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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: 13 July 2022

To all Members of the Communities Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group will be held on Thursday, 21 July 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber Area B, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

This meeting will be accessible and open to the public via the live stream on YouTube and viewed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>
Please be aware that until the meeting starts the live stream video will not be showing on the home page. For this reason, please keep refreshing the home page until you see the video appear.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Dennis'.

Gemma Dennis
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2022 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Access Agreement - Canal and River Trust (Pages 9 - 28)
Report of the Director for Neighbourhoods
5. Sports Development in Rushcliffe (Pages 29 - 34)
Report of the Director for Neighbourhoods
6. Work Programme (Pages 35 - 36)
Report of the Director for Finance and Corporate Services

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Membership

Chairman: Councillor G Williams

Vice-Chairman: Councillor J Murray

Councillors: G Dickman, L Healy, Mrs C Jeffreys, R Jones, R Mallender, F Purdue-Horan and R Walker

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm Evacuation: in the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

Toilets: are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY GROUP THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2022

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors J Wheeler (Chairman), B Bansal (Vice-Chairman), G Dickman, R Jones, R Mallender, R Walker, G Williams, R Butler and J Stockwood

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Darryl Burch	Service Manager Neighbourhoods
Derek Hayden	Lead Specialist Communities
Laura Howlette	Environmental Team Manager
Anna Poole	Democratic Services Manager

16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor L. Healy and Councillor F. Purdue-Horan.

17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18 Minutes of the Meeting 27 January 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

19 Carbon Management Plan

The Service Manager – Neighbourhoods presented the report of the Director – Neighbourhoods concerning progress made for the year 2021/22 with delivery of the Carbon Management Plan and proposed actions for 2022/23, in order to become carbon neutral by 2030. The presentation to the Group covered:

- The Climate Change Strategy
- The Carbon Management Plan progress
- Rushcliffe Borough Council – Rushcliffe Oaks, waste vehicle fuel trial, Rushcliffe Country Park development
- Conservation activity – biodiversity and offsetting
- Community focus – electric vehicle charging, Gamston Hub, supporting businesses, Green Rewards, supporting residents
- What next for 2022/23

The Environmental Team Manager highlighted that the achievements for the year 2021/22 were the result of the commitment from across the Council,

across all services, to achieve the Council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by 2050, which was in line with the Government's commitment at COP26. It was recognised that the target to be carbon neutral by 2030 was ambitious as only 7% of emissions were generated by the public sector; a large proportion of emissions came from public transport, people commuting to work, and domestic use in houses. The Carbon Management Plan addressed emissions generated by the Borough Council only. Members were informed that 'Carbon Clever' branding was included on all Council communications as a means of promoting the work being carried out.

The Environmental Team Manager added that the Climate Change Strategy covered: the Council Emissions, Conservation and Community and explained how each was being addressed:

(i) The Council Emissions:

- Rushcliffe Oaks was one of the first electrically powered cremators in the UK, which would reduce carbon emissions by up to 80% compared to a traditional gas cremator. Environmental issues had been considered within the build, for example retaining existing boundary planting to ensure ecological value was protected, and the project was a good example of how improvements in emissions could be achieved and the environment maintained.
- The Council had undertaken a waste vehicle biofuel trial. Some local authorities had changed to electric vehicles, although due to the size and rurality of Rushcliffe and the mileage range of electric vehicles, the Council had agreed to trial the use of hydrogenated vegetable oil as a fuel. This had been successful, with no issues experienced and resulted in a carbon saving reduction of over 12000 tonnes of CO₂. The Council was exploring the roll-out of the product across the waste collection fleet.
- Rushcliffe Country Park was currently undergoing a re-development which included the refurbishment of the visitors' centre and the installation of a café. The purchase of electric vehicles as diesel powered ones needed replacement was also planned with the aim of the Country Park becoming net zero in its operation. The support of the Friends of Rushcliffe Country Park had been invaluable; they had supported the proposals by raising funds to purchase electric tools such as chainsaws.

The Environmental Team Manager informed the Group that the Rushcliffe Country Park had been awarded the Green Flag Award for the 15th year running, something which had been made possible by the Friends of the Country Park, the Rangers and volunteers.

(ii) Conservation:

- The Council was one of the few Councils to employ a dedicated ecologist who worked with local groups to develop conservation projects.
- 1,361 trees had been supplied to Rushcliffe groups and residents, which would remove two tonnes of CO₂ per year from the atmosphere.

- Small areas around the Borough would be left to grow as part of the ‘No Mow’ scheme to support pollinators. The areas totalled 1.4ha in total and was expected to remove 5.15 Tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere each year.
- Five of the eight nature reserves in the Borough were owned and managed by the Council; the Council’s land currently removed 1,724.27 Tonnes of CO₂ per year.

(iii) Community:

The Environmental Team Manager highlighted that the Council could not achieve the net zero target by 2050 without the support of the local community. She informed Members that:

- There were seven electric vehicle charging sites across the Borough; the Council had received £750k from the Transforming Cities Funding Stream which would develop additional charging points. It was planned that 34 would be available by the end of 2022. The charging hub at Gamston Community Centre was powered by natural solar light.
- The Big Business Carbon Club worked with local businesses to share best practice and ideas.
- Green Rewards was a platform for residents to record their green activity in exchange for points which were attached to incentives such as discounts in local shops and restaurants.
- LAD2 funding was used last year to provide energy efficient measures, such as external wall or loft insulation, solar panels, etc to local homes. The Council had focused on East Leake due to the number of houses that were of steel construction. This had been well received by the community and 57 residents had received support. The Scheme was delivered in partnership with the Nottingham Energy Partnership.

Looking forward for 2022/23, the Environmental Team Manager explained to the Group that:

- £847k of LAD3 funding had been received and would be used to further support East Leake residents for a second year with carbon reduction measures, as part of the Council’s planning to achieve net zero targets by 2050. Following two years in East Leake, the focus would move to another area, again for two years, where the most impact on fuel poverty, carbon emissions and the quality of life of residents could be achieved. For continuity, the same contractor would be used to ensure continued supply of materials and labour and also to reduce administrative burdens in seeking alternative suppliers.
- Officers had completed an energy audit of all Council assets, to understand the carbon footprint of each and to prioritise those that needed addressing urgently. This would enable the Council to respond to the availability of Government funding, which often had tight deadlines attached.
- Measures would be put in place to ensure that all staff across the Council were aware of carbon reduction, and training would be included in the staff induction programme. This would also be rolled-out to Parish Councils, to enable them to be carbon literate and so support the

- achievement of the net zero target.
- A walking and cycling plan would be developed to increase awareness and policy would be developed for handling planning applications to ensure that cycling routes were considered.
 - The Council's fleet would be reviewed with the potential for smaller vehicles switched to electric. Funding remaining in the Council's allocation from the Transforming Cities Fund would continue to install Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) in the Borough. An electric vehicle showcase event would be held on the Croquet Lawn on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 June, arranged by a commercial operator.
 - Biodiversity net gain – a new requirement within the National Planning Policy Framework and the Environment Act 2021, which required developers to manage developed land for a minimum of 30 years, leaving it in a measurably better state than it was prior to development. Measures could include the planting of trees, installation of bee bricks and bird houses. Monitoring this duty would be an additional responsibility of the Council.
 - Biodiversity Duty was a requirement of all councils to look strategically at all policies and operations, and to report on findings, every five years to explore what further actions could be taken to improve biodiversity.

The Group commended officers for the quantity of activity being undertaken in order to achieve carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

In response to questions about Electric Vehicle Charging points (EVCPs) and how the location of these was decided, the Service Manager Neighbourhoods explained that there was strict criteria related to the allocation of the funding. Suitable sites for EVCPs were determined by the proximity to a strategic route and other EVCPs, the location of street furniture, fencing and the strength of the available power supply. He added that the installation of EVCPs had focused initially on Gamston, Cotgrave, Radcliffe and Keyworth as they met the criteria. However, the Council's application for funding for the installation of EVCPs in Bingham, East Leake and West Bridgford (Bridgford Road car park) had been refused due to an inadequate power supply, the general layout of the car park, and the location of street furniture and fencing. Officers reassured the Group that they would continue to explore installation in these areas and were working with Western Power to address the power supply issues. External funding had been sourced for the infrastructure at Rushcliffe Country Park which was fully funded; the Council's resources had not been used. The installation of EVCPs in residential properties in West Bridgford was a challenge as residents mainly did not have access to off-street parking. Officers would explore alternative funding sources, for example through the LEVI Fund, and would be guided by National Planning Policy Frameworks. The Council had received more than £750k in funding so far.

Councillors expressed concern about a potential funding gap in West Bridgford should funding not be available from the LEVI Fund and asked what contingency plans were in place to enable the installation of EVCPs in the town. The Lead Specialist Communities explained that the allocation of the carbon reserve was based on the business case and the return on investment in terms of carbon reduction. All projects were measured against the criteria,

with the final decisions being made by Councillors. The priority was determined by funding availability and achievement of quick wins. Officers would actively work on a solution and would report back to the Group. The Group suggest that the work of the Nottingham Energy Partnership be promoted to residents.

The Group asked how properties in East Leake had been selected for the energy performance measures delivered by the LAD2 funding project. The Environmental Team Manager explained that properties were chosen where they had an energy rating on the Energy Performance Certificate of 'E' or below and where there was a higher level of vulnerability due to the risk of fuel poverty, children, or the elderly. She explained that those properties chosen were the least efficient with the most vulnerable people and where the most impact could be gained. There was a cap on the allocation of funding for each household, and so the maximum most efficient measures that would have the most impact were chosen.

Councillors were concerned about the risk of damp as a result of the installation of wall insulation and were reassured that modern installation methods included ventilation. The Council relied on the expertise of the contractors, EON, who had a good reputation in the industry.

Regarding Carbon Literacy training, Councillors suggested that this be focused on developers so to have a greater impact. Officers acknowledged the point made and explained that it was also important to include such training within the Council's induction processes to ensure that new staff were aware that carbon reduction was part of everyday working practices at the Council. Additionally, rolling-out the training to town and parish councils would be explored to encourage them to set their own targets as this would support achievement of the Borough-wide targets as a whole.

Regarding energy audits of Council-owned property, Councillors asked what steps could be taken for Leisure Centres to support achievement of the carbon reduction targets and were informed that the Leisure Strategy would be reviewed next year. However, a mid-point review of the Leisure Strategy 2017-27 would be undertaken later this year and would include leisure centres in Cotgrave and Keyworth to explore how they could be improved as leisure centres, and how their carbon footprint could be reduced. Findings would be reported back to the Group.

Councillors questioned what the bulk buying of appropriate solutions meant (in paragraph 4.9 of the report) and were informed that the Strategy, which was a high-level plan, prioritised energy audits and improvements to transport and the estate initially. It detailed that such solutions would be bought in bulk, rather than on a case-by-case basis. However, further detail was required to develop the plans further.

Councillors expressed concern about the use of building materials, for example the steel posts used to build Rushcliffe Oaks which had been imported and the use of concrete which was not carbon neutral. They questioned whether engineered timber or limestone could have been explored as more environmentally friendly options. The Lead Specialist Communities explained that although innovation was welcomed the Council needed to balance costs

and the return on investment with the need to meet carbon reduction targets. He agreed to look into such options further and would report back to the Group.

Councillors recognised the volume of activity being undertaken to achieve the carbon reduction targets, especially at Rushcliffe Country Park, and suggested that more promotional activity should be undertaken to make residents aware of the Council's activity, the support in place to enable them to work towards being carbon neutral including more walking and cycling, inform them of the installation of EVCPs, what could be recycled at Recycling and Household Waste Sites and also to promote the work of the Nottingham Energy Partnership. The Lead Specialist Communities explained that a great deal of communications was planned once the work being undertaken at Rushcliffe Country Park was completed. Wider communications would be undertaken with residents through Rushcliffe Reports, the Council's website and social media channels.

Regarding the use of Electric Vehicles (EV) across the Council, the Group was informed that an audit of the Council's fleet would be conducted later this year and following this, EV options would be explored. However, it was unlikely that electric refuse vehicles could be used due to the rurality and size of the Borough, although smaller vans used by pest control, dog wardens, new bin delivery and Facilities Attendants to travel around the community venues could potentially be electric. The Council had a capital replacement programme for all vehicles, and this would determine the timing of the purchase of any new EV as the Council needed to ensure it was getting value for money from the vehicles already purchased. The potential use of EV pool cars by staff would be considered following a staff travel survey.

Regarding recycling and waste, the Group was informed that an ongoing campaign regarding recycling was undertaken across Nottinghamshire through the Joint Waste Officer Group and the Joint Waste Member Group. The Council also carried out waste audits and received monthly contamination reports to identify issues with the contents of recycling bins and where this was evident, increased communication campaigns were carried out in the area to inform residents of items that should be recycled. Officers agreed to explore the distribution of leaflets through Estate Agencies. The Government's Waste Strategy was awaited, and this would focus on bringing consistency in approach to waste collection and recycling across the country. The Group was informed that Rushcliffe continued to have the highest recycling rate in Nottinghamshire.

Regarding LAD funding, Councillors asked how the next area following East Leake would be chosen. The Group was informed that priority areas were determined by the level of vulnerability, deprivation, need and housing stock type; the Council adopted a "worst first approach". The area could be at ward or estate level.

The new duty to monitor the biodiversity net gain requirement on developers to maintain developed land for a minimum of 30 years, would bring a fundamental change to all councils. The Council would need to embed the new responsibilities within its operations, with relevant officers having a role similar to that of Environmental Health Officers. Such monitoring would be carried out

on a rolling basis.

In response to questions, the Group was informed that the Council was committed to exploring the large variety of technologies available related to carbon management. The Council's approach to carbon reduction was led by the Chief Executive who was on the Environment Strategy Group, and the portfolio was managed by the Deputy Chief Executive. Officers acknowledged that there was more to do, particularly around engaging with communities.

In terms of planting trees and wildflowers to aid carbon management by offsetting emissions, the Group was informed that this course of action was a delicate balance as many open spaces, for example Rushcliffe Country Park, were used as amenity space, so could not be planted fully with trees. An Offsetting Strategy would be developed to aid achievement of targets by 2030 as the Council could not operate in a completely carbon neutral way by that stage so remaining emissions would need to be offset. The Lead Specialist Communities added that the Council was reluctant at this stage to purchase land for offsetting as the Council's processes and assets needed to be examined for carbon reduction initially, and also due to the high cost of land within the Borough.

20 **Work Programme**

The Chairman presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services, which detailed the proposed Communities Scrutiny Group Work Programme for 2022/23.

The Chairman informed the Group that the Work Programme detailed below was subject to approval by Corporate Overview Group on 3 May.

It was RESOLVED that the Work Programme below be approved:

21 July 2022 (provisional date)

- Sports Development in Rushcliffe
- Access Agreement – Canal and Rivers Trust
- Work Programme

6 October 2022 (provisional date)

- Establishment of a Youth Council
- Council's External Communications Strategy
- Work Programme

19 January 2023 (provisional date)

- Work Programme

16 March 2023 (provisional date)

- Work Programme

ACTION SHEET

Minute Item	Action	Officer responsible
4	To explore opportunities for promotion to residents of the work of the Nottingham Energy Partnership	Lead Specialist Communities
4	To explore the possibility of using environmentally friendly material in building projects	Lead Specialist Communities
4	To explore the distribution of leaflets on recycling in Rushcliffe through Estate Agencies	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
4	To consider the building materials used to achieve the best carbon reduction, as part of the Capital Programme Business Case. Where possible going beyond building regulations standards (within the approved financial commitments).	Lead Specialist Communities in conjunction with the Lead Specialist Property Services

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

CHAIRMAN



Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 21 July 2022

Access Agreement - Canal and River Trust Partnership

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report is to inform Councillors about how the Council is working with the Canal and River Trust (CRT) with particular focus on the Access Agreement between RBC and the CRT for the Grantham Canal. The access agreement runs from 1 April 2003 for 21 years, expiring on 31 March 2024.
- 1.2. A representative from the CRT will provide a presentation for the Group focusing on the outcomes of the current agreement with the Council and setting out their future strategic ambitions for an agreement for when the current agreement expires in 2024.
- 1.3. The Group is asked to comment on the CRT delivery on the current access agreement and provide comment regarding any future actions which would need to be developed and agreed throughout 2022 and 2023 to guide service delivery and budget setting for 2024.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) Receive a presentation of the work that has been undertaken by the partnership with the Canal and River Trust and scrutinise the work undertaken under the current access agreement, and
- b) make comment on any future arrangements for when the current agreement expires in 2024.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The CRT has achieved the outcomes set out within the access agreement (see Appendix 1) and access to the route remains open to all users.
- 3.2. Scrutiny presents an early opportunity for Councillors to make comments on any future sustainable arrangements in line with the Council's Corporate Priorities for this important asset within the Borough of Rushcliffe ensuring it continues to contribute to wellbeing and biodiversity in the Borough.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. CRT was formed in 2012 in the largest ever transfer of public assets to the voluntary sector. The purpose of the Trust is to protect, manage and improve the nation's canals and river navigations for the millions who enjoy them.
- 4.2. The Council has been working with the CRT (formerly British Waterways) on Grantham Canal via various projects since 1992; upgrading and improving accessibility to all users of the tow path, a route which runs from Gamston to the edge of the Borough boundary with Melton, near Hickling.
- 4.3. The CRT own the Grantham Canal and tow path. Whilst it has a statutory duty to maintain and enhance it, through partnership working with the Council, both parties have sought to improve it further for the purposes of achieving a shared objective: to provide an 18km off-road, multi-user route through the Borough for pedestrians, cyclists, and users of manual and motorised wheelchairs/scooters.
- 4.4. In 2003, a partnership agreement between the parties secured provision of the future maintenance of access along the route, with the CRT undertaking works and the Council providing a financial contribution at an agreed rate. The agreement also provided a licence to the Council to grant open access to the route for all users.
- 4.5. The partnership has enabled the significant improvement of the route to be created, maintained and open to all users since 2003. It provides Rushcliffe residents with a non-road alternative means of accessing the Borough and a route for recreational use.

5. Summary of the Partnership Agreement

Under the terms of the Partnership Agreement, the CRT will:

- a) Give Rushcliffe Borough Council licence to use the multi-user path for recreational purposes for all pedestrians, cyclists, and wheelchair/mobility scooter users
- b) Maintain the surfaced multi-user path and verge, pedestrian and cycle routes and timber pedestrian footbridge
- c) Maintain the street furniture, including bins and motorcycle barriers.

6. Achievements and Outcomes of the Partnership

A representative from the CRT will provide a presentation detailing the work they have undertaken in maintaining the accessible route along Grantham Canal.

7. Risks and Uncertainties

- 7.1. The current agreement ends in March 2024 and the Council is now starting the process of reviewing the current agreement and seeking recommendations regarding any potential new agreement beyond 2024.
- 7.2. Whilst there is budget in place for the agreement, due to the current climate of increasing costs and inflation there is a risk going forward the cost of this service could increase considerably, which could cause pressure on budgets or negatively impact quality of service provided. As part of any review, a value for money analysis should be undertaken prior to extension or acceptance.

8. Implications

8.1. Financial Implications

- 8.1.1. The first payment to British Waterways in 2003 was for £16,704, the Agreement allows for an annual uplift in accordance with civil engineering indices. The payment in 2021/22 was £43,678.89 and is contained within existing budgets.
- 8.1.2. Separate to this access agreement external funding is being sought via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to improve tourism opportunity for this heritage asset and to address issues such as water loss.
- 8.1.3. Budget of £46,500 per annum is included as part of the MTFs (currently to 2026/27)

8.2. Legal Implications

The legal agreement with CRT expires in March 2024 and a new agreement will need to be entered.

8.3. Equalities Implications

Access to recreation green and blue spaces is promoted to all residents and can help to address issues relating to equality, diversity, mental and physical health, and wellbeing.

8.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

The partnership has worked to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and in particular the restriction of motorised vehicles on the tow path.

9. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Access to green and blue spaces contributes to improvements in public health for example through; walking and cycling opportunities, improved nature conservation and biodiversity,
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	and by sequestration of carbon; all of which have a profound influence on quality of life.
Efficient Services	On-going management of access agreements ensures that they can be updated and adapted to reflect our corporate priorities and ensure prudent financial management
Sustainable Growth	The Grantham Canal is a green lung which snakes its way throughout the Borough and should be protected as the Borough develops to ensure sustainable growth. The canal is adjacent to the new proposed development at Tollerton and development in Cotgrave.
The Environment	The access agreement and budget to support delivery, are all designed to provide wellbeing services, through walking and cycling opportunities, access to green and blue space and safeguard the natural environment through improved sustainable management

10. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) Receive a presentation of the work that has been undertaken by the partnership with the Canal and River Trust and scrutinise the work undertaken under the current access agreement, and
- b) make comment on any future arrangements for when the current agreement expires in 2024.

For more information contact:	Dave Banks Director of Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Partnership Delivery Group - Grantham Canal- Canal and Rivers Trust Partnership 19 March 2019
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Canal and River Trust- Rushcliffe Borough Council Grantham Canal Contract Agreement January 2022 Covering April 2021 - March 2022



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

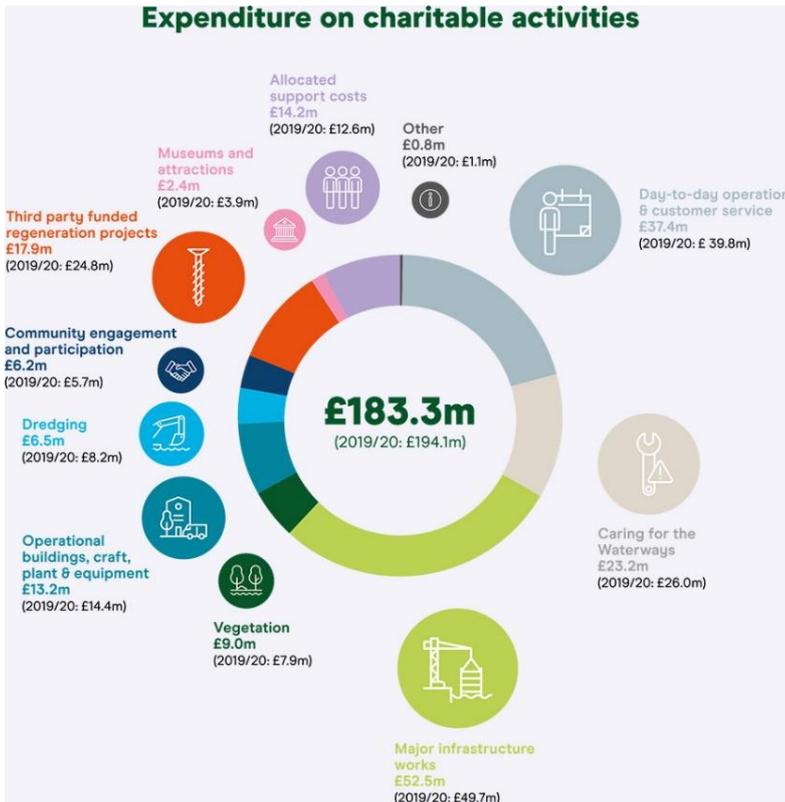
Canal and River Trust Rushcliffe Borough Council

Grantham Canal Contract Agreement

January 2022

Covering April 2021 – March 2022

Introduction to the Canal and River Trust



The Canal and River Trust was formed in 2012 in the largest ever transfer of public assets to the voluntary sector. The purpose of the Trust is to protect, manage and improve the nation's canals and river navigations for the millions who enjoy them. We look after and bring to life 2,000 miles of waterways and thousands of listed structures, with over 8 million people in England and Wales living within a few minutes' walk of our network. For this reason, we are uniquely placed to bring communities together and offer health and wellbeing opportunities that are both free to access and on the doorstep.

Looking after such a large and historic network is costly – in the financial year 2020 to 2021 we spent around £183.3 Million on charitable activities. Whilst overall spend on charitable activities decreased year-on-year, underlying expenditure on core maintenance, repairs and infrastructure works continued to grow with over half of this total spent on asset maintenance, major works, and day to day operations.

The Trust in the East Midlands

In the East Midlands we are responsible for 475km of waterways, which are split roughly 50/50 between canals and river navigations. There are around 3,300 licensed boats in the region at any given time, and we receive 61 million visits to our waterways and towpaths annually.

2021 Background

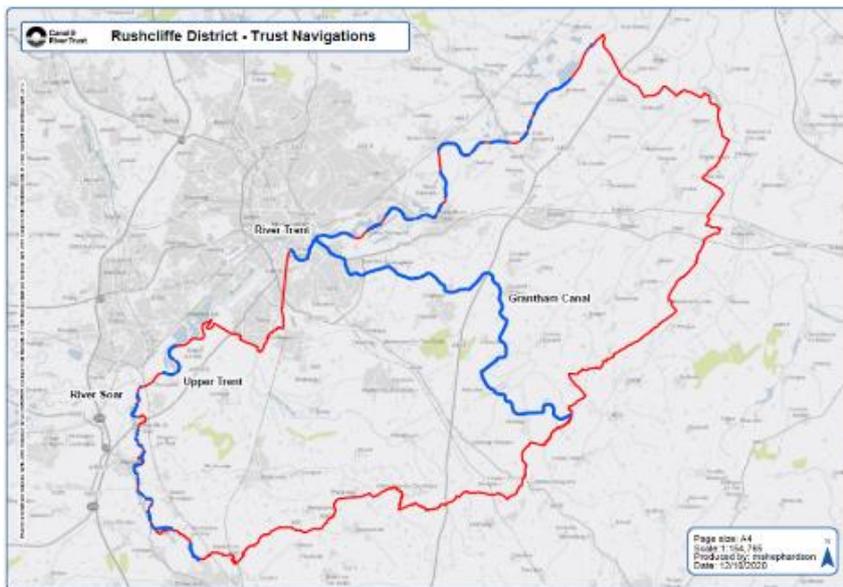
2021 has again been an extraordinary year for the Canal and River Trust and the East Midlands region. We have worked steadily to restart many of the activities brought to a halt by the restrictions put in place earlier in the year and have developed new protocols and ways of working safely. Many of our volunteers are now back in their roles and are able to continue making their important contribution safely. During the period of restrictions starting on 5th January 2021 volunteers who were conducting essential tasks were

able to continue volunteering if they wished. We were able to fully resume volunteering working in accordance with the newly developed safety protocols in the spring of 2021, and saw no new restrictions placed upon volunteering throughout 2021 except for the cancellation of indoor face to face volunteering during December 2021.

Our winter programme of maintenance work is now underway, and we are confident we will be able to deliver on our objectives and strategic priorities in 2022, which include planned notifications such as towpath repairs in Gamston and repairs to Culverts 39 and 42 at end of March.

Rushcliffe Borough

The Canal and River Trust are responsible for the following navigations within the Rushcliffe Borough.



- 1) River Trent
- 2) Upper Trent
- 3) Grantham Canal
- 4) River Soar

Core Work Within Rushcliffe Borough

The Trust delivers core planned and reactive maintenance work along our navigations within Rushcliffe Borough throughout the year. Larger planned maintenance requiring navigation closures (such as lock gate replacement) is usually carried out during the winter months to minimise disruption. Within the East Midlands we spend approx. £2 million on repairs and maintenance of locks, bridges, towpaths, fences, and banks annually. A further £1.3 million is spent on vegetation work, emptying bins, clearing fly tipping, and maintaining our buildings. We carry out a significant amount of this work within Rushcliffe Borough.

Vegetation Work

A large amount of the ongoing maintenance within Rushcliffe Borough is vegetation work. This type of maintenance is vital in order to keep our towpaths and navigations safe and accessible for all. The Trust delivers most of its vegetation work through our mainframe contractors. The work covers grass cutting, arboricultural works, aquatic weed management and cleaning services. A new national contract is about to be issued from April 2022 which will deliver national cost savings for the Trust whilst retaining local knowledge in the ability to deliver contracted work.

The Trust undertake towpath grass cutting, covering 54km of towpath within the Rushcliffe Borough, along with a further 3,000m² of grass cutting at picnic areas at Gamston Lock 2, Cropwell and Hickling Basin nine times per year.

The table below details the frequency of cuts, which is being changed from six to five from April 2022.

Month	April	May	June	July	August	September to November
Current 6 cut regime	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Full width cut starts
Future 5 cut regime	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Option to start full width cut early, add in addition proactive cut dependant on growing conditions. August is unpredictable regarding growing conditions	

The table below shows the range of specifications which may be used. MR2B and MR3B cover most of the canal in Rushcliffe. MR1 is used at the few specific locations at Gamston, Cropwell and Hickling.

Grass Specification	Description	Purpose
MR1	Grass mown at 50mm to create a neat even finish	For use at all Locks & Landing, Formal Moorings or other honeypot sites which require a short well manicured finish.
MR2A	Grass mown at 100mm to water's edge but leaving a rear fringe along a bound surfaced towpath.	For use when the front edge needs removing; either topography to allow sightlines for boaters, either side of bridges, when creating informal moorings, or if the fringe vegetation needs to be managed e.g. excessively tall growth, promote low growing wildflowers.
MR2B	Grass mown at 100mm but leaving a front and rear fringe along a bound surface towpath.	Use to create a habitat fringe along both sides of the towpath but ensuring that a min 1.5m wide path is created for towpath users. Maximum towpath side fringe width 1m.
MR3A	Grass mown at 100mm to water's edge but leaving a rear fringe along an unbound or grass surfaced towpath.	For use when the front edge needs removing; either topography to allow sightlines for boaters, either side of bridges, when creating informal moorings, or if the fringe vegetation needs to be managed e.g. excessively tall growth, promote low growing wildflowers.
MR3B	Grass mown at 100mm but leaving a front and rear fringe along an unbound or grass surfaced towpath.	Use to create a habitat fringe along both sides of the towpath but ensuring that a 1.5m wide path is created for towpath users. Maximum towpath side fringe width 1m.

Mowing Regime MR2B: Front Fringe, Bound Towpath Surfaces

Towpaths

- The purpose of this specification is to create a habitat fringe, however, the priority is still to maintain a 1.5m wide walking area and prevent vegetation encroaching into this walking area.
- For towpaths with a width of 1.5m to 1.6m wide, prioritise leaving the boundary verge over the waterside verge to maintain a suitable walking area.
- For towpaths wider than 1.6m leave a waterside verge and boundary verge either side of the walking area.
- The Trust is trying to achieve a towpath waterside verge fringe with a width of 1m, however, this is not always possible, especially on wide towpaths.
- Where the waterside verge fringe is greater than 1m, the towpath cut width will be increased to create the maximum 1m waterside verge fringe, which is in addition to the 1.5m wide walking area.
- Mow at a constant height of 100mm.
- All grass around benches, picnic tables, signposts, fences, gates, barriers, mile posts, marker posts, bollards, sluice paddles, towpath side assets and other furniture must be cut at constant height of 100 mm, 2m in each direction around the object or to the boundary edge.



Mowing Regime MR3B: Front Fringe, Unbound/Grass Surfaces

Towpaths

- The purpose of this specification is to create a habitat fringe, however, the priority is still to maintain a 1.5m wide walking area and prevent vegetation encroaching into this walking area.
- Mow at a constant height of 100mm a central walking area of 1.5m width, centred on the desire line
- For towpaths with a width of 1.5m to 1.6m wide, prioritise leaving the boundary verge over the waterside verge.
- For towpaths wider than 1.6m leave a waterside verge and boundary verge either side of the walking area.
- The Trust is trying to achieve a towpath waterside verge fringe with a width of 1m, however, this is not always possible, especially on wide towpaths.
- Where the waterside verge fringe is greater than 1m, the towpath cut width will be increased to create the maximum 1m waterside verge fringe, which is in addition to the 1.5m wide walking area.
- All grass around benches, picnic tables, signposts, fences, gates, barriers, mile posts, marker posts, bollards, sluice paddles, towpath side assets and other furniture must be cut at constant height of 100 mm, 2m in each direction around the object or to the boundary edge.



We also undertake hedge maintenance once per year during the winter period, this covers approx. 22km of hedgerow within Rushcliffe Borough.

Additional reactive work includes tree works such as clearance of windblown trees, high priority tree works identified from the bi-annual survey for public safety and high priority notification works (structural issues, repairs etc). We also carry out aquatic weed removal mechanically, to maintain clear open water channels for biodiversity benefit, undertaken when resources allow. If found, terrestrial invasive plants (Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed) are sprayed or injected by specialist contractors. In the case of aquatic invasives – water fern (*azolla*) has been managed using the *azolla* weevil as biological control.

Grantham Canal

The Grantham Canal from Lock 1, Trent Lock to Smite Aqueduct sits within the Rushcliffe Borough. The items below outline the maintenance responsibilities of the Canal and River Trust, alone and working alongside Rushcliffe Borough Council as established in the agreement signed 4th July 2003. This agreement expires in 2024 and its current value is approx. £40k annually.

Below shows the specific works undertaken by Canal and River Trust during 2021 and the plans for 2022.

Schedule 5 – Maintenance Works to be undertaken by the Trust

1) *The foundations of the Towing Path*

The condition of the towpath along the Grantham Canal is inspected every two months by Canal and River Trust length inspectors. Any structural issues identified by these inspections are assessed for their severity and repairs are scheduled based on this assessment.

Our East Midlands operations team also investigate any concerns raised by members of the public and either complete the necessary repairs themselves or refer more significant issues to our engineering team for assessment.

We are satisfied that the foundations of the Grantham Canal towpath remain in safe and usable condition and that future issues will be identified quickly.

2) *Such waterway walls as may separate the Towing Path from the navigation.*

As with the above, the waterway walls along the Grantham Canal are inspected every two months and any issues are prioritised for repairs as required.

3) *The hedgerow to the rear of the Towing Path.*

The Canal and River Trust spends approximately £100,000 on vegetation maintenance work along the Grantham Canal each year, with £34,100 of this amount being spent on grass cutting, hedge cutting and feeder maintenance within Rushcliffe. We cut approximately 22km of hedgerow within Rushcliffe Borough each year. This included the hedgerow running to the rear of the towpath. The annual hedge cut for the Grantham Canal takes place between October and March to minimise the disruption to nesting birds.

Any specific issues with the hedgerow reported to us by members of the public are investigated by the East Midlands operations team, with any necessary action or repairs being scheduled alongside other priorities. We are satisfied that the hedgerow running to the rear of the Grantham Canal towpath is maintained to a high standard, with the annual hedge cut ensuring the hedgerow is neat and does not obstruct towpath users.

4) *Fencing to the canal offside between Hoe Hill Swing Bridge & Cropwell Roving Bridge.*

The offside fencing in this location is difficult to inspect from the towpath, especially due to the presence of offside vegetation. However visual inspections have not shown any significant damage to the fence and

adjacent landowners have not reported any damage. Any issues reported by landowners, or the public would be investigated, and repairs scheduled as appropriate. The picture below shows the offside fence in good condition upstream of Bridge 22, Roving Bridge.



Schedule 7 – Maintenance Works to be undertaken jointly by the Council and the Trust.

1. *Cotgrave Skinners Lock Access Road*

A Contractor was commissioned to improve the towpath around Skinners Lock Access Road in Cotgrave



2. *Lady Bay Access points*

During the summer of 2021, the Trust delivered improvements to the access points in Lady Bay with support from Friends of Lady Bay



3. *Gamston Footbridge*



Between Gamston footbridge 6b and lock 3 there are three significant areas of multiple tree root lift damage to the towpath surface, to be repaired by contractors working on behalf of the Trust – delivery by end of March 22.

Other core and reactive maintenance work

The Trust clears vegetation from our structures along the Grantham Canal annually. This consists of clearing vegetation from 31 Bridges, 25 Culverts and 2 Aqueducts. The Trust also conducts hard surface spraying twice per annum throughout the growing season.

We undertake one visit per year to ensure Cotgrave feeder is clear of reeds, using an excavator. We also conduct hand removal of vegetation at the Smite feeder once per year.

While the annual hedge trimming (outlined above) ensures that the towpath is accessible, we have also undertaken work to improve their long-term condition through hedgelaying. In November, training in this craft was provided to Trust volunteers, Grantham Canal Society and Friends of Cotgrave Country Park. This is continuing through the winter with approx. 20m were laid by January 2022.



Hickling Hut

The main structural restoration of the former Lengthsman's Hut in Hickling has been completed, and the structure was formally opened in September 2020.

The restoration project was undertaken by both Trust employees and apprentices, partner volunteers and members of the local community.

As we come out of restrictions this hut can be used as a community resource and could be a visitor attraction for the Hickling basin.

We are working with local volunteers and the Hickling Parish Council to create a community adoption group to work alongside us in completing the restoration work and caring for the hut into the future.

A video celebrating the project is available on Canal and River Trust website



<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/news-and-views/news/historic-workers-hut-on-the-grantham-canal-brought-back-to-life>

The Trust has been engaging with Hickling Parish Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on the proposal for designating the canal within the Hickling Parish boundary as a Local Nature Reserve.

Community Engagement, Wellbeing, Education and Carbon Reduction

Throughout 2021 we have worked hard to engage with communities along the Grantham Canal. We have focussed particularly on water management issues in Kinoulton, Hickling and the Lady Bay area. Amongst concerns from local communities about some water shortages during the summer months we have identified some minor bank repairs that are necessary to minimise leakage and will be progressing these works in the coming months. We have spent time communicating the findings to local residents, as well as providing communities with information on hydrology and water management. Leaks at Culvert 13 have been repaired in October 2021 and repairs will be made to Culverts 39 and 42 early spring 2022.

Working in Partnership

Across our entire Network we work with nearly 400 voluntary and community groups each year, groups who are independent of us and separate to our volunteer teams. These groups add a great deal to the waterways and over half the volunteering on Trust land is undertaken by groups working in partnership with us. We call these our Partner Groups. We welcome these partnerships as they deliver both their aims and the Trust's, achieving more together and both bringing different facets to the relationship. The range is vast, from Scout groups to private companies, from canal focuses societies to national disability support charities, from local residents' groups to local authorities. We support our partner groups by providing safety management, working together to plan activities, providing site information to the partner group participants, and finally providing agreed levels of supervision and support for the activities undertaken by the partner group.

A local paddle group in Lady Bay volunteered to collect fly tipping from the canal.



Within the Rushcliffe Borough, the Canal and River Trust support a number of these partner groups, including Tiny Talkers Day Nursery and Friends and the Friends of Lady Bay who have both adopted a stretch of the Grantham Canal. Tiny Talkers Day Nursery and Friends brings together children from the Day Nursery and residents from Lark Hill retirement village to care for a small stretch of the Grantham Canal and to improve the look and feel of the canal side for the local community. The Friends of Lady Bay is a local resident's group from the Lady Bay area who have adopted a longer stretch of the Grantham Canal and are committed to improving the canal for the community. Their work includes vegetation management, ensuring the water is able to flow through the navigation, general improvements to the towpath and a number of other improvements. The Friends of Cotgrave Country Park is working in partnership with the Trust to undertake hedge laying activities along the Grantham Canal. Hedgelaying is a country skill that has been practised for centuries. By laying a hedge you not only create a living fence, but you also help to encourage new growth, making it an excellent way of regenerating an old, overgrown hedge without replacing it. The Friends of Cotgrave Country Park is supporting the Trust to ensure the hedges that border the canal are presented in the best possible condition, whilst encouraging new growth and providing safe habitation for wildlife.

In Kinoulton, Parkside Angling Club has adopted a stretch of the Grantham Canal. This adoption is in partnership with the fisheries department and ensures that they have a section for the angling club to fish. Parkside Angling Club also ensure the area around their adoption is kept in an excellent condition so that it can be enjoyed by everyone in the local community.

We also support the Grantham Canal Society who, whilst based primarily in Woolsthorpe in Belvoir, have a number of their Grantham Canal Society Rangers volunteering along the Grantham Canal in Rushcliffe. The Grantham Canal Society Rangers seek to develop a wide sense of community involvement and ownership of the canal, their Rangers engage in conversation with canal users informing them of any upcoming events, listen to any concerns and provide information. They also report any issues along the canal, initiate contacts with the local community and generally act as a friendly face on the canal.

Volunteer lock keepers support the Trust and our boating customers at all our locks along the River Trent, including Holme Pierrepont, Stoke Woods, Gunthorpe and Hazleford. Our volunteer lock keepers welcome and assist all visitors to the sites they volunteer their time at, they assist boaters at locks and engage with members of the public. They also undertake light maintenance tasks, encourage water conservation and act as an ambassador for the Trust whilst promoting the wellbeing benefits of spending time by water. During 2021 over 8,500 hours were gifted by volunteers to support volunteer lock keeping at these sites along the River Trent.

The team have met with Ian Wilson from Holme Pierrepont to discuss walks from there and surrounding areas. Running course with a local run leader have been booked to start in the Rushcliffe area. These will both start in April 2022. Another programme to start in April is a cycling initiative in partnership with Ridewise, giving people the confidence to ride safely along towpaths and green spaces. To support cyclists, we are improving towpaths and following an audit have improved signage. We have a national programme supporting cyclist and walkers called Share the Space which will connect with and support these plans.

We will be starting a wellbeing group at Hazelford Lock, a beautiful island just outside of the Rushcliffe boundary. A group of men from surrounding areas, including Rushcliffe, will be brought over in a minibus to help to keep the vegetation under control and do maintenance jobs on the island. This will be set up by the wellbeing coordinator and supported by a volunteer who has supported the Trust on similar wellbeing projects in other parts of the region.

We have made good connections with Rushcliffe link workers who have a lead and eight link workers, they have been referring people from GP practices in Gamston, Cotgrave and Cropwell Bishop to the activities we have delivered in the city which have included paddle activities, narrowboat experiences and walks. We will support individuals referred to any social prescribing programme who wish to engage with volunteering. We will discuss with potentially interested individuals their own requirements and aspirations and look to provide them with the most appropriate volunteering opportunity.

We continue to work closely with schools in Rushcliffe through our Learning and Skills Coordinator:

- Pierrepont Gamston Primary School - Four water safety session (120 pupils involved) followed by four walks along the Grantham canal investigating its history, how it was built and why and how the Trust manages the canal today.
- A water safety assembly was delivered to the whole school, 310 pupils.
- Jesse Gray Primary school – two water safety session followed by a trip to Trent Lock where the school participated in wellbeing canoeing and pond dipping session – 60 pupils in total.
- Supporting a Duke of Edinburgh student from South Notts Academy to complete their volunteering section of the award with tackling the plastic challenge by litter picking along the Grantham Canal, the River Trent, and Nottingham Beeston Canal.

- The Trust have supported the Holme Pierrepont Canoe Club and Nottingham Kayak Club in their water-based litter picks along the River Trent, Grantham Canal and Nottingham Beeston Canal over the past six months.
- Evening sessions of canoeing from Holme Pierrepont for a group from West Bridgford that had additional needs.

Canal and River Trust Carbon reduction.

We are promoting the ways in which our network contributes to the climate challenge and carbon reduction. As 'doorstep destinations' for many people in Rushcliffe and nearby areas, use of our canal and river towpaths for active travel, supports lower carbon lifestyles.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canal-and-river-wildlife/nine-ways-canals-can-fight-climate-change>

Within Rushcliffe, the opportunity for renewable energy generation has been taken through the hydropower scheme at Holme Lock (shown below during and after construction)- and three further schemes have planning approval along the River Trent.



Summary

The Trust has had an annual maintenance agreement with Rushcliffe Borough Council for £40,000 since 2003. The current agreement expires in 2024 and this report aims to show the value for money that Rushcliffe Borough Council gain from this agreement and the significant added value that the Trust delivers across Rushcliffe.

The Trust undertakes £100,000 of vegetation management per annum in Rushcliffe with £34,100 spent directly on Grantham Canal through 54km of towpath grass cutting, 3,000m² grass cutting at picnic areas and 22km of hedgerow cutting. We continue to manage assets on the waterways across Rushcliffe inspecting bi-monthly: 31 Bridges, 25 Culverts and 2 Aqueducts. Vegetation is cleared annually, and hard surfaces are sprayed twice per annum.

In 2021 the Trust delivered improvements to the towpath around Skinners Lock in Cotgrave through a contractor and access point in Lady Bay with support from Friends of Lady Bay. In 2022 repairs will be made to tree root damaged towpaths in Gamston.

Volunteering has continued to flourish in 2021 despite restrictions with 8,500 hours contributed across Rushcliffe. This includes adoptions, lock keeping, maintenance, repairing leaks at Culverts and laying 20m of new hedges. The Trust continues to work closely in partnership across Rushcliffe with the following community groups and organisations:

- Grantham Canal society
- Friend of Cotgrave County Park
- Hickling Parish Council
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
- Tiny Talkers Day Nursery
- Friends Of Lady Bay
- Parkside Angling Club
- Holme Pierrepont Canoe Club
- Nottingham Kayak Club

Our education team has directly engaged with 490 pupils from Rushcliffe Primary schools where we have provided water safety training.

Wellbeing projects continue to be a vital part of the work we are doing locally with the Trust developing social prescribing with GP practices in Gamston, Cotgrave and Cropwell Bishop. Local people have benefitted from organised walks along the waterway, paddle activities and narrow boat experiences. We are planning to increase our wellbeing offer in 2022 and will be delivering new walks and running courses at Holme Pierrepont and developing a partnership with Ridewise to support cyclists across Rushcliffe.

The Trust hopes to continue and further the strategic partnership with Rushcliffe and in the light of the current agreement coming to an end in the next few years, the Trust would welcome the opportunity to discuss how the ongoing relationship can be continued beyond 2024

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Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 21 July 2022

Sports Development in Rushcliffe

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report is to inform Councillors about how the Council is delivering its Sports Development function.
- 1.2. The report will focus on the key lines of enquiry identified in the scrutiny matrix:
 - a) What measures are in place to track participation in sport/physical activity in the Borough?
 - b) What these measures tell us about trends?
 - c) How are we tackling under-representation within groups?
 - d) How we can further improve school/club links and increase competition in school sport?
 - e) How is the Borough delivering community sport and physical activity opportunities?
 - f) What are the barriers to increasing participation and what interventions /resources are needed to overcome them?
- 1.3. The Lead Specialist for Communities will provide a presentation for the Communities Scrutiny Group focusing on the outcomes of the Sport Development work programme.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Communities Scrutiny Group receive an overview presentation of the work that is undertaken in delivering the Sport Development function and provide their feedback on future activity undertaken in promoting sport and wellbeing to our residents.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

To ensure that the Council delivers on our corporate priorities, specifically the commitment to maintain and enhance our resident's quality of life, it is appropriate that Councillors have an opportunity to scrutinise the sport function of the Council especially as we enter the recovery phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that all

residents can take part in sports and physical activity to improve their mental and physical wellbeing.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. Rushcliffe Borough Council's sports development function sits within the Communities Service, alongside health development and community events. The service is supported by one Sports Development Officer (SDO) post. Aligning with Sport England and Active Notts' vision, the sports development function acts as an enabler and facilitator for sporting clubs, groups and individuals by delivering projects rather than as a direct deliverer of sports activities.
- 4.2. The Council tracks sport and physical activity levels using Sport England's annual Active Lives Survey. There is one for adults (16+) and a separate survey targeting children and young people (U16's). These surveys provide data at a local, county and national level, on types of activity and activity levels. Compared to other local authorities, Nottinghamshire County and nationally, Rushcliffe has higher than average activity levels and is monitored through the Active Rushcliffe Health Partnership, which is made up of representatives from sport and health partners.
- 4.3. In line with Sport England and Active Notts' strategies, the Council has taken a place-based approach to help tackle under-representation in sport and physical activity, using data to help understand and target where support is needed most. Geographically, this has led to focused working in Keyworth, Cotgrave and Bingham West. The Council actively targets underrepresented groups, in particular: women and girls, residents with disabilities and residents on low incomes. The Council works with partners to facilitate programmes and activity targeted at these groups.
- 4.4. The Rushcliffe School Sports Partnership is responsible for delivering sport and physical activity in schools across Rushcliffe, organising school sport competitions as part of the School Games programme, training for teachers and delivery of physical activity initiatives. The Council works closely with the partnership to support and facilitate where appropriate, for example, providing facilities and links to community sports clubs.
- 4.5. The Council community sport and physical activity work programme is underpinned by both the Rushcliffe Leisure Strategy and the Rushcliffe Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 4.6. The SDO supports the implementation and review of the Playing Pitch Strategy action plan every 2-3 years due to the changing nature of supply and demand for playing pitches. This ensures the strategy is monitored and ensures the priority sites are supported for investment of development and improvements.
- 4.7. The SDO works to support the development and implementation of the Council's Leisure Strategy. Recent work has included writing a successful

funding application to the Football Foundation bringing investment of £458,275 to install a second Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP), resurface the existing ATP and for grass improvements at Gresham Sports Park. Support has also been given to a number of sports clubs with regards to facility developments including: increasing the height of netting at Ellerslie Cricket Club and a new sports pavilion at East Leake Playing Field Charity (Costock Road).

- 4.8. The Council facilitates community sport and physical activity through working with a range of external partners. We work closely with the professional sporting clubs based in the Borough, namely Nottingham Rugby Club Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, Nottingham Forest Community Trust, Notts County Foundation, Trent Bridge Community Trust, and the National Water Sports Centre and have delivered a wide range of programmes and initiatives enabling residents to become more active.
- 4.9. The Council also supports participation programmes organised directly in the community. Rushcliffe parkrun has been running at Rushcliffe Country Park for 10 years and was facilitated and funded by the Council. To date it has been one of the most successful participation initiatives with an average of 310 participants each week and a database of over 1,000 volunteers. Junior parkrun has been running on the same site for 8 years with an average of 92 children and young people taking part each week. Due to the success and demand, a second parkrun is due to start at Cotgrave Country Park later this year.
- 4.10. Local sports clubs and athletes are supported through specific sports grants:
 - Rushcliffe Coach Scholarship Scheme – volunteer coaches delivering in Rushcliffe sports clubs can apply for funding to support level 1, 2 and 3 National Governing Bodies of Sport coaching courses. On average 18 grants are awarded each year.
 - Rushcliffe Elite Sports Grant – this funding is to support elite athletes who are performing at international level within their sport. This is to help alleviate some of the financial burden which is often a barrier to achievement. 25 athletes were supported in 2022.
 - Rushcliffe FANS (Free Access for National Sportspeople) – this grant supports National level athletes by providing a free gym membership at one of the Council owned leisure centres. There are currently 73 active members of the FANS scheme.
- 4.11. We are fortunate to have several world class facilities in Rushcliffe, which often bring major events and tournaments to the Borough. These are supported by the SDO who assists with promotion and has provided ancillary events to engage with local communities at the Cricket World Cup at Trent Bridge in 2019, the World Mixed Relay Triathlon in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and more recently the Canoe Freestyle World Championships at Holme Pierrepont.

4.12. **Barriers to Increasing Participation**

We know from data, experience and new ways of working, that there are many barriers to residents taking part in sport and physical activity, which can be defined as the following:

- **Personal** – insufficient time or motivation, lack of social support, fear of injury or feelings of self-consciousness.
- **Environmental** – access to safe and convenient sports facilities, green/blue spaces, walking and cycling networks etc.
- **Socio-economic** – access to disposable household income, with many residents having to prioritise paying energy bills and feeding their families, particularly with the current cost of living crisis.

4.13. The Council has helped overcome some of these barriers through providing support for people to be more active:

- Since its implementation in 2020, the Reach Rushcliffe Fund has supported seven physical activity projects
- The Holiday Activities and Food Fund (HAF) has supported 591 children and young people by providing free access to school holiday programmes that provide physical activity, nutritional activities, and a meal.
- To proactively influence behaviour, change the Council is working with communities to understand the barriers, need and demand
- Promotion of National campaigns such as This Girl Can, Join the Movement and We Are Undefeatable.

4.14. In 2020, the pandemic created one of the biggest barriers to sport and physical activity, with sports clubs, leisure centres and independent gyms and classes having to cease. However, we did see an increase of people walking, running, and cycling as these were the only opportunities for residents to get outside. There was also a shift to online activities and classes, which provided an alternative way to be active. The challenge now is to support sports clubs, organisations, and individuals through the recovery of COVID-19.

5. **Implications**

5.1. **Financial Implications**

The sports development function is delivered within existing resources, with the SDO being a permanent post costing £42k per annum including on-costs.

5.2. **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications.

5.3. Equalities Implications

The delivery of the sports development function prioritises the delivery of sports and physical activity opportunities to those with disabilities and from under-represented groups.

5.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

The sports development function works with partners to deliver diversionary activity and project to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

6. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Access to sport and physical activity contributes to resident's health and wellbeing
Efficient Services	Sports Development provides a strategic overview of leisure facilities to ensure they provide efficient service to meet the needs of the community
Sustainable Growth	Through the Playing Pitch Strategy and Leisure Strategy, consideration is made for the need, demand and supply for leisure and sports facilities within large scale development sites and growth areas
The Environment	Sports Development strategy encourages the provision of green and blue infrastructure including walking trails, cycling networks and amenity open spaces

7. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities Scrutiny Group receive an overview presentation of the work that is undertaken in delivering the Sport Development function and provide their feedback on future activity undertaken in promoting sport and wellbeing to our residents.

For more information contact:	Dave Banks Director of Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices:	None

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Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 21 July 2022

Work Programme

Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

1. Summary

- 1.1. The work programmes for all Scrutiny Groups are created and managed by the Corporate Overview Group. This Group accepts and considers Scrutiny Matrices from both officers and councillors which propose items for scrutiny. If those items are accepted following discussion at the Corporate Overview Group, they are placed on the work programme for one of the Council's Scrutiny Groups.
- 1.2. The work programme is also a standing item for discussion at each meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group. In determining the proposed work programme due regard has been given to matters usually reported to the Group and the timing of issues to ensure best fit within the Council's decision-making process.
- 1.3. The work programme is detailed in this report for information only so that the Group is aware of the proposed agenda for the next meeting. The work programme does not take into account any items that need to be considered by the Group as special items. These may occur, for example, through changes required to the Constitution or financial regulations, which have an impact on the internal controls of the Council.
- 1.4. The future work programme will be updated and agreed at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview Group on 6 September 2022, including any items raised via the scrutiny matrix.

Members are asked to propose future topics to be considered by the Group, in line with the Council's priorities which are:

- Quality of Life;
- Efficient Services;
- Sustainable Growth; and
- The Environment

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group agrees the work programme as set out below:

6 October 2022

- Council's External Communications Strategy
- Customer Access Strategy
- Work Programme

19 January 2023

- Establishment of a Youth Council
- Corporate Enforcement Policy
- Work Programme

16 March 2023

- Carbon Management Plan
- Environment Policy
- Work Programme

3. Reason for Recommendation

To enable the Council's scrutiny arrangements to operate efficiently and effectively.

For more information contact:	Pete Linfield Director of Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8349 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices (if any):	None.