

Public Document Pack

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Rushcliffe
Borough Council

Our reference:

Your reference:

Date: Date Not Specified

To all Members of the Communities Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

A Virtual Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group will be held via Zoom on Thursday, 23 July 2020 at 7.00 pm to consider the following items of business.

The meeting will be live streamed via YouTube for the public to listen and view via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC> Note: 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

Sanjit Sull
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting 9 January 2020 (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Litter, Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping (Part One - Fly Tipping) (Pages 5 - 8)

The report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods is attached.

5. Waste Strategy

A presentation will be delivered.

6. Work Programme (Pages 9 - 10)

The report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

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Opening hours:

**Monday, Tuesday and
Thursday**

8.30am - 5pm

Wednesday
9.30am - 5pm

Friday

8.30am - 4.30pm

Postal address

Rushcliffe Borough
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Rushcliffe Arena
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Membership

Chairman: Councillor J Wheeler

Vice-Chairman: Councillor B Bansal

Councillors: G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, D Simms, R Walker and G Williams

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.

Mobile Phones: For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

Microphones: When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

Recording at Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making. As such, the Council will undertake audio recording of meetings which are open to the public, except where it is resolved that the public be excluded, as the information being discussed is confidential or otherwise exempt.



**DRAFT MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY GROUP
THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2020**

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

PRESENT:

Councillors J Wheeler (Chairman), G Dickman, B Gray, R Jones, R Mallender,
D Simms, R Walker and G Williams

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| L Ashmore | Executive Manager - Transformation |
| D Banks | Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods |
| C Evans | Economic Growth Manager |
| P Phillips | Environmental Sustainability Officer |
| C Taylor | Community Development Manager |
| L Webb | Democratic Services Officer |

APOLOGIES:

Councillors B Bansal

6 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

7 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

8 Review of Community Facilities in West Bridgford

The Service Manager – Transformation presented the report of the Executive Manager – Transformation which provided the Group with an update on community facilities in West Bridgford including their current usage, income and expenditure. It was noted that the Council owned five community facilities in West Bridgford which provided space for a range of activities including exercise classes, meetings, church groups and children’s parties. It was also stated that an options appraisal had been carried out on the future of Lutterell Hall and a report on findings of this work would be referred to Cabinet in early 2020 to consider the Council’s next steps in the Council’s ownership of the facility.

The Service Manager delivered a presentation to the Group which covered:

- Community Facilities in West Bridgford
- Review of Lutterell Hall
- Income vs Expenditure
- Gresham
- Budgeted Capital Expenditure
- Booking Types
- Occupancy Rates
- Venues for Hire in West Bridgford
- Hire Costs

Following the presentation, members of the Group had several suggestions on how to improve the booking techniques of hiring the community facilities and how to reduce the running costs. These included:

- The ability to book the hire of community facilities online
- To have user groups or 'friends of' groups to help run the community facilities
- Using Community Infrastructure Levy payments to invest in a new community facility in West Bridgford which is more energy efficient which would therefore reduce running costs

The Community Development Manager responded to these recommendations by noting that an online booking and invoicing system for hiring community facilities in West Bridgford was being explored and could be introduced within the next 12 months. It was also explained that support from volunteer 'Friends of' groups would be helpful to promote the hall and to support a programme of a diverse range of community led activities, however it was noted that volunteer operational management was more difficult for the Council to introduce in a large area like West Bridgford than in village halls in more rural areas. The Executive Manager – Transformation said that the Council was committed to looking at overhead costs in more detail and that the Group would be updated on the possibility of a new community facility in Edwalton.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The report of the Executive Manager – Transformation be noted
- b) The Group be provided with a progress update for a new community facility for Edwalton

9 Carbon Management Plan Development and Review

The Community Development Manager presented the report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods which contained a draft of the Council's Carbon Reduction Action Plan for consideration and discussion to further inform development prior to adoption as a working document. It was proposed that the action plan be scrutinised and updated annually. It was explained that although it was not currently possible to quantify the full level of investment required to achieve carbon neutral status by 2030, the Communities Scrutiny Group was asked to consider recommending to Cabinet that this target should be adopted and a budget established to support delivery.

The Environment Sustainability Officer delivered a presentation to the Group which covered:

- Carbon Reduction Action Plan Structure
- How each theme is addressed
- Suggested actions

Following the presentation members of the Group were pleased that the action plan would be scrutinised annually. The Group suggested that traders at Council events could use battery packs rather than generators and that it was noted that a transition time was required for the introduction of new technologies. The Group also asked to be provided with information about how the Council could influence the carbon management policies in planning applications. The Group were pleased that large housing developments such as Fairham and Sharphill had provision for allotments.

The Group advised the officers that the Council should promote local produce and businesses using the 'carbon clever' accreditation scheme. The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods confirmed that the communications team were currently working on a communications strategy for this initiative. The Group suggested further research to consider opportunities through the Nottingham City Council Energy Services website which delivers projects support a secure and affordable energy supply; reduce operational costs, risks and environmental impacts.

Some concerns were raised about the financial impact of the Council aiming to become carbon neutral. For example, it was stated that the construction of Bingham Leisure Centre was going to cost an extra £370,000 in order to greatly reduce carbon emissions. It was agreed that the target for the Council to be carbon neutral by 2030 was a challenging aim and would require resources, but the cost of not setting this target to focus work on tackling the issue was unacceptable.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods was noted and the draft action plan was supported;
- b) The Group requests that Cabinet sets a target for becoming carbon neutral for the Council's own emissions by 2030;
- c) Cabinet be requested to support budget provision within the Council's Medium-Term financial strategy to deliver carbon reduction actions.
- d) The Group be provided with additional information about the Nottingham City Council Energy Service.

10 **Work Programme**

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods presented the report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services which detailed the Group's work programme. It was agreed that a presentation would be delivered around the national waste and resources strategy and the aspirations of the government's waste strategy which was yet to be discussed in Parliament.

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods confirmed that an item about fly tipping was going to be discussed at the next Corporate Overview Group meeting. If the item was approved, it would be an additional item to the next meeting in March 2020.

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| 19 March 2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resources and Waste Strategy• Fly tipping (TBC) |

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

CHAIRMAN



Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 23 July 2020

Litter, Dog Fouling and Fly tipping (Part One Fly tipping)

Report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide an update on fly tipping and the Council's response.
- 1.2. Councillors are asked to acknowledge and accept the report.
- 1.3. This item was considered and agreed at Corporate Overview Group at its meeting on 25 February 2020 whereupon it was agreed that an update be provided for the consideration by the Communities Scrutiny Group.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Councillors consider the report and provide feedback on the Council's approach to tackling fly tipping

3. Reasons for Recommendation

This is an information item only.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. Fly tipping blights neighbourhoods and is a selfish act committed by a minority of unscrupulous and criminal individuals. Fly tipping describes the dumping of waste in the wrong place and can be anything from a bin bag of household waste to larger quantities of domestic, commercial or construction waste. It impacts on residents' sense of wellbeing and can negatively affect the perception of a neighbourhood.
- 4.2. In February 2017, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) launched 'The Litter Strategy', which recognises the huge challenge litter (and fly tipping) poses to the country. The paper sets out aspirations to reduce the impact of littering in all its forms and on all aspects of the environment.
- 4.3. The Neighbourhoods team brings together the services responsible for responding to incidents of fly tipping and the work undertaken to reduce its occurrence through engagement, education and enforcement. These services fulfil the Council's statutory duties in respect of ensuring fly tipping is removed

from public land, protecting the environment, and ensuring that businesses and residents comply with a range of legislation to ensure that waste is disposed of correctly. It should be noted, however, that the resources available to the Council to investigate fly tipping are very limited (0.75 fte).

- 4.4. We work on the principle that most residents and businesses in Rushcliffe want to do the right thing. Sometimes people are not sure what they need to do and our approach to achieving compliance includes working with people and giving them the chance to get it right. However, when evidence is found linking a fly-tip occurrence to a business or individual(s) responsible, appropriate enforcement action is taken in accordance with the Council's enforcement policy.

5. SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

- Reports of fly tipping have increased by over 50% in last 6 years (source Guardian 4 Jan) and increased by 8% across England in 2018 (1,072,000);
 - Within RBC there has been a 320% increase in reported fly tips since 2012/13 although this trend has slightly reduced so far in 2019/20;
 - Two- thirds of fly tips involve household waste;
- 5.1. The causes of fly tipping are many and varied, as are the motivations of the perpetrators, although financial gain or saving is clearly a principal reason. A lack of waste disposal facilities or access to them may also be a factor but almost certainly laziness and an attitude that someone else will clear up the waste is prevalent. It is also clear that this is not a Rushcliffe phenomenon, this is a national problem.
- 5.2. There does appear to be a rise in “man in a van” type incidents, where unlicensed operators collect bulky items from domestic premises for a fee only to dump it. This activity has been associated with criminal gangs. Fridges and freezers now require payment for depolluting due to the gases in the systems and so cannot be taken and weighed in for cash. We have seen fridges and freezers left as fly tips some of which have even been from licensed scrap metal collectors.
- 5.3. Residents in the County (Nottingham City) can take waste from their property to the County Council Household Waste Recycling facilities for segregation to enable recycling. It is considered likely that a proportion of Rushcliffe's fly tipping emanates from City residents who are unable to use County facilities. In addition, an increase in reporting could also be responsible for part of the rise, as councils are providing more ways in which members of the public can report rubbish dumping.
- 5.4. Another factor is geography, Rushcliffe is a very rural Borough on the outskirts of a large City with access to major transport links which makes it vulnerable to fly tipping especially in remote areas, roads, lay bays or similar.
- 5.5. Social media sites are being used to commission waste disposal throughout the country and locally, and in this regard, residents may find that they are

committing duty of care offences by employing the services of a cheap unregistered waste carrier. Our priority is always the perpetrator of the fly tip in the first instance, but residents need to be aware of their responsibilities in respect of their waste and the Council does have powers to issue fixed penalty notices for duty of care offences and does use this power on occasions.

- 5.6. The response to a fly tip is to some extent dependent on whether the land is public or private. Initially the waste is examined for evidence that may indicate its source or who tipped it. The majority of fly tips contain no evidence. Where it is found, the case is investigated by Environmental Health. On private land the responsibility for clearance rests with the landowner who is then provided with advice about target hardening i.e. closing gates etc to prevent its recurrence.
- 5.7. The Council works in partnership with its partners including the Police and the Environment Agency (EA) on the newly established *Cleaner Notts* Group in pulling together campaigns and events to help raise awareness and educate the public.
- 5.8. We are aware of certain locations that appear targeted by offenders and, where possible, these have been target-hardened with permanent signage. We also utilise overt CCTV cameras which have resulted in several recent successful prosecutions, vehicle seizures and destructions. These all gained significant media coverage locally and regionally.
- 5.9. Enforcement for fly tipping is split between local authorities and the EA. The EA investigates larger fly tips (e.g. >20 tonnes or where it is linked to criminal activity or organised crime).
- 5.10. The Council (or EA) has powers to issue fixed penalty notices or to prosecute offenders in accordance with the Enforcement Policy.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

None identified

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

The removal of fly tipping is undertaken by Streetwise Environmental Ltd and, therefore, the cost is contained within the contract price.

The cost of officer time spent on prosecutions is recouped from offenders through court proceedings.

7.2. Legal Implications

Investigations are carried out in accordance with the law for example: Environmental Protection Act 1990, Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Regulatory Investigatory powers (RIPA) Act 2000.

7.3. Equalities Implications

None identified.

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

Fly tipping is a significant environmental crime and undertaking work with our community safety partners will help to support our crime and disorder obligations.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Quality of Life | Reducing fly tipping and keeping the Borough clean and tidy encourages community pride in their locality |
| Efficient Services | Reducing fly tipping will in turn reduce the cost of clean up currently borne by tax payers |
| Sustainable Growth | Supporting residents and businesses to dispose of their waste responsibly and compliantly helps Rushcliffe be more sustainable |
| The Environment | Reducing fly tipping has clear benefits to the protection of the environment |

9. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Members consider the report and provide feedback on the Council's approach to tackling fly tipping.

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| For more information contact: | Geoff Carpenter Environmental Health Manager 0115 9148229 gcarpenter@rushcliffe.gov.uk |
| Background papers available for Inspection: | None. |
| List of appendices: | None. |

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|  <p>Rushcliffe Borough Council</p> | <p>Communities Scrutiny Group</p> <p>Thursday 23 July 2020</p> <p>Work Programme</p> |
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Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services

1. Summary

- 1.1. The work programme is 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.
- 1.2. The table 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.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group agrees the work programme as set out in the table below.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

| | Items / Reports |
|-----------------|---|
| 27 August 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fireworks• Rushcliffe Equality Scheme |
| 7 October 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future of Edwalton Golf Course• Flooding and Drainage |
| 28 January 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon management Plan Update• Dog Fouling, Littering and Fly Tipping – Part Two |
| 29 April 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• |

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

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