

**MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2024 AT 6.00 PM**

**Present:** Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)  
Councillors C Booth, C Govier, M Lithgow and S Pringle-Kosikowsky and K Wheatley

**In attendance:** David Farrow (Town Clerk)  
Darren Hill (Open Spaces Manager)  
Stephen Tate (Climate Change Project Officer)  
Steve Saunders, Footpath Volunteer Coordinator for agenda item 6.  
Councillor S Mercer  
Councillor J Thorne  
Four members of the public

**85. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**87. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Councillor J Thorne spoke saying that he did not believe a Right to Grow Policy was required as it was already happening in the town, noted that the Climate Change Strategy was not attached to the agenda, stated that he supported the purchase of the thermal imaging cameras but considered the Ballot Bin proposal a waste of money. He also spoke against the erection of fencing in Fox’s Field.

At this juncture Councillor Thorne left the meeting.

**88. FOOTPATH UPDATE**

Steve Saunders provided an update on the work of the footpath volunteers noting that issues identified by the member of the public at the previous meeting had been addressed and that in total the volunteers had undertaken 28 hours of work since the last meeting.

**89. RIGHT TO GROW**

A paper had been circulated with the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of Transition Town Wellington to address the Committee and explain the concept of the Right to Grow.

After asking questions it was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

After some discussions it was **RESOLVED** to ask officers to do more work on this and develop a proposal for how the Right to Grow could work in the town for consideration at a future Committee meeting noting that at present the priority for

officers had to be preparing to take on the management of the Open Spaces from Somerset Council.

**90. BUDGET REPORT**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The Town Clerk said he would report back on the apparent overspend on the Longforth Farm Allotment line.

**91. CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN UPDATE**

A paper had been circulated with the agenda and an updated version was tabled at the meeting It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That work should continue on the development of the Action Plan and that specifically officers should continue discussions with their counterparts in Tiverton and Cullompton to establish if there was a shared project that could be developed that could draw down funding from the National Lottery or elsewhere and further develop the tree planting strategy.
- (ii) Not to recommend to Full Council that The Housing Charter should be adopted.
- (iii) To recommend to Full Council that three Thermal Imaging Cameras be purchased with costs not to exceed £1,100 on the basis set out in the paper circulated with the agenda.
- (iv) Not to recommend to Full Council that a Ballot Bin be purchased on the basis that it could undermine the condition of the Iron Duke’s License not to allow smoking anywhere other than its upstairs terrace.

**92. OPEN SPACES MANAGER UPDATE**

The Open Spaces Manager provided an update on work that had been undertaken since the last meeting.

**93. GREEN CORRIDR AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET 2024/5**

It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To recommend to Full Council that Justin Perry-Jones quote of £130 for cutting fields in the Green Corridor and for £90 for cutting the Longforth Farm allotments totalling £420 plus VAT is approved.
- (ii) That fencing should not be erected around the river in Fox’s Field and that officers should instead explore installing signage at the entrances to the field warning of steep drops and open water and also an information board by the river with similar warnings but also detailing the wildlife and plants in the area and explaining the erosion of the bank.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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**Councillor M McGuffie**  
**Chairman**

**Wellington Town Council**  
**Summary of Income & Expenditure 2024 - 2025**  
**All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2024 and 31/03/2025)**

**Allotments**

Code	Title	Income			Expenditure			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
44	Allotments	2,910.00	70.00	-2,840.00	2,910.00	471.58	2,438.42	-401.58 (-6%)
92	Longforth Allotment	3,000.00		-3,000.00	3,000.00	4,650.00	-1,650.00	-4,650.00 (-77%)
148	Allotment Deposits		250.00	250.00		50.00	-50.00	200.00 (N/A)
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>5,910.00</b>	<b>320.00</b>	<b>-5,590.00</b>	<b>5,910.00</b>	<b>5,171.58</b>	<b>738.42</b>	<b>-4,851.58 (N/A)</b>

**Earmarked Reserves**

Code	Title	Income			Expenditure			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
25	Elections							(N/A)
67	Youth Services							(N/A)
71	C.I.L							(N/A)
73	Film Festival					8,000.00	-8,000.00	-8,000.00 (N/A)
75	Railway Station							(N/A)
76	Capital Projects							(N/A)
77	Playing Pitch Strategy							(N/A)
95	Office Furniture Replacement							(N/A)
96	Post Office Provision							(N/A)
97	Cades Farm Community Hall							(N/A)
139	Cost of Living Crisis					10,842.50	-10,842.50	-10,842.50 (N/A)
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>						<b>18,842.50</b>	<b>-18,842.50</b>	<b>-18,842.50 (N/A)</b>

**Environment and Planning**

Code	Title	Income			Expenditure			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
46	Footpaths PRow Maintenance				500.00		500.00	500.00 (100%)
49	Emptying Dog Bins				12,600.00	2,643.16	9,956.84	9,956.84 (79%)
50	Provision of Benches & Litter/Dog				2,500.00		2,500.00	2,500.00 (100%)
51	Planning Administration							(N/A)
52	Environmental Improvements					1,800.62	-1,800.62	-1,800.62 (N/A)
113	Electricity for Street Light				850.00	310.41	539.59	539.59 (63%)
129	Additional Street Lighting							(N/A)
131	Green Corridor				30,000.00	6,752.70	23,247.30	23,247.30 (77%)
168	Cycle Route Cont.				10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00 (100%)
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>					<b>56,450.00</b>	<b>11,506.89</b>	<b>44,943.11</b>	<b>44,943.11 (N/A)</b>

**Play Areas**

Code	Title	Income			Expenditure			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
45	Tone Play Area				5,000.00	512.72	4,487.28	4,487.28 (89%)
145	Weavers Reach Play Area				5,000.00	2,132.24	2,867.76	2,867.76 (57%)
146	Annual Play Inspections				500.00		500.00	500.00 (100%)
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>					<b>10,500.00</b>	<b>2,644.96</b>	<b>7,855.04</b>	<b>7,855.04 (89%)</b>

**Wellington Town Council**  
**Summary of Income & Expenditure 2024 - 2025**  
All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2024 and 31/03/2025)

**Unitary Devolution**

Code	Title	Income			Expenditure			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
172	Play Area				10,500.00		10,500.00	10,500.00 (100%)
173	Toilets				22,000.00		22,000.00	22,000.00 (100%)
174	TC Planting				15,000.00	8,659.30	6,340.70	6,340.70 (42%)
175	Park Planting & Security				25,000.00	5,505.10	19,494.90	19,494.90 (77%)
176	CCTV				25,000.00		25,000.00	25,000.00 (100%)
177	Bus Shelters				5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00 (100%)
178	IT Impact				4,000.00		4,000.00	4,000.00 (100%)
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>					<b>106,500.00</b>	<b>14,164.40</b>	<b>92,335.60</b>	<b>92,335.60 (77%)</b>
<b>Restated</b>								<b>(N/A)</b>
<b>NET TOTAL</b>		<b>5,910.00</b>	<b>320.00</b>	<b>-5,590.00</b>	<b>179,360.00</b>	<b>52,330.33</b>	<b>127,029.67</b>	<b>121,439.67 (65%)</b>
<b>V.A.T.</b>						<b>7,602.04</b>		
<b>GROSS TOTAL</b>			<b>320.00</b>			<b>59,932.37</b>		

## Structure for Tree Strategy Action Plan

### Ideas for initial Tree action plan

#### 1. Funding

- a. What can we get to do this programme

#### 2. Capacity

- a. what could we do this year and how to we priorities
- b. what can we start preparing for in this year to do in future years

#### 3. Community support

- a. what do the community feel in general and about specific projects
- b. how do we take their views into account
- c. How do we build community support?
- d. How do we promote what we are doing

#### 4. Locations type

- a. public / private plus type of land

#### 5. Green corridor

- a. I think we can rely on the Green Corridor people to get stuff done there
- b. but we should find out the what, where, why, when, who and how.

#### 6. Specific opportunities (in possible priority order)

- a. **Playground at Weavers Reach** (on Fox's Field, by the bridge).

Half a dozen or so flowering trees suitable for young children.

#### 2. Trees in private gardens

- (which are most of the open space in the town)
- a repeat of the giveaway last year with pears instead of apples?

#### 3. Trees in pots i

n the High Street (six locations)

Rearrangement of planters in the High Street plus additional ones (to make more impact)

Trees in pots (or in the ground) by the Car Park one stop shop in Tonedale

This to include the environmental impact of the pots and the ornamental planting.  
(i.e. pots from recycled plastic or repurposed wood; also soil / cuttings etc)

#### 4. **Trees in public car parks -**

in the ground because there is less services underground?

#### 5. **The Trees in Roly polly green**

because they are so large and shady;  
could they be repeated in other open space?

#### 6. **Trees in streets in the ground**

- opportunities for residential streets

#### 7. **Private commercial areas?**

Car Parks

Roads

funding / sponsorship

- **plus relationship / cooperation with LCN network.**

Influence --->													
Theme	Direct control	Timeframe	Co-benefit	Procurement	Timeframe	Co-benefit	Placeshaping	Timeframe	Co-benefit	Engaging and influencing	Timeframe	Co-benefit	
Buildings and energy (parish/community halls, residents home energy use)	Town Council Carbon Audit to establish where cost and carbon savings could be made - e.g zonal heating systems that heats rooms in use rather than whole building	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - lower energy costs	Switch energy supplier, LED lighting in council offices	Short (3-6 months)	Economy - lower energy costs	New buildings and housing- commenting on planning applications/consultations asking for high environmental standards and energy efficiency	Ongoing	Society - high level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes.	Engage with sports clubs, churches and community groups to make their buildings more energy efficient. Use existing council green grants to help get this going.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - lower energy costs	
	Look into fitting solar panels and insulation to council-owned buildings.	Long (18 months - 3 years)	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)				Sports centre putting solar panels on the roofs.	Ongoing	Environment - reduced greenhouse gas emissions				
	Survey of existing solar on town's housing using Parish Online or CSE's solar survey website, work out percentage and launch publicity drive to double amount of solar on rooftops, with links on council website to funding sources	Ongoing	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)										
				Two thermal imagers, one for Apple phones, the other for Android phones. Why? Waiting list for Somerset Council's loan service via Wellington Library, with three-day turnaround as imagers come from Taunton. Use from Oct-March	Short (3-6 months)	Society - improved public sector finances							
	Housing charter - what type of housing do councillors want built in the town?	Short (3-6 months)	Society - awareness raised				Town council could draw up a list of preferred low energy building standards that it would expect a developer to follow.	Ongoing	Economy - lower energy costs	Engage housing developers to make them aware the council has passed a housing charter that encourages them to build houses capable of withstanding future climate shocks.	Ongoing	Economy - improved household finances	
							Inform community of retrofit & solar projects in town - e.g retrofit of 26 Crosslands & PV on Bulford sheltered housing	Ongoing	Society - awareness raised	Engage Somerset Council's Housing department on retrofitting social housing stock in Wellington	Ongoing	Health & wellbeing - Reduced fuel poverty	
	Standalone units like toilet blocks, easier to install energy efficiency measures.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - lower energy costs					Short (3-6 months)	Society - high level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes.				
Transport (EVs, public transport, active travel)							Community transport scheme - local community network looking at this and supporting transport to and from other villages close to Wellington.	Medium (6-18 months)	Society - community brought together	Reviving community transport initiatives/getting people getting involved as community drivers to take people without cars to appointments.	Medium (6-18 months)	Society - community brought together	
							Free Off Peak buses to Taunton on Wednesdays	Short (3-6 months)	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity				
							Pedestrianisation of centre of Wellington.	Long (18 months - 3 years)	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution				

							More shared spaces that are safer for cyclists.	Medium (6-18 months)	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity			
Consumption of materials and food	Totnes - managed to keep major chains out of the high street. Can Wellington do this? Promoting local businesses e.g. Support Local! Keep 'Eat' Food Fair out of Wellington (vendors aren't local). Promote Wellington-focused food fair instead with local businesses.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - money retained in local economy									
	Supporting repair cafes - currently monthly - could it be expanded. Could there be a marketplace for repairing? Online directory for local repairs people.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - opportunities for skills and training									
							Slow Food - How much food could Wellington's community farm produce for the town?	Ongoing	Resilience - food security (security in local food supply)			
	Look into library of things	Short (3-6 months)	Economy - improved household finances									
Waste	Collecting street litter	Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces									
				Ballot Bin - Encourages cigarette smokers to put fag ends in the bin	Short (3-6 months)	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces				Approach Trewin Restorick, founder of Hubbub, now CEO of Sizzle, he developed ballot bin and other ideas that have proved successful at changing community behaviour	Short (3-6 months)	Society - community brought together
	Local composting initiative - take your green waste to the local nature reserve	Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill									
Natural spaces and biodiversity (including play spaces)	Could rivers be used to harness energy? Look into the weir at Lindon Drive for this? Demonstrator piece. Could they work with the community farm?	Medium (6-18 months)	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)					Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - improved green spaces	Rewilding - need to explain to the residents what rewilding is and why it's important. Some councils left grass uncut, but people didn't understand why - complained. Can we leave .5m border up to the fence? Communications around this e.g. no mow May	Short (3-6 months)	Society - awareness raised
	Tree Strategy - Walk the town with Woodland Trust's Rosie Walker to plot where trees could be sustainably planted. Work out green space per person and its distribution using UK Tree Equity Scheme	Short (3-6 months)	Environment - reduced overheating risk				Planting trees in town to improve climate canopy. Established links with tree planting groups, Woodland Trust and schools interested in teaching pupils how to plant trees.	Ongoing	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces	Engage Steve Fry from Sherborne Castle Gardens & Nursery, part of Gardens Group ( <a href="http://www.gardensgroup.co.uk">www.gardensgroup.co.uk</a> ), about heat-tolerant trees, and Forestry Research (research arm of the Forestry Commission), which has produced useful info on heat-tolerant trees	Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - increased biodiversity
							Establish more weather-monitoring stations in Wellington.	Medium (6-18 months)	Society - high level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes.	Engage town weather man Simon Ratsey who has produced detailed plans of the best places in town to set up new weather station to monitor climate change	Ongoing	Society - awareness raised





## **Report of Open Spaces June -July 2024**

I have been working with Alice on the devolution project work, pricing machinery and working on the costings for the Council. I have visited some unit to work out of.

I am also working on monitoring all the Idverdes activities in relation to street cleaning

I am working with Stephen Tate on the tree planting projects.

Completed works at Weaver Reach, phot below:



We do need to replace the plastic seats on the spring rockers – this is an item on the agenda.

## **Weeding around the Town**

The whole team has been working hard on removing the weeds from around the town. Dave the road sweeper has also helped by clearing North St Car Park



After photo above.



After and before photos

## **Prep for the Britain In Bloom Judging**

Taking place on Tuesday 16 July. I have informed all the community groups we are meeting on judging day. The Community Warden and I have been working around Wellington improving the planting to the large black tubs in the Town Centre, clearing weeds in Lance Court and planting up outside the businesses in the Town. Working with the Somerset Council to ensure all areas are look there best for Tuesday. The community payback service has also been working with Wellington Town Council to prep the railing around Wellington Park, ready for painting.

The winter bedding ordered is confirmed, I am looking to the bulb order for this winter.

## **Green Flag Awards**

We have the Green Flag results next Tuesday and the press release is ready, along with a photo, which will get sent on Monday, there is a press embargo until the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Darren Hill

Open Spaces Manager

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**17 JULY 2024**

**WINTER PLANTING**

The Committee is asked to authorise officers to spend up to £3,000 plus VAT for Tulip and Daffodil bulbs in Wellington Park costs to be met from the Wellington Park planting budget.

The Committee is also asked to authorise officers to spend up to £1500 plus VAT VAT for perennial planting in areas in and around Wellington such as Lancer Court, Longforth Rd, Monmouth Gardens Tonedale, North St car park. Costs to be met from the Environmental Improvements Budget.

Dave Farrow

Town Clerk

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL****ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE****17 JULY 2024****PROPOSED SPONSORSHIP SCHEME FOR CONTAINERS, HANGING BASKETS AND FLOWER BEDS****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Town Council previously agreed a Sponsorship Policy recognising the importance of bringing in additional expenditure to ease the pressure on the Precept where possible.
- 1.2 This paper sets out a proposal for a sponsorship scheme covering containers, hanging baskets and flower beds around the town.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 It is accepted practice in other towns to ask local business to sponsor individual tubs/baskets etc at an annual cost that covers the purchase of the plants and the maintenance costs for the year
- 2.2 The cost would also include a plaque that would be placed on/in the item being sponsored stating the individuals/organisations name. For the Park the size of plaque would be dependent on the level of sponsorship.
- 2.3 Suggested sponsorship costs per year are:
  - Lancer Court small beds £50.00 (each),
  - Lancer Court , large beds on the on High St end. £150.00 (each )
  - Planting tubs £180
  - Hanging Basket (2 basket Stands) £300,00.
  - Hanging Basket (3 basket Stands) £450.00
  - Flower beds in the town, Bulford, Priory, Fore St Church, £250.00
  - Wellington Park – suggest three levels of sponsorship per annum – Gold (£300), Silver (£150) and Bronze (£75) sponsorship table of plaques by the noticeboard.

**3. Consideration**

The Committee is asked to consider recommending to the Town Council that it adopts the above scheme so that officers can be approaching organisations in preparation for next years planting and budget setting.

Dave Farrow  
Town Clerk  
July 2024

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**17 JULY 2024**

**PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW WELCOME TO WELLINGTON SIGNS**

The Council has previously agreed the purchase and installation of new Welcome to Wellington signs.

Proposed locations are shown on the attached map.

Signs have to be ordered through Somerset Council at a cost of £1,000.

We have received three quotes for carrying out the installation work.

Quote 1 £1,830 plus VAT

Quote 2 £4,000 plus VAT

Quote 3 - £3,470 plus VAT

It is proposed that the costs are covered through the Environmental Improvements budget.

The Committee is asked to approve the expenditure.

Dave Farrow

Town Clerk

July 2024

**WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**17 JULY 2024**

**Replacement of Plastic Seats on Rockers at Weavers Reach Play Area**

The plastic seats on the two rockers at Weavers Reach Play area are split and need replacing or the rides need to be taken out of commission as they are a health and safety risk.

The suppliers are GB Sport & Leisure and the total cost for both seats is £140.00 plus VAT.

The Committee is asked to approve the expenditure from the Weavers Reach Play Area budget.

Dave Farrow

Town Clerk

July 2024