

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

The meeting took place in a virtual environment using “Zoom” video conferencing technology and members of the public and press were given the opportunity to observe or participate in the meeting.

NOTE: Although participation in or absence from the meeting is recorded below, for legal reasons participation in this meeting by councillors does not qualify as attendance at a meeting for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972.

Held on Friday 7th January 2022 at 10am

PRESENT: Cllr Philip Day (Chairman) (*until 11:40am*)
Cllr Rae Frederick (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge (*not present between 10:20 and 11:03am*)
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Derek Scott
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron

ABSENT: Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Tony Ring

P/5938 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present for planning applications.

P/5939 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Briers, Kelleher and Ring.

P/5940 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Although it was not a declarable pecuniary interest, Cllr O'Reilly made members aware that in respect of 21/11457, the applicants are close neighbours.

P/5941 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2021, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

P/5942

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

With agreement of Members, applications 21/01075, 21/01039 and 21/11696 were brought forward for the benefit of the members of the public present. The remaining applications were dealt with in list order.

Cllr Edge left the meeting due to technical issues and was not present for consideration of applications 21/01031 through to 21/11699.

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

ACTION Nicola Vodden / Jo Hurd

P/5943

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Members noted the meeting of the Steering Group on 13th December 2021, which was a progress checkpoint. The consultants had been present at that meeting and had reviewed output from each work stream. All workstreams were invited to show progress; work achieved against the agreed Action Plan; and draft policy recommendations.

In summary, the housing work stream is a little offtrack, but is pulling back on track with consultant assistance, and the environment work stream, with changes at a national level has had a lot to process, but with a lot of effort from those involved, is in a good place. The design workstream is getting some technical assistance on design code work. The biggest challenge is faced by the town centre work stream. The focus has moved away from the critical path outlined in the Action Plan, to have a more business and commercial focus, whereas the consultants had advised starting out with a meeting of key stakeholders, setting out a vision of what uses would be acceptable and looking at site allocation for development. This would be discussed in detail at the next Steering Group meeting.

Cllr Haywood invited the Committee to consider the formal reporting requirements and governance of the NP Steering Group. The Chairman had spoken to the Town Clerk to clarify the reporting line and it was noted that the proper course was for work stream leads to report to the Steering Group and a formal progress report be presented to this Committee with recommendations for consideration, if necessary. Such report should include an update on progress against the agreed Action Plan and budget.

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It was acknowledged that the volunteers were working incredibly hard but one of the biggest challenges was the amount of time needed for project coordination and administration. This would be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting, when the amount of resource required would be quantified and a formal request for support put to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the update in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan be received.

ACTION Jo Hurd

Cllr Day left the meeting at 11:40am and handed the chair to Cllr Frederick for the remainder of the meeting.

P/5944
STRATEGIC SITES

The Deputy Town Clerk had circulated the latest report from NFDC Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting (*Annex B*).

Crow Lane and Crow Arch Lane site - Beaumont Park

Refer to *Annex B*. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to obtain an update on the proposed footpath linking the north east of the site to Hightown Road (alongside Crow Lane) and surfacing of the Castleman Trailway east of the railway bridge. It was suggested that the County Councillor be invited to report on this at the Full Council meeting.

The transfer of the allotments had still not taken place. It was noted that although the site had been prepared in readiness for the transfer, delays had led to some deterioration and some work will be needed to make it fit for purpose. NFDC Monitoring Officer will add this to her monthly report.

Moortown Lane site

Although a planning application was expected to have been submitted in December, there had been no formal notice of this yet. It was noted that there had been some excavation, with large trenches being dug. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to approach the developer and request that notification be given to the Council if any works are going to take place and the reasons for it, to foster better relations with those most affected by the development.

Land north of Hightown Road

There was no further information to report.

RESOLVED: That the update in respect of strategic sites be noted.

ACTION Jo Hurd

P/5945

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CONSULTATION ON NEW FOREST DISTRICT (OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL PARK) DRAFT PARKING STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report (*Annex C*).

Cllr Deboos had prepared a response to the draft SPD and circulated it to Members prior to the meeting (*Annex D*). All members were satisfied that this be used as the basis for the Town Council's response and thanked him for preparing the document.

RESOLVED: That the Deputy Town Clerk, in liaison with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to submit a response to NFDC based on Cllr Deboos' comments in *Annex D*.

ACTION Jo Hurd

P/5946

RESIGNATION OF FLOOD WARDEN

Members considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report (*Annex E*).

Cllr Deboos described his resignation from being a Flood Warden as regretful and questioned how the system will cope, given the proposed developments, if there is a need now to discharge into the rivers. Extreme rain events will also become more frequent. He provided information on the amount of waste leaking into the system, highlighting the issues with the water network infrastructure, cost to eliminate these problems and the lack of regulation. He summarised his reasons for his decision, as follows:-

- Intentional (not accidental) contamination of Avon
- Correlation between 'sewage outflow' and flood likelihood (from Avon), due to high precipitation events
- No data seem to be available about 'sewage outflow' outcome - which areas are likely to be contaminated by untreated sewage, if any
- Flood warden guidance from training programmes - avoid contact with flood water
- If accidental contact with flood water, decontaminate with soap and water, gel, etc
- As river contamination is intentional, he proposed that PPE is provided to flood wardens, paid for by polluter ('polluter pays' principle)

He had asked Wessex Water to supply information specifically about the River Avon, as that is the biggest risk in the area, but this has not been forthcoming. Although policy is set at central government level, he enquired what could be done at a local level to make companies aware of residents' feelings.

Cllr Deboos indicated, in the event of a flood, he would help as a member of the public, but felt that he could not (as a Flood Warden) help people in need effectively, as the protective equipment is not being provided by those who are intentionally releasing waste into the river. He

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was working on a document for residents in flood zones 3 and 2, which would include information on the flood emergency alert list.

Members acknowledged the position, did not appoint to the vacancy and Cllr O'Reilly indicated that she would also be considering her position as a Flood Warden. They agreed the Council should approach Wessex Water and request comments on the issues raised.

RESOLVED: 1) That Cllr Deboos' resignation as a Flood Warden be acknowledged;
2) That no appointment be made to the resulting vacancy; and
3) That Wessex Water be contacted and asked to comment on Cllr Deboos' reasons for his resignation as a flood warden, in addition to providing PPE for Flood Wardens.

ACTION Jo Hurd

P/5947

A31 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Deputy Town Clerk indicated that a councillor liaison group meeting had been arranged with National Highways and Hampshire Highways on 13th January 2022 and invited any specific comments to be raised.

The westbound slip road has been closed and the inside lane of Mansfield Road leading up to it. The traffic is flowing although there has been some congestion.

Hampshire Highways had identified measures to be put in place on the local road network. Some had been implemented and other aspects would be monitored to see if there was a need to add further measures.

There were reports of the traffic coping well so far and the test would be when the schools return fully and people were back to work following the Christmas break. There were concerns however, that people would avoid Ringwood altogether and fears for the impact on the town centre and retailers. In time, a clearer picture of this would emerge.

RESOLVED: That the update on the National Highways scheme be noted.

ACTION Jo Hurd

P/5948

PROJECTS (current and proposed)

RESOLVED: That the update in respect of projects (*Annex F*) be noted.

ACTION Jo Hurd

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P/5949
NFDC/NFNPA PLANNING COMMITTEE

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:24 pm.

RECEIVED
26th January 2022

APPROVED
4th February 2022

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

Annex A to Planning, Town Environment Committee Minutes 7th January 2022
Ringwood Town Council - Planning Observations - NFDC

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
21/11457	Potters Rest, The Bickerley, Ringwood BH24 1ET	RE-CONSULTATION:- Ground floor single-storey rear and side extension	Permission (1)	
21/11585	115, Eastfield Lane, Ringwood. BH24 1UW	Construct new chalet dwelling along with new access and surface parking	Refusal (2)	The Committee did not have an issue with the proposed development, in principle. However, it is concerned in terms of the development itself and a condition should be imposed to ensure the integrity of the highway and appropriate restrictions put in place in respect of loading and unloading on Eastfield Lane. In addition, there are phosphate and other ecological issues and it was noted that the ecological report submitted requires updating.
21/11597	21, Swan Mead, Hightown, Ringwood. BH24 3RD	Proposed two-storey rear extension	Refusal (2)	The Committee considered the proposal to be overdevelopment and detrimental to the neighbouring property's amenity in terms of overlooking, overshadowing and loss of privacy.
21/11607	The Cuckoos Nest, Duck Island Lane, Ringwood. BH24 3AA	Single-storey rear 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
21/11611	87, The Mount, Poulner, Ringwood. BH24 1XZ	First-floor extension over the existing garage with a cantilever overhang to the front	Refusal (2)	The Committee was concerned about parking provision, given the proposed increase in the number of bedrooms, and the lack of information with regard to this, in the application. Given their local knowledge of the area, Members advised there is no space to provide additional parking within the curtilidge of the property and there is insufficient parking in and around the locality.
21/11622	Myrtle Cottage, Streets Lane, Crow, Ringwood. BH24 3EY	Extension to outbuilding and use of outbuilding as ancillary use	Officer Decision (5)	
21/11630	Land rear of 1-3 Strides Lane, Ringwood. BH24 1DY	Erect a single-storey office / studio	Refusal (2)	The Committee wished to support the views of the Conservation Officer.
21/11643	18, Chaffey Close, Ringwood. BH24 3EU	Two-storey extension	Permission (1)	
21/11649	8A Seymour Road, Ringwood. BH24 1SG	Raise roof height, side dormers & rooflights in association with new first floor	Permission (1)	
21/11664	1, Southampton Road, Ringwood. BH24 1HB	Removal of unauthorised metal and plastic signage; replace with non illuminated hand written painted sign (Application for Listed Building Consent)	Officer Decision (5)	There was no objection to the application, in principle, however the Committee would like to support the Conservation Officer's views, when they are available.
21/11694	14, Highfield Avenue, Ringwood. BH24 1RH	Extension and roof extension to dwelling	Officer Decision (5)	There was no objection in principle, however, there was a lack of information available to show that the application complies with parking standards.

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
21/11696	Haus, 38 Kingfisher Way, Ringwood. BH24 3LL	First-floor side extension to create bathroom	Permission (1)	
21/11699	151, Northfield Road, Ringwood. BH24 1SS	Single-storey extension; access	Officer Decision (5)	There is no objection to the proposal in principle, however the Committee noted the Highways Authority comment and wished to support it.
21/11714	1, Crow Lane, Crow, Ringwood. BH24 3DZ	Single-storey rear extension	Permission (1)	
CONS/21/0632	Blynkbonnie Car Park Ringwood	Common Alder x1 Reduce Commn Ash x 2 - Fell	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 7th January 2022

Ringwood Town Council - Planning Observations - NFNPA

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
21/01031	14, Gate House, Barrack Lane, Crow, Ringwood. BH24 3ES	Carport; vehicular access	Permission (1)	
21/01039	169, Crow Cottages, Barrack Lane, Crow, Ringwood. BH24 3ES	Single storey extension; porch	Permission (1)	
21/01075	Green Hollow, Cowpitts Lane, Poulner Common, Ringwood. BH24 3LB	Single storey extension; additional dormer window; 2No. balconies; pitched roof to garage to create incidental accommodation	Refusal (2)	The Committee had no issues with the proposed changes to the main house. In respect of the garage, however, recommended refusal on the basis that a condition be imposed to prevent the garage being used as separate accommodation and to ensure it remains ancillary to the main dwelling as described in DP37.

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 7th January 2022

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Decision
TPO/21/0627	Gorselands, Hightown Hill, Ringwood. BH24 3HD	Fell group of 5 Oak trees Pollard 1 x Oak tree	9.12.21 OD5 Tree Officer decision. Members felt there was insufficient evidence to justify the felling of the Oak trees.
CONS/21/0657	Cobweb Cottage, St Aubyns Lane, Hangersley, Ringwood, BH24 3JU	Prune 2 x Lime trees Prune 1 x Chestnut tree	17.12.21 P1 Recommend Permission but would accept the Tree 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

No planting appears to have been carried out yet. This is being chased with the Developer. The current planting season lasts until the end of March next year.

I measured the open width of the maintenance access. It is 3.16m wide which is wide enough for maintenance vehicles to reverse through. I have flagged up the installation of the maintenance parking bay with the Planner to make sure it's up to standard.

The construction of the industrial park appears to have recommenced with the land being levelled ready for the surveyor. This is being carried out by a different developer and is being monitored by a different department within NFDC.

The Western Linear SANG has been mowed and some weed spraying has been carried out. This area requires quite a lot of work to bring it up to a standard ready for transfer.

The Central Park area is being maintained better, some of the more virile weeds appear to have been dealt with, but not all of them.

The Pocket Park could do with more weeding. The grass has been mowed recently. The pathway that's part of the Castleman Trail has not yet been created right up to the Hampshire boundary line.

There remain other outstanding soft and hard landscaping issues that need to be addressed before transfer of the land can take place.

The Developer is still responsible for the maintenance of the site 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.



Phases 1 and 2

Southern Phases



Occupation Status

-  Not commenced construction
-  Under construction
-  For Sale

-  Reserved
-  Exchanged
-  Occupied/Completed

GD response to the NFDC draft 'Parking Standards SPD' consultation

In general, I think this is a good document in overview. It is based on current central Government guidance, which is welcomed. It recognises the benefits of active travel. It recognises the impact of vehicle emissions and promotes ways to reduce these through Car Club schemes ('Principle 7'), for example. Likewise, parking provision with charge points for electric vehicles is considered. There is much to be pleased with in this draft SPD. As is the way with NFDC documents of this type, there is no author given. A shame, as whoever it is has done a reasonably good job and should receive credit. In my opinion, there is no justification for anonymity, especially in the public sector.

Suggestion 1 – Publish the author names

One of the Government guidance documents referred to is the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF) which makes it clear that Local Planning Authorities should prepare design guides or design codes based on the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code. This draft 'Parking Standards SPD' is presumably such a document with a narrow frame of reference. I hope that this draft SPD is part of plan to produce a wider ranging document covering transport in general in the New Forest as a whole, so in collaboration with the NFNPA. A localised scaled down version of the Hampshire County Council Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4), if you will.

Suggestion 2 – Consider drafting a NF LTP SPD

NPPF states that design guides or design codes "should be used to guide decisions on applications in the absence of locally produced design guides or design codes". It is the intention of the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) team to provide local design guides/codes (as may other emerging NPs in the district) and so this SPD should be viewed with that in mind – it will help to inform the RNP but not to dominate it. If the intention of NFDC is otherwise, then it would seem wise that the RNP team is consulted directly. To date, so far as I am aware, this has not happened. To be clear, my response here is as a Town Councillor, not a member of the RNP. Also, I do note that the current New Milton and Hythe & Dibden NPs are mentioned.

Suggestion 3 – Provide in the introduction a view of where this SPD would sit within the context of emerging Neighbourhood Plans

On the Main Town Centre exception clause in 'Principle 1' of the draft SPD, I don't understand how the list of town centres has been derived. Given that Ringwood is 'Red' overall, why would you want to accentuate the issue by reducing parking infrastructure? I don't see how 'Principle 1' relates to the RAG analysis in Annex 2. Further, there are possible examples of correlation being

Principle 1

Residential development within the District should provide the **recommended car parking standards** as set out in Table 1 below, with the following exception:

- In the main town Main Town Centre locations of Fordingbridge, Hythe Village, Lymington, New Milton, Ringwood and Totton, a reduced car parking provision will be acceptable subject to the site being well served by existing public and active modes of travel, and confirmation that factors influencing parking pressure set out in **Annex 2** will not be exacerbated.
- Proposals in these Main Town Centre locations will be assessed on a site by site basis with account taken of the layout and design of the development and where relevant can also take into account future public and active travel projects, where there is sufficient certainty in their delivery.

misinterpreted as causation. For example, the car ownership figures (from LSOA data) suggests that “car ownership” in the district is “significantly above the national average”, except for town centres like Ringwood. This seems to be used as a justification for the ‘Principle 1’ exception suggesting that residential car parking spaces need not be consistent across the district. An alternative interpretation is that the non-private vehicle transport options outside of the main town centres is lacking and that is why car ownership there is higher than the national average. A further alternative proposition could be that people living in town centres do not have sufficient parking capacity and so, where possible, opportunities for additional car parking should be sought. This interpretation would lead to a policy principle that is rather different. For sure, if the current parking provision is inadequate for current town centre residents, further developments with lower parking provision will simply compound the issue. The suggestion that, as Ringwood is a transport hub (i.e. has bus services to local towns like Salisbury, Bournemouth, etc), people will want to live car free in the town centre (when they work elsewhere and commute on public transport) needs a lot more supporting evidence to be convincing. My suspicion is that accommodation for elderly and infirm people is frequently sited close to town centres (and thereby easily accessible to amenities; Ringwood is no exception) and that these people have lower car ownership than other Ringwood residents on average. Residential development within the town centre with limited parking provision may be more attractive to elderly people and result in an even higher disparity. Is this what the policy principle seeks to achieve or is it an unintended consequence? Town centre housing dominated by elderly or infirm occupants? I think that Principle 1 should be removed until a more holistic view of the needs and opportunities of Ringwood town centre have been established. Removing this exception clause will not disable the possibility of varying the parking standards on a site by site basis – SPDs are not obligatory and Principle 13 in the draft SPD exemplifies a way that developers can obtain permission for “a departure from standards”.

Suggestion 4 – remove the exception for Principle 1 Main Town Centres

Before the NFDC author cries “but the data are in Annex 2”, let me reiterate the problem in detail rather than overview. As stated in the draft SPD, *“Paragraph 107 of the NPPF specifically addresses car parking. It does not provide suggested standards, but instead sets out that if setting local parking standards for residential and non-residential development, policies should take into account: 1. the accessibility of the development; 2. the type, mix and use of development; 3. the availability of and opportunities for public transport; 4. local car ownership levels; and 5. the need to ensure an adequate provision of spaces for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles”*. The traffic light RAG analysis is rather trivial and doesn’t get to root causes. It has merely ordered the data against a crude scale. The data describes ‘what’ not ‘why’. There are no data presented that supports ‘why’. Let’s take the Annex 2 table - Ringwood is red for “Enforcement (Analysis of notices issued between 01/04/2020 and 31/03/2021)” where ‘Enforcement’ is defined earlier as “On street enforcement notices served”. A hypothesis here could be “A lack of residential parking leads to illegal parking”. Does the data support this? It may be that the data shows a correlation between a lack of residential parking and illegal parking. Deeper analysis is required to show causality. What if all the tickets were issued to people that don’t live in Ringwood? What if there is illegal parking everywhere, but as the traffic wardens travel to Ringwood by public transport, they only ticket cars in the town centre?

Suggestion 5 – remove the exception for Principle 1 Main Town Centres

Yes, I know it is the same as Suggestion 4.

The sections covering Transport Assessments, etc., seem to extend beyond Parking Standards and should be an SPD document of their own. It's almost as if they had been added on as an act of expediency.

Suggestion 6 – remove “Transport Assessments or Statements” section and draft these in a separate SPD

Just to note though. ‘Table 4’ states a threshold of 50 dwellings. I think this is too high and 10 would be a better number.

I’m going to jump back to ‘Principle 3’ which concerns the size of parking spaces. The National Design Guide

Principle 3

Car parking space sizes are recommended to be provided to the minimum dimensions set out, to ensure they can be safely and effectively used.

2021 states “The long-standing, fundamental principles for good design are that it is: fit for purpose; durable; and brings delight”. HCC LTP4 referenced in the document including a note about a proposed theme based on consultation outcomes of “Carbon neutral, resilient Hampshire”. I could provide more references and guidance, but the point I wish to make here is that the direction of travel for policy is to encourage active travel options and less polluting transport options. Parts

of this draft SPD align well, but I would propose a change to ‘Principle 3’. Given that the likelihood is that all ICE vehicles will be phased out within decades and that developments last for centuries, the parking policy should reflect this rather than relying on some subsequent (likely expensive) retrofit option being adopted and I have copied in Figure 1 from the draft SPD, as I think this is relevant. I therefore propose that all “Standard Parking Spaces” are ‘EV ready’ and therefore of the same size as you have suggested in Table 2, which is 2.8m x 5m.

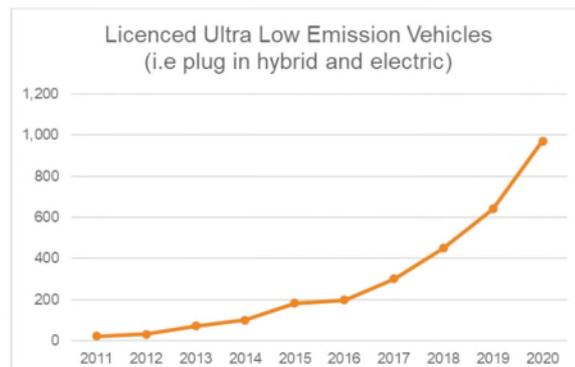


Figure 1 Number of licensed ultra-low emission vehicles in New Forest District (Department for Transport statistics 2020)

Suggestion 7 – change Table 2 “Standard Parking Space” dimension to 2.8m x 5m

**REPORT TO PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
7 JANUARY 2022**

**CONSULTATION ON NEW FOREST DISTRICT (OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL PARK)
DRAFT PARKING STANDARDS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

1. New Forest District Council is undertaking consultation on a draft Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), to support policies in the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy (adopted in July 2020). The draft SPD sets out details for the approach agreed in the Local Plan to provide an appropriate level of vehicle and cycle parking in new development across the District.
2. The guidance set out in the draft SPD has been updated from the previous 2012 Parking Standards SPD to take account of the step changes in national and local policy and to ensure it achieves sustainable development in the context of climate change and other drivers. It also covers issues such as electric vehicle charging and is responsive to local circumstances regarding the availability of parking and accessibility.
3. The draft SPD and full details of the consultation can be viewed on the NFDC website: <https://newforest.gov.uk/article/2859/Parking-Standards>. The deadline for comments is 14 January 2022.
4. The response form includes a number of questions (listed below) and gives the opportunity to provide feedback and/or propose modifications.

Scope of the draft SPD:

Do you agree with the proposed scope of the Draft Parking Standards SPD, to include standards for both residential and a range of non-residential development types?

Delivering sustainable development:

With the draft SPD's aim of supporting the delivery of sustainable development and reflecting climate change as a key driver for change, does the document provide the right balance between ensuring sufficient parking where there are no alternatives, but in sustainable locations encouraging alternative transport approaches and reducing car ownership?

Residential developments in town centre locations:

Are the main town centres the only locations for accepting the principle of lower levels of car parking provision for residential development (noted that they will still be subject to agreement on a case by case basis), or should other areas in the District also be considered?

Parking space sizes:

Does the draft SPD's revised car parking space size for private development represent an appropriate balance between the increase in car sizes, whilst ensuring space provided in a development for parking is used efficiently?

Electric vehicle parking:

The technology used by EV vehicles and charging techniques is fast advancing. Does the draft SPD provide a sufficient level of detail and recommended requirements to meet the needs of the increasing use of electric vehicles?

Car clubs:

Car clubs are increasingly playing a role in reducing dependence on car ownership, normally within town centres or where they meet travel plan objectives and where there is the potential for higher demand. Does the draft SPD provide sufficient recommendations for their use on relevant developments?

Mobility scooter and micro-scooter parking:

Do you agree with the inclusion of the new sections in the draft SPD requiring the consideration of parking in relevant developments for mobility scooters and micro-scooters?

5. Members will recall that this Committee considered a draft Residential Travel Plan at its meeting on 7 May 2021. It was agreed at that meeting that the measures outlined in this document should be recommended to NFDC and HCC for inclusion in all future Residential Travel Plans required for significant (>50) housing development in Ringwood (P/5843 and Annex C refers - <https://www.ringwood.gov.uk/admin/resources/18minutes-pte7may21.pdf>). Some, but not all of the measures proposed have been included in the draft SPD.
6. It is RECOMMENDED that Members consider whether to respond to any or all of the questions outlined above and/or recommend any modifications to the draft SPD.

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

**REPORT TO PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
7 JANUARY 2022**

RESIGNATION OF FLOOD WARDEN

1. At the Full Council meeting on 24 November 2021, the Town Mayor reported that he had received a letter from Cllr Deboos resigning from his position as a Flood Warden following an unsatisfactory response from the Environment Agency regarding the levels of raw sewage in the Avon, which could be a health risk. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed further by Council in January. However, it is more appropriate for this Committee to consider the matter first, as environmental issues fall within its remit.
2. As a follow up to his letter to the Town Mayor, Cllr Deboos has provided further information in the attached letter to the Deputy Town Clerk (*Appendix A*).
3. Any further update from the Environment Agency or Wessex Water will be reported to the meeting on 7 January.
4. The Council has one remaining Flood Warden (Cllr O'Reilly) and two co-opted volunteers (Dr Peter Street and Norman Light).
5. It is RECOMMENDED that
 - i) Members consider the reasons behind Cllr Deboos' resignation from his position as Flood Warden, and whether the Council should take any action in this respect; and
 - ii) A replacement Flood Warden be appointed.

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



Hello Jo,

This is from the resignation letter that I sent to Tony a few weeks back:

“Following some recent online training sessions related to flooding, I was reminded of the importance of carrying out risk assessments before taking action as a Flood Warden.

I have also seen reports relating to the discharge of raw sewage into the Avon at times when flow rates into the waste treatment plants are too high for the works to cope, which is usually related to times of high rainfall due to the foul and rainwater drainage systems not being separate. I had not appreciated that water companies routinely discharge sewage with a claimed 200,000 sewage pollution events in the UK in 2019.

Linking these two thoughts together, I have asked the Environment Agency specifically what effect the increases in discharges from sewage treatment plants at Fordingbridge, Downton and beyond have on water quality in Ringwood. I have not received a satisfactory answer.

I suspect that measurements haven’t been carried out and I doubt that any modelling has been done. No evidence that there is a problem is not the same as evidence that there is no problem and I am left thinking that nobody wants to find out what is happening as then something would have to be done.

For risk assessment purposes then, it must be assumed that, at times of potential flooding, the Avon will be contaminated with raw sewage and therefore contact with river water would put people at risk, including Flood Wardens who would be expected to coordinate an emergency response without appropriate PPE. I am therefore tendering my resignation as a Flood Warden as I do not wish to put my health at risk of gastroenteritis, infectious diarrhoea and similar. I will still, of course, assist in the event of an emergency and with RTC efforts to improve our response to flood events.”

Since writing this, I have had some further interactions with the Environment Agency. It seems to me that their recommendation is not to come in contact with flood water. Quote *“due to the many risks posed by flood water we always advise flood wardens that their role should not entail them entering flood water.”* They have also passed the enquiry on to Wessex Water for comment. I may have a response from them before the PT&E meeting on the 7th January 2022.

Kind regards,

*Cllr Dr Gareth DeBoos
Ringwood Town Council
07904195605*

Quote of the day:

“It’s a safety issue: you can’t put a price on people’s lives.” Cllr Andy Briers

Current Projects Update

No.	Name	Status	Recent developments	Description and notes	Lead Officer/Member	Financing
Full Council						
FC1	Long Lane Football Facilities Development	In progress	Planning permission has been granted subject to conditions. VAT consultant's initial advice on business arrangements received. Business and legal arrangements being placed with lawyers. AGP contract awarded. Preferred partner for other contracts now identified. The total project cost is now clearer and funding arrangements are being discussed and finalized between the parties.	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	No financial commitment yet
FC2	Strategic Plan	On hold - awaiting officer availability		Exploring ideas for medium term planning	Town Clerk	N/A
Planning Town & Environment Committee						
PTE1	Neighbourhood Plan	In progress	Work continues on building evidence and drafting policies, with the Plan focussing on 4 themes - Town Centre, Design & Heritage, Environment and Housing.	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 completed on 1 April. Annual stream clearance carried out by volunteers on 9 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	REAL WP recommend supporting free bus initiative currently being investigated. A bid for a further £1,000 has been put forward for consideration for inclusion in the 2022/23 budget.	Minor funding to support local initiatives.	Cllr Deboos	Budget of £1,000

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

A31 widening scheme	In progress	Preparatory works on A31 commenced. Closure of westbound on-slip at Ringwood from 04/01/2022, with contraflow in place from 26 January 2022. Scheme due for completion by end November 2022.	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)	In progress	Work on highway complete. Some work still required on Bickerley - land to be fully restored by SWW. Site compound in place at the southern end of Bickerley until end of year.	Diversion of water main that runs along the A31 westbound carriageway.	South West Water / Kier	HE funded
Pedestrian crossings Christchurch Road	Completed		Informal pedestrian crossings to the north and south of roundabout at junction of Christchurch Road with Wellworthy Way (Lidl)	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
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
Cycleway signage and improvements	Completed		New signage and minor improvements to cycleway between Forest Gate Business Park and Hightown Road	Hampshire CC	HE Designated Funds
Carvers footpath/cycle-way improvement	Completed		Creation of shared use path across Carvers between Southampton Road and Mansfield Road	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
Crow Lane Footpath	In progress	Developers' contributions paid to HCC to implement.	New footpath to link Beaumont Park with Hightown Road, alongside west of Crow Lane	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
Surfacing of Castleman Trailway	In progress	Developers' contributions paid to HCC to implement. RTC carried out clearance on behalf of HCC so that the path was accessible through the summer, prior to surfacing.	Dedication and surfacing of bridleway between old railway bridge eastwards to join existing surfacing	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
Replacement Tree - Market Place	In progress	Tree stump has been ground out and replacement tree (Field Maple) will be planted in its place by end March 2022.	New tree to replace tree stump in Market Place.	Hampshire CC	HCC funded

	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						
PF1	Website renewal	In progress	Transition to the new site and hosting arrangements has completed. Site is being checked for errors and updated.	Arranging a new website that is more responsive, directly editable by Council staff and compliant with accessibility regulations.	Town Clerk	Funded from agreed budget.
PF2	Greenways planning permission renewal	Cancelled	Committee decided on 17 Feb 2021 not to seek renewal	Preparing a planning application to renew the lapsed permission for a detached bungalow	Town Clerk	
PF3	Youth Detached Outreach work	In progress	Work has been suspended for operational reasons. A report on the work is being prepared.	To provide youth workers for detached outreach work	Carvers Manager	
PF4	Review of governance documents	In progress	Revisions to Financial Regulations completed in September. Committee terms of reference and the Scheme of Delegation will be considered next.	Periodic review of standing orders, financial regulations, committee terms of reference, delegated powers, etc. to maintain suitability and fitness	Town Clerk	
PF5	Poulner Lakes Lease	On hold - awaiting track maintenance solution	Technical advice on track maintenance options in line with members' recommendations is being obtained.	Negotiating a lease from Ringwood & District Anglers' Association of the part of the site not owned by the Council	Town Clerk	
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee						
RLOS1	War Memorial repair	Completed	The repair has been completed. An inspection and maintenance regime is being implemented. A re-dedication ceremony was held on 15th August 2021.	Repair by conservation specialists with Listed Building Consent with a re-dedication ceremony after.	Town Clerk	£8,596 spent. Grant award leaves £4,776 to be funded from donations and general reserve.
RLOS2	Bickerley tracks	Completed	Fresh gravel has been laid. No structural change is feasible at present.	Enhanced repair of tracks to address erosion and potholes (resurfacing is ruled out by town green status) and measures to control parking.	Town Clerk	Nothing yet committed or agreed
RLOS3	Public open spaces security	Completed	The agreed works have all now been completed.	Review of public open spaces managed by the Council and measures to protect them from unauthorised encampments and incursions by vehicles	Town Clerk	Revised budget of £6,300 for emergency measures agreed.
RLOS4	Grounds department sheds replacement	In progress	Cllr Briers has kindly produced some initial drawings which are being considered.	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	Capital budget of £10,000
RLOS5	Cemetery development	In progress	An update on the columbarium proposal was given at the meeting on 6th October and further planning of the work is proceeding.	Planning best use of remaining space, columbarium, etc.	Town Clerk	Capital budget of £25,000 (but unlikely to finish in 2021-22 and therefore to be carried into an earmarked reserve)
RLOS6	Community Allotment	Concluded by adapting to ongoing processes	Agreed to treat as an informal joint venture between the Council and the tenants' association.	Special arrangement needed for community growing area at Southampton Road	Town Clerk	
RLOS7	Bowling Club lease	In progress	Draft heads of terms of new lease under discussion	Request by Ringwood Bowling Club for lease to be extended in space and term for a replacement club-house.	Town Clerk	
RLOS8	Ringwood Youth Club	On hold awaiting officer availability		Winding up the redundant CIO to terminate filing requirements	Town Clerk	
RLOS9	Aerator repair	Completed	The attachment has been returned and is back in service following the overhaul.	Major overhaul to extend life of this much-used attachment	Grounds Foreman	
RLOS10	Waste bin replacement programme	In progress	The first 17 bins have been delivered and are being installed as pressure of work allows. More will be ordered later this year.	Three-year programme to replace worn-out litter and dog-waste bins	Grounds Foreman	
RLOS11	Ash Grove Fence repair	Completed	The grounds foreman has inspected the completed fence and signed off the final payment to the contractor.	Replacing the worn-out fence around the play area	Grounds Foreman	
RLOS12	Van replacement	On hold awaiting officer availability		Replacing the grounds foreman's diesel van with an electric vehicle	Grounds Foreman	
RLOS13	Bickerley compensation claim	In progress	Officers presented a report at the meeting on 21st April.	Statutory compensation claim for access and damage caused by drainage works	Deputy Clerk	
RLOS14	Poulner Lakes waste licence	On hold awaiting officer availability		Arranging to surrender our redundant waste licence to avoid annual renewal fees	Town Clerk	
RLOS15	Acorn bench at Friday's Cross	Completed	Men's Shed have completed the refurbishment to the specification agreed with the original supplier.	Arranging the re-painting of this bespoke art-work	Town Clerk	
RLOS16	Town Safe	On hold awaiting officer availability	Preliminary contacts with PCC and Conservation Officer	Possible re-paint of this important survival, part of a listed structure	Town Clerk	
RLOS17	New allotments site	In progress	Practical Completion of site agreed following inspection. Decision to proceed agreed at February meeting. Legal work in progress.	The transfer to this Council (pursuant to a s.106 agreement) of a site for new allotments off Crow Arch Lane	Town Clerk	



RLOS18	Cemetery map and registers digitisation	In progress	Registers have been scanned. Digital map is being prepared.	Digitisation of cemetery records to facilitate remote working, greater efficiency and, eventually, direct public access	Town Clerk	Capital budget of £5,000
RLOS19	Carvers Strategic Development	In progress	The Carvers Working Party met on 30 November to consider service proposals from landscape designers. Further proposals are being sought.	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	



Staffing Committee

S1	HR support contract renewal	In progress	Terms agreed for five-year extension and addition of health and safety support.		Town Clerk	
S2	Finance Staffing review	Completed		Reassessing staffing requirements and capacity for finance functions and re-negotiating staff terms	Town Clerk	

Proposed/Emerging Projects Update

F

No.	Name	Description	Lead	Recent developments	Progress / Status Stage reached	Estimated cost	Funding sources
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			
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee							
	Poulner Lakes	Developing and improving facilities	Cllr Heron		Floated as possible future project		
	Brockey Sands	Environmental enhancements to this area between the Bickerley and the Millstream	Cllr Day	Preliminary discussions with local community groups	Floated as possible future project		
	Land at Folly Farm	Developing and improving this woodland site	Cllrs Heron & Ring		Floated as possible future project		
Staffing Committee							
None							