

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

25 July 2022

Present: Councillor Bell in the Chair.

Councillors Chambers, Gosling, M Humphreys, Jenns, Jordan, MacLauchlan, Parker, H Phillips, Rose, L Smith, S Smith and A Wright.

7 **Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None were declared at the meeting.

8 **Public Participation**

Councillors Jacky Chambers and Jodie Gosling asked the following question:

In 2021 only 5 out of the 69 projects funded from the first Green Shoots Funding scheme were based in North Warwickshire - 3 of these were based in Atherstone. Given the Council's commitment to tackling climate change and the opportunities which this new round of funding presents [up to £25 K each] there is clearly a need, not only to sign post but also, to actively encourage and support organisations in North Warwickshire to apply for this funding. In particular, where it takes forward commitments made, and targets set out in the Borough Council's Climate Change Action plan to achieve a net gain in biodiversity and support our communities to deliver low carbon projects and climate adaptation initiatives.

Can this council commit to engaging, encouraging and supporting community organisations, schools, Town and Parish councils to apply for the next round of WCC Green Shoots Community Climate Change Fund 2022 and actively work with them to develop and submit these applications before 19th September.

The following response was given by Councillor Bell, Chair of Community & Environment Board:-

The Council very much supports the Green Shoots scheme and had been encouraging the County Council to focus on projects in the North of the County following the success of the first round of funding. Warwickshire County Council has acknowledged the need to support greater engagement from within our area as highlighted on its website where it states:

“Due to less funding being awarded to organisations in Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire Boroughs in the first round of funding, the second round of funding is seeking to attract more applications from projects that support providing benefits to these areas.”

North Warwickshire Borough Council has been actively publicising and promoting the second round of Green Shoots funding. Information on the scheme was sent to all Borough Councillors, Parish Councils and schools. The Council's Community Development team has also been actively engaging with organisations developing or running specific projects.

We are already aware of potential projects in Kingsbury, Piccadilly and Hartshill. A Green Shoots event organised jointly by WCAVA and WCC was held at Wood End Village Hall in mid-June, and the Borough Council continues to work closely with WCC and WCAVA to signpost any interest. Officers are in further discussions with colleagues at WCC to organise further drop-in sessions in our area. NWBC will continue to promote the scheme and the Corporate Director (Streetscape) will be asked to work with the all-party Climate Change Member Group to see what further support can be given to schools, community organisations and other groups in the borough wishing to make bids to the fund.

Further information on the Green Shoots Fund can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greenshootsfund

9 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 16 May 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2022, copies having been previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 Increase of Charges for Street Naming and Numbering

The Chief Executive proposed the increase of charges for applications for the Street Naming and Numbering service provided by the Council

Resolved:

That the increase in fees and charges for the Street Naming and Numbering service, set out in paragraph 5.1.2 of the report of the Chief Executive, be approved and that a review be carried out after one year to ensure the revised charges cover the cost of the service.

11 Leisure Facilities: Local Authority Trading Company

Further to a report received at its last meeting, held in May 2022, the Director of Leisure and Community Development asked the Board to consider the adoption of a vision and accompanying sets of values and strategic objectives for the Leisure Facilities Local Authority Trading Company.

Resolved:

That the vision and accompanying sets of values and strategic objectives for the Leisure Facilities Local Authority Trading Company, as identified in the Appendix attached to the report of the Director of Leisure and Community Development, be adopted, subject to the need to include reference, within the strategic objectives, to a LATCo commitment to seek to secure external resources in support of its work.

12 Leisure Facilities: Service Improvement Plan

The Director of Leisure and Community Development presented to Members the approved 2022/23 Service Improvement Plan (SIP) detailing activity through to the end of June 2022, through which the Board had agreed to monitor the operational performance of the leisure facilities at each of its meetings.

Resolved:

That the progress made against the requirements identified in the approved 2022/23 Leisure Facilities Service Improvement Plan through which operational performance is monitored, be noted.

13 Re-opening the High Street Safely/Welcome Back Fund

The Director of Leisure and Community Development provided Members with an overview of the local implementation of the Re-opening the High Street Safely / Welcome Back Fund programme. Details of the work that had been undertaken to support businesses during the Coronavirus pandemic and the activity that had been delivered to encourage residents and visitors back to the "high street" were given.

Resolved:

That the work undertaken in delivering the local Re-opening the High Street Safely / Welcome Back Fund programme of work in Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth, be noted.

14 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebratory Grants Scheme

The Director of Leisure and Community Development updated Members on the successful delivery of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebratory Grants programme.

Resolved:

That the successful delivery of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebratory Grants programme, as detailed in the report and the associated appendices of the Director of Leisure and Community Development, be noted.

15 **Hedgehog Friendly Strimming**

The Corporate Director - Streetscape updated members on the measures which the Grounds Maintenance teams have been taking to reduce the impact of their activities on the local hedgehog population.

Resolved:

- a **That the content of the report of the Corporate Director – Streetscape be noted, and the actions taken endorsed; and**
- b **That the scheme be publicised alongside measures which residents can take to make their own gardens more hedgehog friendly.**

16 **Budgetary Control Report 2022/23 Period Ended 30 June 2022**

The Corporate Director - Resources detailed revenue / expenditure and income for the period from 1 April 2022 to June 2022. The 2022/23 budget and the actual position for the period, compared with the estimate at that date, were given, together with an estimate of the out-turn position for services reporting to the Board.

Resolved:

That the report be noted, together with the request for future reports to include additional information around ongoing challenges and improvements to the Board's budgetary position.

17 **Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party**

The minutes of the meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Working Party held on 12 May 2022 and 5 July 2022, copies having been previously circulated, were noted.

Margaret Bell
Chairman