

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 7pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood

PRESENT: Cllr Rae Frederick (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Day (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn
Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr James Swyer
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Glenys Turner
Cllr Becci Windsor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
District Cllr Jeremy Heron

ABSENT: Cllr John Haywood
District Councillor Cllr Nigel Linford
District Councillor Steve Rippon-Swaine

C/7206 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

C/7207 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Haywood and District Cllrs Nigel Linford and Steve Rippon-Swaine.

C/7208 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C/7209 GRANT AID AWARDS

RESOLVED: That Grant Aid awards of £400 to Rotary Club of Ringwood, £250 to Forest Forge, £500 to Ringwood Veterans, £250 to Avon Valley Concerts, £500 to Ellingham & Ringwood RFC and £600 to STARF be noted.

C/7210 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2024, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/7211

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th September 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 4th September 2024 be received.

C/7212

PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Day presented the minutes of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee meetings held on 2nd August and 6th September 2024.

He updated Members on the Moortown Lane planning applications and thanked all those who had been involved in putting together a further submission to NFDC and who had spoken at the NFDC Planning Committee on 11th September. The applications had been deferred and officers were directed to talk to the Town Council about its objections and HCC about the access. He, together with Cllrs G and M DeBoos and the Deputy Town Clerk, had since attended a meeting with NFDC and the applicant and details would be reported to PT&E Committee on 4th October. The application was likely to be reconsidered by NFDC Planning Committee on 13th November.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meetings held on 2nd August and 6th September 2024 be received.

C/7213

STAFFING COMMITTEE

Cllr M DeBoos presented the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11th September 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11th September 2024 be received.

C/7214

POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr M DeBoos presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 18th September 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 18th September 2024 be received, with the exception of F/6341, which would be considered next on the agenda.

C/7215

EXTERNAL AUDIT 2023/24

Members considered the recommendation from Policy & Finance Committee that the external audit report be received and noted and that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit be published by

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Chairman's initials

30th September (*F/6341 refers*) (*Annex A*). The auditor, BDO, had made a comment about appointment of the internal auditor; this will be brought before members prior to future appointment.

Members congratulated officers on an excellent report.

RESOLVED: That the external audit report be received and noted, and that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit be published by 30th September 2024.

C/7216
SAFER NEW FOREST SURVEY RESPONSE

Members considered the Town Clerk's draft response to the Safer New Forest consultation (*Annex B*).

RESOLVED: That the draft response be approved for submission to New Forest District Council.

C/7217
STRATEGY REVIEW

Members considered the Town Clerk's report regarding a review of the previously agreed Council Strategy (*Annex C*).

The Town Clerk said there is a need to give further thought to strategic priorities to ensure resources are directed to the most important issues, and that resources for each project are considered. It should also be agreed when and how it should be reviewed and kept up to date in future.

It was noted that some projects had slipped from 2023/24 to 2024/25, so timing issues need to be addressed.

Due to the successful bid for funding to deliver part of the Carvers Masterplan, and other ongoing projects, officers are currently stretched. Members would therefore need to review timescales or look at the possibility of additional staff to deliver projects within the agreed timescale.

It was suggested and agreed that a special meeting should be held prior to Full Council in October to enable this discussion.

RESOLVED: That a special Council meeting be convened at 6.00pm on 30th October 2024 to review the Strategy and consider what can be delivered in what timescale and the associated resource implications.

C/7218
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE

The Town Clerk reported that the pavilion had been completed and handed over, and both AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust and Ringwood Football Club were now operating from the building. There were some further works to be carried out, including demolition of the old pavilion, tidying up the car park and fencing of the allotment site. A formal open day was expected to be held on 1st November, and all members would be invited.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk's verbal report be noted.

C/7220

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

The Town Mayor reported the following:

- She thanked Cllr M DeBoos, Cllr Haywood and Cllr Heron for presenting objections to NFDC Planning Committee on the Moortown applications, and Cllr Day for preparing the written submission.
- She extended a huge thank you to the Carnival team for a fabulous event.
- She praised Bickerley Green Nursing Home for the success of recent events and invited Members to attend the Macmillan Coffee Morning on 27th September (10-12).
- She congratulated RACE, which had received the Eco Award in the recent Ringwood Business Awards held at Greyfriars.
- She extended huge thanks to RACE to Green for planting the shrub bed to the rear of Ringwood Gateway.
- The Ringwood & Fordingbridge Business Community had now been running for a year - Christmas Drinks will be held on 5th December (venue to be confirmed).
- The Skate Jam will be held at Carvers from 11am on Saturday 28th September.
- Ringwood 999 Day will be held at Carvers from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 5th October.

C/7221

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County and District Councillor Thierry reported that HCC had issued a consultation on local cycling and walking plans for New Forest – this would be considered by PT&E Committee on 4th October and includes specific proposals for Ringwood. NFDC was proposing an increase in car parking clock charges; short stay from £40 to £45; long stay annual from £220 to £230; and quarterly from £65 to £70.

District Cllr Heron, when asked about the justification for an above inflation increase to parking charges, reported that the charges are still significantly behind other car parks locally and income is well below operating costs.

He reported that Cabinet on 2nd October would be considering an update to the waste programme; revised Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement (as a start to work on a new Local Plan); nationally significant infrastructure projects; Medium Term Financial Plan (forecasting a loss of 1.7 million in 2028/09, which would be a significant hole to fill); and allocation of CIL funds. He said it was proposed to allocate 4.5 million to the Thriving Market Place project. **CORRECTION:** The proposal to be considered is the allocation of a total of 4.5 million to 5 projects, one of which is the Thriving Market Place.

District Cllr Rippon-Swaine had submitted a written report (*Annex D*).

C/7222

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Day echoed the Mayor's comments on Carnival. He congratulated all involved in organising the recent Family Fun Day at Carvers. He had welcomed the new vicar, Reverend Stephen Miles, who is looking forward to working with the Town Council, particularly on events around the church.

Cllr Swyer was delighted to have been on the judging panel for Carnival.

Cllr Turner reported that she had been looking at some issues in her capacity as Tree Warden, including the recently removed stump at Crow Hill Top.

Cllr Windsor gave details of a new group formed for regular riders at Carvers skate park – Ringwood Riders – they currently had 27 members aged from 6 to 17 with the aim of learning new skills, making friends, having fun and creating a safe environment. This was already making a difference at Carvers. On a different matter, she expressed concern about a noticeable increase in drug activity in the Hightown Road area, and was advised to bring this to the attention of the local Police Inspector.

Cllr Thierry, together with Cllr Day, would be attending the funeral of a previous Town Clerk, Clive Fawn.

Cllr Georgiou had seen a reduction in the number of criminal incidents in her area.

Cllr M DeBoos reported that Ringwood School was looking for participants to talk to Year 7 students at Citizenship Day on 15th October. She and Cllr Frederick would be talking to Year 9 students on 4th October to explain how the Council works, and the School was also looking to programme a meeting with years 12 and 13 each term to discuss specific topics. She had been delighted to present trophies at Carnival and to see the wonderful reactions from winners.

Cllr G DeBoos extended thanks to Reverend Terry Roberts for all the work he had done before appointment of the new vicar.

C/7223

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The following meeting dates were noted:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---|
| Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces | 7.00pm | Wednesday 2 nd October 2024 |
| Planning, Town & Environment | 10.00am | Friday 4 th October 2024 |
| Policy & Finance | 7.00pm | Wednesday 23 rd October 2024 |
| Full Council | 7.00pm | Wednesday 30 th October 2024 |

C/7224

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted (*Confidential minutes - Annex E*).

C/7225

LEGAL MATTERS

The Town Clerk reported on developments in the Football Club project.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk's verbal report be received.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.18pm.

APPROVED

30th October 2024

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Chairman's initials

TOWN MAYOR

REPORT TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – 18th SEPTEMBER 2024

Notice of conclusion of audit 2023/24

- 1.1 The audit of the Council Finances for 2023/24 has now been concluded. The auditors, BDO LLP, concluded that:
- “On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”
- 1.2 The auditors did make one observation that we need to take into consideration when we commence the process of auditing the 2024/25 accounts. The auditors noted:
- “The Council have provided minutes resolving to re-appoint the internal auditor, but the minutes do not indicate whether the independence of the internal auditor has been considered which is not in line with best practice contained in the practitioners’ guide,”
- 1.3 Members will be invited to consider the independence of the internal auditor that we appoint early in 2025.
- 1.4 The external auditor’s certificate is appended along with the draft notice of conclusion of audit which must be published by the 30th September.

2 RECOMMENDATION

It is **recommended** that: -

- 2.1 The conclusions of the external auditor be noted.
- 2.2 The notice of conclusion of audit be submitted to full Council and published by the Council no later than the 30th September.

For further information please contact:

Rory Fitzgerald, Finance Manager or

Tel: 01425 484723

rory.fitzgerald@ringwood.gov.uk

For further information please contact:

Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk

Tel: 01425 484720

Chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk

Ringwood Town Council

Notice of conclusion of audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2024

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

| | Notes |
|--|--|
| <p>1. The audit of accounts for Ringwood Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2024 has been completed and the accounts have been published.</p> | <p>This notice and Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the AGAR must be published by 30 September. This must include publication on the smaller authority's website. The smaller authority must decide how long to publish the Notice for; the AGAR and external auditor report must be publicly available for 5 years.</p> |
| <p>2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of Ringwood Town Council on application to:</p> | |
| <p>(a) <u>Rory Fitzgerald, Responsible Finance Officer</u> - <u>Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong,</u> - <u>Ringwood BH24 1AT</u> -</p> | <p>(a) Insert the names, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the AGAR.</p> |
| <p>(b) <u>Monday to Friday</u> <u>09:30am to 16:30, (by appointment)</u></p> | <p>(b) Insert the hours during which the inspection rights may be exercised.</p> |
| <p>3. Copies will be provided to any person on payment of £2.00 for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.</p> | <p>(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs.</p> |
| <p>(d) Announcement made: <u>Christopher Wilkins</u> <u>Town Clerk</u></p> | <p>(d) Insert the name and position of person placing the notice.</p> |
| <p>(e) Date of announcement: 26th September 2024</p> | <p>(e) Insert the date of placing of the notice.</p> |

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

We acknowledge as the members of:

Ringwood Town Council

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, that:

| | Agreed | | Yes means that this authority |
|---|----------|----|---|
| | Yes | No | |
| 1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements. | ✓ | | prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations. |
| 2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness. | ✓ | | made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge. |
| 3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances. | ✓ | | has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so. |
| 4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. | ✓ | | during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts. |
| 5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required. | ✓ | | considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly. |
| 6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems. | ✓ | | arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority. |
| 7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit. | ✓ | | responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit. |
| 8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements. | ✓ | | disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant. |
| 9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. | Yes ✓ | No | N/A has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts. |

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

26/06/2024

and recorded as minute reference:

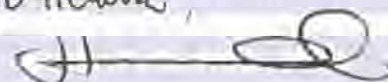
C/7181

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair



Clerk



www.ringwood.gov.uk OR PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

Ringwood Town Council

A

| | Year ending | | Notes and guidance |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| | 31 March 2023 £ | 31 March 2024 £ | |
| 1. Balances brought forward | 618,049 | 634,461 | Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year. |
| 2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies | 553,949 | 610,429 | Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received. |
| 3. (+) Total other receipts | 1,217,530 | 2,328,089 | Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received. |
| 4. (-) Staff costs | 425,748 | 467,469 | Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments. |
| 5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments | 31,546 | 46,436 | Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any). |
| 6. (-) All other payments | 1,297,773 | 2,419,884 | Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5). |
| 7. (=) Balances carried forward | 634,461 | 639,190 | Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6). |
| 8. Total value of cash and short term investments | 537,023 | 699,968 | The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March. To agree with bank reconciliation. |
| 9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets | 3,721,632 | 6,529,861 | The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March. |
| 10. Total borrowings | 308,383 | 785,654 | The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB). |

| For Local Councils Only | Yes | No | N/A | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Council is a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. |
| 11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions. |

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Henry Hopwood

Date 25/06/2024

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

26/06/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

C/7181

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Bob Redden

Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2023/24

In respect of

EN Ringwood Town Council TY

A

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02 as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/> .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2024; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2023/24

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

The council have provided minutes resolving to re-appoint the internal auditor, but the minutes do not indicate whether the independence of the internal auditor has been considered, which is not in line with best practice contained in the practitioners' guide.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2023/24

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

External Auditor Name

BDO LLP - Southampton OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

External Auditor Signature

Digitally signed by
BDO LLP

NATURE REQUIRED

Date

09 September 2024 YY

TOWN COUNCIL**25th September 2024****Safer New Forest survey****1. Introduction and reason for report**

- 1.1 This council has been invited to respond to the annual Safer New Forest Survey by the end of the month. Responses to the survey questions need to be agreed.

2. Background information and options

- 2.1 As in previous years, the three questions asked are:

- What is going well in your town/parish? (*i.e. partnership working, community engagement, voluntary services*)
- What (if any) are your concerns for your town/parish regarding crime and anti-social behaviour?
- If you have outlined concerns within question 2, what would improve your area? (*town and parish, partnership working, other services*)

- 2.2 Draft responses are attached as Annexe 1. Members are invited to consider adding to, altering or deleting these.

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

Members are requested to agree responses to the survey questions.

For further information, contact:

Christopher Wilkins, Town Clerk
Direct Dial: 01425 484720
Email: chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk

Annexe 1 – Draft survey response

1. What is going well in your town/parish?
(*i.e. partnership working, community engagement, voluntary services*)

We have a good relationship with our local Police Inspector who reports to the Town Council every quarter. We are pleased to see the police surgeries taking place at the tabletop area in Waitrose and hope that residents will come along and chat to them.

We also have a close network of community groups in the town which harness volunteer labour and other resources for community benefit. Their work to support local families through the cost of living crisis and enhance our public spaces is probably helping to discourage some anti-social behaviour.

2. What (if any) are your concerns for your town/parish regarding crime and anti-social behaviour?

Part of our Parish is rural, part is town, each with differing problems. Anti-social behaviour continues to cause concern within the town and appears to be driven in part by a relative lack of facilities for more constructive activity.

A continuing public perception that reporting crime is difficult and pointless is probably leading to under-reporting and distortions in the allocation of resources.

There is a perception that shoplifting is an increasing issue, not only from the main supermarkets in the Town Centre but from other smaller, independent outlets.

3. If you have outlined concerns within question 2, what would improve your area?
(*town and parish, partnership working, other services*)

A sharper focus on allocating available financial support to the provision of enhanced recreational resources (for example, to the improvements identified and costed in our Masterplan for Carvers Recreation Ground which were derived from extensive public consultation and input from a wide variety of user groups and balance their varying needs and desires).

A fully manned Police Station in Ringwood would meet the needs of the many residents (both in Ringwood and the surrounding areas within a relatively short travelling distance) who are not able to report on-line and have stated that being able to speak to a Police Officer in person of their worries about crime and anti-social behaviour would make them feel safer within the community.”

We welcome recent initiatives to target shoplifters including the deployment of plain-clothes officers and the posting of CCTV images on social media. However, we consider that a greater pro-active approach would be beneficial, not least an increased presence of uniformed officers in the Town Centre to act as a deterrent (and to assist and support the retailers when incidents occur).

TOWN COUNCIL**25th September 2024****Council Strategy review**1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 This council has adopted a strategy to identify its priorities and ensure that resources are focussed on these. It is important that this document be kept up to date and therefore reviewed regularly and updated as necessary.

2. Background information and options

- 2.1 The current version of the strategy is attached as Annexe 1. It was adopted on 27th September 2023.

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

- 3.1 Members are requested to review the current strategy and agree any changes thought necessary.**

For further information, contact:

Christopher Wilkins, Town Clerk

Direct Dial: 01425 484720

Email: chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk



Ringwood Town Council – Strategy 2023-2026

VISION

Our Council tightly focussed on helping our market town to thrive by improving the things that matter most to Ringwood residents, businesses and visitors

TODAY
Ringwood Town Council is known for organizing great events, providing oversight of planning applications, looking after valued green spaces and being a good employer

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Y3 – 2025-26 Identify gaps in open space provision and options to fill them</p> | <p>Y3 – 2025-26 Plan celebration of Market Charter anniversary in 2026</p> | <p>Y3 – 2025-26</p> | <p>Y3 – 2025-26</p> |
| <p>Y2 – 2024-25 Complete new grounds department facility Agree management plan for every open space</p> | <p>Y2 – 2024 -25 Inaugurate a new event specifically to support town centre retail businesses Agree advance plan for major events</p> | <p>Y2 – 2024-25 Promote/facilitate a business community network</p> | <p>Y2 – 2024-25 Identify needs of growing population and gaps in provision</p> |
| <p>Y1 – 2023-24 Complete football pavilion Complete Columbarium Agree strategic plan for Carvers Complete our Neighbourhood Plan</p> | <p>Y1 – 2023-24 Recruit local businesses to provide stalls at events in place of businesses from out of town</p> | <p>Y1 - 2023-24 Identify priorities & present weaknesses Agree a communications strategy</p> | <p>Y1 – 2023-24 Explore scope for improving major development decisions Develop Thriving Market Place concept</p> |
| <p>Improving our facilities, services & green spaces</p> | <p>Developing events</p> | <p>Improving communication with residents and businesses</p> | <p>Implementing our Neighbourhood Plan</p> |

THE FUTURE
Ringwood Town Council is

- Known for organizing great events, providing oversight of planning applications, Looking after valued green spaces and being a good employer.
- The first point of contact for all local public services in Ringwood
- Proactively engaging local people about issues that matter to them
- providing valued support to Ringwood businesses and the local economy

ENABLERS and DISRUPTORS
Skills of councillors and staff - We will encourage more training and improve our performance management processes. [Events Management Sub-Committee](#).
Volunteers. Neighbourhood Plan
Budget pressures and inflation – We will review our budgetary control and management of reserves

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

25th September 2024

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

NFDC PLACE & SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL Meeting 12 September 2024.

(Recommendations to NFDC Cabinet to meet in Autumn 2024.)

1. Waste Programme Update.

- Panel to note the new refuse service roll out is in three phases during 2025/6:-
- Lymington Depot Area June 2025,
- Ringwood Depot Area October 2025,
- Totton/Hardley Depot Area March 2026.
- New weekly food waste collection; households to have 23-litre lockable caddy for kerbside collections & smaller 7-litre caddy for kitchen use.
- New recycling & rubbish collections using Wheelie Bins; 240-litre wheelie bin for recycling one week & 180-litre wheelie bin for rubbish the following week.
- Four Weekly Glass Collections

2. Climate Change and Nature Emergency Annual Update.

- Government figures show NFDC emissions have reduced by approx. 70% from the 1990 baseline. (UK reduction is 54%).

3. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

- The Panel noted the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 in relation to the process by which Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are determined and agrees for the Council to be involved in future projects in its role as a host authority and that Planning Performance Agreements be sought from promoters and applicants for each project at the earliest stage to cover the District Council's costs.

**Cllr W Steve Rippon-Swaine FRICS DipGS
New Forest Councillor for Ringwood South**