them at all times. Owners can be issued with a fixed penalty notice of up to £100 for not complying with regulations. Areas with a PSPO on them should be indicated by signs.

Even if you walk in areas with no legal requirement to pick up poo, it's important to get into the routine doing so. It might seem like not much harm has been done, but canine faeces can contain parasites that, if not cleaned up, can spread to grass and, if eaten, can cause blindness in people and pregnant cattle to abort their young. Owners of assistance dogs who have a disability that prevents them from picking up poo, for example a Guide Dog walked by a registered blind person, are exempt from these rules.

10. TO REVIEW THE PATH PROVISION AT TONEDALE PLAY AREA

Councillor Booth has requested that consideration be given to hard-landscaping of this path due to its surface being consistently boggy.

11. PURCHASE OF PLOTS OF LAND

Councillor McGuffie would like to open discussion about possible purchase of plots of land.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Kathryn Hemensley
Town Clerk
13th February 2020