

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

A meeting of the Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 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: Councillors M. Walsh (Vice-Chair), E. Amaechi, D. Brown (substitute for S. Markham), J. Collett, S. Dhillon (substitute for W. Markham) J. Gutteridge, B. Hughes (substitute for A. Bull) and C. Smith.

Apologies: Councillor A. Bull, S. Markham and W. Markham

**PART I – PUBLIC BUSINESS**

EL1 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Housing, Environment and Health OSP meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.

EL2 **Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that the declarations of interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes with the inclusion of substitute Councillors D. Brown, S. Dhillon and B. Hughes. In addition, Councillor J. Gutteridge and M. Walsh declared the following;

Councillor J. Gutteridge declared that he was no longer a representative of the following

- Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board
- Age UK (Warwickshire Branch)
- Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground
- West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board

Councillor M. Walsh declared an Other Interest by way of being a Trustee of the Nuneaton District Scouts Association

EL3 **Questions to Cabinet**

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

**Councillor M. Walsh asked the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health:**

When we the Conservative Group took control of this Council three years ago, we inherited a second rate grounds maintenance contract the previous Labour administration signed off in 2019. Over the last three years up until May, grounds maintenance has continued to improve greatly with Councillor Gutteridge as Portfolio Holder. Since Labour regained power of this Council in May, all Councillor Gutteridge's hard work has gone to pot. The Borough looks a disgrace,

we are receiving constant complaints from residents. Can you please advise this committee and the taxpaying residents when this will be rectified

**The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:**

Thank you, Councillor Walsh. Obviously just coming into a new role and getting my head around everything but it will be taken in hand, I do not have a time limit I am afraid but we are addressing it.

**Councillor J. Gutteridge asked the Portfolio for Leisure, Communities and Health:**

My question is a follow up question to Councillor Walsh's question to the Portfolio Holder. Have you met face to face with the Green Space and Park Manager and the Ground Care Contractors to discuss the contract. I would like just a simple answer yes or no.

**The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:**

I have met with Kevin and Dave Truslove but I haven't met with Glendale yet.

**Councillor J. Gutteridge followed up with:**

I would like to go further, the ground care contract is a very big contract 3.1M sq.M of grass be cut per cut, 16 cuts per year. I am very disappointed that you have not met with the contractors and you say 'oh it will do when I get round to it'. The borough looks a mess. I would also like to know, we are coming upto a difficult point in the contract, where we will be trying to plant bedding plants and cut grass. At the moment in June we are supposed to get two cuts of grass, to date in my ward we have had one cut, five weeks after the last cut which is incorrect. So what are you proposing to do?

**The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:**

Well I think it has been an extremely difficult season with the start of the year, it has been unprecedentedly wet and constant rain. They are playing catch up all the time. Hopefully we can catch up and get back on track, there has been no cutting March because it was completely wet, obviously this makes the grass grow quicker, we all know this from our own garden, so it has been a difficult season. I don't think anyone can argue with that and that sets back the programme.

**Councillor J. Gutteridge followed up with:**

We did cut the grass in March; we altered the contract so it cut early in March. I understand it has been a very wet spring but there are still various places across the Borough that we can cut grass if we can't cut it in certain areas, we can cut it in others. The soil structure in the Borough is different, it's not all sandy, its hard clay soil and so it drains better, also Glendale they can work any five from seven, they can work more hours in the summer and less in the winter so I think with some urgency that the Portfolio Holder has a chat with the Ground Care Contractors.

**The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:**

Thank you I take that on board, I mean clay soils don't drain well that's the whole point of clay soils, but I take your comments on board.

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

I would like to ask the Portfolio Holder responsible for cemeteries, what action is being taken to deal with flooding at both Attleborough and Bucks Hill cemeteries.

It is causing enormous distress to relatives of the deceased, they are not able to get next to graves, it is obviously very distressing in itself, it is widespread areas. I understand that action was attempted at Bucks Hill but that appears to have gone awry so can I ask what urgent action is being taken in what is a very distressing issue.

**The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Communities and Health replied:** That is ongoing, Attleborough, we think we have identified the source of the problem so there was drain there that has had a camera which has alleviated problems somewhat, we think there is further blockage down the line and again this is due to the unprecedented amount of rain we have had at the start of the season. However, we think some of the water is coming off national rail property and needs addressing but we think we have identified a way and it has drained away but it does need further investigation down this drain on site.

**Councillor J. Collett moved that a report be sent to Cabinet on this issue, so that what is of great concern to local residents, it is transparent and clear what is being done on this matter.**

**Councillor D. Brown seconded the motion.**

**A vote was taken.**

**RESOLVED** that a report be sent to Cabinet on this issue, so that what is of great concern to local residents, it is transparent and clear what is being done on this matter.

#### EL4 **Intergrated Performance Report – Fourth Quarter 2023/24**

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**

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the report be noted.

#### EL5 **Museum Performance 2022 - 2023**

The Museum and Arts Manager presented the above report to panel for comments on performance.

The following point were raised or discussed:

- Footfall – there are counters on the front door and tea room and usually they half the total amount but figures are probably higher due to counter being at a certain height. An Economic impact assessment was completed last year and visitor feedback gave an indication that there are a significant number of mature male visitors to the museum, as well as families, considered a safe meeting place for isolated/lonely people. In school holidays they have significant number of family visits and visitors from abroad. It was requested

that a further breakdown of number of adults and children and when they visit be produced in the next report.

- Explored the idea of getting an email distribution for visitors to provide updates as to what is on at the museum and have calendar events at popular times of the year. At the moment there is not a suitable email format.
- The programme of events is reducing from 23 – 11 exhibitions due to not having a designated exhibition officer and currently have low staffing levels.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted.

EL6 **Waste and Recycling Update**

A report and presentation of the Assistant Director – Environment and Enforcement gave the panel members an update on the status of the waste and recycling collections.

The Panel asked a few questions and discussed a variety of issues including:

- Contaminations – how to educate residents moving forward as what is recyclable locally. NBBC recycling contamination is comparable to other authorities and working closely with Coventry City Council (who collect the waste) to ensure levels of contamination is at a minimum.
- Litter Picks – held every six weeks in the Town Centre, 430 litter bins across the Borough. Bins in parks are monitored and emptied by Parks department.
- Caddy bags due to cost of living is very expensive, looking at simple and easier ways to help residents with food waste in preparation for the mandatory food waste collections in 2026. Waste from caddy's will go to a biodigester and used to produce electricity
- A visit to the Sherbourne Recycling Centre be arranged for Panel members.

**RESOLVED** that

a) a site visit to the Sherbourne Recycling Centre be arranged for Panel members; and

b) the report be noted

EL7 **Forward Plan**

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

**RESOLVED:** that the Forward Plan be noted.

EL8 **Work Programme**

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

**RESOLVED** that the Work Programme be noted

EL9 **Any Other Items**

None

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Chair

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

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
	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"> <li>- Housing matters</li> <li>- Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992</li> <li>- An allowance, payment given to members</li> <li>- An indemnity given to members</li> <li>- Any ceremonial honour given to members</li> <li>- Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992</li> <li>- Planning and Licensing matters</li> <li>- Allotments</li> <li>- Local Enterprise Partnership</li> </ul>
	E. Amaechi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employed NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP)</li> <li>- Ricky Global Consultants Ltd</li> <li>- Purple Dove Events Ltd</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foundation Governor - Our Lady and St. Joseph Academy, Nuneaton.</li> <li>- Member of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- British Computer Society.</li> <li>- Igbo Community Coventry.</li> <li>- Mbaise Community, Coventry.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	D. Brown	Employed by H.M Land Registry	Regional Coordinator, Ragdoll Rescue Charity.	
	A. Bull	Employed by FedEx	The Labour Party (sponsorship) -CWU Trade Union Member	
	J. Collett	Employed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marcus Jones MP</li> <li>- Consigliere Strategy Ltd</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nuneaton Conservative Association (sponsorship)</li> <li>- Member of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nuneaton Rugby Club</li> <li>- Nuneaton Town Football Club</li> <li>- Nuneaton Cricket Club</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	S. Dhillon	Employed by UHCW NHS Trust	Member (Rep) at Unison – UHCW Trust	
	J. Gutteridge		<del>Representative on the following Outside Bodies:</del> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>• Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board</del></li> <li><del>• Age UK (Warwickshire Branch)</del></li> <li><del>• Committee of Management of Hartshill and Nuneaton Recreation Ground</del></li> <li><del>• West Midlands Combined Authority Wellbeing Board</del></li> </ul>	

	<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Disclosable Pecuniary Interest</b>	<b>Other Personal Interest</b>	<b>Dispensation</b>
			Member of NABCEL	
	B. Hughes	Full Time Carer		
	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"> <li>• Nuneaton and Bedworth Sports Forum</li> <li>• Warwickshire Direct Partnership</li> <li>• Warwickshire Waste Partnership</li> <li>• Sherbourne Asset Co Shareholder Committee</li> <li>• Hammersley, Smith and Orton Charities</li> <li>• Trustee of Abbey Theatre</li> </ul>	
	W. Markham		Governor at Ash Green School for SEND  Member of Unite Union	
	C. Smith	Software Engineer – Prophet PLC	- U16 Coach – Nuneaton RFC - Safeguarding – Manor Park RFC	
	T. Venson	Employed by Freightliner Heavy Haul	A5IEF Trade Union The Labour Party	
	M. Walsh	(Retired)Employed by MacInnes Tooling Ltd. – UK Sales Manager		