

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9 June 2015 at 6p.m.

Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chairman

2. Apologies

3. To give further consideration to the suggestion that responsibility for the Wellington Playing Field be devolved to the Town Council

In December last year TDBC Councillor Catherine Herbert, the portfolio holder for Sport, Parks and Leisure met the Council to talk informally about the possibility of devolving responsibility for the Playing Fields in Wellington. Further, initial discussions were held with Alison North, Community Leisure Officer. Now that the elections have taken place it would be opportune to re-commence this particular conversation.

4. Christmas Lights Switch On

At the last meeting the Council agreed that the Christmas Lights be switched on on 28 November this year. It is anticipated that the arrangements will be much the same as previous years with a certain amount of free entertainment and activities taking place. The Switch On this year will be carried out by pupils of Wellington Prep School with the Holy Family being provided by St John Primary School.

Members also discussed the possibility of a Street Market taking place at the same time as the Lights Switch On or on the following day. There were a number of logistical problems that would need to be overcome if this was to take place. In addition the provision of a Street Market was not always something that every local trader was in support of as it could adversely affect their business. The Environment Committee was asked to consider further the possibility of a Street Market taking place.

5. To consider the condition of the play equipment at Tonedale Play area

The Town Council own and maintain a Play Area at Tonedale. It was established as part of the Richards Close/Wardleworth Way development in 1985 and donated to the Town Council. The equipment, which was provided 30 years ago is now in need of repair and/or replacement.

TDBC are currently inviting applications for Parish Play Area Grants. This Council agreed at its last meeting that a letter of intention be submitted to TDBC and asked this Committee to look in detail at any possible application for grant together with the availability of match funding and Section 106 funds.

6. Dog Bins at Wellington Park (following the question raised at Council by Brian Hillier)

At a recent Council meeting Brian Hillier complained about dog mess in Beech Grove. He suggested that dog bins inside of the park could be re-positioned outside

of the park to encourage dog walkers to use them when the park is closed. It was suggested that this was a matter for discussion by the Environment Committee.

There are three dog bins inside the park adjacent to each of the main entrances. There is also a dog bin inside the Recreation Ground near the southern entrance. There is also a dog bin at the entrance from Courtland Road to the car park next to the playing fields. So there are 5 dog bins within a very small area but only one is accessible at all times. The immediate Past Mayor had visited the area and looked at the possibility of re-siting the dog bin near the Easterly (Beech Grove entrance) but could not see how this could be done without causing an obstruction for anyone entering the park or placing it at the side of the roadway which would create a road safety hazard. There would be no point in moving the dog bin from inside the main entrance as there is already a bin within metres from it. It might be helpful to move the dog bin inside the park at the South Western entrance to the Park (The Black Path/Court Field School entrance). The approval of Taunton Deane would be needed to move this one or any others in the park and there would be a cost involved. It is suggested that the very first thing to be done would be to highlight the dog bin in the car park perhaps by putting a notice on the electricity pole at the entrance to the car park that there is a dog bin there.

Greg Dyke
Town Clerk

Environment Committee members: Councillors Biscoe, Copley, Critchard, Lloyd, Reed and Stock-Williams

Note: The terms of reference of the Committee are set out below for information.

To consider and make recommendations in respect of all environmental issues affecting the town

To deal with the production of the Town Guide

To promote and encourage tourism for the town