

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

3rd October 2024

A meeting of the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 3rd October 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Nuneaton, the meeting was recorded for publication on the Council's website.

Present

Councillor T. Venson (Chair)

Councillors: A. Bull, E. Amaechi, D. Brown (substitute for M. Walsh), J. Collett, J. Gutteridge, W. Markham and C. Smith.

Apologies: Councillor M. Walsh (Vice-Chair) and S. Markham

PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS

EL9 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Leisure OSP meeting held on 13th June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.

EL10 **Declarations of Interest**

RESOLVED that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes with the inclusion of Councillor D. Brown who attended as a substitute for Councillor M. Walsh

EL11 **Questions to Cabinet**

The portfolio holder for Leisure, Communities and Health (Councillor T. Jenkins) was in attendance to answer questions from the Panel.

Councillor J. Collett asked the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health:

Just wondering if there is any update on either of the Bucks Hill or Attleborough cemeteries further to recent full council and cabinet?

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:

Thank you, Councillor Collett, Bucks Hill, we have done quite a lot of work at. There was real problems from lack of maintenance over the last few years. There were trees that had been felled and left in ditches and in the brook alongside the cemetery, so that's all been cleared. The vegetation and blocks in the brook itself have been cleared. The drainage has been inspected and jetted through, which is really helping. I went down there after the last lot of rain about two weeks ago. We had a huge amount of rain. I think it was like a month's worth of rain in two days.

There was some flooding in the junction where the gully pots are, but it had all cleared by the next morning and went back the next day it all cleared so it looks like the drainage system is working.

Even with all that rain there was far less water coming into the cemetery from the brook, although there is still some water coming in. So, on Bucks Hill we still need to address the water coming in but I think we've addressed the water going out.

We're also looking in conjunction with Warwickshire County Council to potentially put a drainage system in along Skye drive. I mean, also along Skey Drive, all the water was pulled in on Skey Drive coming off the cemetery because the out that the culverts off Skey Drive and we're all blocked with tree roots and phragmites reed roots and everything.

So yeah, there's a lot of issues that we have sorted. I think we are quite away there. It seems like the drainage is addressed, but we need to finish off where the water's coming in from the brook. There's a little low-lying area just below the footbridge there that it seems to be pooling in when the water's really high, really intense rainfall incidents and then it's then going into the cemetery.

So either we're looking at few potentials really, either put in a drainage system around the road where it's pooling and out or there's a little ditch coming off the brook as well that we're looking to fill in and hopefully that will address it.

Attleborough Cemetery, as you know, in the past, it's very difficult getting Network Rail. They have been out, they have inspected from the culvert down. I've seen photographs of that as well. It looks like that's all clear but only they only went 50 metres, which isn't far enough.

So why there's a blockage beyond that? I mean it is terrible again and I feel awful for the families that have got people in. Bucks Hill has been OK. The graves have remained, you know, accessible and dry, which I'm really relieved about.

Attleborough was flooded with the last lot of rain, I went out there Friday. We found a new manhole that we were unaware of. So that needs to be investigated.

But I think the issue at Attleborough is the bund that was put in, from the water coming off the railway embankment, and going along and, the water is coming through that into the cemetery rather than actually backing in from the drainage. Once it's into the culvert, I think it's through and away. But it's the problem between where it's draining off the embankment and where it's going underground into the into the culvert. So I think that stretch what we look at doing there to rectify it. There are a few holes in it, I think, rabbits and stuff have been in there. we only found them the other day, on Friday.

So that needs sorting. But I still don't think that will rectify it because it's, it seems to be coming through further. And I mean, whether we concrete around that culvert entrance to prevent water coming through, but we are still working on that. It obviously hasn't been addressed yet. Still needs the drainage.

There's a manhole in Attleborough wreck which we've looked at. It was all silted up because there hadn't been anything done to it. But that's all flowing now, so that's all clear, the water should go away once it's in the culvert. But yeah, it still needs some work at Attleborough, I'm afraid. Thank you.

Councillor D. Brown asked the Portfolio for Leisure, Communities and Health:

As you know, Tim, we have an issue with the stretch of land that runs between Exhall Road in Keresley and the newer houses at Woods Piece and Mercer's Meadow.

This area should have been added to the regular maintenance schedule back in the 1990s when the estate was built, but for whatever reason wasn't and I'm pleased to see that we've done some work to tidied compared to what had been done in the past, particularly on Exhall Road.

As I've asked before, are we any nearer getting that area added to the regular maintenance schedule so it's done on a regular basis rather than being done by exception after we as councillors have complained about it.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:

Yeah, I was quite surprised when I was out canvassing before I became an elected member in Stone Meadow, the state of the pavements, it was completely overgrown with ivy. Nothing had been done for years. I know you've been a counsellor there for six years, is it? And yeah, I was quite surprised when the local residents told me about it.

So when I was elected and grounds maintenance became part of the portfolio that I've taken on, I did speak to the Parks and Green Space Manager and apparently it has never been put on the contract since it was since it was adopted by the council.

So as I understand it, it has been now, but I'll, I'll need to check that and come back to you in writing.

I mean, there was maintenance carried out, the pavements were cleared and that hadn't been done since, since we adopted it.

Thank you.

Councillor D. Brown followed up with:

I just want to come back on a couple of points on that.

Thanks, Tim.

Obviously those areas have been doing that.

Pavements been cleared previously, but it's been done by exception.

And I think it's very important that we get these areas added to the maintenance schedule because the residents that live there pay council tax the same as people

pay council tax in areas where the spaces are adopted and maintained regularly and yet they seem to get a poorer service because everything is done by exception rather than by routine.

So I'd really appreciate if we could push that and get that into the maintenance schedule on a permanent basis.

Thank you.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:

Yeah, I mean one of the residents that I was speaking to said she lived there for nine years and it had never been done in the nine years that she'd lived there.

So it was quite important that once I got in, I did get that area addressed.

And yeah, as far as I'm aware it, I will need to check, but I think it is on the maintenance contract now.

EL12 Feedback from Cabinet on recommendations from OSP

The panel at its meeting on 13th June 2024 requested that a report be provided to Cabinet on the flooding at Attleborough and Bucks Hill Cemeteries. A report was submitted to Cabinet on 11th September 2024 and the cabinet minute included in the agenda in addition to a copy of the report.

RESOLVED that the report and minute be noted.

EL13 Intergrated Performance Report – First Quarter 2024/25

A report of the Risk Management and Performance Officer. The Panel were presented with a report which seeks to provide appropriate performance measures, budget information and risk data for service areas within the scope of the Panel. The report has been adapted to reduce the volume of data (as previously reported under the former scrutiny panel arrangements), whilst still providing the Panel with sufficient information to monitor results to address issues arising.

**Public Speaker: Mr P. Smith
Councillor M. Kondakor**

The following was raised:

- In respect of the waste/household collection could the lower waste collected be attributed to the mixed recycling policy. Question to be feedback to appropriate officers and written response be given.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

EL14 Monitoring of the Grounds Maintenance Contract

A report was submitted to the panel by the Parks and Green Space Manager asking the panel to consider the information relating to the management/monitoring of the Grounds Maintenance contract and the presentation given by the contractor – Glendale Grounds Management Ltd

Public Speaker: Councillor M. Kondakor

The following points were raised or discussed:

- It was noted that the hanging baskets and bedding plants were better than last year and appreciated that at certain times of the year there are pinch points in the contract trying to do several jobs at once whilst managing unpredictable weather conditions.
- A question was raised in respect of priority of member and resident enquiries. The Parks and Green Space Manager responded that corporately the target response to customers is ten working days with member enquiries being a two working day target depending on the nature of the enquiry as some require a site visit. There is no priority of one ward over another. If a Grounds Maintenance request comes in and, if the member is not satisfied, then members need to put in a Member Enquiry form. Resources are moved around to best complete the work that needs to be done.
- A question was raised in how works were completed, the Parks and Green Space Manager advised there is a schedule of works that is drawn up with considerations given by teams to look at infrastructure – street furniture, wall lights etc in addition to areas not included in the Ground Maintenance contract but these will come with a cost.
- A question was raised regarding the issues raised in housing at Table 5.6 of the report and if these are addressed using the Housing budget. The Parks and Green Space advised that tenants are responsible for their own gardens and if they are unable to maintain them, grounds maintenance are asked to take them on but we are a commercial contract so unable to take on tenant gardens.

RESOLVED that the report and presentation be noted.

EL15 Forward Plan

The Forward Plan showing the key decisions that will be made in the four months commencing 1st October 2024, was provided to the Panel for information.

RESOLVED: that the Forward Plan be noted.

EL16 Work Programme

The Panel were presented with the Work Programme for the municipal year 2023-2024.

Public Speaker: Councillor M. Kondakor

RESOLVED that

- a) the Work Programme be noted; and
- b) the collection of waste from bins in parks and greenspace be added to the work programme for next municipal year to look at cohesion between the Council and Glendale collections, the size of the bins and budget implications.

EL17 **Any Other Items**

None

Chair

**Environment and Leisure OSP –
Schedule of Declarations of Interests – 2024/2025**

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
	General dispensations granted to all members under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011			Granted to all members of the Council in the areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing matters - Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 - An allowance, payment given to members - An indemnity given to members - Any ceremonial honour given to members - Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 - Planning and Licensing matters - Allotments - Local Enterprise Partnership
	E. Amaechi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employed NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) - Ricky Global Consultants Ltd - Purple Dove Events Ltd - Director – Techealth Ltd 	The Labour Party (sponsorship) - Foundation Governor - Our Lady and St. Joseph Academy, Nuneaton. - Member of: - British Computer Society. - Igbo Community Coventry. - Mbaise Community, Coventry. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: - Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground - EQuIP: Equality and Inclusion Partnership - West Midlands Combined Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee - Pride in Camp Hill (PinCH)	
	A. Bull	Employed by FedEx	The Labour Party (sponsorship) - CWU Trade Union Member Representative of the following Outside Bodies: - Age UK (Warwickshire Branch)	
	J. Collett	Employed by: - Director, Research and Insights for Fullbrook Strategies Ltd.	- Nuneaton Conservative Association (sponsorship) Member of: - Nuneaton Rugby Club - Nuneaton Town Football Club	

	Name of Councillor	Disclosable Pecuniary Interest	Other Personal Interest	Dispensation
		- Managing Director - Consigliere Strategy Ltd	- Nuneaton Cricket Club	
	J. Gutteridge			
	S. Markham	County Councillor – WCC (Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services)	Governor at Ash Green School Member of the following Outside Bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charities • Trustee of Abbey Theatre • Bedworth Board 	
	W. Markham		Governor at Ash Green School for SEND Member of Unite Union	
	C. Smith	Software Engineer – Prophet PLC	- Member of Labour Party and Unite - Safeguarding – Manor Park RFC Representative on the following Outside Bodies: - Astley Charity	
	T. Venson	Employed by Freightliner Heavy Haul	ASIEF Trade Union The Labour Party Representative on the following Outside Bodies: - Building Control Partnership Steering Group - Warwickshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
	M. Walsh	Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager	Trustee of the Nuneaton Scouts Association. Representative on the following Outside Bodies: - Hammersley Smith and Orton Charity	
	D. Brown (substitute)	Employed by H.M Land Registry	-Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity. -Trustee of the Exhall Education Foundation Charity	