



Devizes Town Council

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Environment Committee

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee at the following, place and date:

Date: 21st May 2024

Time: Immediately the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: The Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 723333

Councillors:

East

Giraud Saunders

Greenwood

Hoult

Ormerod

Tanner

Wooldridge

AGENDA

(For items 1 and 2 Standing Order 38 states The Mayor will sit in the chair to conduct the election of chair to all committees and, if not a member of the committee, has no vote except a casting vote in the event of a tied vote. Any member of the committee can nominate another member as chairman or vice chairman, but the nominee is permitted to second themselves. Should there be more than one nomination for Chair or Vice Chair, nominee will have up to three minutes to explain what skills they have to chair the meeting.)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2024/25.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect a Vice Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2024/25.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chair's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chair's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – CRAMMER WATCH PROJECT

As part of the Crammer Project, there is a plan to establish a baseline ecology survey as well as a developing a programme of regular monitoring so that we can build a picture of environmental influences on the Crammer and how that can affect the wildlife and wider ecology over the year. Officers have been working with interested parties on this element and keeping the working party informed, and it is hoped that on the 29th June there will be a Crammer Watch Event on the Green where the community survey will be launched. In addition to the Town Council being on the Green, it is hoped to invite the following groups:

- WWT. To explain how to create a garden pond
- Friends of the Crammer to help raise money
- Wiltshire Museum with maybe a photographic history montage
- Quakers Walk Group to demonstrate biodiversity
- Allotment Association to demonstrate the work they have been doing especially with their pond
- Drews Pond Wood group
- Cycle Friendly Devizes for a possible Devizes ponds cycle ride
- Model Yacht group to show how the Crammer can be used
- Sustainable Devizes – Imaginations Station
- Invite schools with the promise of science stations
- Men's Shed to build access platforms so wildlife can get out into the churchyard
- St James' Church to open up churchyard and provide refreshments
- Trust for Devizes to provide some local history
- Old Forge Tropical / Roses to support domestic ponds .
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One of the quick wins the main group has been looking at is the repainting of the railings and a price has been received for this work of £6,500, A second price is currently being sought.

6. REPORT FOR DECISION – APPEAL AGAINST REMOVAL FROM AN ALLOTMENT

Recommendation

To consider an appeal by an allotment holder against the officer decision to withdraw their tenancy agreement due to a lack of maintenance.

Purpose of the Report

To determine if officers acted reasonably in terminating an allotment agreement due to lack of maintenance.

Background

Officers have been in correspondence with a plot holder at Windsor Drive over the condition of their allotment, however this concluded with them having their allotment removed as they have failed to improve the condition. Allotment agreements clearly state and are accepted by tenant when they sign the agreement, that they are kept clean, free from weeds and generally maintained in good condition.

The plot holder has now appealed the decision to terminate his agreement arguing that he grows a crop of nettles for nettle tea and therefore has contested that the plot is not maintained. A copy of the appeal is set out at [[Doc 6/1-2](#)].

Below are photographs of the plot taken during the last inspection



Officers have also discussed the issues with the allotment association and their comment is below.

The tenant has been observed on many occasions and this plot is not maintained to the standards as laid out in the Allotment agreement.

There are other allotment holders nearby this plot who will not stay when the tenant is there as there has been some difference of opinions and therefore causing an uncomfortable atmosphere. It has also been noticed that kitchen waste is brought up and put into one of the compost bins therefore encouraging vermin onto the plot.

This is a very scruffy plot and has not been maintained for many months and is not conducive to the wellbeing of the allotment site.

It is the opinion of many plot holders that the tenant has not maintained his plot to the standards required and therefore should be given notice to leave.

The officers made their decision following repeated attempts by the Allotment officer to encourage the tenant to maintain their allotment, and their failure to meet the obligations within the agreement to do so.

Options Considered

The report should be taken as an allotment tenant's appeal against an officer's decision to terminate their allotment agreement, due to the lack of maintenance of their allotment and the committed needs to decide if officers acted reasonably in doing so.

Implications and Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

Officers are unaware of any financial or resource implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Risk Assessment

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

7. REPORT FOR DECISION – SUPPORT FOR THE DEVIZES FESTIVAL CUP

Recommendation

That the committee considers the £1,300 seed funding as part funding for the purchase of 4,000-5,000 reusable festival drinking glasses.

Purpose of the Report

To provide the committee with information and options to support the purchase and future management of outdoor reusable drinking glasses.

Background

To back the Council's committed support for the reduction of single use plastics (Single Use Plastic Policy October 2023), officers have been working with Councillor Tanner on a Festival Cup initiative.

As the Council supports several organisations who deliver community outdoor events. One area where a difference can be made for the reduction of single use plastic are the cups used for serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

The concept of a reusable "Festival Cup" to replace single use cups at community events is not new, and if a scheme is properly managed, it can significantly reduce plastic production, reduce waste, and have a positive impact on the environment. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic, the material most used to make single use cups, is widely recycled in the UK; however, research suggests that only 32% of materials are recycled at UK festivals, therefore as most of the environmental impact (90%) occurs as a result of the manufacturing process, each time a plastic cup is reused, the environmental impact is reduced. It is estimated that a reusable cup starts to provide environmental benefit over single use cups after it is reused 3 times ([data from ZAP It doesn't stack up](#)).

If the plan is to insist that visitors to Devizes' outdoor community events are only serviced alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in reusable ("Festival") cups, the organisers of such events will need to consider several important options, which will include how to fund the purchase of such cups and then how they will collect, clean, sanitise and store the cups for the next event. Other operational considerations will include how drink vendors will manage returned cups from multiple drinks orders; if there is a boundary for the event within which the cup must remain and such who has control of this; how will management of the drinks outlets be organised so they are issued with a certain number of cups and what happens if they run out; and finally how is the initiative made financially viable.

For those events organised and managed by the Town Council, the vendor could be asked to only supply reusable cups.

Whilst the concept of Festival Cups is relatively simple its success will only be achieved if there is a sustainable management plan, for otherwise the risk of single use plastic being used by festivals that are only used once or twice is very high.

There are various management options for deploying a festival style cup at events and officers have set out options which they feel are the most appropriate for Devizes.

Free for the User

If the site is secure, Festival Cups could be provided free to participants. The key to success is to provide collection points at all exits from the site and for this to be managed. This should ensure a high rate of return of the cups that can then be washed and reused. This model is much more dependent on sponsorship and branding. It does also rely on only cups being provided by the event organisers being used as there is a central collection point and returning individual cups to individual vendors would be difficult.

The event organisers do need to have a plan for collection, cleaning, and redistributing additional cups to vendors during the course of the event. At the end of the event the event organiser will need a plan for the sanitising and storage of cups.

It is also likely that event goers will give little consideration for the cup and they will be dumped, damaged or stolen, resulting in a higher replacement cost.

Cup Deposit Scheme

This requires the drinks vendor to charge a returnable deposit at the point of sale, which clearly has a significant management resource implication, but it will support a higher return rate for the cups. To some extent, it is also dependent on cash being readily available so the deposit can be paid back quickly to the attendee.

As with free cups, this model is dependent on sponsorship and branding and again does also rely on only cups being provided by the event organisers. Management issues are also the same, with event organisers needing a plan at the end of the event to collect, clean, sanitise and store the cups. However, with hopefully higher return rates, ongoing replacement costs will be lower.

Non-refundable Levy

This third option seeks to cover the cost of production, but does increase the risk that the participant will keep the cup as a souvenir, especially if it is nicely branded.

For large events over a longer period, this model of provision supports multiple re-use of the cup, helping it to achieve its full environment and fiscal benefits. This model allows for the event organiser to pass on the costs of using recyclable cups to the drinks vendor in one transaction or to collect the cost directly. The drinks vendor can offer a small discount for people who continue to use their refundable cup. As attendees have a financial investment in the cup whilst retention rates will be high, it is likely that the cup would be brought back to future events clean, reducing the need for event organisers to clean them after an event. In addition, any losses can be funded from the cups sold. However, there may be some resistance by attendees to single drinks due to the need to purchase a cup.

Each model has some merit and much depends on the type of the event and level of sponsorship available to finance the production. Collection of reusable cups is essential to achieving the levels of re-use to ensure full economic and environmental benefit.

With continued funding and effective end of event collection management, the nonrefundable may be the most attractive models for those attending events, but whichever model is chosen, the key to the initiative's success is also dependent on providing clear information about the environmental benefits of the cup levy as set out below, and adequate collection points at the end of the events.



Reusable Glasses in Operation

To prevent waste and prevent the use of single use plastic you have paid a small levy for a reusable glass. We encourage you to reuse and return this glass. By doing so you are directly helping the Environment. The glass will be cleaned and reused. Did you know that a reusable glass can be utilised up to 75 times.



People would of course be entitled to bring their own cup or if purchased keep the cup and re-use it at future events.

Options Considered

The Committee needs to decide if it wishes to support the funding of a Devizes Festival Cup and if so:

- does it have a preferred management / operations model for the cups?
- To what value does it wish to fund the cup?

Implications and Risks

Financial and Resource implications

Outline cost for the supply of reusable festival glasses is as follows:

2,100 full colour pint cups at £0.66 per cup = £1,386.00 + VAT

2,000 full colour half pint cups at £0.69 per cup = £1,380.00 + VAT

No allowance has been made for cups that may be damaged or disposed of inappropriately after their use.

It is hoped that the cost will be shared with a local brewery by way of sponsorship.

Legal Implications and Legislative powers The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Success will be measured by reduced waste and the level of festival glass re-use. For returned glasses, the process of cleaning should also be considered.

Risk Assessment

The risk is that the event organisers do not put in place mechanisms to manage the cups' re-use and therefore does not deliver any environmental improvements.

Crime and Disorder

In considering the project in relation to section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, it should reduce the risk of glass-related crime.

8. COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

A new feature of each of the standing committees is that there will be a record of planned future agenda items that the committee may wish to discuss during the civic year and these will be in addition to regular items or those matters that need the committee's more urgent attention. [\[Doc 8/1\]](#) sets out the forward plan for the Environment Committee and members are asked to review what is currently planned and put forward any further items that need to be included within the plan.

9. QUESTION TIME

A short time is allowed at the discretion of the Chair for councillors to ask questions on matters which are not on the current agenda but which are related to matters which have been previously discussed on an agenda relevant to the committee.

At least 24 hours' notice must be given to officers of the intended question. All other matters should be raised on an agenda and the request should be submitted through the Town Clerk


TOWN CLERK

Re: Allotment 117
Windsor Drive.

10/4/24.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Nicolas Chow. I have had up to recently 2 allotments, one at Green Lane which was taken from me 2 years ago, leaving me with just the one above.

I received a letter following an inspection of Windsor Drive in June? last year, complaining that my plot looked messy and unkempt; suggesting it was "too much for me", and proposing a division in 2.

I wrote back explaining my unorthodox growing methods and saying that a division in 2 would not work for me.

I use a no dig broadcast seeding ~~tech~~ technique, which lacks straight lines, but is very productive - I have documented my harvests every time since.

I invited her to make an appointment to view the work with me so that I could show her about and explain my methods.

I never heard back.

Last week, being still away, I asked a friend to go down with £30 for the annual fee as I had not had the

... .. letter to the fee

He was told that the allotment had been taken away from me in July last year and that there was "nothing that could be done further"!

I am accordingly requesting a Judicial Review of this case, as up till now I have been regularly tending to it, blissfully unaware that my contract had been terminated!

I am personally very upset about this, as I have worked very hard on improving the soil quality to it's now ripe fertility.

For the time being I shall continue to tend my plants that are there, whilst I await your response in writing.

Yours Sincerely
RD

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN 2024-25

Meeting Date	Task	Task Decision	Further actions	Task RAG
21 May 2024	Agree Chair			
	Agree Vice Chair			
	Look at the role of associated working parties			
	Crammer Consultation Day			
	Festival Cups			
16 July 2024	Review Strategic Plan objectives			
	Review Crammer Project			
10 September 2024	Receive updates from Sustainability officer			
	Review 2025 Tree Planting Plans			
5 November 2024				
7 January 2025				
4 March 2025				
29 April 2025				