

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held on Friday 2nd December 2022 at 10.00am at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Philip Day (Chairman)
Cllr Rae Frederick (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly

IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator
Cllr John Hayward (*until 10:40am*)
Cllr Jeremy Heron (*until 10:45am*)

ABSENT: Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Hilary Edge
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Derek Scott
Cllr Glenys Turner

P/6082 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were three members of the public present for items on the agenda.

P/6083 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apoloiges for absence had been received from Cllrs Briers, Edge, Kelleher, Scott and Turner.

P/6084 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

P/6085 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

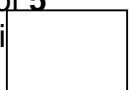
RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2022, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

The Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan agenda item was brought forward for the benefit of those present.

P/6086 RINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (RNP)

The Project Manager for the RNP Steering Group addressed the Committee on the policies document (*Annex B*), which had been circulated prior to the meeting. She explained the team is

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Chairman's initi



working hard and to a tight timetable in order to try to complete Regulation 14 consultation on the pre-submission document, ahead of the period of purdah in March 2023. Therefore, the version submitted is a work in progress draft that was sent from the consultants directly to the Council, prior to any editing or comments from the RNP team. This was to provide members with sufficient time to read the document. There are corrections to be made, but the Steering Group felt it essential the committee's views were canvassed on the direction of travel and putative policies at this stage.

Whilst all involved aim for the best plan possible, in accordance with the terms set by the Council, concerns were expressed that the document had been rushed out and contained some errors. Examples were highlighted to show how important it is for policies to be achievable and not simply a wish list. Policies should not be included unless there is a solution, nor images which are undeliverable. There is a need to emphasize to the public this is a working document and it will be changed to correct content and reflect feedback before bringing back to Committee.

After the GoFour team and members have commented and feedback from the Local Planning Authorities is obtained, the aim is to submit a revised version to the Committee and to Full Council in January.

Members acknowledged the vast amount of work put in to the RNP. Details provided reflected the extent of work undertaken by the volunteers involved and how important it is to them. People want a better Ringwood and those who attended the public exhibition were supportive.

Thriving Market Place

A meeting on the Thriving Market Place was held on 28th November and attendees received a presentation from NFDC Conservation Officer and the RNP Design & Heritage lead on possible options. NFDC and HCC officers will discuss internally and consider the scope and resources required, prior to carrying out any community engagement.

HCC has put a halt on rescinding the temporary traffic order for Meeting House Lane. This will be considered at the January meeting for a formal recommendation on future direction of travel.

The Chairman thanked RNP team members for taking time to come to the meeting.

RESOLVED: 1) That the notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 14th November 2022 (*Annex A*) be received;
2) That the Draft Vision and Policies document (*Annex B*) be noted and feedback provided to RNP Steering Group;
3) That the feedback from the Thriving Market Place meeting held on 28th November be received.

ACTION Jo Hurd

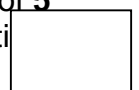
Cllr Hayward left the meeting at 10:40am.

P/6087

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Heron left the meeting at 10:45am, following application 22/00605.

Page 2 of 5
Chairman's initi



RESOLVED: That the observations summarised in *Annex C* be submitted and decisions made under delegated powers be noted.

ACTION Nicola Vodden

P/6088
STRATEGIC SITES

Land off Crow Lane / Crown Arch Lane (Beaumont Park)

An update had been received from NFDC Monitoring Officer (*Annex D*) and circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted the Land Registry work required for the allotments at Crow Lane has been completed. Solicitors are working to progress the transfer of the land. When a date has been agreed, the remedial works will be carried out.

Land north of Hightown Road

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that highways and flooding issues are being resolved. NFDC confirmed the application will not be considered by NFDC Planning Committee until RTC has been briefed and given sufficient time to make formal comments

Land off Moortown Lane

There was no update to report.

2 Market Place and Meeting House Lane

There was no update to report. It was suggested that the students who were engaged in the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan SPUD works be contacted for their views on this application.

RESOLVED: That the update on Strategic Sites be noted.

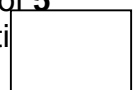
P/6089
A31 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Chairman reported although the A31 Scheme was complete and the fuel station had re-opened, a few items remained outstanding. Eastfield Lane is due to be re-surfaced in 2023 (patching work to be carried out in advance and scheduled for 9th December) and removal of the pile of rubble has been logged, but there is no date for this work yet.

Ringwood School is in communication with National Highways regarding graffiti in the underpass and the Deputy Town Clerk would ask for it to be white-washed when the planning maintenance scheme to improve drainage is undertaken.

Numerous comments had been received from the public, in relation to 'near misses' on the approach to the A31 roundabout (from Mansfield Road) due to the new road layout. The Deputy Town Clerk had raised the issue with National Highways and Hampshire Highways. Their view is that 'new road layout' signs would result in too much clutter. The safety audit is yet to be completed and further feedback had been invited.

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting with National Highways (*Annex E*) held on 10th November 2022 be received.



**P/6090
COMMITTEE BUDGET**

Members considered the Finance Manager's report and the proposed Committee budget for 2023/24 (*Annex F*). There were no additional budget proposals.

RESOLVED: That the budget set out in Appendix B be approved.

ACTION R Fitzgerald

**P/6091
GREENING RINGWOOD CAMPAIGN**

Members received the report on Phase 1 of the campaign (*Annex G*) and were invited to support a proposal to proceed to Phase 2 (*Annex H*). The Deputy Town Clerk indicated the cost of the 'Phase 2 pack' was £50 and there could also be a budgetary implication of £500 for future events. Funds were available in the REAL Working Party budget in the current financial year.

It was thought the Phase 1 had not been as successful as it was hoped, possibly due to the size of the town and the fact that many of the residents who engaged with the campaign were already doing the suggested actions. Ringwood is a diverse town and already has various groups which are environmentally aware.

Timing of Phase 2 if supported would be important, with purdah starting in March and local council elections in May. The duration would be longer than Phase 1 and span a 6-month period. If started in January, there would not be enough time to complete before purdah starts and it could also span across outgoing and incoming councillors. The Council is central to the campaign and without conviction of its members, it could not reach its aims.

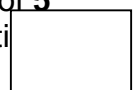
Phase 2 would require working with the community on the three pillars 1) to protect wild spaces, 2) reduce energy use in the home and 3) understand how climate change affects human health. The delay until after the elections would provide the opportunity to spend time thinking through what is required, create a clear plan of action and ways of engaging people.

RESOLVED: 1) That the report on Phase 1 of the Greening Ringwood Campaign (*Annex G*) be received;
2) That the proposal relating to Phase 2 (*Annex H*) be supported, in principle and an information pack be purchased at a cost of £50; and
3) That a detailed implementation plan is prepared by the REAL Working Party, with a timeline to work around purdah and councillor engagement (and subject to a Council lead being put in place).

ACTION Jo Hurd

**P/6092
HAMPSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN PARTIAL UPDATE – DRAFT PLAN
CONSULTATION (8 November 2022 to 31 January 2023)**

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report (*Annex I*) which refers to the consultation documents. It was thought difficult for the Council to submit comments on this.



Cllr Deboos indicated he would be attending the public exhibition at Verwood Hub on 6th December. He was asked to report back and a decision could be made whether to include the item again on the January agenda.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Hampshire minerals and waste plan partial update – draft plan consultation be noted; and
2) That the item be included on the January agenda, if required.

ACTION Jo Hurd

P/6093

PROJECTS (current and proposed)

RESOLVED: That the update in relation to projects (*Annex J*) be received.

P/6094

NFDC/NFNPA PLANNING COMMITTEE

There were no applications to report.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:28am.

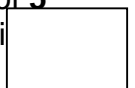
RECEIVED
21st December 2022

APPROVED
6th January 2022

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Note: The text in the Action Boxes above does not form part of these minutes.





Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan

A

Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Notes of meeting held on Monday 14th November at 6pm on Zoom

Present: Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Janet Georgiou
Cllr John Haywood (Chair)
Joe Moorhouse
Tim Moxey
Geoff Ridgway
Chris Treleven

1. Apologies were received from Mary DeBoos and James Swyer, Cllr Philip Day and Cllr Tony Ring not present
2. No declarations of interest were made.
3. Notes from the previous meeting were received and accepted.
4. Feedback from RTC Committees

Nothing to add from PT&E Committee meeting 4/11/22.

To note - (GoFour members) that when submitting project proposals to PT&E December meeting, short explanations may be needed as to why some mods to RTC brief given us at the NP outset may have been changed/omitted etc.

5. Review of the Project Plan
 - i) Delegation - Agreed that Steering Group can delegate decision making to GoFour meetings between regular SG monthly Meetings if urgently required to prevent delaying NP progress. However, minutes from such delegated meetings must be circulated to all SG members before the next SG monthly meeting (**MD**).
 - ii) Plan proposals – Evidence - all teams now submitted to MD with AECOM design code report to follow shortly via **JM**.

iii) Regulation 14 process – advice from New Milton TC to be sought – **JH** to contact known Councillor there, **JG** to follow up once advice received as to how to help our enactment of this necessary consultation step.

6. Communication and Engagement

Write up of Gateway exhibition by MD agreed entirely ok, no immediate engagement follow-up suggested.

JH will issue a press release

7. Working Group Updates

Housing Team has submitted modifications to R5 Policy re First Homes. Otherwise nothing extra to add.

8. Any other business

MD would like access to amend the website as we enter the phase of the project where swift communication will be imperative - **JH**.

MD asked for any comments on JH draft NP foreword, and on community views section recently circulated – **ALL**

9. Date of next meeting

5.00pm Wednesday 14th December - JH to send zoom details.

RINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2016 – 2036



Published by Ringwood Town Council for Pre-Submission consultation under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

PRELIMINARY DRAFT FOR CIRCULATION TO RINGWOOD PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2 DEC 2022

A Guide to Reading this Plan

Of necessity, this Neighbourhood Plan is a detailed technical document. The purpose of this page is to explain the structure and help you find your way around the plan.

1. Introduction & Background

This section explains the background to this Neighbourhood Plan and how you can take part in and respond to the consultation.

2. The Neighbourhood Area

This section details many of the features of the designated area.

3. Planning Policy Context

This rather technical section relates this Plan to the National Planning Policy Framework and the adopted planning policies of former South Bucks District Council.

4. Community Views on Planning Issues

This section explains the community involvement that has taken place.

5. Vision, Objectives & Land Use Policies

This is the key section. Firstly, it provides a statement on the Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives. It then details Policies which are proposed to address the issues outlined in the Foreword and in Section 4. These Policies are listed on page 5. There are Policy Maps at the back of the plan and additional information in the Appendices to which the policies cross reference.

6. Implementation

This section explains how the Plan will be implemented and future development guided and managed. It suggests projects which might be supported by financial contributions from future approved development schemes. Finally, it deals with a number of issues which although relevant are outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan.



Jubilee Gardens



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FOREWORD

Why do we need a Neighbourhood Plan?

To enable our residents to shape the future of our Town, ensuring a Ringwood-centred approach that is inclusive and benefits our local residents, businesses and communities.

With this Plan, we influence the way Ringwood develops - to ensure a strong and sustainable future for our Parish: with better designed, more energy efficient new homes, enhanced green spaces and greater potential for local people to buy their first home.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out an exciting Community Vision, to create a thriving Town, enhancing the Town Centre to make it a more appealing place for residents, visitors and businesses.

The Plan will further strengthen the heritage of the town establishing a list of Locally important buildings and structures.

With the Neighbourhood Plan adopted, the Parish also benefits from increased developer contributions for investment in local infrastructure, known as Community Infrastructure Levy.

What is the Community Vision behind the Plan?

As Ringwood prepares to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of its market charter, our Community Vision is to restore and strengthen Ringwood's status as a Chartered Market Town, making it the heart of civic, commercial and community life in the South-west of the New Forest. We will mobilise its rich array of heritage assets, ambitious businesses, cultural and community organisations. We will revitalise

the Market Place and High Street, establishing an inviting open-air space in the heart of the town.

How will we deliver the Vision?

Ringwood Town Council working in partnership with local organisations and community leaders, residents, local businesses, site owners and developers - collaborating with New Forest District Council, New Forest National Parks Authority and Hampshire County Council. We will proactively seek funding opportunities to enhance our town.

How can I stay updated and get involved?

Simply send an email to: john.haywood@ringwoodnp.org.uk You will then have the opportunity to receive updates on the progress of Neighbourhood Plan

LIST OF POLICIES

POLICY NO.	POLICY TITLE	PAGE NO.
R1	A Spatial Plan for Ringwood	XX
R2	Maintaining a Successful and Prosperous Town Centre	XX
R3	Making Better Use of Opportunity Sites in the Town Centre	XX
R4	Town Centre Retail Combined with R2	XX
R4	Shops and Parades Within and Outside Defined Local Centres (NEW)	XX
R5	Smaller Housing	XX
R6	First Homes (NEW)	XX
R7	The Ringwood Design Code	XX
R8	Building for a Healthy Life	XX
R9	Conserving Local Heritage Assets	XX
R10	Creating a Green Infrastructure & Nature Recovery Network	XX
RX	Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows Add only if necessary once GI mapping considered (NEW)	XX

R13	Zero Carbon Buildings	XX
R14	Encouraging Active and Healthy Travel	XX

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

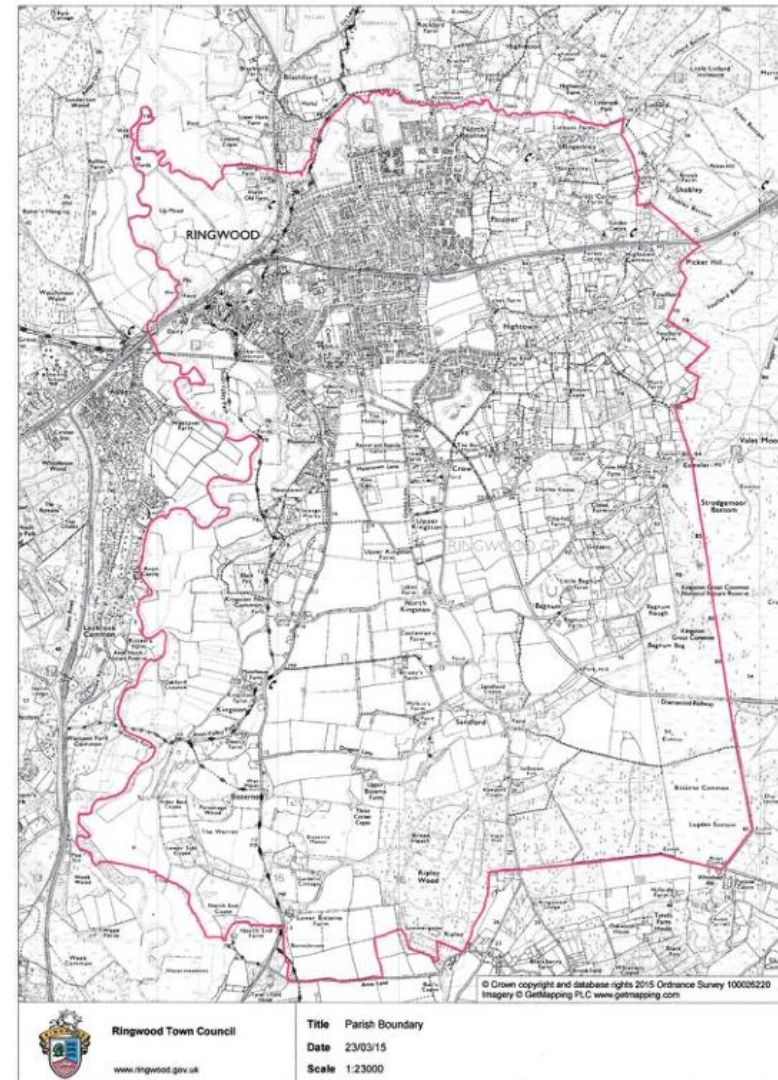
1.1 Ringwood Town Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area jointly designated by New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority in February 2021. The plan is being prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations of 2012 (as amended).

1.2 The area coincides with the Parish boundary of Ringwood (see Plan A) and is centred on the built up area of the town which largely falls within the jurisdiction of the District Council. The area to the east of the Parish falling within the New Forest National Park.

1.3 The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to set out a series of planning policies that will be used to determine planning applications in the area in the period to 2036. The Plan will form part of the development plan for Ringwood, alongside the New Forest District Council Local Plan Part 1 and the New Forest National Park Authority Local Plan, which cover the same period, and the extant policies of the NFDC Core Strategy (2009) and the Local Plan Part 2 (2014).

1.4 Neighbourhood Plans provide local communities with the chance to manage the quality of development of their areas. Once approved at a referendum, the Plan becomes a statutory part of the development plan for the area and will carry significant weight in how planning applications are decided. Plans must therefore contain only land use planning policies that can be used for this purpose. This often means that there are important issues of interest to the local community that cannot be addressed in a Plan if they are not directly related to planning.

Plan A: Designated Ringwood Neighbourhood Area



1.5 Although there is considerable scope for the local community to decide on its planning policies, Neighbourhood Plans must meet some ‘basic conditions’. In essence, these are:

- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan.
- the making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area.
- the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with European/UK obligations.

1.6 In addition, the Town Council will need to demonstrate to an independent examiner that it has successfully engaged with the local community in preparing the Plan. If the examiner is satisfied that it has, and considers the Plan meets the above conditions, then the Plan will go to a referendum of the local electorate. If a simple majority of the turnout votes in favour of the Plan, then it becomes adopted as formal planning policy for the town.

The Pre-Submission Plan

1.7 The Pre-Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan is the opportunity for the Town Council to formally consult on the proposed vision, objectives and policies of the Plan (see details below). It has reviewed the relevant national and local planning policies and assessed how they affect this area. It has also gathered its own evidence and its reports are published separately in the evidence base.

Sustainability Appraisal & the Habitats Regulations (to be finalised when Screening Report received)

1.8 Both Planning Authorities have confirmed in their screening opinions of 2022 that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required of the

Neighbourhood Plan as its policy provisions do not have the potential to cause significant environmental effects. It has consulted the statutory bodies, which have confirmed their agreement with that opinion. This accords with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended).

1.9 Both Authorities have also confirmed that no Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan will be necessary, as the Plan contains no proposals that may have harmful effects on any proximate internationally designated nature conservation site. The statutory body, Natural England, has agreed and so the Plan also accords with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

The Next Steps

1.10 Once the consultation exercise is complete, the Town Council will review the comments made and prepare a final version of the Plan. This will be submitted to Buckinghamshire Council to arrange for its independent examination and then the referendum.

Consultation

1.11 If you have comments to make on this plan, please do so in the following ways:

By email to (preferred):

INSERT EMAIL ADDRESS HERE

Or by post to:

Ringwood Town Council,
Ringwood Gateway Council Offices, The Furlong, Ringwood, BH24 1AT

1.12 Further information on the Plan and its evidence base can be found on the project website at:

<https://ringwoodnp.org.uk>

2. THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA



Church of St Peter and St Paul

2.1 The Parish of Ringwood lies on the south western boundary of the county of Hampshire on the River Avon and on the western edge of the New Forest National Park. Beyond the defined settlement boundary is the South West Hampshire Green Belt. The Parish includes the hamlets of Poulner, Hangersley, Hightown, Crow, Kingston, and Bisterne. Ringwood is also the western gateway to the New Forest National Park, allowing the town to be an ideal touring base.

2.2 The River Avon is a chalk stream of national and international importance for its wildlife communities, particularly aquatic plants and invertebrates, and fish. A range of habitats within the wider Avon Valley are also internationally designated for their wildlife importance for birds.

2.3 Ringwood has a long and fascinating history. Founded by the Anglo-Saxons, it is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and retains many

features of interest. Its market charter dates back to 1226. Historically part of the River Avon was diverted to form the millstream which stills runs around the south of the town centre today – the Bickerley - however the former mills and breweries that utilised this are no longer in existence.

2.4 Most of the modern area of the town lies on the gravel terrace on the eastern floodplain of the river, the ground only increasing noticeably in height at the eastern fringe of the town as it rises up the escarpment into the National Park, designated in 2005.

2.5 To the north of the Parish, gravel extraction has created a series of lakes with housing development extending to the water's edge. Historically, to the north-west there was a large lake which is now flood plain crossed by the meandering river and several smaller channels and drains. The flood plain narrows as it passes Ringwood, and this may account for the historic siting of the town, providing an easier crossing point of the river. This crossing point now contains the busy A31 bypass.

2.6 To the south, the valley widens slightly forming the edge to the historic core of the town, contributing to the layout of the town with the road to Christchurch closely following the edge of the flood plain. East of Christchurch Road the edge of the town is less clearly defined; ribbon development along Christchurch Road pushes the suburban area into the countryside. A housing estate south of Crow Lane/Hightown Road also protrudes southwards, with open countryside to the south and west and a large recreation area to the north, leaving it detached from the main area of suburban development. Eastwards, the town abuts a landscape of small enclosures and dispersed settlement which fringes the open heathlands and large woodland blocks of the New Forest.

2.7 Ringwood is well placed on the Avon Valley Path, a 34-mile long-distance walking route that takes you from the Cathedral city of Salisbury all the way to Christchurch Priory on the South Coast. The main road through Ringwood is the A31, which runs west to Dorchester and east to

Southampton via the New Forest. A bypass of the town running directly through the parish from east to west was completed in two stages, the first to the west in the 1940s and the second to the east in 1975. The other significant road is the A338, which goes north to Salisbury and south to Bournemouth.

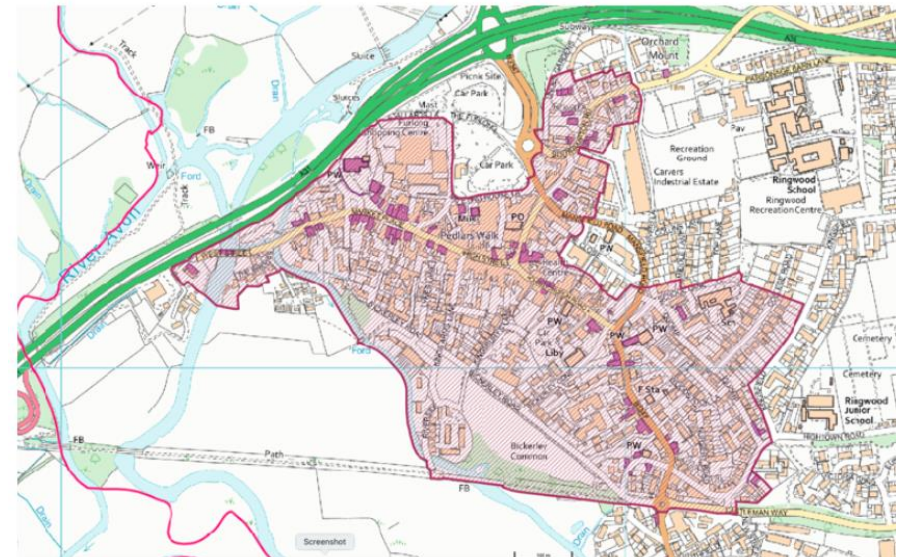
2.8 The area around the town includes pastoral land and rich water meadows which give rise to a rich and verdant landscape particularly in summer. There are also some areas of arable land in the lower reaches of the Avon Valley.

2.9 Ringwood has internationally protected sites to the east, north and west. **The map to the left?? (SG not sure what map this is)** shows the designated areas around Ringwood in hatched green and the parish boundary as a red line. The Avon Valley Ramsar, SPA and SSSI site sits to the west.

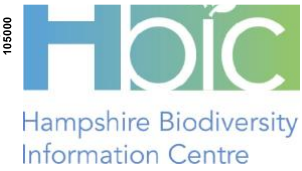
2.10 There are also many protected areas around the lakes to the north. Linbrook Lake at the boundary has Ramsar, SPA and SSSI status. Within the boundary, the eastern part of Northfield Lake is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). To the east is The New Forest National Park (NFNP).

2.11 Ringwood town centre has a wide range of shops, restaurants, pubs and cafes, including both local independently run businesses and major high street names. The retail area includes the historic Market Place and High Street, together with the privately owned Furlong Centre.

2.12 Today, much of the town centre is protected as a conservation area first designated in 1970 and expanded in 1983 and combined with the Western Escarpment Conservation Area to the north of the A31 and entirely within the National Park is a mark of the special architectural and historic interest of the Parish as a whole. This status results in a prevalence of historic buildings including 114 that are nationally listed. The listed buildings include 4 Grade II* which are the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, the Ringwood Meeting House, Bridge House including the Railings at the front and the Manor House.

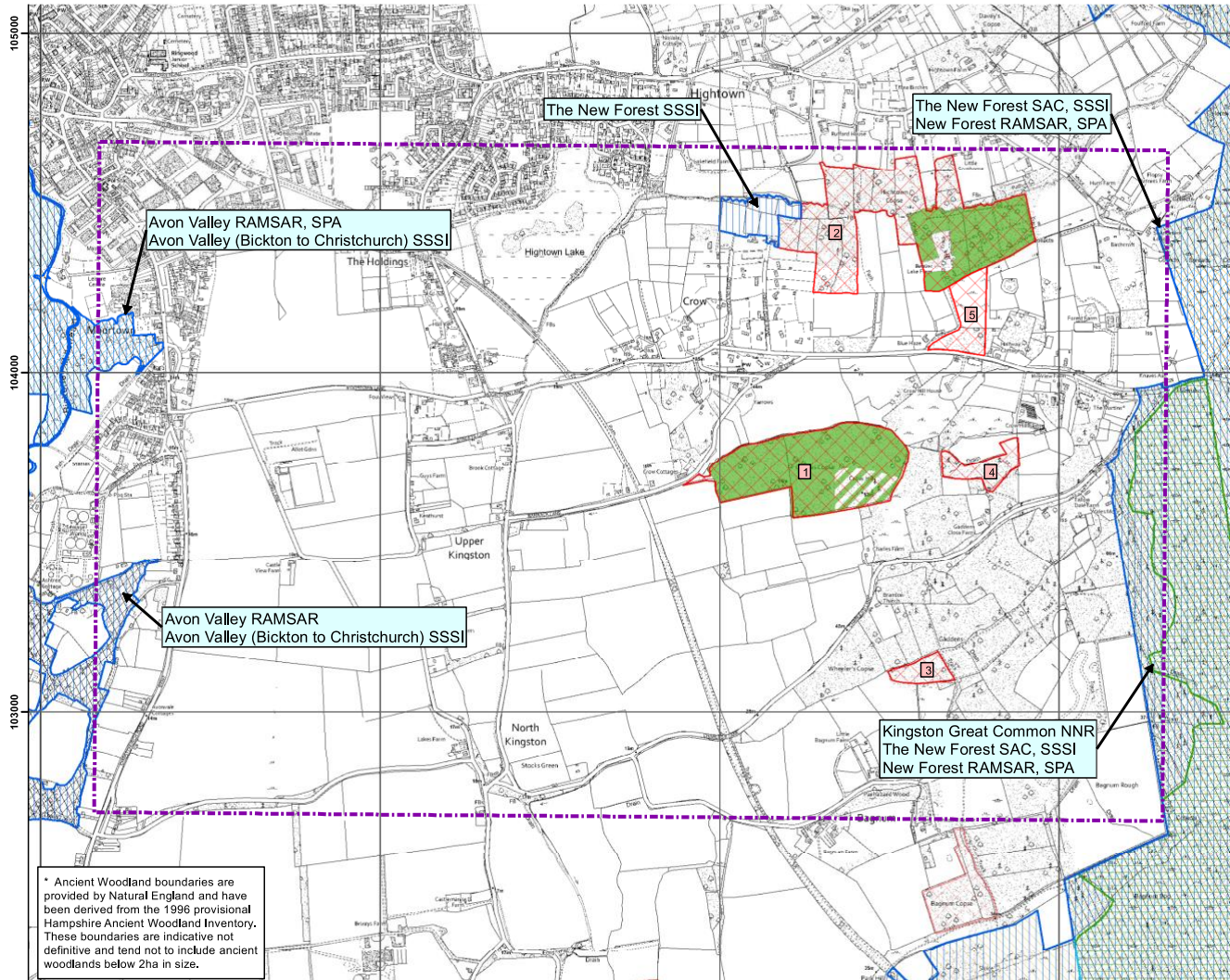


Ringwood Conservation Area hatched pink with Listed buildings shaded



HBIC Ref: 10092

Statutory and non-statutory designated sites within the Ringwood Area of Interest:



* Ancient Woodland boundaries are provided by Natural England and have been derived from the 1996 provisional Hampshire Ancient Woodland Inventory. These boundaries are indicative not definitive and tend not to include ancient woodlands below 2ha in size.

Plan B – Replace this with the “map to the left” referenced in paragraph 2.9 above

3. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 To be completed by OH

National Planning Policy

3.2 The most recent version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in July 2021 and is an important guide in the preparation of neighbourhood plans. The following paragraphs of the NPPF are considered especially relevant to this neighbourhood plan:

- Neighbourhood Planning (§29)
- Size, type and tenure of housing (§62)
- Networks of high quality open space and Local Green Spaces (§98 - §103)
- Promoting active travel networks (§104 and §106)
- Achieving well designed places (§126 - §132)
- Protecting Green Belt land (§137 - §151)
- Planning for climate change (§153 and §154)
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity (§179)
- Planning positively for heritage (§190 and §203)

3.3 It is important to note that the NPPF provisions for strategic policy setting housing targets for neighbourhood plans to consider delivering (in §66 and §67) cannot apply to settlements inset within the Green Belt. The NPPF provisions on the Green Belt prevent neighbourhood plans allocating conventional housing or other development land (i.e. ‘inappropriate’ development not exempt by §149 or §150).

3.4 The NPPF is supported by online Planning Practice Guidance, which provides detail on how the NPPF should be implemented. The Government also published its first National Design Guide in autumn 2019 to encourage better design outcomes from the planning system. The Guide encourages local communities to engage in understanding the character of their areas and, where preparing neighbourhood plans, to prepare design policies specific to their local areas which this Neighbourhood Plan has done. As noted in Section 5 below, the national policy position on how the planning system should be used to tackle climate change continues to evolve.

Strategic Planning Policy

3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan, which primarily comprises the policies of the New Forest District Council Local Plan Part 1 and the New Forest National Park Authority Local Plan, which cover the same period, and the extant policies of the NFDC Core Strategy (2009) and the Local Plan Part 2 (2014).

3.6 The key policies of the Local Plan applying to Ringwood are:

- Etc

3.7 To be completed by OH



Plan C: New Forest District Council Local Plan Part 1 – Key Diagram

4. COMMUNITY VIEWS ON PLANNING ISSUES

4.1 The Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan Working Group comprises a cross-section of local people including Town Councillors, local business people, residents and community leaders. At each stage, the Working Group has sought the views of the community.

4.2 During 2021 the following surveys were conducted to gauge the views of the people of Ringwood. These were a combination of on-line surveys, interviews and paper forms:

- Shoppers Survey
- Shopkeepers Survey
- Housing Survey
- Energy Efficient Buildings Survey
- Nature Recovery Survey

4.3 Drop-in events were also held in the Gateway building in 2022 with over 200 people attending. In addition, in 2022, 4 sessions were held with students from Ringwood School with over 30 students attending. These sessions were specifically designed to gain the views of young people about the future of the town. Across all the surveys and events over 700 residents gave their views.

4.4 The community told us that they loved the history, semi-rural and market town feel of Ringwood. They also defined a vision for the future which is encapsulated by the following:

- a. A more vibrant town centre with character – that stays alive in the evening with restaurants and family pubs
- b. Affordable homes for youngsters and 2-3 bed family homes.
- c. More energy efficient housing
- d. Preservation of green spaces and increased recreational facilities

- e. Maintaining the character of the town whilst also making it more attractive
- f. More for young people to do

4.5 Many people are concerned about the developments on the strategic sites and do not believe that Ringwood has the infrastructure to support this number of new properties. In particular there were concerns about traffic, schools and access to doctor surgeries.

5. VISION, OBJECTIVES & LAND USE POLICIES

Vision

5.1 The following vision statement has been prepared to guide the plan's objectives, policies & proposals by the Neighbourhood Plan team:

Our Vision for Ringwood.

We will restore and strengthen Ringwood's status as a Chartered Market Town, making it the heart of civic, commercial and community life in the South-west of the New Forest.

This will not be achieved by trying to turn back the clock. We need to make the town centre attractive, appealing and fit for purpose in a new era, reflecting the way we live now.

Ringwood is an historic market town in a beautiful riverside setting and is a gateway to the New Forest. We will mobilise its rich array of heritage assets, ambitious businesses, cultural and community organisations. We will revitalise the Market Place and High Street, establishing an inviting open-air space in the heart of the town. We will improve green spaces and create more opportunities to connect with nature.

We will enhance the first impressions of the Town in keeping with the rural setting of the town and to further build a sustainable economy we will improve connectivity for walking and cycling.

Ringwood will be recognised as a thriving market town with both historic interest and modern-day appeal, it will become an essential part of the New Forest experience for UK and international visitors. The revived town centre will contribute to an enhanced quality of life, and its cosmopolitan appeal will make it an increasingly popular place to live and work, and especially attractive to young people and families.

Objectives

5.2 The key objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are:

- 1: To make Ringwood more attractive to a wider cross-section of residents and visitors by revitalising the town centre economy
- 2: To celebrate Ringwood's historic buildings and townscapes and encourage high quality and sustainable design of new development
- 3: To put people first by encouraging walking and cycling
- 4: To ensure Ringwood does not become a dormitory town
- 5: To ensure the young people of Ringwood can live in Ringwood
- 6: To ensure that the regeneration of Ringwood town centre contributes to the New Forest Climate And Nature Emergency Declaration

Land Use Policies

5.3 The following policies relate to the development and use of land in the designated Ringwood Neighbourhood Area. Each policy is numbered and titled and it is shown in bold font. Where necessary, the area to which it will apply is shown on the Policies Map attached to this Plan. After each policy there is some supporting text that explains the purpose of the policy, how it will be applied and, where helpful, how it relates to other development plan policies.

Note: SG to add additional detail to the supporting text to policies to reflect the contents of their evidence reports or by cross referencing to their reports as appropriate.



Ringwood Town Futures Vision courtesy of 'SPUD Youth'

Policy R1: A Spatial Plan for Ringwood

A. The focus for new development in the Parish of Ringwood will be on reusing brownfield land and on realising other suitable development opportunities within the settlement boundary, as shown on the Policies Map. The principles of ‘brownfield first’ and of ‘gentle densification’ in the town will deliver a plentiful supply of developable land over the plan period that will remove the need for any land to be released from the Green Belt for development.

B. The focus for using brownfield land and for gentle densification will contribute to bolstering and sustaining the town centres’ vitality and viability as the primary centre for retail and other town centre uses. Market Place and its environs will retain its special clustering of café/restaurant, public house and niche retail uses. The local centre at Poulner will continue to help meet the day-to-day needs of the local community in line with ‘20-minute neighbourhood’ principles.

C. Outside the town centre, the residential character of the suburban areas of the town will be sustained and enhanced through sensitively designed high quality infill and plot redevelopment. Beyond the settlement boundary the focus will be on enhancing the natural environment and contributing to nature recovery.

D. The harmful effects of traffic congestion, especially traffic with an origin and destination outside the town, will be tackled through a series of traffic management measures and the promotion of other means of moving about the town including the delivery of effective walking and cycling measures to better connect the new communities at Moortown Lane and Hightown Road.

5.4 This policy establishes a coherent spatial plan for the town and its surrounding (Green Belt) countryside that shows how its key component

parts – the town centre, suburban areas and undeveloped natural areas – will work together to bolster this sustainable community. It accords with the broader spatial strategy objectives of the NFDC and NFNPA Local Plans.

5.5 Critical to the success of the town will be maintaining its identity as a distinct, self-contained settlement nestled within the Green Belt. The urban fabric of the town offers opportunities for gentle densification, especially in the town centre area, but also to reuse previously developed (‘brownfield’) land. Although no significant land has been made available for redevelopment at present, it is likely that brownfield land will become available later in the plan period, and could be addressed in a Neighbourhood Plan review.

5.6 The policy requires proper attention is given to prioritising and realising such opportunities as they arise, rather than utilize the Green Belt. Not only is this approach more efficient in using a scarce land resource, but it will avoid creating unsustainable patterns of growth, poorly located from established infrastructure and therefore car dependent.

5.7 The evidence collated for the project indicates that the town centre has largely survived the challenges of retailing in the 21st century and of Covid 19 reasonably well in terms of relatively low unit vacancy rates although the works associated with the widening of the A31 has affected footfall. The town centre contains a healthy mix of town uses. Vacancies have increased as independent retailers struggle with this reduced footfall; but in comparison to the national picture it is still relatively low. SG review.

5.8 The parade at Poulner and community, sports and educational uses serve the surrounding residential areas but walking and cycling to these uses can be challenging given the rural character of the street network, and the severance created by the A31. The town also suffers from a complexity of access and parking arrangements as a result of the Furlong development that tends to undermine the character and enjoyment of the town and its public spaces. The policy encourages proposals to tackle these problems if the town is to continue to be sustainable.

Policy R2: Maintaining a Successful and Prosperous Town Centre at the Heart of the Community

Proposals to maintain the established mix of town centre retail, commercial, community and residential uses within the town centre boundary, as shown on the Policies Map, will be supported.

Proposals will also be supported which enable the delivery of the Market Place shared space 'vision' and other heritage and cultural led regeneration initiatives; that improve access from Furlong Drove and Pedlars Walk, and improvements which 'green' the town centre more generally.

Proposals for a change of use that will result in the loss of an active retail, commercial, business or service use of a ground floor frontage within the Ringwood Conservation Area will be resisted.

5.9 Town Centres are sensitive to change and in Ringwood's case, has unique historic characteristics within its built environment that make the management of change all the more significant.

5.10 This policy defines the town centre boundary for Ringwood which retains the boundary shown on the Proposals Map for Policy ECON5 of the New Forest DC Local Plan. There has been no change in circumstance to indicate that the boundary should be modified as part of the neighbourhood plan. As Policies ECON5 and ECON6 no longer comply with national planning policy and the Use Class Order 2020, they are replaced by this policy. The effect of the 2020 Order especially has rendered redundant the Policy ECON6 definition of primary and secondary shopping frontages and they are not taken forward in this policy.

5.11 It is recognised that some changes of use do not now require planning permission and new permitted development rights (from August 2021) will enable future changes of use from what are now Class E (commercial, business and service) uses to residential uses. The Town Council hopes that New Forest District Council will make an Article 4 Direction for both centres

to remove those rights with effect from the point at which the Neighbourhood Plan is made, enabling such changes to remain in planning control and the Town Council will submit a formal request for this following the referendum of this Neighbourhood Plan.

5.12 In the meantime, proposals made in the town centre will require Prior Approval. For that part of the town centre that lies within the Conservation Area, such approval will require the consideration of any harmful effects to the character of the Conservation Area from the loss of such a ground floor use. Although the Neighbourhood Plan policy (as part of the development plan) is not engaged in a Prior Approval determination by way of S38(6) of the 1990 Planning Act, the Article 4 Report produced by the Design and Heritage Group makes the case to protect the amenity provided by the commercial uses as playing a distinct function and character and therefore a legitimate reason for refusing approvals that will harm the remaining historical significance of the Ringwood Conservation Area and setting of the large concentration of nationally listed buildings to avoid unsympathetic alterations.

5.13 Ringwood sustains a wide range of retail, office, café/restaurant and public houses uses, with two important, large food stores (Sainsburys and Waitrose) anchoring the town centre. There are many dwellings on the upper floors of ground floor uses along the spine of Market Place and High Street. The centre is well served by public transport – most notably the bus stand at Meeting House Lane, and by extensive short and long stay parking at the Furlong and by other public car parks. It is busy during weekday and weekend daytimes but less so in the evenings.

5.14 The Town Council is keen to enhance the capacity and quality of community uses in the town and to enhance the evening economy. The Town Council Gateway Offices occupy a prominent location adjoining Waitrose and the area has undergone extensive public realm enhancements to deliver a wider range of modern community uses. The policy encourages further proposals to come forward that will also contribute to bolstering the vitality and viability of the town centre at the heart of the community.

'A more vibrant Market Place' – Town Centre Opportunity Area A 'shared space'



Policy R3: Making better use of opportunity sites in the Town Centre.

A. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies Ringwood Town Centre area for the purpose of supporting regeneration opportunities to deliver retail, cultural, environmental, residential and business investment.

B. Proposals for redevelopment in the following locations will be supported provided they demonstrate how they will contribute to the Town Centre Vision (which includes the shared space), and accord with the Design Code:

List opportunity sites, include AECOM development principles and Masterplan 'Key Areas of Intervention' indicative sketch plan with each

C. Proposals will be encouraged and supported to:

- improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity and reduce through traffic on the Christchurch Road;
- use these opportunities to improve the public realm in the defined Town Centre Area to enhance its special architectural and historic character, especially by creating new publicly accessible open spaces and 'greening' the High Street...

OH to finalise when AECOM's final report issued.

of the town. As the oldest part of the town it is lined with buildings of medieval origins around thoroughfares that would have served important market and agricultural functions in the past. It complements the Vision in providing small, historic units suited to niche retailers, offices and hospitality businesses. Those businesses mean that it could support a more vibrant day and night time economy.

5.XX It also has residential uses that have, in general terms, been successfully knitted in with its tight plot pattern (of former burgage plots in some cases?) over centuries. Opportunities for sensitive housing infill still arise on occasions and such uses are regarded as compatible with the overall mix of uses as long as they do not undermine or replace an active street frontage. This area is well suited to the beneficial reuse of historic buildings to reap the benefits of heritage led regeneration, although policy R2 seeks to prevent the loss of town centre uses on the ground floors (and permitted development rights allowing for such changes of use do not extend to listed buildings) from commercial to residential.

5.XX Each opportunity site will be defined here, with its own policy, development principles and indicative sketch plan.

5.XX This policy establishes specific opportunities set out in the Ringwood Strategic Masterplan Report (AECOM) to contribute to a prosperous town centre to reflect the community consultation. This policy identifies Ringwood Town Centre as an important location within the town within which are clustered a number of town centre uses, i.e. retail, office, café/restaurant, public houses and community facilities.

5.XX The area includes all of the land whose current use is either in an established town centre use or its reuse for a town centre purpose would be suitable in principle. Market Place/High Street is the 'jewel in the crown'

Policy R4: Shops and Parades within and outside defined centres

Proposals to maintain and enhance the established mix of local centre uses at Butlers Lane Poulner, as shown on the Policies Map, will be encouraged.

Development proposals that enhance the community function of shops located outside defined centres will be supported.

Where it is proposed to change the use of a shop within or outside a centre that falls within the Local Community Use Class F2(a), the applicant will be expected to accompany their application with a robust assessment of its value to the local community. If the shop fulfils a function or benefit to the local community, development proposals must provide credible and robust evidence which demonstrates the existing use is not commercially sustainable and at least 12 months of active and comprehensive marketing for its current use before an alternative use will be considered.

Where evidence suggests that a shop does not fulfil a function or benefit for the local community, or where a community benefit exists to changing the use of a shop to fulfil another non-residential community use, marketing evidence will not be required.

5.XX This policy acknowledges the locally important shopping parade in Poulner to encourage its ongoing role in serving the local community. There are also numerous individual shops throughout the Parish outside this defined Local Centre. These individual shops play a vital role in their local community by providing convenient access to day to day requirements as a core element of a sustainable '20 minute neighbourhood' (a 10 minute walk there, and a 10 minute walk home), and may be the sole accessible store for less mobile residents. Given their importance to the local

community, these individual shops and parades will be supported as they play an important role at the heart of the communities

5.XX The Use Class Order 2020 includes a new Class F2(a) which applies to shops under 280 m2 selling essential goods which are over 1km from another similar shop. The policy reflects the principles underlying NFDC Local Plan Policy ECON6 but brings it up to date to reflect these changes since the Local Plan was adopted. The period of marketing reflects the requirement in ECON6.



SG replace with Ringwood shop image – this image unlicensed

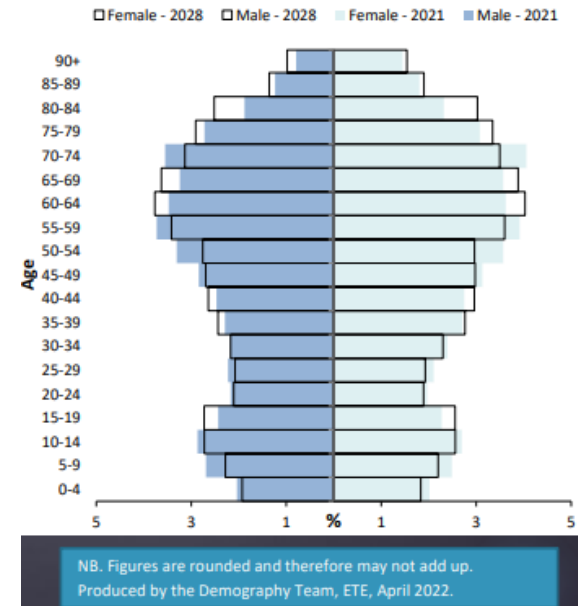
Policy R5: Smaller Housing

Provision should be made for a high proportion of small dwellings, particularly those with one and two bedrooms, in schemes of residential development where this can be achieved without detriment to the amenities and the character of the surrounding area and neighbouring properties. Permission will not be granted for proposals which do not incorporate a high proportion of small dwellings on a site, where a high proportion could be provided without detriment to the locality and neighbouring properties.

5.xx A Ringwood Housing Survey was conducted on-line in 2021. There were 279 respondents. Of the households that responded over 1/3 had members looking to buy or rent a house in the next year and over 80% of these had local connections. 50% of those looking to buy were looking to pay £350K or less. From the respondents’ experience, Ringwood is lacking starter homes (1-2 bed), mid-priced 2-3 beds and council / housing association dwellings. There was a split view on supporting a small development of social/affordable housing on a Green Belt site (42.2% for 46.2% against).

5.xx The aim of this policy is therefore to diversify the local housing stock to prioritise two broad local housing markets - single people and young families new to the housing market and retirees whose opportunity to downsize may be limited - and hence the need to satisfy the increased demand for both smaller and lower cost dwellings to generally improve choice. The existing housing stock in the town consists predominantly of three or four bedroomed properties, and market housing and is amongst the most expensive to buy in the country. The average size of private households in the town (i.e. the number of people occupying a dwelling) is lower than in most other parts of Hampshire and is likely to continue to fall. Similarly, the number of elderly households is projected to increase considerably over the same period.

5.xx The hollowing out of the Districts age profile in the 20 to 40 age group is something the Neighbourhood Plan wishes to arrest. There may be various socio-economic factors at work, some of which are beyond the capabilities of a neighbourhood plan. However, to the extent that housing affordability is an issue, it is important that all possible steps are explored, including the longer term potential for Community Led Housing.



Source: <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/population/Factsheet-NewForest.pdf>

5.xx A survey conducted with a selection of Ringwood Estate Agents showed that 2 or 3 bedroom houses were in most demand with the level of demand increasing as the price lowers. Until recently around 70% of properties would have been sold to local people but this has now reduced to around 50% pointing to the potential for locals to be less well positioned to buy.

5.xx The provision of a stock of small housing units would also give the elderly an opportunity, if they wish, to vacate their larger dwellings, yet remain resident in the town and provide an opportunity for younger and/or key worker, one and two person households to find suitable accommodation in the area. This is key for the continuing development of vibrancy in our communities and overall sustainability of the town. Better utilisation of the existing housing stock is unlikely to occur unless smaller units are available either by the construction of new small dwellings or by the conversion of existing properties.

5.xx In addition, a greater number of smaller units can be delivered on a given site than larger units. The provision of a higher proportion of small dwellings (i.e. greater than 50% of the total of schemes of five or more dwellings) will ensure an efficient use of scarce land in the town given its environmental and Green Belt constraints.

Policy R6: First Homes

Affordable housing will be supported in new development as required by Local Plan Policy HOU2. Within that provision, a minimum of 25% of new affordable homes shall be provided as First Homes.

5.xx The NFDC Local Plan Policy HOU2 requires a proportion of affordable units on larger housing sites (50% on sites of more than 10 houses) so it is considered that there is no need for an additional policy requiring affordable homes in this Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Local Plan was adopted prior to the Governments 'First Home' initiative where a minimum 25% of all new affordable units should be provided as First Homes. These units are likely to be secured through legal (Section 106) agreements to ensure that the discounts remain in perpetuity. NFDC have published an Advice Note on First Homes provision (July 2022).

5.xx 'First Homes' are a specific kind of discounted market sale housing and meet the definition of 'affordable housing' for planning purposes. The local

housing needs evidence prepared for the neighbourhood plan does not consider 'First Homes' to be currently affordable for those households on average or lower incomes but a couple with joint incomes who fall within the 'First Homes' household income limit of £80,000 per annum may well be able to afford a First Homes discounted price dwelling.

5.xx For those who can, on schemes where 'First Homes' make up part of the affordable housing mix, then for the first 2 months of marketing, priority will be given to those who have a local connection to Ringwood. The local connection test will be based on the same local connection criteria applied by NFDC but applied within Ringwood parish. This reflects National Policy which allows for a local connection test to be applied within Neighbourhood Plans where there is evidence of need. Suitable dwellings for starter homes are available in Ringwood at prices within the range up to the maximum allowed of £250,000 with the discount applied.



SG Replace with Ringwood First Home Image – this image unlicensed

Policy R8: The Ringwood Design Code

As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, residential development proposals must demonstrate high quality design and layouts which, where relevant, have taken account of the positive aspects of local character defined in the Ringwood Design Code, and should also:

- (i) Minimise the impact of development on higher ground by careful siting and by comprehensive landscaping;**
- (ii) Include on a Landscape Plan the opportunities to create wildlife corridors and deliver biodiversity net gain;**
- (iii) Include gardens having sufficient size, shape and access to sunlight for the provision of recreational benefits to the occupants;**
- (iv) Offer highly permeable residential layouts for cyclists and pedestrians moving within and through the development;**
- (v) Boundary treatments should be in keeping with the historic and rural character of Ringwood (DC.03.02 and DC.05.2). Where hard boundary treatments are deemed appropriate (for example, for clear reasons of security or privacy), the use of hedgerow planting in front of bare boundary walls should be used to ease their visual presence and hard boundaries should also be permeable to wildlife;**
- (vi) Be respectful of the tranquil setting of the National Park and protective of its dark skies. Lighting should be fully justified and well-designed to shine only where it is needed.**

SG - any other critical weaknesses identified in the BfHL assessment of Moortown Lane that are not otherwise picked up in the design code?

character areas – The Town Centre and Historic Core, The Victorian and Edwardian Quarter and the Southern Approach. (SG insert map on page 73 of Design Code here?)

5.XX The Code has also brought together in one place a range of guidance published by NFDC and NFNPA since 2003 but only some of which has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance for development management purposes. The Code is an integral part of the policy but is extensive in distinguishing different areas of the town and is therefore published separately to the Neighbourhood Plan. To be clear therefore, as the Code has been prepared and consulted on as part of the Plan, its content carries the full weight of the development plan in decision making and is not subordinate or supplementary guidance carrying lesser weight.

5.XX Applicants will therefore be expected to have acknowledged, understood and responded positively to the Code as relevant to the location, scale and nature of their proposals. Where a proposal does not seek to follow the requirements of the Code then the applicant will be obliged to justify why an exception should be made, for example, because a scheme meets the Zero Carbon provisions of Policy R12 requiring a design solution that cannot fully comply with the Code.

5.XX This policy responds to the Government's encouragement that neighbourhood plans should set out local design guidance by adding additional local design emphasis to NFDC Policy ENV3 and NFNPA Policy DP18 to provide a compendium of design guidance in the form design guidelines for the parish as a whole, and specific guidance for three

Policy R9: Building for a Healthy Life

All major development with a residential component should apply the 'Building for Healthy Life' design assessment tool (or equivalent methodology) to inform the design proposals.

As a guide development should seek to achieve a score of no 'reds', design out all 'ambers' and achieve a majority of 'greens'. A Building for Healthy Life Assessment should be included within the Design and Access Statement and submitted with the application.

5.xx High Quality Design is fundamental to the creation of high quality places. The national Model Design Code H2 (para 187) reinforces this:

"The built environment has a significant impact on people's health and wellbeing. This relates across the design code with regard to walkable neighbourhoods, access to greenery and recreation, attractive buildings and public spaces, space standards, and strong communities."

5.xx This policy has regard to paragraph 133 of the NPPF and refines and updates NFDC policy ENV3 to align with para 133. The use of the BfHL toolkit is of most benefit if used as early as possible in the evolution of schemes, and are particularly important for significant projects such as large scale housing and mixed use developments.

5.xx OH to finalise text

Policy R10: Conserving Local Heritage Assets

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies Local Heritage Assets, as listed in Appendix C, by way of their local architectural and historic value.

Development proposals that may affect the significance of a Local Heritage Asset must take that significance into account in demonstrating that the scale of any proposed harm to, or loss of, the heritage asset is justified. The loss of the whole or part of a Local Heritage Asset will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the new development will proceed within a year of the loss.

5.XX The policy identifies a number of ('non-designated') heritage assets in the parish that, whilst not statutorily listed, have some local heritage value for the purposes of applying Policy XX and XX on the historic environment and §203 and §204 of the NPPF. The owners of the heritage assets properties will be notified of the proposed inclusion on this list and their responses will be considered in the Consultation Statement.

5.XX The assets have been identified from a number of sources and have been evaluated against the criteria advocated by Historic England in its 2019 guidance note. A description of the value of each asset is provided in the Appendix C list along with the source. The National Park Authority is preparing its own Local Heritage List project, which shares the same aims of this policy. Given both have used the same evaluation criteria, it is expected that the assets identified in this policy within the National Park will be added to the National Park list in due course.

Policy R11: Creating a Green Infrastructure & Nature Recovery Network

A. The Neighbourhood Plan designates a Green Infrastructure and Nature Recovery Network, as shown on the Policies Map, for the purpose of promoting ecological connectivity, outdoor recreation and sustainable movement through the parish and into the National Park. The Network comprises the town's variety of green spaces, ancient woodland, trees and hedgerows, water bodies, assets of biodiversity value, children's play areas and recreational playing fields.

B. Development proposals that lie within or adjoining the Network are required to have full regard to creating, maintaining and improving the Network, including delivering a net gain to general biodiversity value, in the design of their layouts, landscaping schemes and public open space and play provisions. Elsewhere, all proposals should protect and maintain trees and hedgerows, provide for the planting of new trees for flood management and carbon sequestration purposes, hedgerows and bulb and wildflower planting where it is compatible with the street scene. The wildlife corridors should also be maintained as dark corridors as far as possible to increase their value for nocturnal species.

C. Proposals of a gross site area of more than 2 hectares should incorporate woodland planting on-site of a species and standard that will effectively store/sequester carbon, as verified by the Woodland Carbon Code, unless it can be demonstrated that the soil or other site feature cannot accommodate this planting.

OH to update following a recent NP examination

5.XX This policy serves three closely related purposes aimed at protecting and improving the wealth of green infrastructure assets within the town and its surrounding countryside in line with the objectives of NFDC policy XX and NFNPA Policy XX.

5.XX Firstly, it identifies and designates a network of these assets, the full extent of which is shown on the Policies Map. It illustrates how extensive and well connected they are to function as effective habitat corridors, particularly between the River Avon corridor and the National Park. Within and on the edge of the town, the Bickerley, Carvers and XXXX, and the lines of street trees and of lengths of mature trees across many gardens are the most significant and extensive assets. However, there are many more extensive areas of green space at Moortown Lane and Hightown, smaller pockets of green space, and field boundary hedgerows in the countryside, that add to the overall biodiversity functionality and integrity of the network.

5.XX Clause B requires applicants to acknowledge, understand and respond to the presence of this network in the design of their proposals if they lie within or adjoining the network. The location of new buildings within a plot, and the accompanying landscape scheme, offers proposals the opportunity to enhance the functionality of the network, or at the very least to avoid any harm.

5.XX Thirdly, the policy requires any larger development proposals to ensure their landscape schemes exploit the opportunity to plan new woodland of a type that will store carbon. The Woodland Trust operates a Carbon Code to verify species and ground conditions that will serve this purpose.

5.XX SG to finalise supporting text and decide whether a separate trees and hedgerows policy is necessary or whether adjustments to this policy and the quality of the GI mapping will serve this purpose

Policy R12: Zero Carbon Buildings

A. All development must be ‘zero carbon ready’ by design to minimise the amount of energy needed to heat and cool buildings through landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping.

B. Wherever feasible, all new buildings, including those that are proposed to be extended, should be certified to a Passivhaus or equivalent standard with a space heating demand of less than 15KWh/m²/year. Where schemes that maximise their potential to meet this standard by proposing the use of building forms or plot size, plot coverage and layout that are different to those of the Ringwood Design Code, this will be supported, provided it can be demonstrated that the scheme will not have a significant harmful effect on the character of the local area.

C. Where the PassivHaus or equivalent standard is not feasible, all proposals for new and refurbished buildings should demonstrate that they have been tested to ensure the buildings will perform as predicted. In all such cases, a planning condition will be attached to the planning permission to require the provision of a Post Occupancy Evaluation Report to the Local Planning Authority within a specified period. Where the Report identifies poor energy performance and makes recommendations for reasonable corrective action, the applicant must demonstrate that those actions have been implemented before the condition will be discharged.

D. All planning applications for major development are also required to be accompanied by a Whole Life-Cycle Carbon Emission Assessment, using a recognised best practice methodology, to demonstrate actions taken to reduce embodied carbon resulting from the construction and use of the building over its entire life.

E. An Energy Statement will be submitted to demonstrate compliance with the policy (except for householder applications). The statement will include a passive design capacity assessment to demonstrate how opportunities to reduce the energy use intensity (EUI) of buildings over the plan period have been maximised in accordance with the energy hierarchy. Designers shall evaluate the operational energy use using realistic information on the intended use, occupancy and operation of the building to minimise any performance gap.

OH to update policy and supporting text following a recent NP examination.

5.XX The UK Parliament declared an environment and climate emergency in May 2019. The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK’s approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for. The Act also establishes the framework to deliver on these requirements and commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to ‘net zero’ by 2050. **Have both local authorities published Climate Emergency Statements?**

5.XX The Energy White Paper published in December 2020 sets out the government’s Vision and 10-point transition plan for how the UK will reach the UK target of ‘net zero’ carbon emissions by 2050. The White Paper confirms the government’s intention to ensure significant strides are made to improve building energy performance to meet this target. This means that by 2030 all new buildings must operate at ‘net zero’, the means by which this can be achieved is described in the diagram overleaf. This approach unequivocally focuses on the energy hierarchy and the role of post occupancy monitoring and verification to ensure buildings perform in the way they are designed.

5.XX The consultation on the ‘Future Buildings Standard’ announced in January 2021 aims to ‘radically improve’ the energy performance of new homes ensuring they are ‘zero carbon ready’ by 2025. This means having

high levels of energy efficiency and fabric performance that produce 75 to 80 per cent lower carbon emissions than houses built to current standards. The Government has also confirmed in its response to the Future Homes Standard consultation that they do not intend to amend the Planning and Energy Act 2008 and that as a result the setting of energy efficiency standards at the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan scale is permissible.

5.XX This policy is in five parts, the combination of which is intended to deliver a step change in the energy performance of all new and extended buildings in the town and, in doing so, encourage and incentivise the use of the Passivhaus or equivalent standard of building design. Along with the passive design capacity assessment, it is anticipated that designers will demonstrate compliance using a design for performance methodology such as the Passivhaus Planning package or CIBSE TM34 Operational Energy. Achieving this level of performance will make a significant contribution to mitigating climate change that the Neighbourhood Plan can help deliver.

5.XX Clause A of the policy requires developers to ensure they address the Government's climate change targets and energy performance at the very initial stages of design. 'Zero Carbon Ready by Design' means making spatial decisions on layout and orientation of buildings at the outset to maximise the passive design benefits ('free heat') of a site and avoids leaving this to technical choices and assessment at the Building Regulation stage, by which time the opportunity may have been lost.

5.XX Its Clause B requires all schemes, no matter what their intended use or size other than householder extensions, to use the Passivhaus Planning Package (PHPP) or equivalent design methodology for all buildings where it is feasible to do so. This means that the applicant must demonstrate those factors that make its use unfeasible, for example, the topography and orientation of the site. In respect of scheme viability, any extra-over cost of building to the 'zero carbon ready' Passivhaus standard (now less than 5%) will diminish to zero well within the period of this Plan, as per both the

Governments Regulatory Impact Assessments and research by the Passivhaus Trust. The policy will also ensure that expensive and unnecessary retrofit costs are not passed down to building occupiers in the future, particularly in an area which has relatively high property values. Scheme viability will not therefore be acceptable as a reason for not using the Standard, unless the applicant can demonstrate the scheme has abnormal costs to accommodate.

5.XX The policy acknowledges that there may sometimes be a trade-off between its objectives and local design policy. Although meeting these standards ought not to compromise a scheme fitting in with the character of a local area, on occasions this may be the case. It therefore allows for some degree of flexibility in meeting the Beaconsfield Design Code, especially in terms of prevalent building orientation and density. Proposals seeking to apply the PHPP must also be able to demonstrate that the Passivhaus standard can be achieved. Prior to commencement a 'pre-construction compliance check' completed by a Passivhaus Designer accredited by the Passive House Institute (PHI) will be required and secured by condition. Upon completion a Quality Approved Passivhaus certificate for each building will be required prior to occupation, again secured by condition.

5.XX Clause C operates where the developer cannot or chooses not to use the Passivhaus or equivalent standard. It requires that every building in the consented scheme is subject to a Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) including actual metered energy use, and to submit the report to the local planning authority. This provision is implemented by a planning condition being attached to the planning permission, which will only be discharged once the report has been submitted and any recommended actions to rectify any performance gap with the design stage assessment are carried out by the developer. Passivhaus certified schemes cannot fail in this way, hence they are not subject to this clause and will not require a POE report.

Net Zero Operational Carbon

Ten key requirements for new buildings

By 2030 all new buildings must operate at net zero to meet our climate change targets. This means that by 2025 all new buildings will need to be designed to meet these targets. This page sets out the approach to operational carbon that will be necessary to deliver zero carbon buildings. For more information about any of these requirements and how to meet them, please refer to the: UKGBC - Net Zero Carbon Buildings Framework; BBP - Design for Performance initiative; RIBA - 2030 Climate Challenge; GHA - Net Zero Housing Project Map; CIBSE - Climate Action Plan; and, LETI - Climate Emergency Design Guide.

Low energy use

- 1** Total Energy Use Intensity (EUI) - Energy use measured at the meter should be equal to or less than:

 - **35 kWh/m²/yr** (GIA) for residential¹

For non-domestic buildings a minimum DEC B (40) rating should be achieved and/or an EUI equal or less than:

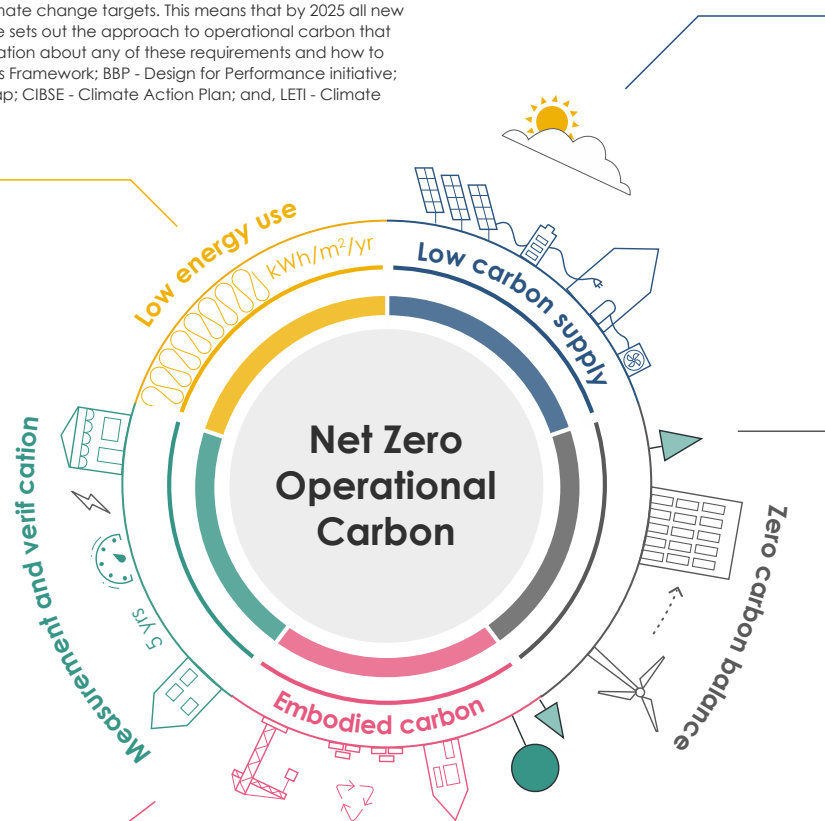
 - **65 kWh/m²/yr** (GIA) for schools¹
 - **70 kWh/m²/yr** (NLA) or **55 kWh/m²/yr** (GIA) for commercial offices^{1,2}
- 2** Building fabric is very important therefore space heating demand should be less than **15 kWh/m²/yr** for all building types.

Measurement and verification

- 3** Annual energy use and renewable energy generation on-site must be reported and independently verified in use each year for the first 5 years. This can be done on an aggregated and anonymised basis for residential buildings.

Reducing construction impacts

- 4** Embodied carbon should be assessed, reduced and verified post-construction.³



Low carbon energy supply

- 5** Heating and hot water should not be generated using fossil fuels.
- 6** The average annual carbon content of the heat supplied (gCO₂/kWh) should be reported.
- 7** On-site renewable electricity should be maximised.
- 8** Energy demand response and storage measures should be incorporated and the building annual peak energy demand should be reported.

Zero carbon balance

- 9** A carbon balance calculation (on an annual basis) should be undertaken and it should be demonstrated that the building achieves a net zero carbon balance.
- 10** Any energy use not met by on-site renewables should be met by an investment into additional renewable energy capacity off-site OR a minimum 15 year renewable energy power purchase agreement (PPA). A green tariff is not robust enough and does not provide 'additional' renewables.

Notes:

Note 1 - Energy use intensity (EUI) targets
The above targets include all energy uses in the building (regulated and unregulated) as measured at the meter and exclude on-site generation. They have been derived from: predicted energy use modelling for best practice; a review of the best performing buildings in the UK; and a preliminary assessment of the renewable energy supply for UK buildings. They are likely to be revised as more knowledge is available in these three fields. A heat pump and hot water is not generated by fossil fuels. This assumes an all electric building unless other zero carbon fuels exist. (kWh targets are for heating only. If other zero carbon heating fuels are available this metric will be adapted).

Note 2 - Commercial offices
With a typical net to gross ratio, 70 kWh/m² NLA/yr is equivalent to 55 kWh/m² GIA/yr. Building owners and developers are recommended to target a base building rating of 6 stars using the BBP's Design for Performance process based on NABERS.

Note 3 - Whole life carbon
It is recognised that operational emissions represent only one aspect of net zero carbon in new buildings. Reducing whole life carbon is crucial and will be covered in separate guidance.

Note 4 - Adaptation to climate change
Net zero carbon buildings should also be adapted to climate change. It is essential that the risk of overheating is managed and that cooling is minimised.

Developed in collaboration with:



VERSION 3 NOV 2022

5.33 The policy complements **Policies XX and XX** which share the same overall aim but predate the climate change policy development at national level of the last few years. However, proposed supplementary guidance by each planning authority has not yet been taken forward. In the absence of such guidance covering the energy performance of new buildings, Clause D requires major development proposals (i.e. those the NPPF defines as such, currently being 10 or more homes) to be accompanied by a Whole Life-Cycle Carbon Emissions Assessment. This requirement will be added to the Local Validation Checklist for outline and full planning applications applying to proposals in Ringwood until such a time that there is a district -wide requirement.

5.34 Clause E requires an Energy Statement to be submitted to cover the following:

- an assessment of the proposal to minimise regulated and unregulated emissions, the embodied emissions and the emissions associated with maintenance, repair and replacement of the new building(s), as well as its dismantling, demolition and eventual material disposal
- a calculation of the energy and carbon emissions covered by the Future Homes Standard and Building Regulations and, separately, the energy demand and carbon emissions from any other part of the development that are not covered by the Future Homes Standard or Building Regulations
- the proposal to reduce carbon emissions beyond the Future Homes Standard and Building Regulations through the energy efficient design of the site, buildings and services
- the proposal to further reduce carbon emissions through the use of zero or low-emission decentralised energy where feasible
- the proposal to further reduce carbon emissions by maximising opportunities to produce and use renewable energy on-site, utilising storage technologies where appropriate

- the proposal for a demand-side response, specifically through installation of smart meters, minimising peak energy demand and promoting short-term energy storage
- an analysis of the expected cost to occupants associated with the proposed energy strategy

5.35 Every new build or redevelopment project in Ringwood provides an opportunity to make a difference and a contribution towards meeting our climate change targets for 2050. This new information requirement need not be an unreasonable expectation of even the smallest schemes for new buildings. Land values in the town are very high relative to build costs and ought to be sufficient to ensure the policy requirements to tackle improving energy and carbon performance are viable.

Policy R14: Encouraging Active and Healthy Travel

A. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the existing Sustainable Travel Network and opportunities for improvements, as shown on the Policies Map, for the purpose of prioritising active and healthy travel.

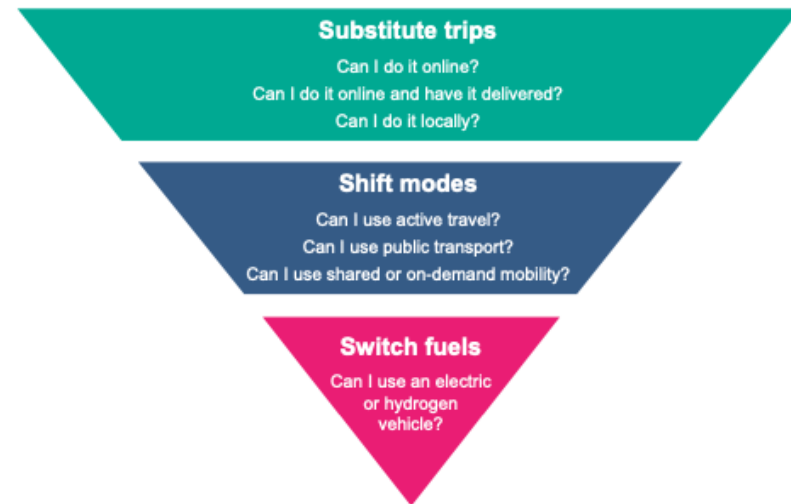
B. Development proposals on land that lies within or adjacent to the Network will be required, where practical, to provide opportunities for a more joined-up Network of walking and cycling routes to the town centre, local schools and community facilities and accessible green space by virtue of their layout, means of access and landscape treatment.

C. Proposals for major development (10 dwellings or above) should adopt the Sustainable Accessibility and Mobility Framework, as illustrated overleaf, and demonstrate how they have, in the following priority order:

- (i) sought to minimise the need to travel beyond the parish;**
- (ii) for longer trips, sought to encourage and enable the use of active, public and shared forms of transport; and,**
- (iii) for trips that must be made by car, sought to encourage and enable the use of zero emission vehicles.**

5.XX This policy embraces the principles of the Sustainable Accessibility and Mobility Framework advocated in the Net Zero Transport report published by the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2021 ([Link](#)). The Framework adopts a place-based approach to net zero transport by focusing on solutions that create better places and healthier, happier, more resilient communities. It also fits well with the emerging New Forest Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) which will encourage more local journeys to be undertaken on foot and by bike.

5.XX The ‘SAM’ Framework objectives are critical to good planning, linking the imperative to reduce transport emissions with wider objectives related to decarbonisation, housing growth and nature recovery. This hierarchical approach (shown below) calls for measures that first focus on the role of place in reducing trips, before considering how to increase the proportion of the remaining trips that are taken by active, public and shared forms of transport.



5.XX The layout design of new development must also apply Manual for Streets best practice principles to create a permeable network of streets and spaces that support connections to local services and facilities in the Parish based on the principle of a ‘20 Minute Neighbourhood’ while also enabling residents to access green space to meet the requirements of Natural England’s Accessible Greenspace Standard (ANGSt). The overall aim being to support the physical and mental well-being of our community. For the avoidance of doubt, the network will not support or encourage access to internationally significant nature conservation sites.

5.XX The policy also maps a network of walking and cycling routes through the town to its boundaries where many routes continue to connect the town with the countryside and its neighbouring settlements. The aim of both is to raise awareness of the routes to encourage safe and convenient use, and to identify future opportunities to improve their connectivity, in line with NFDC Policy CCC2: Save and Sustainable Travel and NFNPA Policy SP 54 'Transport Infrastructure' and SP55 'Access'.

5.XX Reference to RNP LCWIP Report and Priority Schemes in Annex – Active Travel Network map not yet prepared

6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan policies will be implemented through the determination of planning applications for development in the Parish by the local planning authority.

Development Management

6.2 The planning authority will use a combination of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan policies to inform and determine its planning application decisions. The Town Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications made in Ringwood and it will be made aware of any future planning applications or alterations to those applications by the planning authority. It will seek to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan policies have been identified and applied correctly by applicants and by officers in their decision reports.

Local Infrastructure Improvements

6.3 Where opportunities arise through Section 106 agreements (or through the Community Infrastructure Levy) to secure financial contributions to invest in improving local infrastructure, the Town Council propose that the priorities for investment of future Community Infrastructure Levy, and/or S106 contributions received by the local planning authority are improvements of the public realm and to community infrastructure.

Other Non-Planning Matters

6.4 During the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, there have been many ideas for improving or addressing current problems in the town that lie outside the scope of the land use planning system to control. The Town Council has noted these issues and will take them forward through its day-to-day business and in partnership with the local community, the New Forest District Council and National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and other relevant parties.

These include:

- Market Place/High Street Shared Space proposals
- Other Public Realm improvement projects
- Nature Recovery and Biodiversity Net Gain improvements to Carvers Park, Jubilee Gardens, Pocket Park...
- Improvements to green the urban environment and street scene through tree planting and wildflower and bulb planting on public and private land including roadside verges
- Active travel improvements for non-car users, including walking and cycling routes, pedestrian and cycle friendly zones and Safe Routes to Schools, including Poulner Schools and other LCWIP type projects
- Community Led Housing

Monitoring and Reviewing the Plan

6.5 The Town Council will endeavour to monitor the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Plan in informing decisions on planning applications and in informing the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan. It will consider a first review of the plan once that Local Plan has been adopted, responding to any policy prompts as necessary. Otherwise, in line with best practice, it will look to review the plan on a five yearly cycle so that its contents remain valid and up-to-date.


POLICIES MAP & INSETS

APPENDIX C: LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS LIST (POLICY R10) – EXMAPLE OF PRESENTATION FOR D&H GROUP

The following buildings and structures are not on the Statutory List of Buildings ('listed buildings') but have been identified as having local heritage value in relation to the provisions of Policy R10.

At the Pre Submission stage, this is an indicative list to prompt feedback from property owners and other interested parties. A fuller description of each building and structure in the final list will be provided in a Local Heritage Asset Study at the time of submission.

The assets have been identified using a variety of sources noted in the schedule and using the criteria established by Historic England for this purpose (and that are also being used by New Forest National Park Authority Local Heritage Asset project).

Ref no.	Location	Asset Type	Special Local Interest
1	Nos 17, 35/37, 43-47 and 87 Ayles End	A/G*	<p>A set of buildings of group value with those listed in Ayles End.</p> <p>No. 17 is a modern reconstruction of a cottage, probably early 17th End century, demolished in 1977, which had formerly been the site of Old Elm Tree Inn. Very plain, 2 storeys with single storey addition at the front and a catslide roof over right-hand bay. Old red and grey brick with plain clay tile roof. Nos. 35/37 were formerly the Star P.H. Painted brick and pebbledash with half-timbered gables in "Brewer's Tudor" style. Between them is a distinctive stepped pediment where the pub's name was displayed - this has an art deco look. Regarded as significant for its historical associations and contribution to the streetscene.</p>  <p>No. 43 is two storey - hipped plain clay tiled roof - red and grey brick in Flemish bond. An early 19th century postcard (side) shows a plain gable-ended building here. Rather picturesque small building which could be enhanced by the removal of the overlarge shop-front. Nos. 45/47 are a pair of red brick two storey, probably 19th century, cottages with bay windows to ground floor in centre with continuous pitched roof over and front doors either side with steps up. Extra door on left, presumably to a covered passage. Plain clay tiled roof.</p>

			No. 87 (Burkes Corner) is a large house perhaps originally 3, with hipped slate roof and built of orange/red brick (repointed with rather too much mortar). Ground floor has 3 canted bay windows under hipped slated roofs. Front door is off-centre with a classical door case and bracketed hood with slightly pitched roof covered in lead. All windows are sash with glazing bars. House appears restored with modern extension in sympathetic style to the south. However the wide garage door gives too strong a horizontal emphasis. Attached to the north is the flat roofed Burkes Cottage. Important and sensitive position at entrance to the conservation area.
2	Meadow Cottages,	A/G *	Row of one and a half storey houses. In east gable end is a lozenge shaped date stone "B 1912. In red/brown brick the 10 gables are a notable feature. The houses have the appearance of estate cottages, or even almshouses. Each has a small front garden behind a white picket fence.
3	Hedge End House,	A *	Large two-storey house with attic; hipped machine plain clay tiled roof in chequer pattern, with large bracketed eaves. Early C20 in an Arts & Crafts style. Tower to left front with tall multi-paned window similar in style to those at The White Horse restaurant & Pub in London End and 2 Lakes Lane. Pebbledashed painted white. Hipped dormer. Modern rooflights mar the interesting roofscape.

Annex A to Planning, Town Environment Committee Minutes 2nd December 2022
Ringwood Town Council - Planning Observations - NFDC

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
22/11233	Gouldings Farm, Salisbury Road, Ringwood. BH24 3PA	Siting of a 3 bedroom mobile home for use as a temporary rural workers dwelling	Officer Decision (5)	
22/11245	3, Watership Drive, Hightown, Ringwood. BH24 1QY	Front porch extension	Permission (1)	
22/11260	21, Chard Lane, Ringwood. BH24 3FJ	Demolish existing conservatory, proposed extension	Permission (1)	
22/11263	28, The Mount, Poulner, Ringwood. BH24 1XX	Extension of garage building and use as a home office	Permission (1)	
22/11285	24, Southampton Road, Ringwood. BH24 1HY	Sign 01 - Externally illuminated fascia sign with LED trough lighting; Sign 02 - Non illuminated Projecting sign (Application for Advertisement Consent)	Permission (1)	
22/11322	25, Meadow Road, Ringwood. BH24 1RT	Demolish existing conservatory and form single storey rear extension	Permission (1)	
22/11335	34, Hiltom Road, Ringwood. BH24 1PW	Side extension	Permission (1)	

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
CONS/22/0632	24 College Road, Ringwood. BH24 1NX	Plum Tree - fell	Permission (1)	
TPO/22/0611	Willow Drive, Ringwood, BH24 3BE	Lime x 1 Reduce Sycamore x 2 Reduce Elm x 2 Fell Horse Chestnut x 1 Reduce Norway Maple x 1 Reduce Poplar x 1 Reduce London Plane x 1 Reduce Beech x 1 Reduce Alder x 1 Reduce Willow x 1 Reduce Alder x 1 Fell	Permission (1)	Delegated powers 14.11.22
TPO/22/0654	28, Lin Brook Drive, Ringwood, BH24 3LJ.	Oak x 1 Reduce	Permission (1)	

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Annex A to Planning, Town Environment Committee Minutes 2nd December 2022

Ringwood Town Council - Planning Observations - NFNPA

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
22/00605	Foresters, Hightown Hill, Ringwood. BH24 3HQ	Two storey extension; infill of integral garage to form ancillary floorspace; porch; alterations to doors and windows; insulated render; replace and extend solar panels; removal of single storey extensions, conservatory and porch	Permission (1)	
22/00838	Forest Oaks, Linford Road, Shobley, Ringwood. BH24 3HT	Car storage building	Permission (1)	

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Applications decided under delegated powers : to be noted on 2nd December 2022

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Decision
CONS/22/00778	Acre Cottage, Hangersley Hill, Hangersley, Ringwood. BH24 3JN	Fell and Prune various tree species as detailed on the application form	4.11.22 P(1) Recommend Permission, but would accept the Tree Officer's decision.
22/10986	15 College Road, Ringwood BH24 1NU	RE-CONSULTATION:- Single-storey rear veranda; side porch; rear chimney removal (part retrospective)	4.11.22 P(1) Recommend Permission, but would accept the Planning Officer's decision.
TPO/22/0611	Willow Drive, Ringwood.	Lime x 1 Reduce Sycamore x 2 Reduce Elm x 2 Fell Horse chestnut x 1 Reduce Norway Maple x 1 Reduce Poplar x 1 Reduce London Plane x 1 Reduce Beech x 1 Reduce Alder x 1 Reduce Willow x 1 Reduce Alder x 1 Fell	14.11.22 P(1) Recommend Permission, but would accept the Planning Officer's decision.

RING 3 – Beaumont Park, (Land at Crow Arch Lane and Crow Lane), Crow, Ringwood BH24 3DZ
Planning Permission Refs: 13/11450 Outline Application 175 dwellings

Details granted through:

16/11520 – Phase 1 - 62 dwellings;

17/11358 – Phase 2/3, care home, business use, POS, landscaping;

17/11309 Reserved Matters– Phase 2, 113 dwellings.

18/11648 - Development of 20 dwellings comprised of semi-detached houses; terraces; 1 block of flats, bin & cycle store; detached garages; public open space, landscaping, internal access arrangement and ancillary infrastructure.

NFDC new owners of the employment site:

20/11208 FULL – COU of buildings B, C, D, E from B1 (granted under 17/11358) to use E and B8

Developer: Lindens Homes (now part of Vistry)

The Developer informed me that the Land Registry work required for the allotments has been completed. The Developer's solicitor is liaising with the solicitor working on behalf of Ringwood Town Council to progress the transfer of the land. Once a known date for transfer has been decided, the remedial works to the allotments will be carried out.

The mowing of the site is being carried out regularly now. The Developer is liaising with their contractor to get the 'maintenance blitz' of the site programmed in and carried out.

The Developer is also liaising with their contractor to programme in the remedial tree planting for this current planting season.

The company required to replace the play areas has had to pursue the work through their insurance company, so the timeframe for this work is dependent on this process. This does not need to hold up the transfer of the site as the play areas can be treated as a separate issue.

The two piles of spoil on land adjoining the NFDC flats at Yarrow Lane and the Castleman Trail have now been reprofiled by Hampshire County Council. The area will now require grass seeding to complete the works.

The Developer is still responsible for the maintenance of the development currently, alongside the housing association.

Monitoring of this site by the Site Monitoring Officer or the Open Spaces Officer will continue in the short and medium term.

A31 Improvement Scheme

Notes of Stakeholder Meeting – 2pm, 11 November 2022

Present:

Daniel Kittredge (DK), Project Manager, National Highways (NH)

Alex Skinner, Volker Fitzpatrick

Ian Ackerman (IA), Traffic Manager, Hampshire Highways, HCC

Cllrs Day, Deboos, Heron, Lane and Rippon-Swaine

Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk, Ringwood Town Council

1. Scheme Update

Noted that the project was on schedule for completion two weeks early, and within the approved budget.

The westbound carriageway, including the on-slip from Ringwood, was expected to be open on Friday 18 November, with all works being completed by 6am on Saturday 19 November. The misspelt sign is due to be replaced on 16 November.

In advance of this, the following overnight road closures, between 8pm and 6pm, would be required:

- **Tuesday 15 November** – A31 eastbound closed between A338 Ashley Heath and M27 J1 Cadnam
- **Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 November** – A31 westbound closed between M27 J1 Cadnam to A338 Ashley Heath
- **Friday 18 November** – A31 eastbound closed between A338 Ashley Heath and M27 J1 Cadnam

The site office would be demobilised the following week, completing by early December.

The petrol station will re-open, but this was not expected until early December. In the meantime, the “services closed” sign would be left in place, as would a line of cones to prevent vehicles entering the garage forecourt.

2. Publicity

NH will publicise the completion of the scheme, but this will be some time after 19 November. PD requested contact details for NH PR to discuss local publicity

3. Local Roads

There was a request to look at the condition of Eastfield Road and Kent Lane following completion of the scheme, and also to remove the pile of rubble on the roundabout beneath the A31 flyover.

Post meeting note – IA confirmed:

- *Eastfield Lane will be resurfaced some time in 2023;*
- *The rubble pile removal has been logged but there is no date for this work yet;*
- *HCC will survey the roads that have been used as diversion routes/rat runs to assess whether any repairs are required.*

4. Church Fence

DK confirmed there had been no response from the Church following the offer of a contribution towards the cost of an acoustic fence.

5. Landscaping

JHu pointed out the gaps in the tree line in Jubilee Gardens that had been left by the removal of a large pine tree and works close to the road bridge at the far end, which meant the Gardens have less protection from the road and traffic. AS agreed to follow up with the Environmental Manager.

JHu asked if the fence behind the felled tree (where temporary steps had been in place) could be repaired. It had been left in a poor condition, with loose straining wires and the main part of the fence unattached. DK agreed to look into this.

6. Flooding in underpass

Although outside the remit of the scheme, DK had previously agreed to task the Operations Team with looking into the poor drainage in the underpass between Gravel Lane and Linden Gardens. This repeatedly floods after heavy rainfall and is currently very muddy and slippery. DK agreed to follow up.

Post meeting note:

National Highways confirmed a planned maintenance scheme is due to be completed by March 2023, as follows:

- *Replacement of 10m of 225mm diameter pipe under footpath and 91m of 225mm diameter filter drain to downstream chamber, depth <1.5m.*
- *Fill to surface with filter media, 91m length, reinstate footway, 10m length*
- *Root cut and clear pipework and ACO Channel Drains under subway*

7. Meeting House Lane – direction of traffic flow

Noted that this was in hand with HCC to make the current temporary traffic order permanent.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Noted that this was the last meeting – DK was congratulated on getting the scheme completed ahead of schedule.

PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
30th NOVEMBER 2022

REVISED BUDGET 2022/23 & DRAFT BUDGET 2023/2024

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Members are required to consider the budget proposals for 2023/24 for this Committee and to make recommendations to the Policy and Finance Committee.

1.2 To assist Members, the following draft documents are attached:-

Appendix A: Shows the progress made on the new expenditure items approved for inclusion in the 2022/23 budget. There are no proposals for new expenditure bids for 2023/24.

Appendix B: Shows the approved original budget 2022/23 of £24,960 (including non-recurring growth of £15,473, the draft revised budget 2022/23 of £29,852 which reflects the forecast outturn for 2022/23 together with the first draft budget for 2023/24 of £26,671 which excludes any new bids.

For comparison, actual net expenditure in 2021/22 was £16,199 before transfers to and from provisions and £15,749 after transfers.

2. REVISED BUDGET 2022/23

2.1 The revised budget (column 8 Appendix B) shows a net increase of £4,892 over the original budget (column 7). The main reasons for this are:-

Details	£
1. Reduction in expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan	-503
2. Reduction in grants re the Neighbourhood Plan	4,250
3. Increased transfer from reserves for Neighbourhood Plan	-1,000
4. Increased Energy costs	906
5. Built Environment – Furniture (replacement defibrillator)	1055
4. Other minor changes in expenditure	182
Total	4,892

2.2 The most significant net expenditure increase is in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is a result of some slippage of residual spend. The replacement of the defibrillator at the Gateway Building has also increased expenditure in the current year.

2.3 The work on Crow Lane maintenance is funded by developers' contributions. This is being written down annually and the balance at the end of March 2023 is now expected to be £1,464. Pay costs have increased slightly due to the larger than anticipated annual pay award, mitigated by a staff cost reduction resulting from reduced hours. There are no other significant changes to the budget for the current year and expenditure is broadly on track to meet the revised budget by year end.

3. FIRST DRAFT BUDGET 2023/24

3.1 The base budget for 2023/24 has been prepared on an incremental basis by rolling forward the 2022/23 budget and adjusting for non recurring expenditure and known cost changes. Staff costs have been calculated from scratch because of the various changes due to altered working hours, the pay review, the annual pay award and changes to employer's national insurance contributions.

- 3.2 Overall, employee costs are predicted to increase by £1,824 or 7.5%. This includes both the balance of the current year pay award of just over 7% less the amount included in the 2022/23 budget of 3.5%, plus an estimate of a further 7% in 2023/24. This 10.5% increase has been mitigated by a reduction in officer hours.
- 3.3 Appendix B sets out the summary budget figures for the Committee in column 11. Inflation has been modelled as follows:

Inflation	%
- Pay	7.0%
- Utilities	12.0%
- Other Expenditure	10.0%
- Non contractual expenditure	0.0%
- Income	10.0%
- Fixed expenditure (i.e. no inflation)	0.0%

The impact of these inflation assumptions is that, in order to avoid drawing from the General Reserve, a Council Tax increase of 10% will be required. As a result, every effort is being made to identify areas for budget savings and there is very little scope for additional revenue expenditure.

- 3.4 At present, no other new bids have been brought forward for consideration. Any new bids will need to be supported by identified funding which may include the use of earmarked reserves, grant funding or revenue generation. A summary of the current reserves position for the Town Council is included at Appendix C.
- 3.5 The Committee is asked to consider the draft budget proposals in Appendix B. These will then go forward to the Policy & Finance Committee later in November for consideration as part of the Council's total budget.
- 3.6 There will be further opportunities to review the budget proposals before the 2023/24 budget is finally agreed in January 2023.

4. NEW BIDS 2023/24

- 4.1 No new bids have been proposed.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that, subject to amendments made at this meeting:

- i) The budget set out in Appendix B be approved;
- ii) Members consider whether any additional budget proposals, together with funding suggestions, be added to the proposed budget.

For further information please contact:

<p>Rory Fitzgerald Finance Officer Tele: 01425 484723</p>	or	<p>Chris Wilkins Town Clerk Tele: 01425 484720</p>
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PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**PROGRESS ON APPROVED BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23**

NO.	ITEM	REASON	BUDGET 22/23 £	COMMENTS
1.	Support for REAL Working Party	Minor funding to support local initiatives.	1,000	£472 spent in current year but it is expected that this budget will be fully used.
2.	Neighbourhood Plan	To prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the civil parish of Ringwood but limited in scope to specified themes (Town Centre, Heritage & Design, Housing and Environment).	11,000 Plus 3,473 U/spend from 2021/22	The pre-submission draft Plan is expected to be submitted to Full Council for approval in January 2023, after which there will be a period of consultation, with the final draft being submitted to the LPAs by the end of April 2023 ready for a referendum to be carried out after the elections.
		TOTAL NET COSTS	15,473	

NEW BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2023/24

NO.	ITEM	REASON	23/24 £	24/25 £	25/26 £	Priority
1.						
2.						
3.						
		TOTAL NET COSTS	0	0	0	

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE												
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	
Code CC	Description	Budget Manager	Actual 19/20 £	Actual 20/21 £	Actual 21/22 £	Budget 22/23 £	Revised 22/23 £	Type	Inflation %	Known Changes* £	Budget 23/24 £	
	EXPENDITURE											
	Maintenance											
4000/1/1	--Built Environment-Furniture	JH	0		156	100	1,155	4	0.0%	0	100	
4000/1/2	--Carvers Street Lighting	JH	486	543		594	1,500	2	12.0%	71	1,572	
4000/1/3	--Flood defence	JH				0		4	0.0%	0	0	
4000/1/4	--Bus Shelters	JH		500		200	0	4	0.0%	0	200	
4000/1/5	--Sign Painting Fridays Cross	JH				0		4	0.0%	0	0	
4000/1/6	--Neighbourhood Plan	JH		8,249	10,334	14,473	13,970	6	0.0%	0	-14,473	
4000/1/7	--Crow Lane Maintenance	JH	420	1,120	450	1,000	750	4	0.0%	0	1,000	
4000/1/8	--support for REAL working party	JH			466	1,000	1,000	6	0.0%	0	-1,000	
	Total Maintenance		906	10,412	10,940	17,367	18,375			71	-13,567	2,872
	Employee Costs											
4001/1	--Allocated Office Staff	CW	15,190	15,091	16,959	24,166	24,550	1	7.0%	1,692	25,990	
	Total Employee Costs		15,190	15,091	16,959	24,166	24,550			1,692	0	25,990
	Total Revenue Expenditure		16,096	25,503	27,899	41,533	42,925			1,763	-13,567	28,861
	Capital Expenditure											
4050/1	--Human Sundial	JH	4,889	98	4,599	0		6			0	
	Total Capital Schemes		4,889	98	4,599	0	0			0	0	
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		20,985	25,600	32,498	41,533	42,925			1,763	-13,567	28,861
	INCOME/FINANCE											
400/1	--Grants Received	JH	-1,100	-1,100	-6,349	-1,100	-1,100	6	0.0%	0	-1,100	
400/2	--Grants Received Neighbourhood plan	JH		-8,125	-9,950	-9,000	-4,750	6	0.0%	0	9,000	
	TOTAL INCOME		-1,100	-9,225	-16,299	-10,100	-5,850			0	9,000	-1,100
	TOTAL NET EXPEND BEFORE TRANS TO/FROM PROVISIONS		19,885	16,375	16,199	31,433	37,075			1,763	-4,567	27,761
	Transfer To Provisions											
	--Transfer To Provisions	RF	0		3,473	0					0	
	Total Transfer To Provisions		0	0	3,473	0	0				0	
	Transfer From Provisions											
	--Transfer from Provisions (cap)	RF	-420	-1,120	-450	-1,000	-750				-1,000	
	--Transfer from Provisions (revp)	RF	0			-5,473	-6,473			5473	0	
	--Transfer from Dev Cont	RF	-4,750			0					0	
	Total Transfer From Provisions		-5,170	-1,120	-450	-6,473	-7,223			5,473	-1,000	
	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE AFTER TRANS TO/FROM PROVISIONS		14,715	15,255	15,749	24,960	29,852			1,763	906	26,761

RESERVES AND PROVISIONS - MOVEMENT & ESTIMATED BALANCES

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Appendix C

F

	Actual Balance 01/04/22 £	Planned and Proposed Movements 2022/23:					Estimated Balance 31/03/23 £
		from Revenue £	to revenue		Capital & Other Receipts £	between provisions £	
			base budget £	Growth £			
<u>EARMARKED PROVISIONS</u>							
I.T. & Equipment	18,400	4,500		0			22,900
Gateway	25,000	0		0			25,000
Cemetery	19,533	4,000		0			23,533
Buildings Reserve	33,567	5,000	-200	-2,000			36,367
Election	11,042	1,500		0			12,542
Vehicle & Machinery	22,572	11,000		0			33,572
Play Equipment	3,031	6,900		-1,000			8,931
Memorials	0			0			0
Christmas Lights	0			0			0
Carvers Clubhouse	29,525	2,500	-500	-1,600	500		30,425
Ringwood Events	16,768		-14,388	-2,380			0
Memorial Lantern	1,354			0			1,354
Carvers Grounds	11,300			-6,675			4,625
Infrastructure & Open Spaces	12,685	3,000					15,685
Neighbourhood Plan	6,473		-6,473	0			0
Football development Project	0			-326,500	435,330		108,830
Budget Underspends retained for use in 2022/23*	8,243		-8,243				0
Total Provisions	219,495	38,400	-29,804	-340,155	435,830	0	323,765
<u>RESERVES</u>							
Earmarked Reserves:							
Dev Contribs	3,213		-750	0	3,067		5,530
Cem Maint	980		-230	0			750
Dev Cons(CIL)	51,449			-31,048	5,590		25,990
Capital Receipts	20,334		-1,392	0	0		18,942
Grants Unapplied	3,217		0	0	1,119		4,335
Loans Unapplied	0			0	0		0
Total Earmarked Reserves and Provisions	298,687	38,400	-32,176	-371,203	445,605	0	379,313
General Reserve	304,241	0	-93,788			0	210,453
Key Deposits	15,121		-2,638		5,574		18,057
Total Reserves & Customer Deposits	618,049	38,400	-128,602	-371,203	451,179	0	607,823



Report on Greening Campaign Phase 1 to Ringwood Town Council

Executive Summary

Phase 1 of the Greening Campaign ran from March to September 2022. It aimed to encourage and support local people and businesses to take easy and straightforward steps to reduce energy consumption and waste. It encouraged each of us as individuals to take a series of simple steps that both save money and reduce waste and emissions of greenhouse gases.

Narrative

Phase 1 was supported by Ringwood Town Council. It followed the guidelines and made use of the materials contained in the Greening Campaign pack issued by Terena Plowright, who founded the campaign over 10 years ago.

We launched the Greening Ringwood campaign by holding a public meeting in March, to invited community groups. At the meeting we explained the Greening Campaign in detail and showed a film by Terena Plowright. This introduced the concept of distributing postcards listing personal actions and inviting people to commit to actions and displaying the cards in their homes.

Those attending the meeting were invited to help choose 8 simple actions they considered to be most relevant to the community and which will enable people to make a difference. The community groups each took responsibility for an action and agreed to bring it to life at the public launch event.

The 8 actions chosen and the community group who led with them were:

1. Turn off the lights when leaving the room – Rotary
2. Replace all bulbs with LEDs – Ben and Jeremy
3. Turn off all standbys – Poulner Junior School
4. Line-dry clothes in the summer – Trinity ECO Club
5. Boil only the amount of water needed – Round Table
6. Turn down the thermostat by 1 degree – Unity Lodge
7. Halve your food waste by making a meal plan and using up leftovers – FORIS – Louise Field
8. Go vegetarian an extra day a week – Sarah Newland and Holly Scott and 4 Acre Farm

Mary DeBoos of Ringwood RACE Against Time (RACE) gave a presentation on Greening Ringwood to the Town Assembly on 11th May and this was very well received, with two Town Councillors expressing support for an area they had previously had little interest in. Also in May, we held a second meeting with the community groups to check the progress of preparations for the public launch event and offer help if needed.

The public launch was held in the Gateway Square on Saturday 2nd July and each of the community groups had a stand explaining their action. Music and refreshments were provided too. It was well attended and Jay Cox produced an excellent video of the event that Terena has used in her new website.

The postcards had been printed and were available at the event to show the public. We had the opportunity to talk to people and explain what the campaign was about and how they could take part. We also canvassed for people to deliver the postcards to every household in the parish.

During July and August the postcards were delivered by an army of volunteers. Everyone was encouraged to put their postcard in their window when they had completed 5 of the 8 tasks. We had a number of press releases in the Ringwood and Fordingbridge News, Daily Echo, Go New Forest and Focus Magazine to name a few. We had two interviews on Forest FM. We had over 80 posts on social media and our Facebook Group had 67 pictures of postcards in windows.

The count of postcards was planned for 1-15 September. However it became apparent that we would not need to send out lots of volunteers to do the count; the uptake was far less than had been anticipated. We probably had about a 10% uptake of postcards in windows.

We did receive feedback from various sources and the general feeling was that people felt they were already doing the actions listed on the postcard and this led them to wonder why they should put it in the window. It was noted by some that the costs on the postcards were out of date (but the Greening Campaign was unwilling to revisit those at this time). We believe that the postcards may need to be updated to reflect more up to date challenges and costs.

Ringwood is lucky inasmuch as it has a thriving Green community which already provides opportunities for residents to take action. We have a number of community groups, the most well-known and active being RACE (which organises an Eco Fair annually in the town, tree planting, RACE to Green, a tree nursery, sewing workshops, clothes swaps and the Community Fridge). Transition Ringwood also runs a community allotment.

Statistics and costs of Phase 1

Purchase of phase 1 pack	£50
Printing of postcards	£425
Hall hire charges (x 2)	£145
Hire of Gateway Square	No charge
Insurance for event	No charge
Video by Jay Cox, of Fizeek Media	No charge
Advertising boards made by Councillor DeBoos	No charge
79 delivery volunteers	
70 free trees requested to date	
5785 postcards delivered	



Greening Campaign Phase 2 Proposal to Ringwood Town Council

Executive Summary

Building on the success of Phase 1 of the Greening Ringwood Campaign and in order to take advantage of the momentum gained, the organizers are keen to proceed to Phase 2 and seek the necessary support from Ringwood Town Council to enable this to happen.

Phase 2 Proposal

If approved, Phase 2 would comprise three elements:

- Making Space for Nature
- Energy-Efficient, Greener Homes
- Health and Well-being in the light of Climate Change.

It would start in January 2023 and is expected to last about six months.

Making Space for Nature

Making use of expert advice from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, this element would build on existing initiatives by RACE, Transition Ringwood, Blashford Lakes and many other local organisations to promote greater appreciation of nature and showcase local activities and opportunities for action.

Energy-Efficient, Greener Homes

Supported by The Sustainability Centre, this element would provide information on the cheapest options to help make Ringwood homes warmer and more energy-efficient. From promoting the bulk-buying of draught-proofing to demonstrating the benefits of retro-fitting double-glazing, solar/PV panels and heat pumps, this will provide practical information and support to help local people stay warmer, save money and/or make sensible and affordable investments to improve their homes. With lots of materials already available and ideas for specific events here in Ringwood, this element just needs leadership from the Council.

Health and Well-being in the light of Climate Change

Aimed at encouraging healthy life-styles and converting stress and anxiety to positive activities, this element involves collaborating with other local organisations (especially Eco clubs in the town's schools. Many ideas for activities have already been prepared and include things like walking, cycling, Yoga, mindful meditation and nature-based activities (linking back to and supporting the Making Space for nature element). Again, it would benefit from leadership provided by the Council.

Outcomes and benefits



This phase is intended to encourage appreciation of nature and sensitive use of local green spaces, to improve emotional resilience; to promote healthier lifestyles; to build a better-connected community and make local homes warmer and cheaper to run (by raising awareness and providing practical information and advice).

Resources required

Money – Like Phase 1, Phase 2 would be subsidised by Hampshire County Council. On payment of £50 by the Council, access would be gained to the experts required to support the three elements. It would also be prudent to provide for some further expenses such as hall hire (say £50) and possible further events (say £500).

Commitment - Voluntary Ringwood organisations are already becoming increasingly focussed on mitigating climate change. Ringwood Town Councillors are central to the Greening Campaign and their engagement and leadership is key. That commitment need not be in actual working hours but without their conviction this project cannot reach optimum community engagement. There is a climate crisis and it is in front of us every day in papers, radio, social media and television – the care of our community and the people in it is the driver for this project to get strong community traction.

HAMPSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN PARTIAL UPDATE – CONSULTATION

1. Hampshire County Council is working to produce a partial update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan for the period up to 2040, which will replace the adopted 2013 Plan. The draft Plan is currently out for consultation, which ends on 31 January 2023.
2. The draft Plan identifies strategic sites to meet the need for mineral and waste infrastructure and updates the vision and policies in line with changes to national and local policy, in particular the increased importance of addressing climate change.
3. Local sites identified in the Plan are as follows:
 - Cobley Wood, Harbridge – new sand and gravel extraction site
 - Hamer Warren Quarry, Harbridge – strategic waste site (hazardous waste landfill)
 - Midgham Farm, Alderholt – new sand and gravel extraction site
 - Purple Haze, Ringwood Forest – new sand and gravel extraction
4. Any objections raised must relate to either the Plan not complying with legal requirements or it not being sound.
5. The following documents are available – all can be viewed on this site:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update>

Draft Plan Consultation Paper – summarises the changes made to the vision and policies:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/DraftPlan-ConsultationPaper.pdf>

A list of FAQs, including an explanation of what makes the Plan sound (Q12):

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HWMPPU-DraftPlan-faqs.pdf>

Full draft Plan – including details of proposed sites:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsandWastePlan-PartialUpdateDraftPlan-October2022.pdf>

6. It is RECOMMENDED that Members review the consultation documents and decide whether or not the Council should respond.

For further information, please contact:
Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
01425 484721 or jo.hurd@ringwood.gov.uk

Current Projects Update

Note: Projects marked as "on hold awaiting officer availability" are reviewed fortnightly. Numbers (where given) indicate position in the queue for resumption.

No.	Name	Status	Recent developments	Description and notes	Lead Officer/Member	Financing
Full Council						
FC1	Long Lane Football Facilities Development	In progress (scheduled for completion in 2023)	The application for the PWLB loan is with DLUHC. Work on the artificial turf pitch is running to programme. A Pre-contract Services Agreement for the pavilion and other works has been entered into.	A joint venture with Ringwood Town Football Club and AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust to improve the football facilities for shared use by them and the community.	Town Clerk	The current expectation is that the Council's contribution to the project will, in effect, be limited to a modest loss of income from the site (but over a long term).
Planning Town & Environment Committee						
PTE1	Neighbourhood Plan	In progress	It is anticipated that the pre-submission draft Plan will be presented to Full Council in January for approval, after which there will be a period of public consultation.	To prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the civil parish of Ringwood but limited in scope to a few specified themes.	Deputy Clerk	Budget of £21,500 (£3,800 in 2021/22 budget, £3,000 in General Reserve and £14,700 to be funded by Locality grant)
PTE2	Human Sundial	Complete, with exception of interpretation board	Work to refurbish human sundial and install surrounding benches now complete. Interpretation board with details of sundial, Jubilee Lamp etc. to be designed and costed.	Replacement of damaged sundial and surrounding paviers; installation of removable benches to protect it for the future - working with HCC (Principal Designer and Contractor)	Deputy Clerk	£5,295.15 spent from budget of £10,657 to be funded from CIL and contribution of £5,249.15 from Carnival
PTE3	Crow Stream Maintenance	Annual recurrent	Spraying of stream banks undertaken 21/04/2022, annual flail carried out in August and stream clearance carried out on 29th September.	Annual maintenance of Crow Ditch and Stream in order to keep it flowing and alleviate flooding	Deputy Clerk	£1,120 spent to be funded by transfer from earmarked reserve
PTE4	Climate Emergency	In progress	Funds used to support Greening Campaign, community litter-pick and Flood Action Plan leaflets.	Minor funding to support local initiatives.	Cllr Deboos	Budget of £1,000
PTE5	Bus Shelter Agreement	In progress	Response awaited from ClearChannel on the financial complications and on request for use of advertising space.	Request by ClearChannel in Nov. 2020 for RTC to licence the bus shelters in Meeting House Lane and the advertising on them. Completion dependent on clarification of financial issues (VAT treatment and non-domestic rates revaluation).	Town Clerk	No financial implications
PTE6	Shared Space Concept - Thriving Market Place	In progress	Meeting held with NFDC & HCC on 17/10/2022 to consider desires and opportunities in more detail. Further meeting scheduled for 28/11/2022. NFDC preparing a concept plan/visualisation.	Concept for town centre shared space identified through work on the Neighbourhood Plan.	Deputy Town Clerk	

Projects being delivered by others which are monitored by the Deputy Clerk and reported to this committee:

A31 widening scheme	Complete	Scheme complete and road re-opened on 19 November.	Widening of A31 westbound carriageway between Ringwood and Verwood off slip to improve traffic flow; associated town centre improvements utilising HE Designated Funds	Highways England (HE)	HE funded
SWW Water Main Diversion (associated with A31 widening scheme)	Complete	Bickerley reinstatement works being monitored.	Diversion of water main that runs along the A31 westbound carriageway.	South West Water / Kier	HE funded
Moortown drainage improvements	In progress		HCC considering a controlled opening of the system in Moortown Lane to alleviate highway flooding	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
Pedestrian crossing Castleman Way	On hold	Site does not meet HCC criteria for toucan crossing. Agreed to revisit following promotion of cycle path through Forest Gate Business Park.	Toucan crossing in Castleman Way to improve pedestrian and cycle route between town centre and Moortown	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
Crow Lane Footpath	In progress	Developers' contributions paid to HCC to implement. Additional funds required to progress and approved by NFDC Cabinet on 02/11/2022 - report indicates delivery in 2024/25.	New footpath to link Beaumont Park with Hightown Road, alongside west of Crow Lane	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
Surfacing of Castleman Trailway	Complete	Surfacing works completed early April 2022.	Dedication and surfacing of bridleway between old railway bridge eastwards to join existing surfacing	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
Railway Corner	In progress	Project supported by RTC.	Project to improve and promote historical significance of triangle of land at junction of Hightown Road and Castleman Way.	Ringwood Society	

Policy & Finance Committee

PF5	Poulner Lakes Lease	On hold	Awaiting track maintenance solution - see Recreation Leisure & Open Spaces Committee item RLOS21.	Negotiating a lease from Ringwood & District Anglers' Association of the part of the site not owned by the Council	Town Clerk	Some provision for legal advice or assistance may be needed eventually.
PF6	Health & Safety Management Support Re-procurement	In progress (commenced mid-2021 and aiming complete actions from initial audit by 31 Dec. 2022)	Worknest appointed. The initial audit report has now been received and officers are dealing with the recommended actions in priority order.	Re-procuring specialist advice and support for discharge of health and safety duties	Town Clerk	Support cost is included in contract for both H&S and employment support and factored into relevant budget. The costs of all control measures needed will be assessed and factored into the next budget round.
PF8	Bickerley legal title	In progress (Commenced Dec 2020. Progress dependent on legal procedures)	The Council has resolved to maintain its objection to the application and this will now be considered by the Tribunal. For legal reasons, only basic information will appear here. Councillors can obtain further details from the Town Clerk if needed.	An application to remove land from the Council's title has been made	Town Clerk	Staff time plus cost of external legal support (one-off budget agreed so far by members)
PF10	Councillors' use of email	In progress (Commenced May 2022. Aiming to incorporate agreed plan in budget for 2023-24)	The Council's IT support provider has advised on options. The committee agreed further steps in September about which officers are seeking further cost information.	Researching options and costs for equipping councillors with official email accounts and devices to facilitate compliance with data protection laws.	Town Clerk	The research phase is not expected to cost anything but staff time. Final costs will depend on member decisions yet to be made.

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee

RLOS4	Grounds department sheds replacement	In progress (Commenced design work in April 2021. Aiming to establish planning prospects and likely cost by December 2022.)	Initial drawings prepared by Cllr Briers and showing the scale and overall design concept were considered and approved by Carvers Working Party when it met on 4th May. Pre-application planning advice has been received from NFDC and considered. Officers are in discussions with a planning consultant.	A feasibility study into replacing the grounds maintenance team's temporary, dispersed & sub-standard workshop, garaging and storage facilities. Combined with a possible new car park for use by hirers of and visitors to the club-house.	Town Clerk	Revised capital budget of £4,000 (originally £10,000 until virement to RLOS19)
RLOS5	Cemetery development	In progress (Commenced design work in April 2021. Aiming to establish planning prospects and likely cost by December 2022.)	CDS has produced a detailed design which was approved in principle at the committee meeting in September. Funding arrangements were agreed at the Policy & Finance Committee meeting on 21st September. Officers proceeding with contract procurement.	Planning best use of remaining space, columbarium, etc.	Town Clerk	Capital budget of £25,000 (carried into an earmarked reserve)
RLOS7	Bowling Club lease	In progress (Club renewed request for new lease in Jan 2022. Progress depends on negotiations.)	Renewal has been agreed in principle but the full terms are under consideration.	Request by Ringwood Bowling Club for existing lease to be renewed (current lease expires at the end of April 2023). The lease terms will also be reviewed for suitability to current and future needs.	Town Clerk	Staff time only (unless outside legal assistance is deemed necessary). The rental income will be reviewed as part of the renewal.
RLOS8	Ringwood Youth Club	In progress	Winding-up process and requirements are being researched.	Winding up the redundant CIO to terminate filing requirements	Town Clerk	
RLOS10	Waste bin replacement programme	In progress (Commenced April 2020)	The first 17 bins have been installed. The next batch have been received and will be installed by Christmas.	Three-year programme to replace worn-out litter and dog-waste bins	Grounds Manager	Budget of £2,000 a year.
RLOS12	Van replacement	On hold awaiting officer availability. 1		Replacing the grounds department diesel van with an electric vehicle	Grounds Manager	
RLOS14	Poulner Lakes waste licence	In progress	Surrender requirements are being researched.	Arranging to surrender our redundant waste licence to avoid annual renewal fees	Town Clerk	
RLOS17	New allotments site	In progress (Commenced March 2020, progress dependent on progress of legal formalities with other party)	Decision to proceed agreed. Legal work has been held up by a pending application to Land Registry.	The transfer to this Council (pursuant to a s.106 agreement) of a site for new allotments off Crow Arch Lane	Town Clerk	Staff time only
RLOS18	Cemetery map and registers digitisation	In progress (Commenced September 2020 and proceeding in phases)	All registers have been scanned. A digital map is now live. Options for completing data entry from registers are being researched.	Digitisation of cemetery records to facilitate remote working, greater efficiency and, eventually, direct public access	Town Clerk	Revised capital budget of £5,467 (originally £5,000).
RLOS19	Carvers Strategic Development	In progress (Commenced Feb. 2021)	Landscape designer New Enclosure has been appointed and met with members. A topographic survey has been done. An initial sketch of the 'masterplan' is expected imminently.	Devising a strategic vision and plan for the future of Carvers Recreation Ground pulling together proposals for additional play equipment and other features	Carvers Manager	Revised budget of £6,000 (virement from RLOS4).

RLOS21	Poulner Lakes track maintenance	In progress (under discussion since Jan. 2021)	Costs estimates for re-surfacing schemes obtained from two suppliers. NFDC officers have been consulted about related mitigation schemes and possible support.	Devising a sustainable regime for maintaining the access tracks at Poulner Lakes to a more acceptable standard.	Town Clerk	Yet to be settled
RLOS22	Bickerley parking problem	In progress (under discussion since Jan. 2019)	"No Parking" signs have been installed. Replacement timber for "dragon's teeth" has been bought and is being installed progressively. A decorative sign reinforcing the message has also been installed.	Unauthorised parking on the tracks crossing the Bickerley is causing damage and obstruction	Town Clerk	The Council is wholly responsible for the cost of whatever measures are taken including staff time. Six No Parking signs cost £156.72. Estimated cost of decorative sign is £1,244.

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Staffing Committee

None

Proposed/Emerging Projects Update

No.	Name	Description	Lead	Recent developments	Progress / Status Stage reached	Estimated cost	Funding sources
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Full Council
None

Planning Town & Environment Committee

	Roundabout under A31	Planting and other environmental enhancements		Area being used by National Highways for storage of materials during works to widen the A31.	Floated as possible future project		
	Lynes Lane re-paving Rear of Southampton Road	Ringwood Society proposal Proposal by Ringwood Society to improve appearance from The Furlong Car Park and approaches			Floated as possible future project Floated as possible future project		
	Dewey's Lane wall	Repair of historic wall		Re-build/repair options and costs are being investigated	Shelved as a TC project		
	Signage Review	Review of signs requiring attention - e.g. Castleman Trailway, Pocket Park, Gateway Square	Cllr Day		Floated as possible future project		
	Crow ditch	Investigate works required to improve capacity and flow of ditch alongside Crow Lane, between Hightown Road and Moortown Lane					Developers contributions

Policy & Finance Committee

	Paperless office	Increasing efficiency of office space use	Cllr. Heron	Discussions with Town Clerk and Finance Manager			
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Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee

	None	(Current projects expected to absorb available resources for several years)					
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Staffing Committee

	None						
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Closed Projects Report

No.	Name	Description	Outcome	Notes
Full Council				
FC2	Strategic Plan	Exploring ideas for medium term planning. Aim to have complete for start of budget-planning in Autumn 2022.	Completed in October 2022	
Planning, Town & Environment Committee				
	Pedestrian Crossings - Christchurch Road	Informal pedestrian crossings to the north and south of roundabout at junction of Christchurch Road with Wellworthy Way (Lidl)	Completed by HCC	
	Cycleway signage and improvements	New signage and minor improvements to cycleway between Forest Gate Business Park and Hightown Road	Completed by HCC	
	Carvers footpath/cycle-way improvement	Creation of shared use path across Carvers between Southampton Road and Mansfield Road	Completed by HCC	
	Replacement Tree - Market Place	New Field Maple tree to replace tree stump in Market Place.	Completed in January 2022 by HCC	
Policy & Finance Committee				
PF1	New Council website	Arranging a new website that is more responsive, directly editable by Council staff and compliant with accessibility regulations.	Completed	
PF2	Greenways planning permission	Consideration of applying to renew planning permission for bungalow in garden previously obtained	Decided not to renew	
PF3	Detached youth outreach work	To provide youth workers for trial of detached outreach work	Transferred to Recreation Leisure & Open Spaces Committee (see RLOS20)	
PF4	Review of governance documents	A major overhaul of standing orders, financial regulations, committee terms of reference, delegated powers, etc. Routine periodic reviews will follow completion of this work.	Completed in July 2022	All governance documents will now receive routine annual reviews.
PF7	Financial Procedures Manual	Preparation of a new manual for budget managers and other staff detailing financial roles, responsibilities and procedures	Completed in September 2022	Will be updated by Finance Manager as necessary
PF9	Greenways office leases	The tenant of the first floor suite gave notice and left. The building was re-let as a whole to the tenant of the ground floor suite.	Completed in November 2022	
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee				
RLOS1	War Memorial Repair	Repair by conservation specialists with Listed Building Consent with a re-dedication ceremony after.	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS2	Bickerley Tracks Repair	Enhanced repair of tracks to address erosion and potholes (resurfacing is ruled out by town green status) and measures to control parking.	Fresh gravel laid in 2021-22.	No structural change is feasible at present.
RLOS3	Public open spaces security	Review of public open spaces managed by the Council and implementation of measures to protect the highest priority sites from unauthorised encampments and incursions by vehicles	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS6	Community Allotment	Special arrangement needed for community growing area at Southampton Road	Ongoing processes adapted	Agreed to adopt as informal joint venture with the tenants' association
RLOS9	Aerator Repair	Major overhaul to extend life of this much-used attachment	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS11	Ash Grove fence repair	Replacing the worn-out fence around the play area	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS13	Bickerley compensation claim	Statutory compensation claim for access and damage caused by drainage works	Completed March 2022	Settlement achieved with professional advice
RLOS15	Acorn bench at Friday's Cross	Arranging the re-painting of this bespoke art-work	Completed in 2021-22	Labour kindly supplied by Men's Shed
RLOS16	Town Safe	Possible re-paint of this important survival, part of a listed structure	Suspended indefinitely in September 2022	Complexity and cost judged disproportionate to benefit
RLOS20	Detached youth outreach work	Trialling the provision of detached outreach work by specialist youth workers.	Completed in May 2022	
Staffing Committee				
S1	HR support contract renewal	Renewal of contract for the supply to the Council of specialist human resources law and management support	Completed in 2021-22	
S2	Finance Staffing Review	Reassessing staffing requirements and capacity for finance functions and re-negotiating staff terms	Completed in 2021-22	

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