



Bracknell Town Council

Environmental Services Tuesday 4th June 2024

Date	Tuesday 4 th June 2024
Time	19:34 – 20.36
Location	Council Chamber, Brooke House
Present	Councillors: Ellen MacHale, Jeffrey Gillbe, Mary Temperton, Cath Thompson (Co-opted), Gerry Webb, Kathleen Nugent, Janet Cochrane, Imara Wright, Lucy Young, Megan Wright (Co-opted)
Apologies	Councillor Ryan Frost
Absent	Councillor Caroline Egglestone, Simon Carter
Virtual	Councillor Jodie Watts
Officers	Rachel Gordge

Minutes

ES33/24 ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Ryan Frost. Councillors Megan Wright and Cath Thompson were co-opted, with the proposal put forth by Councillor Lucy Young and seconded by Councillor Mary Temperton. The co-options were subsequently approved by the committee.

ES34/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported by the Councillors on the items on the agenda.

ES35/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meetings held on April 23rd and May 14th 2024, were reviewed. Councillor Ellen Mac Hale proposed the approval of these minutes as a correct record, and this was seconded by Councillor Kath Nugent. The committee subsequently approved the minutes without any raised questions or concerns.

Decision: The minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meetings held on April 23rd and May 14th, 2024, were approved as a correct record.

ES36/24 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

ES37/24 CLERK'S REPORT

Updates on two main topics were given and NOTED:

1. Pump Track Consultation: A total of 268 responses were received, with an overwhelming majority of 267 in favour of the project. A request regarding suppliers is set to be taken to the Strategy and Finance Committee.

2. Biodiversity Audit: Audits of Mill Park, Great Hollands Rec, Jocks Lane, and Braybrooke have begun. A report on the audits will be presented at the next Environmental Services meeting.

ES38/24 ONGOING PROJECTS

Updates were provided on several ongoing projects and NOTED:

1. Pump Track Consultation: The consultation was held at a skate competition and received positive engagement from youth and residents
2. Five-Year Plan for Play Area Refurbishment: Work is currently underway on this plan
3. Play Areas at Jocks Lane, Ennerdale, Latimer, and Mill Park: Various refurbishments and projects are planned at these locations, including play equipment for older children at Jocks Lane and the replacement of the boat at Mill Park as it has come to the end of its life
4. Indian Bean Tree: Costs, protection, and maintenance are being explored

ES39/24 COMMUNITY EVENTS WORKING GROUP

1. A recommendation was made to disband the Community Events Working Group and instead manage events through the Environmental Services Committee. This recommendation was proposed by Councillor Lucy Young and seconded by Councillor Kath Nugent. This was APPROVED by the committee for recommendation to the next Full Council meeting.
2. It was proposed by Councillor Gerry Webb and seconded by Councillor Jeffrey Gillbe to add Councillor Cath Thompson and remove Councillor Caroline Egglestone from the Environmental Services Committee Membership. This was APPROVED by the committee for recommendation to the next Full Council meeting.
3. The committee took note of the upcoming events, including the changed date of the Teddy Bears' Picnic to the 10th of July 2024.

Decision: The Environmental Services Committee approved the recommendation to disband the Community Events Working Group.

Decision: The committee approved the recommendation to add Councillor Cath Thompson and remove Councillor Caroline Egglestone from the Environmental Services Committee Membership.

ES40/24 CARBON REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

An update was provided on the Carbon Reduction Working Group. The Carbon Reduction Plan will be sent to all Councillors with the minutes of the last meeting. It was NOTED that the environmental impact of bonfires in the Borough was discussed and is being passed to BFC for further discussion. Councillor Guy Gillbe was nominated as a member of the Joint Climate Action Board Working Group to encourage information sharing between Councils.

ES41/24 PLAY EQUIPMENT

Play area refurbishments at Ennerdale, Latimer, Mill Park, and Jocks Lane were discussed. It was proposed by Councillor Mary Temperton to recommend the additional £80,500 is used from the CIL funds to improve all four play areas in this financial year. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Kath Nugent and APPROVED by the Committee for recommendation to the Strategy and Finance Committee. The Committee also encouraged the installation of accessible equipment and the preservation of as many established trees as possible on these sites.

Decision: The committee approved the proposal to recommend the additional £80,500 from the CIL funds to improve all four play areas.

ES42/24 GREEN CHAMPION ELECTION

The role of a Councillor Green Champion was discussed. It was decided that a dedicated Councillor Green Champion was a redundant role as all of the Councillors on the Environmental Services Committee act as Green Champions in the community. It was proposed by Councillor Mary Temperton not to elect an individual Councillor into this role which was seconded by Councillor Janet Cochrane and APPROVED by the committee.

Decision: The committee decided not to elect an individual Councillor as a Green Champion as all of the Councillors take on this role.

ES43/24 STEAM WEED CONTROL SYSTEM

A report detailing the costs of the current weed removal process and the eco-friendly steam weed control system was reviewed. Further investigation into alternative weed control methods was recommended. Officers will bring a report to the next meeting of the Environmental Services Committee.

ES44/24 BRACKNELL HISTORY WORKING GROUP

A request was made by Councillor Ellen Mac Hale to create a Bracknell History Working Group. The proposed group would focus on celebrating the history of Bracknell and its landmarks, with public participation and Councillor-led meetings. A standing agenda item on the Environmental Services agenda was recommended for the working group to report into and make requests to Full Council. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Janet Cochrane and approved for recommendation to full council. This was APPROVED for recommendation to Full Council. The recommended membership is: Councillors Ellen Mac Hale, Janet Cochrane, Jodie Watts, Guy Gillbe, Graham Firth, and Gerry Webb and the Working Group will be open to the public.

Decision: The committee approved the recommendation to create a Bracknell History Working Group.

ES45/24 FIREWORKS ON OPEN SPACES

Concerns were raised regarding fireworks in open spaces. The committee discussed the legality of fireworks in public places. It was suggested by Councillor Mary Temperton to put up signage stating that fireworks are not permitted on Bracknell Town Council sites to protect wildlife and minimise disturbance to residents. This suggestion was seconded by Councillor Kath Nugent and APPROVED by the committee.

Decision: The committee approved the suggestion to put up signage stating that fireworks are not legal in open green spaces.

ES46/24 CIL

The CIL report was noted, and new ideas for CIL funding were requested. The committee discussed adding new ideas to the wish list, including:

- £80,500 for play area refurbishments
- Resurfacing of the pathway between Wooden Hill and Great Hollands Pavilion

ES47/24 WORK START AND COMPLETED

The committee noted the work started and completed by the Grounds Team. It was noted that the list was shorter than usual as the mowing season had begun.

Date of the next Meeting: 17th September 2024 at 7.30 pm Council Chamber Brooke House

Sign:

Date: