

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor G Salmon)	
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor C O'Rourke		Councillor B Spencer
Councillor A M T Reading		Councillor G Kelly
Councillor B Prigmore		Councillor N Brown
Councillor Mrs C Reavey		Councillor S Prosser
Miss Alicia Schofield (Town Clerk)		David Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)
Mrs Emily Arrow (Assistant Clerk)		
PSCO Will Page		Chris Healey – Crimesecure CCTV Provision

24/748.

PRAYERS

The meeting was opened with prayers led by Mother Louise Bishop.

24/749.

APOLOGIES

Cllr V K Paul, Cllr Mrs J Bone, Cllr P Tomas, Cllr P McCann, Cllr Mrs A Gardner

24/750.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Other Interests

Cllr H L Jackson – as a member of the Unitary Council he will consider all matters at Unitary level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the Unitary tier. Therefore, he cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by the decisions of this Council.

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting – item 15.2, Cllr Whiting is a volunteer at the hub. Item 16, Cllr Whiting knows the applicants.

Cllr Mrs C Reavey – item 16, Cllr Reavey owns a property in the area.

24/751.

MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th October 2024 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

24/752.

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

24/753.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

The PCSO Will Page gave a short introduction to his role and addressed councillors questions regarding local issues.

24/754.

CCTV PROVISION

Chris Healey from Crimesecure gave a short presentation about the work that they do for our CCTV provision in the town and addressed questions from the councillors regarding this provision.

24/755.

MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor reported following the Street Name exhibition held on several dates in November. The exhibition was a success with many attendees and the addition of the soldiers details around the war memorial on Remembrance Day was well received.

24/756. **TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

Police Report

Link to crimes for September 2024.

[Local Crime Information for Market Square, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, NN10 8BT - September 2024](#)

Please also see attached spreadsheet that tracks this months’ crimes against previous months. 39 crimes for the month of September:-

- Anti-social Behaviour – 3
- Burglary -3
- Drugs – 3
- Other theft – 2
- Possession of weapons -1
- Public Order – 2
- Shoplifting – 10
- Vehicle crime -2
- Violence / Sexual offences – 13

Urban Greenspace Improvement Projects

North Northants Council £1.5million UK Shared Prosperity E3 funding.

NNC advised that the following projects have been approved:-

- Tenter Close/Toll Bar Green Benches and tree planting £5,000
- Castle Fields Signage £1,000
- Land to rear of Henry Chichele Tree planting £4,000
- Riverside Park Pathways and signage up to £70,000
- Stanwick Road Dogs Off Lead Park Community Orchard £3,000

The deadline for the delivery of the projects is 31st March 2025. NNC have stated that the tender and delivery process will be managed in hand by them in order to meet the tight timelines. A meeting is pending between the Clerk and NNC to discuss the projects and the specifications for tender.

Report to Council under Procedure Point 4 of the Complaints Procedure

31/10/2024.	Written complaint received regarding lack of action regarding grounds maintenance works and tree management.
06/11/2024.	Clerk responded to try to settle the complainant directly as per Procedure Point 3 of the Complaints Procedure.
To date	No further correspondence has been received from the complainant. Matter will come to council for consideration if the complaint cannot be settled by the Clerk.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk’s report be received and noted.

24/757. **QUESTIONS**

None.

24/758. **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES**

None.

24/759. **REPORTS FROM UNITARY COUNCILLORS**

A report had not yet been received but will be circulated upon receipt.

24/760. **FINANCE**

24/760.1. **To approve accounts for payment as at 26th November 2024**

- RESOLVED:**
That the accounts for payment of £55,643.37 as at 26th November 2024 be approved for payment.
- 24/760.2. **To approve the bank account reconciliation as at 31st October 2024**
RESOLVED:
That the bank account reconciliation as at 31st October 2024 be signed by the Chairman after being checked by Cllr Mrs P H Whiting.
- 24/760.3. **To approve the following expenditure:-**
RESOLVED:
- (i) That the Mayors pendant repair be carried out at a cost of £428.
 - (ii) That repair and replacement of the knee high fencing on Parker Way is approved at a cost of £730.
 - (iii) That the legal fees to review the template ‘Licence to Occupy’ agreement be approved at a cost of £1030.
- 24/760.4. **To receive and note from Cllr C P O’Rourke the internal control checklist dated 24th October 2024**
RESOLVED:
That the internal control checklist dated 24th October 2024 be received and noted.
- 24/761. **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- 24/761.1. **Planning and Development Committee held on the 12th November 2024**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Planning and Development Committee held on the 12th November 2024 be received and adopted.
- 24/761.2. **Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 12th November 2024**
RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on the 12th November 2024 be received and adopted.
- RESOLVED:**
- 24/761.2.1. **RIVERSIDE PARK ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- (i) That at least 8 bat boxes, 8 bird boxes, 2 hedgehog houses and 4 bee and insect houses be installed at Riverside Park at the locations suggested within the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. Cost £1110 to be met from 340/4844 Riverside Park.
 - (ii) That volunteers and/or staff create 2 hibernacula. That a budget of £250 be set for any materials required that cannot be located from the council’s own landholding. Cost to be met from 340/4844 Riverside Park.
- 24/761.2.2. **SKATEPARK REPAIR PROJECT**
That the remodelling work be undertaken with procurement by means of contract. That the contract specification include:-
- Design based on the sketch plans
 - Flexibility to allow companies to come forward with their best solution for the finish to the shallower soil banking based on our detailed report of the problems experienced since construction.
- A maximum budget of £20,000 is applied to control expenditure
That the cost of the project to be met from budget allocation 2025/26.
- 24/761.2.3. **PAINTING OF THE SPRINGERS, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**
That the 3 springers at Saffron Road play area be repainted at a cost of £1182.75.
- 24/761.2.4. **HIGH PRESSURE WASHING AND MOSS TREATMENTS, TENNIS COURTS AND MUGA**
That a 3-year contract to cover years 2025-2027 is entered into at a cost of £1495pa for high pressure washing and moss treatment of both the tennis courts and the MUGA.
- 24/762. **WORKING PARTIES**
- 24/762.1. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**
RESOLVED:

- That the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on the 2024 be received and noted.
- 24/762.2. **COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND WELLBEING HUB WORKING PARTY**
- 24/762.2.1. **RESOLVED:**
That the minutes of the Community Library and Wellbeing Hub Working Party meeting held on the 12th November 2024 be received and noted.
- 24/762.2.2. **RESOLVED:**
That council adopt the wellbeing strategy document ‘Improving Wellbeing Services for Our Residents’.
- 24/762.2.3. **RESOLVED:**
That the promotion of the community room as a venue for hire is tailored to be more suitable to the possible hire scenarios given that the Hub is becoming established, such as regular block book session hire for activities or classes or a venue for training or business meetings. That following receipt of an enquiry for hire, the Clerk be delegated authority to determine if the hire is compatible with the Hub arrangements; with any resulting hire in line with the hire charges, terms and conditions as previously agreed.
- 24/763. **PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION**
RESOLVED:
That, in reference to the premises licence application 24/02246/LAPNEW: Launch-it Virtual Golf, Unit 1, Connolly House, 3 Westfields Avenue, Higham Ferrers, Rushden, NN10 8AX, the council submit the following comment:
The council do not have any objection to the licensable activities proposed but feel that the sale of alcohol would be more appropriate from 10am at the earliest, instead of the proposed time of 7am.
- 24/764. **REQUEST FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH AT RIVERSIDE PARK**
RESOLVED:
That the request for a memorial bench for the late David Hill at Riverside Park is approved, with the location to be agreed between the Clerk and the family.
- 24/765. **CCTV PROVISION FROM 1ST APRIL 2025**
RESOLVED:
That CCTV service is retained with contract to include:-
 - 24/7 recording.
 - Maintenance of the cameras and equipment.
 - The cost of the broadband to transmit the images to the monitoring centre.
That the council request that the CCTV is monitored for 70 hours a week.
That a budget of £3000 be set in 2025/26 to provide for the purchase and installation of a new server and 2 replacement cameras.
- 24/766. **ITEMS TO REPORT**
None.

Mayor

Date

Accounts for Payment November 2024

Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Amount
11.10.24	DD15	BT	Paid in October but missed from AFP Telephone charges	£212.82
01.11.2024	271	A&R Printing	Hub flyer	£110.00
01.11.2024	272	Higham Tyre and MOT	Replace van door mirror/wiper blades	£198.00
01.11.2024	273	Rutherford	Key cutting Pavilion	£24.96
01.11.2024	274	Fenland Leisure	Wetpour arch climber	£8,496.00
12.11.2024	275	Aitchison Raffety	Neighbourhood Plan	£828.68
12.11.2024	276	Linda Lane (Tookeys Creations)	Hub facepainting/pumpkins	£110.00
12.11.2024	278	Local Leaflet Drop	Leaflet delivery Hub Volunteers	£187.18
12.11.2024	279	A&R Printing	Sparkle - Correx boards	£240.00
22.11.2024	280	Woodbine Farm	Reindeer for Sparkle	£990.00
26.11.2024	281	CIA Fire and Security	Smart access to tennis courts annual fees	£643.20
26.11.2024	282	Steve Pell	Fencing, Parker Way, remove bins at Saffron Rd Park	£565.00
26.11.2024	283	Pear Technology	Annual hosting cemetery searcher	£120.00
26.11.2024	284	Lowick Manor Farms	Greenwaste	£40.00
26.11.2024	285	SLCC	Membership	£360.00
26.11.2024	286	ESPO	Diaries/pens	£135.00
26.11.2024	287	Wicksteed	Springer parts Saffron Rd	£894.85
26.11.2024	288	Seagrave Inspection Services	Training Play Area Operational Inspection	£1,428.00
26.11.2024	289	A&R Printing	Correx boards Sparkle inc sponsorship	£352.44
26.11.2024	290	NCALC	Training Assistant Clerk AI	£60.00
26.11.2024	291	Community Training Solutions	Training Hub Volunteers	£2,640.00
26.11.2024	282	Northampton Town Council	Mayoral event tickets	£30.00
26.11.2024	293	Daventry Mayoral Charity Account	Mayoral Christmas event	£30.00
26.11.2024	294	Zephyr	Flagpole service	£354.00
26.11.2024	295	Acorn Stairlifts	Stairlift battery	£276.00
26.11.2024	296	A1 Skip Hire	Skip Hire - Sparkle	£250.00
26.11.2024	297	Rushden Town Council	Wellbeing bus contribution	£1,030.04
26.11.2024	298	Cloudy IT	IT support	£428.81
26.11.2024	299	Inter County Cleaning	Cleaning of Pavilion, public toilets and toilet rolls	£916.21

26.11.2024	300	Wayne Cave	Install of Christmas Lighting	£5,361.77
26.11.2024	301	Medisec	Sparkle event security	£2,752.56
26.11.2024	302	Turneys	Grounds Maintenance	£7,640.18
26.11.2024	103-114	HMRC/LGSS/Nest/ staff	Tax, NI, salaries, pensions	£16,067.72
11.11.24	DD1	Lloyds	Bank charge, SIM, Hub biscuits, batteries, cleaning equipment, carpet protector, desk pad, clock, craft materials, Yarn bombing cotton, web domain, parcel delivery.	£241.29
01.11.24	DD2	Direct365	Waste bin collection	£38.42
26.11.24	so	Bright Hr	HR Support	£43.44
10.11.24	DD3	BT	Telephone charges	£212.82
06.11.24	DD4	British Gas	Feeder pillar 1	£14.45
08.11.24	DD5	Yu Energy	Streetlighting Electric	£62.90
08.10.24	DD6	Yu Energy	Streetlighting Electric	£395.41
08.11.24	DD7	Yu Energy	Electric Town Hall	£231.78
08.11.24	DD8	Yu Energy	Electric Tennis Bld	£90.86
10.11.24	DD9	Yu Energy	Gas, Town Hall	£234.31
08.11.24	DD10	Yu Energy	Electric, Pavilion	£193.61
08.01.24	DD11	Yu Energy	Electricity, Public Toilets	£110.04
08.11.24	DD12	Yu Energy	Electric, chapel	£23.00
17.11.24	DD13	EE	Mobile phone charges	£87.44
21.11.24	DD14	Sage	Payroll	£18.00
	SO	NNC	Rates Town Hall	£23.00
	SO	NNC	Rates Market Square	£87.44
	SO	NNC	Rates Tennis court building	£18.00
	SO	NNC	Rates Cemetery	£0.00
	SO	NNC	Rates Saffron Road car park	£0.00
			Total	£55,643.37

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

17TH DECEMBER 2024

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

Police Report

Link to crimes for October 2024.

<https://www.streetcheck.co.uk/crime/mn108bt>

Please also see attached spreadsheet that tracks this months' crimes against previous months.

57 crimes for the month of October:-

- Anti-social Behaviour – 14
- Bicycle theft - 2
- Criminal damage and arson - 6
- Drugs – 3
- Other theft – 2
- Public Order – 1
- Robbery - 1
- Shoplifting – 8
- Vehicle crime -1
- Violence / Sexual offences – 18
- Other crime - 1

Meetings

Planning and Development Committee – Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 6.45pm

Environment and Recreation Committee – Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm

Full Council – Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7.30pm

Event Dates

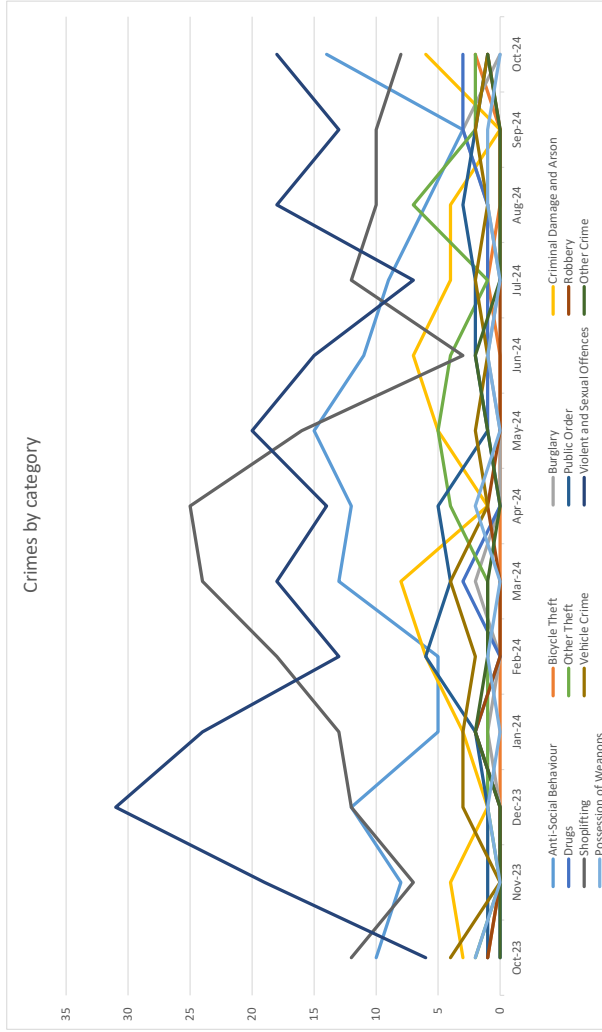
Civic Carol Service, Sunday 22nd December at 6pm, St Marys Church

Mayor Making, Monday 12th May 2025

POLICE CRIME REPORT FOR HIGHAM FERRERS 2024

Offence Type	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Anti-social Behaviour	5	5	13	12	15	11	9	6	3	14			93
Bicycle Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2			3
Burglary	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	0			8
Crim Dam / Arson	3	6	8	1	5	7	4	4	0	6			44
Drugs	2	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	3	3			15
Other	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1			8
Other Theft	1	1	1	4	5	4	1	7	2	2			28
Possession of weapons	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0			6
Public Order	2	6	4	5	1	2	2	3	2	1			28
Robbery	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1			4
Shoplifting	13	18	24	25	16	3	12	10	10	8			139
Vehicle	3	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	2	1			19
Violence / Sexual	24	13	18	14	20	15	7	18	13	18			160
Total	58	53	78	65	66	48	39	52	39	57	0	0	555

Category	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24
Anti-Social Behaviour	10	8	12	5	5	13	12	15	11	9	6	3	14
Bicycle Theft	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Burglary	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
Criminal Damage and Arson	3	4	1	3	6	8	1	5	7	4	4	0	6
Drugs	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1	1	1	1	3	3
Other Theft	2	0	1	1	1	1	4	5	4	1	7	2	2
Public Order	1	1	1	2	6	4	5	1	2	2	3	2	1
Robbery	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shoplifting	12	7	12	13	18	24	25	16	3	12	10	10	8
Vehicle Crime	4	0	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
Violent and Sexual Offences	6	19	31	24	13	18	14	20	15	7	18	13	18
Other Crime	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
Possession of Weapons	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0



Accounts for Payment December 2024

Date	Reference	Payee	Details	Amount
03.12.24		Sparkle traders	Sparkle refunds	£2,707.50
03.12.24	315	Turneys	Tree works Mill Fields	£1,320.00
03.12.24	316	Rutherford	Replacement padlock - Sparkle	£89.52
03.12.24	317	Stage Support Services	Stage for Sparkle	£1,620.00
03.12.24	318	Dave Earl - Rusty Spoons	Sparkle entertainment	£360.00
06.12.24	319	Events Safety Group	Traffic management - Sparkle	£1,362.00
06.12.24	320	Tranex	Radio hire - Sparkle	£258.00
06.12.24	321	Travis Perkins	Tower Light - Sparkle	£558.00
03.12.24				
17.12.24	322	Amazon	Tree planting supplies	£78.78
17.12.24	323	Steve Pell	Parker Way fencing/ drain plumbing at Tennis bld	£770.00
17.12.24	324	Thomas Fattorini	Repair Mayor's pendant	£531.54
17.12.24	325	Crime Secure	CCTV monitoring	£4,938.00
17.12.24	326	Emorgate Seeds	Seed mix	£499.20
17.12.24	327	Eventex	Sound services - Sparkle	£250.00
17.12.24	328	Dats Print	In Your Vicinity advert	£168.30
17.12.24	329	CPRE	Membership	£36.00
17.12.24	330	Northants Fire	Fire Extinguisher inspections	£204.30
17.12.24	331	Rushden Town Council	Wellbeing bus contribution	£1,063.58
17.12.24	332	Cloudy IT	IT support	£431.16
17.12.24	333	Inter County Cleaning	Cleaning of Pavilion, public toilets and toilet rolls	£22.82
17.12.24	334-345	HMRC/LGSS/Nest/ staff	Tax, NI, salaries, pensions	
10.12.24	300758	Petty Cash	Town Hall, library, hub, vehicle expenses, civic service	£45.88
02.12.24		Direct365	Waste bin collection	£77.87
		Bright Hir	HR Support	
		BT	Telephone charges	
08.12.24		Yu Energy	Streetlighting Electric	£463.96

08.12.24			Yu Energy	Streetlighting Electric	£65.89
08.12.24			Yu Energy	Electric Town Hall	£255.87
08.12.24			Yu Energy	Electric Tennis Bld	£101.44
13.12.24			Yu Energy	Gas, Town Hall	£404.29
08.12.24			Yu Energy	Electric, Pavilion	£246.12
08.12.24			Yu Energy	Electricity, Public Toilets	£110.96
08.12.24			Yu Energy	Electric, chapel	£23.24
17.12.24			EE	Mobile phone charges	£87.44
			Sage	Payroll	
	SO		NNC	Rates Town Hall	£357.00
	SO		NNC	Rates Market Square	£120.00
	SO		NNC	Rates Tennis court building	£52.00
	SO		NNC	Rates Cemetery	£135.00
	SO		NNC	Rates Saffron Road car park	£245.00
				Total	£16,444.16

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

17th DECEMBER 2024

REPORT: Expenditure

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

1.	PURPOSE		
1.1.	To approve the following expenditure:-		
(i)	Servicing of St Mary’s Church Clock		
	FINANCIAL IMPLICATION £806 for a 3 year agreement 2025-2027	There is provision within budget	X
		There is no provision within budget	
		There is insufficient provision within budget	
	<p>The current pre-paid term agreement to service the clock has expired, the last service of the offer was carried out in June this year. An offer of a further 3-year renewal has been received. Servicing is offered at a discounted cost in exchange for payment in advance, which ensures there are no price increases during the term of the offer. The 3-year offer will include servicing the clock in June 2025, 2026 and 2027 and the cost will be £806. Payment is to be made by mid-April 2025, prior to an appointment for the service in June. The budget 2025/26 has provision to meet the cost of £806.</p> <p>The 3-year agreement offer is valid until the end of January.</p> <p>If the 3-year agreement is not entered, council would revert to annual payment, the cost to service the clock in June 2025 will be £296, with an annual increase will be applied for ongoing servicing. The 3-year agreement offers a saving of at least £82.</p>		

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM AT THE TOWN HALL,
MARKET SQUARE, HIGHAM FERRERS.**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting
Cllr A M T Reading
Cllr V Paul
Cllr B Prigmore
Cllr C O Rourke
Cllr H L Jackson (substitute)
Cllr S Prosser
Miss Alicia Schofield (Town Clerk)

4 members of the public in attendance

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mrs C Reavey

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr H L Jackson. Items 5.3 and 5.4. Member of Tourism Group
Cllr C P O'Rourke. Items 5.3 and 5.4. Member of Tourism Group
Cllr C P O'Rourke. Item 5.1. Has liaised and advised the club regarding the application.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on the 8th October 2024 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Sandra Manuel, Treasurer of the Higham Ferrers Town Bowls Club, spoke in support of their application.

Liz Barnatt, Chair of the Tourism Group, spoke in support of their application for grant funding to meet costs of entertainment at Chichele College. The application amount has increased this year, mainly to cover the cost of contractors for outside speakers and lighting at events.

Carol FitzGerald of the Tourism Group spoke in support of their application for grant funding to assist with the costs of the Christmas trees. The group secured sponsorship the first year that real trees were used to replace the old and tired artificial trees, This year, sponsorship was not secured; the group seek assistance for next year.

Brenda Lofthouse spoke in support of the grant application for the Friends of St Mary's. Funding is sought to assist with the Arts Festival dance workshops and performances.

5. **GRANT APPLICATIONS 2025/26**

5.1. **Higham Ferrers Town Bowls Club**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That a grant of £2500 be awarded to the Higham Ferrers Town Bowls Club in 2025/26 towards the cost of maintaining the bowling green and replacement floodlighting.

5.2. **Fishing for Minds CIC**

RESOLVED:

That Fishing for Minds CIC be advised that the application for grant funding to assist with junior sessions at Riverside Park should come from Higham Ferrers Riverside Park Angling Association as they are the Licensee with the fishing rights personal to them. That, given

- the circumstances, the period for receipt of a grant application from the Angling Association be permitted by no later than 29th January 2025.
- 5.3. **Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community Group, Entertainment**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
 That a grant of £2793 be awarded to the Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community Group in 2025/26 towards the cost of entertainment at Chichele College.
- 5.4. **Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community Group, Christmas Trees**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
 That a grant of £1356 be awarded to the Higham Ferrers Tourism, Business and Community Group in 2025/26 towards the cost of supply and install of Christmas trees and lights.
- 5.5. **Friends of St Mary’s Higham Ferrers**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
 That a grant of £700 be awarded to Friends of St Mary’s Higham Ferrers in 2025/26 towards the cost of Arts Festival dance workshops and performances.
6. **BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN**
 The Business Forward Plan has been updated to reflect the progress of projects to date.
RESOLVED:
 That the update on the Business Forward Plan be accepted.
7. **FLAGSTONE ACCOUNT**
RESOLVED:
- 7.1. That the Flagstone account reconciliations for for 31st October and 30th November 2024 be signed after being checked by Cllr Mrs P H Whiting.
RESOLVED:
- 7.2. That the performance of the Flagstone cash deposit platform be received and noted.
8. **EARMARKED RESERVES**
RESOLVED:
 That the report on the Earmarked Reserves position be received and noted.
9. **BUDGET 2024/25**
RESOLVED:
 That the review of the budget for 2024/25 be received and noted.
10. **BUDGET 2025/26**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
- 10.1. That the draft budget 2025/26 be approved as circulated further to the following amendments:
- Reduce the allocation to cost code Grants Made by £3901 with respective increase to EMR Asset/Building maintenance.
 - Reduce 220/4000 Parks and Open Spaces salaries by £11466
 - Increase Grounds Maintenance by £3230 as follows:-
 - Cemetery 200/4200 - £350
 - Burials 200/4205 - £200
 - Churchyard 210/4200 - £70
 - Parks & Open Spaces 220/4200 - £2600
 - Car Parks 230/4200- £10
 - Increase EMR Public Conveniences by £5000
 - Increase EMR Asset/Building Maintenance by £3236
- PRECEPT 2025/26**
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:
- 10.2. That the precept be set at £535,600 for 2025/26. An increase of £35,600 which equates to an increase of £6.35 per annum or 12p per week for a Band D property on the current council tax base. This represents a percentage increase of 3.71%.

11. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Request received from committee members for an agenda item for the next meeting to review investments.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

11th February 2025

Chairman

Date

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>				<u>Next Year</u>				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
100 Administration											
1076 Precept	477,000	477,000	0	0	500,000	0	500,000	500,000	535,600	0	0
1090 Interest Received	2,500	36,724	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	22,124	8,000	0	0
1900 Miscellaneous Income	2,000	5,291	0	0	0	0	0	540	0	0	0
Total Income	481,500	519,015	0	0	505,000	0	505,000	522,664	543,600	0	0
4000 Salaries	154,000	134,738	0	0	143,100	0	143,100	94,237	151,000	0	0
4050 Bank Charges	500	344	0	0	450	0	450	748	850	0	0
4055 Audit Fees	2,100	1,365	0	0	2,100	0	2,100	2,115	2,300	0	0
4060 Printing	1,700	1,431	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	564	1,400	0	0
4065 Stationery	900	669	0	0	900	0	900	280	700	0	0
4070 Election Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	1,500	0	5,000	0	0
4075 Travel/Wfh Expenses	350	159	0	0	350	0	350	180	250	0	0
4080 Insurance	6,820	6,990	0	0	7,500	0	7,500	7,541	9,425	0	0
4085 Subscription	5,600	7,126	0	0	6,300	0	6,300	4,093	6,400	0	0
4090 Training	3,000	2,700	0	0	3,250	0	3,250	2,362	3,250	0	0
4095 Postage	350	140	0	0	200	0	200	61	150	0	0
4100 General Establishment	4,000	1,664	0	0	5,500	0	5,500	3,566	5,610	0	0
4105 Consultancy/Rushden East	3,500	2,785	0	0	3,500	0	3,500	279	3,500	0	0
4110 Legal Fees	10,000	2,234	0	0	7,000	0	7,000	0	7,000	0	0
4120 IT	6,000	5,755	0	0	6,800	0	6,800	5,812	7,000	0	0
4160 Advertising & Promotion	250	193	0	0	250	0	250	0	100	0	0
Overhead Expenditure	199,070	168,294	0	0	188,700	1,500	190,200	121,840	203,935	0	0

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>				<u>Next Year</u>				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
					<u>316,300</u>		<u>314,800</u>	<u>400,824</u>	<u>339,665</u>		
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	282,430	350,722									
110 Communication & Information											
1100 Advertising Income	0	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1500 Grants Received	0	595	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	0	845	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4150 Newsletter	6,100	6,043	0	0	6,350	0	6,350	4,522	6,200	0	0
4155 Website/Town App	1,300	400	0	0	1,300	0	1,300	550	1,400	0	0
4160 Advertising & Promotion	2,600	2,569	0	0	2,500	0	2,500	369	1,000	0	0
Overhead Expenditure	10,000	9,012	0	0	10,150	0	10,150	5,441	8,600	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(10,000)	(8,167)	(10,150)		(10,150)		(10,150)	(5,441)	(8,600)		
200 Cemetery											
1200 Burial Income	11,000	12,890	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	8,325	10,000	0	0
1205 Memorials	1,500	1,535	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	2,595	2,000	0	0
Total Income	12,500	14,425	0	0	11,500	0	11,500	10,920	12,000	0	0
4200 Grounds Maintenance	12,750	8,955	0	0	9,500	0	9,500	4,625	10,000	0	0
4205 Burial Expenditure	8,000	7,031	0	0	6,000	0	6,000	3,043	6,000	0	0
4210 Electricity/Gas - Cem. Chapel	300	77	0	0	300	0	300	152	300	0	0
4215 Maintenance - Cem. Chapel	2,785	2,785	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	500	0	0
4220 Rates/Water	2,000	1,314	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	1,125	1,800	0	0
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	150	100	0	0

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	Last Year		Current Year				Next Year				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
			0	0	18,300	0	18,300	9,096	18,700	0	0
Overhead Expenditure	25,835	20,168									
200 Net Income over Expenditure	-13,335	-5,743	0	0	-6,800	0	-6,800	1,824	-6,700	0	0
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(13,335)	(5,743)			(6,800)		(6,800)	1,974	(6,700)		
210 Closed Churchyard											
4200 Grounds Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,648	2,000	0	0
4250 Churchyard Ground Maintenance	2,476	1,637	0	0	1,800	0	1,800	0	0	0	0
4255 Churchyard Other Maintenance	500	6,295	0	0	500	0	500	0	200	0	0
6000 Overhead Expenditure	2,976	7,932	0	0	2,300	0	2,300	1,648	2,200	0	0
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	0	6,795	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(2,976)	(1,137)			(2,300)		(2,300)	(1,648)	(2,200)		
220 Parks & Open Spaces											
1300 Tennis Courts Hire	1,000	837	0	0	900	0	900	1,311	1,000	0	0
1305 Football Pitch Hire	850	1,153	0	0	850	0	850	756	850	0	0
1310 Pavilion Hire	750	3,272	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	1,040	750	0	0
1315 Verge Cutting Income	2,180	2,184	0	0	2,184	0	2,184	2,184	2,184	0	0
1320 MUGA Hire	300	300	0	0	300	0	300	300	300	0	0
1325 Wayleaves	750	938	0	0	750	0	750	938	600	0	0
1330 Maintenance Investment Income	4,000	3,680	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	1,825	2,500	0	0
1335 Cricket & Bowls Club Income	820	395	0	0	820	0	820	770	770	0	0
1500 Grants Received	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	Last Year		Current Year				Next Year				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Total Income	10,650	15,259	0	0	9,804	0	9,804	9,124	8,954	0	0
4000 Salaries	18,500	18,453	0	0	20,910	0	20,910	15,775	34,766	0	0
4200 Grounds Maintenance	113,000	90,531	0	0	90,340	0	90,340	39,378	94,000	0	0
4220 Rates/Water	5,000	4,873	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	1,696	2,500	0	0
4270 Nightingale Way PA	500	225	0	0	250	0	250	73	250	0	0
4275 Travel/Vehicle Exp	2,600	1,484	0	0	2,600	0	2,600	2,121	2,650	0	0
4280 Saffron Road Play Area	6,630	7,701	0	0	3,500	0	3,500	9,047	3,500	0	0
4285 Fitzwilliam Leys Play Area	2,000	183	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	498	1,000	0	0
4290 Villa Rise Play Area	1,000	69	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	488	1,000	0	0
4295 Skateboard Park	500	0	0	0	500	0	500	0	500	0	0
4300 Cleaning	2,000	1,860	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	1,110	2,000	0	0
4305 Grants Made	0	0	0	0	1,400	0	1,400	0	6,500	0	0
4310 Electricity/Gas - Pavilion	5,600	5,274	0	0	3,600	0	3,600	2,208	3,350	0	0
4315 Maintenance - Pavilion	3,000	924	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	453	1,000	0	0
4316 Maintenance - Tennis/MUGA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,035	0	0
4320 Tree Work	25,000	14,710	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	3,745	18,000	0	0
4325 Materials & Plant	1,000	1,045	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	2,050	2,050	0	0
4330 Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	0	0
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	6,500	6,076	0	0	4,000	0	4,000	13,457	2,500	0	0
Overhead Expenditure	192,830	153,408	0	0	156,100	0	156,100	92,098	178,401	0	0
220 Net Income over Expenditure	-182,180	-138,149	0	0	-146,296	0	-146,296	-82,974	-169,447	0	0
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	0	455	0	0	0	0	0	18,154	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(182,180)	(137,694)			(146,296)			(64,820)	(169,447)		

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	Last Year		Current Year				Next Year				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
230 Car Parks											
1400 Wayleaves	45	105	0	0	45	0	45	45	45	0	0
	Total Income	105	0	0	45	0	45	45	45	0	0
4200 Grounds Maintenance	450	417	0	0	360	0	360	256	450	0	0
4220 Rates/Water	4,250	3,424	0	0	4,250	0	4,250	2,917	3,660	0	0
4225 Electricity - Market Square	700	1,600	0	0	500	0	500	-585	500	0	0
4350 Saffron Road Maintenance	500	0	0	0	500	0	500	30	500	0	0
4355 Market Square Maintenance	300	0	0	0	300	0	300	0	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	6,200	5,441	0	5,910	0	5,910	2,619	5,110	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(6,155)	(5,336)		(5,865)		(5,865)	(2,574)	(5,065)		
240 Farmers' Market											
1450 Lettings	4,500	4,745	0	0	4,500	0	4,500	3,578	4,500	0	0
1900 Miscellaneous Income	0	0	0	0	30	0	30	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	4,500	4,745	0	4,530	0	4,530	3,578	4,500	0	0
4000 Salaries	950	990	0	0	1,090	0	1,090	447	1,410	0	0
4160 Advertising & Promotion	1,500	1,035	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	146	500	0	0
4380 Certification/Subscriptions	115	70	0	0	115	0	115	0	0	0	0
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	250	208	0	0	350	0	350	180	400	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	2,815	2,303	0	2,555	0	2,555	774	2,310	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	1,685	2,442		1,975		1,975	2,804	2,190		

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>				<u>Next Year</u>				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
250	<u>Street Lighting</u>										
4390	5,200	5,344	0	0	4,500	0	4,500	2,740	4,250	0	0
4395	800	339	0	0	500	0	500	447	800	0	0
	6,000	5,683	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	3,187	5,050	0	0
	(6,000)	(5,683)			(5,000)		(5,000)	(3,187)	(5,050)		
260	<u>Public Conveniences</u>										
4220	1,200	2,915	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	597	1,500	0	0
4300	8,000	7,523	0	0	7,500	0	7,500	4,940	7,400	0	0
4410	2,700	1,211	0	0	1,391	0	1,391	651	1,200	0	0
4415	2,000	229	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	1,848	1,000	0	0
	13,900	11,878	0	0	11,891	0	11,891	8,036	11,100	0	0
	(13,900)	(11,878)			(11,891)		(11,891)	(8,036)	(11,100)		
270	<u>Public Facilities</u>										
4430	16,500	16,460	0	0	17,450	0	17,450	12,405	22,000	0	0
4435	16,221	23,220	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	9,714	15,000	0	0
4445	1,000	2,399	0	0	2,500	0	2,500	0	2,500	0	0
4450	500	0	0	0	500	0	500	0	500	0	0
4451	500	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	0
4455	700	703	0	0	700	0	700	-52	700	0	0
4460	400	187	0	0	500	0	500	105	300	0	0
4465	597	597	0	0	50	0	50	0	806	0	0

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>					<u>Next Year</u>			
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
			0	0	41,800	0	41,800	22,172	41,906	0	0
6000			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
					<u>(41,800)</u>		<u>(41,800)</u>	<u>(22,172)</u>	<u>(41,906)</u>		
275											
<u>Library and Wellbeing</u>											
1500	0	25,854	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1700	0	129	0	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0
			0	0	100	0	100	0	0	0	0
3000			2,040	0	12,670	0	14,710	8,339	13,510	0	0
4490	5,000	2,960	2,270	0	2,500	0	4,770	1,425	0	0	0
4491	506	2,790	497	0	500	0	997	385	0	0	0
4492	1,250	0	1,250	0	2,500	0	3,750	603	0	0	0
4493	0	0	0	0	3,545	0	3,545	3,253	1,500	0	0
			6,057	0	21,715	0	27,772	14,005	15,010	0	0
					<u>(21,615)</u>		<u>(27,672)</u>	<u>(14,005)</u>	<u>(15,010)</u>		
280											
<u>Town Hall</u>											
4000	1,200	1,311	0	0	1,360	0	1,360	933	1,410	0	0
4220	3,550	3,422	0	0	3,500	0	3,500	2,941	3,900	0	0
4470	3,400	3,687	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	1,827	3,000	0	0
4475	1,600	2,063	0	0	1,600	0	1,600	1,067	1,600	0	0
4480	6,500	6,520	0	0	4,200	0	4,200	2,310	4,200	0	0
4485	4,000	1,290	0	0	2,500	0	2,500	4,339	2,500	0	0

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>				<u>Next Year</u>				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
6000			0	0	16,160	0	16,160	13,418	16,610	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	20,250	18,292								
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	0					1,000	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(20,250)</u>	<u>(18,292)</u>					<u>(12,418)</u>	<u>(16,610)</u>		
290	<u>Civic</u>										
4000	Salaries	1,150	1,266	0	0	1,040	0	1,040	1,340	0	0
4500	Mayoral Allowance	1,500	1,321	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	1,000	0	0
4505	Civic Events	1,000	230	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	0	0
4510	Insignia	250	0	0	1,579	250	0	1,829	250	0	0
4515	Honorary Freedom	0	0	0	-579	579	0	0	0	0	0
4520	Twinning	0	0	0	-1,000	1,500	0	500	150	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	<u>3,900</u>	<u>2,817</u>			<u>5,869</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,695</u>	<u>3,740</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(3,900)</u>	<u>(2,817)</u>			<u>(5,869)</u>		<u>(1,695)</u>	<u>(3,740)</u>		
300	<u>Economic & Tourist Dev</u>										
4530	Tourism and Economy	5,000	8,490	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	8,700	0	0
6000	Overhead Expenditure	<u>5,000</u>	<u>8,490</u>			<u>5,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>458</u>	<u>8,700</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	2,395	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(6,095)</u>			<u>(5,000)</u>		<u>(458)</u>	<u>(8,700)</u>		
310	<u>Events</u>										
1500	Grants Received	0	4,405	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1600	Christmas Sparkle Income	5,000	7,870	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	0	0
1605	Royal Party Income	0	1,447	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Continued on next page

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>				<u>Next Year</u>				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
1610 Other Event Income	0	0	0	0	1,150	0	1,150	681	0	0	0
Total Income	5,000	13,722	0	0	6,150	0	6,150	6,421	5,000	0	0
4550 Christmas Lighting	8,000	9,530	0	0	8,000	0	8,000	4,468	10,000	0	0
4551 Other Events	1,000	3,550	0	0	6,650	0	6,650	4,432	3,500	0	0
4555 Christmas Sparkle Costs	7,500	7,601	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	6,764	11,000	0	0
4560 Royal Party Costs	5,297	5,297	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overhead Expenditure	21,797	25,978	0	0	24,650	0	24,650	15,664	24,500	0	0
310 Net Income over Expenditure	-16,797	-12,256	0	0	-18,500	0	-18,500	-9,243	-19,500	0	0
plus Transfer from EMR	0	4,665	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(16,797)	(7,591)			(18,500)		(18,500)	(9,243)	(19,500)		
320 College Street											
1650 Rental Income	19,500	21,900	0	0	23,125	0	23,125	15,418	23,125	0	0
Total Income	19,500	21,900	0	0	23,125	0	23,125	15,418	23,125	0	0
4605 Maintenance - College Street	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	19,494	5,000	0	0
Overhead Expenditure	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	19,494	5,000	0	0
320 Net Income over Expenditure	16,500	21,900	0	0	20,125	0	20,125	-4,076	18,125	0	0
plus Transfer from EMR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,124	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	16,500	21,900			20,125		20,125	14,048	18,125		
340 Projects/Capital Expenditure											

Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	Last Year		Current Year				Next Year				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
1500	Grants Received	0	10,163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	0	10,163					5,780			0
4801	Highways and Transport	10,000	8,556	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4805	Pavilion Refurb/Comm Centre	50,000	3,522	0	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	30,000	0
4820	Christmas Decorations	3,000	3,000	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	565	2,000	0
4835	Equipment Replacement	3,000	2,675	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	764	1,500	0
4841	Community Plan	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	1,000	0
4842	Neighbourhood Plan	10,000	4,208	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	1,196	5,000	0
4843	Climate Change	4,200	918	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	116	3,000	0
4844	Riverside Park	10,000	939	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	1,500	0
4845	Skate Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	0
4846	Community Orchard	0	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	2,000	0
	Overhead Expenditure	90,200	23,818	0	0	80,500	0	80,500	2,640	66,000	0
	340 Net Income over Expenditure	-90,200	-13,655	0	0	-80,500	0	-80,500	3,140	-66,000	0
6000	plus Transfer from EMR	0	3,256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(90,200)	(10,399)			(80,500)		(80,500)	3,140	(66,000)	
900	Earmarked Reserves										
9320	EMR- Higham Ferrers Improvs	0	0	0	0	8,000	0	8,000	0	0	0
9325	EMR- Building Maintenance	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	0
9335	EMR- Insignia	0	0	0	0	500	0	500	0	0	0
9365	EMR- Public Conveniences	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	0	0	0	0	33,500	0	33,500	0	0	0

Higham Ferrers TC
Annual Budget - By Centre (Actual YTD Month 8)

	<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>				<u>Next Year</u>				
	Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>(33,500)</u>		<u>(33,500)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		
Total Budget Income	533,695	626,163	0	0	560,254	0	560,254	573,949	597,224	0	0
Expenditure	652,001	512,834	6,057	0	633,100	1,500	640,657	334,281	616,872	0	0
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>-118,306</u>	<u>113,329</u>	<u>-6,057</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-72,846</u>	<u>-1,500</u>	<u>-80,403</u>	<u>239,668</u>	<u>-19,648</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
plus Transfer from EMR	0	26,026	0	0	0	0	0	37,428	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(118,306)</u>	<u>139,355</u>			<u>(72,846)</u>		<u>(80,403)</u>	<u>277,096</u>	<u>(19,648)</u>		

<u>A/c Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget Notes</u>
4000	Salaries	100	Administration	Includes NI increase plus 2.5% for annual pay increase and overtime
4050	Bank Charges	100	Administration	Unity bank charges have increased
4055	Audit Fees	100	Administration	NCALC increase to £934.50 plus external
4060	Printing	100	Administration	Slight decrease based on current year spend to date
4065	Stationery	100	Administration	Slight decrease based on current year spend to date
4070	Election Expenses	100	Administration	Scheduled May 2025
4075	Travel/Wfh Expenses	100	Administration	Slight decrease based on current year spend to date
4080	Insurance	100	Administration	LTA expires end of March. Increase of 25%
4085	Subscription	100	Administration	HR advice renewal increase and pear mapping increase
4095	Postage	100	Administration	Reduction as reliance on post is reducing in favour of email
4100	General Establishment	100	Administration	2% increase
4105	Consultancy/Rushden East	100	Administration	Allows for Rushden East SUE PPG
4110	Legal Fees	100	Administration	Provision for GM procurement
4120	IT	100	Administration	Cloudy IT increase per month
4150	Newsletter	110	Communication & Information	Slight reduction based on current year
4160	Advertising & Promotion	110	Communication & Information	Reduction as no longer advertising in the NV News monthly
1205	Memorials	200	Cemetery	Increase based on current year
4200	Grounds Maintenance	200	Cemetery	12% on contract value 24/25
4205	Burial Expenditure	200	Cemetery	GM burial fees plus plot buy back
4210	Electricity/Gas - Cem. Chapel	200	Cemetery	New contracts from 1st Feb 2025
4220	Rates/Water	200	Cemetery	Current rates £1354 plus 2% inflation plus water
4200	Grounds Maintenance	210	Closed Churchyard	12% on contract value 24/25
1310	Pavilion Hire	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Slimming World no longer a regular user
1325	Wayleaves	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Castle Fields wayleaves plus 1 circus hire
1330	Maintenance Investment Income	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Interest rates decreasing
1335	Cricket & Bowls Club Income	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Based on year to date actual
4200	Grounds Maintenance	220	Parks & Open Spaces	12% on contract value 24/25

<u>A/c Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget Notes</u>
4220	Rates/Water	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Reduction based on actuals for year to date
4305	Grants Made	220	Parks & Open Spaces	As per requests £5000 Bowls, Fishing £1500
4310	Electricity/Gas - Pavilion	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Slight reduction, new contracts from 1st Feb 2025
4315	Maintenance - Pavilion	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Reduction for maintenance as planned renovation 2025/26
4316	Maintenance - Tennis/MUGA	220	Parks & Open Spaces	New code - Smart access and contract pressure washing & moss treatments
4320	Tree Work	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Revised based on current year spend
4330	Waste Management	220	Parks & Open Spaces	New code - Green waste plus commercial general and recycling
4900	Miscellaneous Costs	220	Parks & Open Spaces	Reduction due to new codes which expenditure previously incorporated
4220	Rates/Water	230	Car Parks	Slight reduction based on current year
4225	Electricity - Market Square	230	Car Parks	Invoicing based on estimates so irregular 24/25
4350	Saffron Road Maintenance	230	Car Parks	For minor repairs
4160	Advertising & Promotion	240	Farmers' Market	Reduction based on current year
4380	Certification/Subscriptions	240	Farmers' Market	No longer with FARMA
4900	Miscellaneous Costs	240	Farmers' Market	Brass band at Christmas, birthday cake and competition prizes
4390	Electricity - Street Lights	250	Street Lighting	New contracts from 1st Feb 2025
4395	Maintenance - Street Lights	250	Street Lighting	Increase to allow for minor repairs
4220	Rates/Water	260	Public Conveniences	New smart meter has caused billing issues so 24/25 not correctly reflected presently
4300	Cleaning	260	Public Conveniences	Slight decrease, new contract adjustment
4410	Electricity/Gas - Public WC	260	Public Conveniences	New contract from 1st Feb 2025
4415	Maintenance - Public WC	260	Public Conveniences	Retain as existing - Refurbishment project but this may bring forward annual maintenance plans
4430	CCTV	270	Public Facilities	New contract plus new server and 2 replacement cameras
4435	Community Transport	270	Public Facilities	Decrease to reflect concessionary fares
4445	Public Seats	270	Public Facilities	Provides for 2 replacement seats as part of programme to replace old wooden benches
4455	Dog Bins	270	Public Facilities	Dog bin emptying invoicing queries
4460	Hanging Baskets	270	Public Facilities	Reduction due to change of supplier

<u>A/c Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Budget Notes</u>
4465	Public Clock	270	Public Facilities	Based on quote for 3 year service plan
4490	Equipment/ Materials	275	Library and Wellbeing	No budget as forecast carry over at year-end from s106
4491	Administration	275	Library and Wellbeing	No budget as forecast carry over at year-end from s106
4492	Wellbeing Services	275	Library and Wellbeing	No budget as forecast carry over at year-end from s106
4493	Volunteers	275	Library and Wellbeing	App and misc volunteer costs
4220	Rates/Water	280	Town Hall	Increase on rates
4470	Telephone & Broadband	280	Town Hall	New contract for broadband bundle with reduced charges, no increase
4480	Electricity/Gas - Town Hall	280	Town Hall	New contract as of 1st Feb 2025
4485	Maintenance - Town Hall	280	Town Hall	Allows for minor repairs and re-pointing of brickwork
4520	Twinning	290	Civic	Allows for small gift
4530	Tourism and Economy	300	Economic & Tourist Dev	Audio App, Business Forum plus Grants to Tourism and Friends of St Marys £6250
4550	Christmas Lighting	310	Events	New contractor?
4551	Other Events	310	Events	Heritage Day, D-Day, Art Week, History Day
4555	Christmas Sparkle Costs	310	Events	Increasing costs, portable toilets, tower lights, traffic management
4605	Maintenance - College Street	320	College Street	Rendering and damp proofing?
4805	Pavilion Refurb/Comm Centre	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	On project list
4820	Christmas Decorations	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	New/repair to motif lights
4841	Community Plan	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	Possible consultation/review
4842	Neighbourhood Plan	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	Artwork and website assessability
4843	Climate Change	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	Bee Squared, new initiatives
4844	Riverside Park	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	Implementation and development of EMP recommendations
4845	Skate Park	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	New project, Skate Park
4846	Community Orchard	340	Projects/Capital Expenditure	Provision for fencing

	2024/25	2025/26	Increase %	Increase £/yr	Increase £/wk
Precept	£500,000	£535,600	7.12%	£35,600	£684.62
Tax Base	2,916.00	3,012.00	3.29%	-	-
Band A	£114.31	£118.55	3.71%	£4.24	£0.08
Band B	£133.36	£138.31	3.71%	£4.94	£0.10
Band C	£152.42	£158.06	3.71%	£5.65	£0.11
Band D	£171.47	£177.82	3.71%	£6.35	£0.12
Band E	£209.57	£217.34	3.71%	£7.77	£0.15
Band F	£247.68	£256.85	3.71%	£9.18	£0.18
Band G	£285.78	£296.37	3.71%	£10.59	£0.20
Band H	£342.94	£355.64	3.71%	£12.71	£0.24

EVENTS CHRISTMAS SPARKLE

NOTES FROM THE EMERGENCY CHRISTMAS SPARKLE WORKING PARTY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2024 AT THE TOWN HALL, MARKET SQUARE, HIGHAM FERRERS

PRESENT: Cllr Tina Reavey, Cllr Pam Whiting, Cllr Bert Jackson, Cllr Tony Reading, Liz Barnatt (Tourism), Carol FitzGerlad (Tourism), Eileen Busch (Methodist), Alicia Schofield (Town Clerk), Lauren Houlihan (Admin and Comms Officer), Emily Arrow (Assistant Clerk), Sara Balliston (Ashgrove)

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Jennie Bone, Cllr Vijay Paul, Pat Bird (Tourism), Naomi Edwards (Wilson Browne)

2. MAIN POINTS OF CONSIDERATION AND AGREED OUTCOMES

Cllr Reading summarised the weather forecasts that he had been tracking this week. Gusts of wind predicted in excess of 40mph. Rain is forecast for the duration.

The Clerk had contacted the insurers regarding event cover given the weather and sought guidance regarding gazebos and fair rides.

Provided that you have identified potential risks and controlled them where possible via risk control measures to a degree that can be deemed a 'reasonable precaution', then I can confirm that you would be covered adequately under the Public Liability insurance. Unfortunately we cannot advise on particulars and what you should consider as 'reasonable'.

Our best advice would be to consider whether the fair rides and gazebo come with any recommendations from the manufacturer re certain weather.

Question - should we cancel all outside elements or consider reduced scale outside elements?

St Mary's and Hope Methodist have inside stalls.

Fair Rides

Big wheel and flying chairs already withdrawn as can't operate safely in high winds. Helter Skelter withdrawn as can't operate in wet weather conditions. Ian Taylor has confirmed all other rides can attend as safe to operate in high wind or are in trailer units. Fair have indicated they will attend if council decide to continue in a reduced scale.

Street Stalls

Blanket ruling of no gazebos due to predicted wind gusts. Council to offer trading from the back of cars or vans. Suggest 50% refund if take up this offer. If decline or not possible then offer full refund. Agreed refunds required as goodwill gesture and to ensure co-operation in future years.

Ashgrove have some space and offered their premises for the charity stalls. Charity stalls to be directed to them for timing and arrangements.

Stage

Clerk has spoken to the stage provider and the scope of use for high winds. Can be used in much higher winds than predicated. Rain can cause problems for the stage performances due to wet and slippery floor. Agreed not safe for the dance school nor for the school performances. The church have offered to host the school performances in the church or Bede House. Agreed go ahead with the stage and afternoon performances if the rain allows. 2pm to 6pm. Church can be used as an alternative if weather prevents. As a bare minimum the Mayor will go on stage for the light switch-on.

Event Timing

With school performances offered the move to the church it was agreed Sparkle be scaled back to 2pm to 6pm to align with (hopefully) the stage timings.

Tourism will still have Santas Grotto. Sleigh and Nafi Van yet to be decided. Tourism will advise in due course.

Budget considered. Clerk had re-run assuming no fair income and refund to all of the traders. Worst case scenario is £2000 in deficit expenditure against income (includes £10000 council budget allocation).

Agreed to cancel Morris Men.

Agreed that reindeers still attend (location to be agreed following Tourism decision)

Seek to reduce Security cover

Road closure still required, to commence 10am latest.

Portable toilets, barriers, radios, tower light and First Aid still required.

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

27th AUGUST 2024

REPORT: Blue Plaques, 12 Market Square and 67 High Street

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A										
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	To enhance and promote the historic and cultural heritage of Higham Ferrers and safeguard the unique identity and the natural and built environment of the town.										
POLICIES REFERENCED	N/A										
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	<table border="1"><tr><td>There are no financial implications at this stage</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>There will be financial implications</td><td>x</td></tr><tr><td>There is provision within budget</td><td>x</td></tr><tr><td>Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Decisions may give rise to potential income</td><td></td></tr></table>	There are no financial implications at this stage		There will be financial implications	x	There is provision within budget	x	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure		Decisions may give rise to potential income	
There are no financial implications at this stage											
There will be financial implications	x										
There is provision within budget	x										
Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure											
Decisions may give rise to potential income											
MEANS OF DELIVERY	Town Clerk										
APPENDICIES	Higham Ferrers Tourism blue plaque trail leaflet Battle of Britain London Monument - F/O E D CREW (bbm.org.uk) Photo of rectangular green plaque to 67 High Street										

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To consider a request for the supply and install of a blue plaque to 12 Market Square (Wilson Browne Solicitors) to honour Edward Dixon Crew.
- 1.2. To consider the supply and install of a blue plaque to 67 High Street.

12 MARKET SQUARE

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following request has been received:-
I would like to ask the Council about their interest in having another blue plaque installed. The individual remembered would be Edward Dixon Crew, who was born in Market Square and fought during the Battle of Britain as one of "the Few":
[Battle of Britain London Monument - F/O E D CREW \(bbm.org.uk\)](#)
I would suggest there might be wider interest from the RAF and the Battle of Britain Historical Society, especially as the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain will be recognised on 15th September next year. I think that the house on Market Square is now owned by Wilson Browne.

3. FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. The blue plaque trail consists of 18 plaques. The blue plaque trail leaflet is contained within the appendices. The leaflet identifies the location of the 18 plaques and provides an overview of the reason for each building or feature forming part of the trail.
- 3.2. Higham Ferrers Tourism Group have been consulted and have provided the following feedback, with precise below:-
There are already numerous plaques throughout the town and given the size of the town it is deemed we're essentially 'at capacity'. The plaques in the town are a connection with

important buildings, rather than individuals. A dedicated street name may be a better option to honour Edward Dixon Crew.

- 3.3. 12 Market Square is a listed building in private ownership and the necessary consents will be required if the council is minded to support the request and fund the supply and install.

4. **67 HIGH STREET**

4.1. **BACKGROUND**

The plaque to 67 High Street is not a blue plaque but a rectangular green plaque. The property owner did not give consent to a blue plaque at the time the original plaques were installed. The owner has subsequently approached the council to give consent to a blue plaque should the council be minded to fund the supply and install.

5. **FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1. Higham Ferrers Tourism Group have been consulted and have provided the following feedback, with precise below:-

No objection but make suggestion that the blue plaque be in addition to the black plaque rather than a replacement. Concern the removal of the square plaque leave a wall mark and look odd when the blue plaque is installed. They query what would be the preference from the owner.

- 5.2. The owner has confirmed they seek the blue plaque as a direct replacement for the rectangular green plaque. The green plaque was installed by the owners at the time they purchased the property and there has subsequently been a change of stance.

6. **BLUE PLAQUE COSTS**

- 6.1. A blue plaque from the former supplier, including fixings and delivery, in the region of £275. Price may vary according to the level of detail. Installation would be in the region of £25. Budget price £300 per blue plaque.

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

17th DECEMBER 2024

REPORT: Asset of Community Value listing, Open Space near School Lane

REPORT AUTHOR: Town Clerk, Alicia Schofield

BUSINESS FORWARD PLAN	N/A	
COUNCIL OBJECTIVES	N/A	
POLICIES REFERENCED	Memorial Bench Guidelines	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATION	There are no financial implications at this stage	x
	There will be financial implications	
	There is provision within budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	x
	Decisions may give rise to potential income	
MEANS OF DELIVERY	N/A	
APPENDICIES	Letter dated 5 th November 2024 from NNC Principal Community Property Officer Reports to council dated 13 th August 2019 and 24 th September 2019 Correspondence and report of ENDC of 12 th March 2020.	

1.	PURPOSE
1.1.	To consider whether to submit an application to register the open space near School Lane as an Asset of Community Value.
2.	THE BACKGROUND
2.1.	Notice has been received from North Northants Council that the Asset of Community Value (ACV) listing for the open space near School Lane is due to expire on the 14 th January 2025. The council successfully registered the open space in January 2020.
2.2.	Attached are the former Clerk's reports that were considered by the council that led to the nomination to list the land as an asset. Also attached is the subsequent letter and report from the former East Northants District Council advising of the listing.
3.	FOR CONSIDERATION
3.1.	At the time of the listing the land was owned by BDW Trading Limited. It is understood the land transferred to Sovereign Fields Management Company Limited who use Hegarty Property Management as their managing agents for the land. Sovereign Fields Management Company Limited also own additional parcels of land near Patenell Way which include the zig zap path open space land down to Phase 5 of the Kings Meadow estate.
3.2.	A previous management company went bust and this caused concern at the time regarding the protection of the land as open space and ultimately led to the decision to nominate the land as an ACV.
3.3.	The Clerk is seeking confirmation of the title registration for the land. If nomination is favoured council should note that other parcels of land are also owned by Sovereign Fields

	Management Company Limited and these may also wish to be considered for nomination. Other areas of open space under managing agents have not been nominated previously.
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Higham Ferrers Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Higham Ferrers
Northamptonshire
NN10 8BT

Telephone: 01536 464043
Email: estates@northnorthants.gov.uk
Our Ref: ACV2019.004
Date: 5th November 2024

Dear Clerk, Higham Ferrers Town Council,

Re: ACV 2019.004 – Open Space Near School Lane

Notice is hereby given that under section 95(2) Localism Act 2011 the Asset of Community Value listing for Open Space near School Lane, Higham Ferrers is due to expire on the 14th of January 2025.

The listing will be removed from the Asset of Community Value register on this date.

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me via the email address listed above.

For further information on Assets of Community Value, including how to nominate a potential asset please visit the link below on the North Northamptonshire Council webpage.

[Assets of Community Value | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/Assets-of-Community-Value)

Yours sincerely

Julie McKinnon
Principal Community Property Officer

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

24TH SEPTEMBER 2019

PURPOSE:

To agree whether to submit an application to register open space of School Lane as an Asset of Community Value.

BACKGROUND

At the last Town Council meeting a decision to support the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee was deferred pending further research. Attached is a copy of the report from 13th August 2019.

DETAILS

The purpose of registering the land as an 'Asset of Community Value' is that the owner would have to notify East Northants Council of their intention to sell the land. The Community would then have 6 weeks to register an 'Expression of Interest' which will trigger a moratorium during which time the owner cannot sell the asset. This period lasts for 6 months and gives the community the opportunity to develop a proposal and raise the money to buy the asset. At the end of the moratorium the owner can sell to whoever they wish.

Even though there is no guarantee that the community will be able to buy the asset, there is a benefit to following the process because if the land suddenly came up for sale the Council would struggle with raising funds and making decisions in a timely fashion to be able to have the opportunity to bid for the land.

ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

13th AUGUST 2019

PURPOSE:

To agree whether to submit an application to register open space of School Lane as an Asset of Community Value.

BACKGROUND

The Community Right to Bid gives people the chance to bid to buy and take over the running of assets (i.e. buildings or land) that are of value to the local community.

Local groups now have the right to nominate a building or land for listing by East Northamptonshire Council as an ‘asset of community value’. When a listed asset is to be sold, local community groups will have a six month period to raise finance, develop a business plan and make a bid to buy the asset on the open market.

Who can nominate?

The following groups are eligible to nominate an asset to be included on the list:

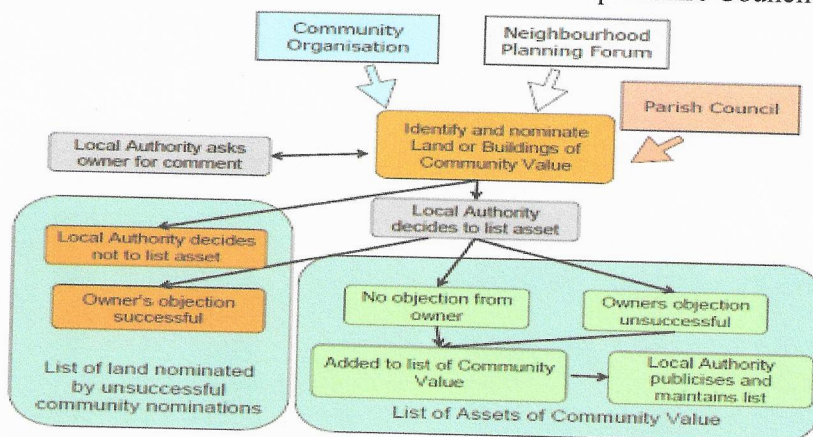
- Parish and town councils
- Unincorporated groups
- Neighbourhood forums
- Community interest groups with a local connection

What is an asset of community value?

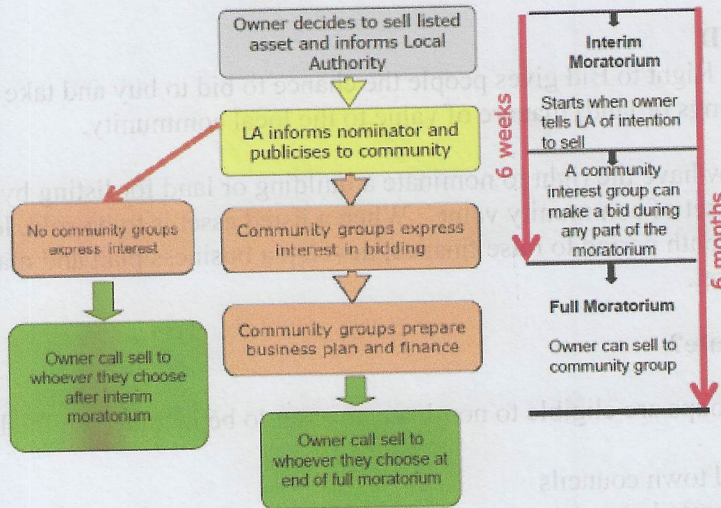
A building or land in East Northamptonshire is an asset of community value if the council considers that **"the main use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, or has recently done so, and is likely to do so in the future (during the next five years)"**. The asset may be owned by anybody, although some categories of assets are excluded from being eligible to be listed.

What is the process for nominating an asset?

The Town Council submit a nomination online to East Northamptonshire Council.

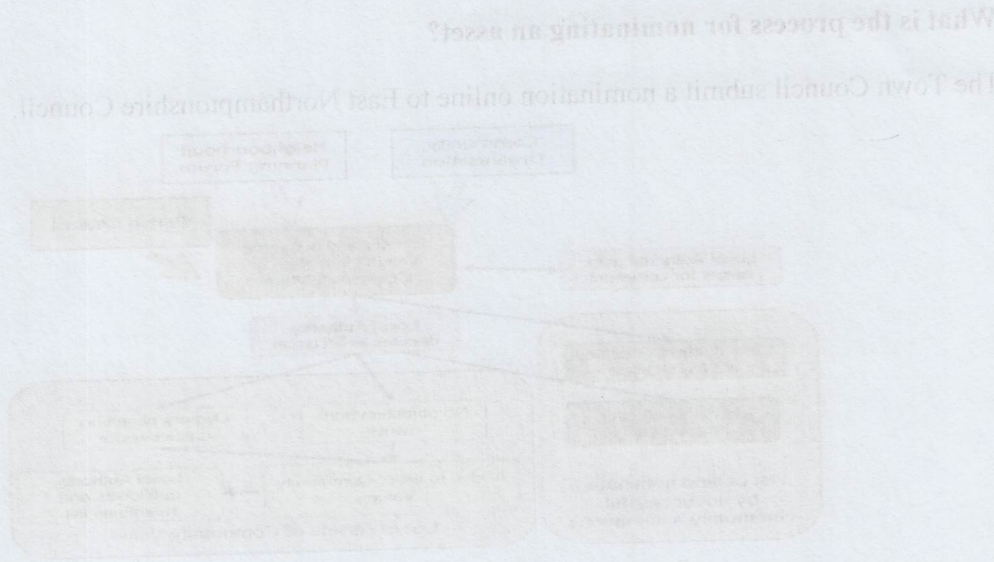


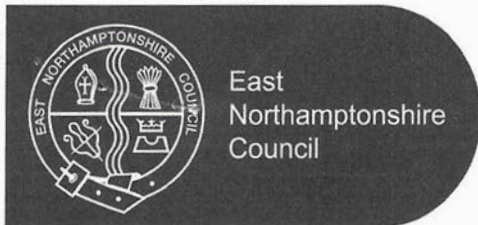
If an asset that has been successfully nominated is due to be sold, the diagram below shows the process:



DETAILS

The open space off School Lane is owned by a management company and has recently changed hands due to the original company going bust. Map attached. To protect the land as open space it is suggested that the Town Council apply to register it as an Asset of Community Value.





Cedar Drive Thrapston Northamptonshire NN14 4LZ
Telephone 01832 742000
Email corpsupport@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk
www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk

Clerk to Higham Ferrers Town Council
Town Hall
Market Square
Higham Ferrers
NN10 8BT

Please ask for	Direct Dial	Our Ref.	Your Ref.	Date:
Stacey Parker	01832 742210	2019.004		12 March 2020

Dear Clerk to Higham Ferrers Town Council,

Asset of Community Value: Open Space South of School Lane

Further to Higham Ferrers Town Council's nomination to list the above property as an Asset of Community Value under the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), the council has now reached a decision.

As required by the council's Community Right to Bid Policy, I have, in consultation with the Chair of the council's Policy & Resources Committee and the Ward Members for Lancaster Ward, reached the view that the nominated asset falls within the category of an Asset of Community Value as defined by the Act. The reasons are detailed in the formal decision notice, which is attached as a separate document.

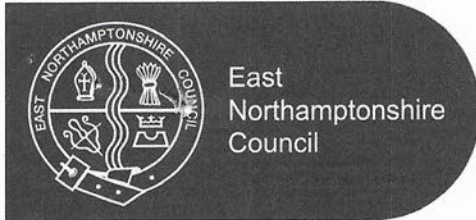
The council will now arrange for **Open Space South of School Lane**, to be listed as an Asset of Community Value as per the Localism Act and associated regulations. This will include publication of the listing on our website and notification of the Land Registry.

Listing **Open Space South of School Lane** as an asset of community value means that, with effect from 14th January 2020, the owners are required to notify this council of any potential disposal (sale or long term lease) of the Asset of Community Value so that we can arrange for wider advertisement of the disposal as per the Localism Act.

If notification of intention to dispose of the asset is subsequently received by us for advertisement, this will trigger a six week interim period which allows your organisation and any other community interest group to make a written request to be treated as a potential bidder for the asset. This means that if you wish to be considered as a potential bidder, you must notify this council by the deadline specified in the advertisement.

By the end of this six week interim period, if your organisation or any other community group requests to be treated as a potential bidder, a six month moratorium will operate. During this period, the owners may continue to market and negotiate the disposal, but may not exchange contracts (or enter into a binding contract to do so later) unless it is to a community group as defined in regulation 12 of the Regulations.

Council for the District of East Northamptonshire



After the moratorium period, the owners are free to dispose of the asset to whomever they choose and at whatever price and no further moratorium will apply for the remainder of a protected period lasting 18 months (from the date of notification of proposed disposal to the council).

The asset will now be placed on the council's list of nominated assets, and there will be no further action unless the owner decides to dispose of it. It will remain listed for five years (until 14/01/2025) unless it is disposed of in accordance with the Act or the owners appeal against the council's decision to list the asset and are successful.

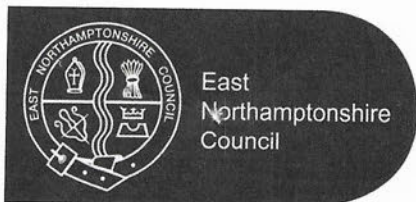
You can find out more information about the process by visiting our website at: www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/communityrighttobid

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact me using the details above.

Yours sincerely,

Stacey Parker
Corporate Support Manager

cc Councillor Richard Lewis, Chair of Policy & Resources Committee
Councillor Harriet Pentland
Councillor Peter Tomas



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DECISION NOTICE – COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

Reference: 2019.004

12 March 2020

Proposed Asset of Community Value – Open Space south of School Lane
Nominated By: Higham Ferrers Town Council
Deadline for listing decision: 17/01/2020
Current Owner – BDW TRADING LIMITED
<p>Action Taken Prior to Decision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification to current owner of nomination – no response received. • Consultation with Chair of Policy and Resources Committee (Cllr R Lewis) and Ward Member (Cllr Harriet Pentland) as required under the council’s Community Right to Bid Policy. • Research for references on the definition of current and realistic future ‘community use’ for the purposes of making a decision on the nomination, in Assets of Community Value Guide by Christopher Cant QC.(Version 6) • Review of the planning application/permission for the development in which the open space is located as well as the Neighbourhood plan for the area. • Consultation with colleagues across the council including planning, economic and commercial development, finance and community development regarding the current and future community use of this potential Asset of Community Value.
<p>Background</p> <p><i>Nomination History</i></p> <p>This is the first ACV nomination for this piece of land. The nomination has been made by Higham Ferrers Town Council.</p> <p><i>History of the Site</i></p> <p>The Open Space south of School Lane is an open green space situated within a large residential development.</p> <p>The piece of land in questions forms part of an overall scheme of residential development and recreational facilities which were given outline planning</p>

Council for the District of East Northamptonshire

permission. Condition 8 of this permission sought to secure sufficient amenity green space for the development and the related legal agreement required a scheme for the maintenance and management of them. The Open Space south of School Lane (also known as the fishponds) forms part of the required open space agreement for the development.

Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan details this as local green space. Policy HF.DE4 of the Neighbourhood Plan protects such areas from new development due to their particular local significance and community value unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. This particular piece of local green space has reference number LGS9 in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Considerations

Does the proposed asset meet the definition of an asset of community value specified in Section 88 (1) paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Localism Act 2011, i.e. the main (i.e. non-ancillary) use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, or has recently done so, and is likely to do so in the future (during the next five years)?

Evidence of recent community use that furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community:

According to the nomination form, the Open Space south of School Lane is a public open space which is used by the community to exercise and for informal recreation purposes.

As an informal public open space it contributes directly to the health and wellbeing of the local community. It provides a meeting place, an area where children can play informally, a place where people can walk and appreciate the natural environment. This all contributes to the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. The provision of good open space, which this is, contributes to a good quality of life and community cohesion.

As detailed within the history of the site, the said piece of land constitutes part of the open space agreement as outlined within the planning permission for this development.

From a planning policy perspective, open space is taken to mean all open space of public value which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity. This includes amenity green space (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) including informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing, and village greens.

The open space in question performs the following functions:

- urban quality - helping to support regeneration and improving quality of life for communities by providing visually attractive green spaces close to where people live;
- promoting health and well-being - providing opportunities to people of all ages for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or ride
- as a community resource – a place for congregating and for holding community events; and

- as a visual amenity – even without public access, people enjoy having open space near to them to provide an outlook, variety in the urban scene, or as a positive element in the landscape

In conclusion, I'm satisfied that the above is evidence of recent community use which furthers the social well-being and social interest of the local community.

Evidence of Realistic Future Community Use

It's realistic to believe that the Open Space south of School Lane will continue to be used for a range of purposes including exercise and informal recreation.

There is no evidence to suggest that the open space's continued function as an amenity green space within the heart of the residential development is in doubt and it is therefore realistic to assume that it will continue to further the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community as it is doing so now.

For those properties where a sale is considered imminent, please provide details of how the property would be managed and/or the business case for long term financial stability if known?

The nominating group did not provide any details in relation to this question; however, there is nothing to assume that a sale is imminent.

Does the proposed asset meet any of the criteria for exemption specified in Section 88 (3) and associated regulations?

There is no evidence that the asset meets any of the criteria for exemption.

The views of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee and Ward Member

- Cllr R Lewis (Chair of Policy and Resources Committee) is supportive of the application explaining that 'This piece of land is a very pleasant green space in the centre of quite a large number of houses. There is thus an intrinsic contribution to the wellbeing of all of the residents in the area. The shape of the land and topography is such that specific recreational uses may be difficult to organise, and thus to detail. However, I fully support the comment that the land is used for considerable residents' exercise and also informal recreation. I would thus support the ACV request from Higham Ferrers Town Council'.

Decision

Having considered all of the evidence and factors above, it is my view that the nominated asset falls within the category of an asset of community value as defined by the Localism Act and associated regulations and that it should be listed as such by this council.

