

LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

19.30 Monday 29th March 2021

Held remotely by video conferencing

Present:

Mr C James (Chairman)

Ms L Anderson

Ms C Fagg

Mr M Harris

Ms S Hardingham

Mr P Jackson

Ms L Lansley

Ms R McAllister Kemp

Mr S McQuillan (NSC Cllr)

Ms Jane Purkiss

Absent:

Mr A Johnson

Mr O Lloyd-Jones

Also in attendance – The Clerk: Mr S Jacobs-Lange and two members of the public.

Public Participation

Two residents raised concerns about the impact of Bristol's proposed Clean Air Zone (CAZ) on Long Ashton.

Environment Committee Meeting

E21.015 Apologies for absence

Cllr's Cave and Wilkinson sent their apologies.

E21.016 Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

There were no interests declared and no dispensations requested.

E21.017 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings of the Environment Committee held on the 25th January 2021 (previously circulated) were confirmed as a correct record. Minutes to be signed by Cttee Chairman Cllr James. LGA 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 41(1).

E21.018 Exclusion of the press and public

There were no matters which required the exclusion of the press and public.

E21.019 Chair's Comments

No matters raised.

E21.020 Matters arising:

The Chairman referred to report dated 25th January 2021 from Cllr McQuillan.

- a) HB20.019c. Yanley Lane traffic:
 Cllr McQuillan updated the meeting following a meeting with NS Highways Engineers to look at the crossing of Festival Way and Yanley Lane. The priority system suggested by the PC was looked into. Whilst potentially feasible, further work is needed to investigate impact of weight of the new road surface on the bridge. **Cllr McQuillan to progress.**
- b) HB20.019g. Estune Business Park parking:
 The Clerk updated following a discussion with local PCSOs who were monitoring the situation to promote more considerate parking. Unless parking contravenes local regulations there's no real enforcement option.
- c) HB20.020c Dawsons Walk
 The Clerk updated that no further response has been received from Green Belt (management company) since contact had been made from various Cllrs and colleagues at NSC.
Cllr James to liaise with Clerk to consider escalation options – potentially including local MP.
- d) HB20.021a Peel Park
 Cllr Fagg updated the meeting about her correspondence with NSC confirming the PC's funding and for work to go ahead. No confirmation had been received from NSC about a date for work to start but Cllr Fagg will continue to pursue and update.
- e) B3128 Junction with Cumberland Basin
 Cllr Fagg updated the meeting about contact she'd made with NSC Highways following a letter from a local resident. A response had been received explaining that the suggestion wasn't possible due to the location of the bus lane. Cllr Fagg has asked NSC if they have any other suggestions to improve road safety at that location but to date has received no response.
- f) E21.007c Durnford Quarry
 The Clerk updated the meeting about the recent PC Liaison meeting with Durnford Quarry. This included plans to improve the wheel wash – expected by Sept 21, new road layout measures now operational within the site to reduce need for lorries to enter the excavated areas – thus reducing build-up on mud on wheels, road safety improvements planned for the junction of the B3128 and Providence Lane (expected June 21). Further liaison meetings are possible and the quarry welcome a visit by Cllrs to see the new Wheel Wash when it's been installed.
 The Quarry operators are also keen for residents to report details of any lorries driving without due care and attention – if number plates can be obtained this will help the quarry to issue warnings which they advise they're very pro-actively following-up.
- g) E21.007c – Grit Bins
 The Clerk updated the meeting that two damaged bins have been ordered and a further location at Perry Road is being investigated as a site for a new grit bin.

- h) E21.008c – Replacement Timber at Chancellor’s Park
The replacement timber has now been installed.
- i) E21.009a – Gardener’s Proposal for Burial Ground
The Clerk updated following a meeting on site with Lisa Nunn, a member of the Biodiversity Working Group and the council’s contractor to check feasibility of the proposed planting ideas which included a major bulk-planting activity starting in Autumn. A suitable area of currently unused land was identified for this to take place.
- j) E21.011 – Purchase of planters on Weston Road
There was no action on this item – this was included in error.
- k) E21.011a – Abandoned van at Theynes Croft Car Park
The Clerk updated that following an intervention from the local police the van has since been removed.
- l) E21.012b – New street litter bin by War Memorial
The Clerk updated that he has met with NSC on site to agree a suitable location which will be adjacent to the bus stop. NSC now undertaking enquiries with utilities to check for any underground services before approval can be given.
- m) E21.012c – Replacement Dog Bins at various locations
The Clerk advised that orders for four replacement bins have been placed along with one repair.

E21.021 Biodiversity and Public Open Spaces

a. Biodiversity Working Group update

Cllr Anderson updated the meeting and shared a report detailing proposals for:

- A wildflower bank and fruit trees in Peel Park
- ‘One Garden at a Time’ initiative

Further work is necessary to prepare the ground at Peel Park including Soil Samples required before planting can take place.

Volunteers are sought to help sow seeds and carry out tree planting at Peel Park. Rotavating was agreed to be an unsuitable voluntary project given the slope involved. John Flanagan at NSC may be able to supply existing Risk Assessment and have details of volunteers in place for similar projects elsewhere in the district.

The location for proposed fruit trees will be supplied to LACA as managers of the site.

It was agreed to leave planting until Autumn to provide enough time for all the preparatory work and volunteer recruitment to be done and to focus on the ‘One Garden at a Time’ initiative.

Cllr Lansley to speak with Sally-Ann Tarsey (LACA) about changes to the way the northern bank at Peel Park is managed to support greater biodiversity and ensure all new planting is considered in the wider management regime.

Stuart McQuillan suggested holding back until Autumn may also provide an opportunity to link with NSC’s Tree Planting programme.

Cllr Fagg updated some other Biodiversity opportunities to link work at Fenswood Farm with local group 'LANCAT' (previously Friends of Fenswood Farm) who also aim to plant more wildflowers in the area.

The Clerk confirmed that any volunteering activities involved in a PC project would need to register their details using a Volunteer Form and supply a suitable Risk Assessment. The Clerk offered support on this.

It was RESOLVED to delay launching a volunteering project to plant wildflower seeds in Peel Park until Autumn; and, to progress work to obtain fruit trees for planting in Peel Park.

Details of tree varieties and dates required to be provided by the Biodiversity Working Group to The Clerk in due course.

It was RESOLVED to progress work on the 'One garden at a time' project.

Members of the Biodiversity Working Group will continue to participate in the Community Engagement Working Group.

The Biodiversity Working Group was thanked for developing these firm proposals and will now work up a Terms of Reference to be considered at a future meeting.

b. Green Infrastructure Strategy

Cllrs discussed the strategy and felt the process offered few clear opportunities to feed in specific details. Further thoughts/ suggestions to be sent to Stuart McQuillan.

E21.022 Parks and Play Areas

a. The Clerk updated that the repairs to Chancellor's Park had been completed and a part required to repair netting at Kings Croft had been provided – a repair was being arranged.

Gardeners Walk – the new sign for the playing area had been ordered. It was noted that at times after school significant crowds were seen in the park. Messages have been placed on social media and a banner is located in the area to remind people of the need to socially distance.

b. Cllr James enquired about further funds available to purchase an additional item of play equipment for Chancellors Park. Consideration of a wider consultation about play provision in Long Ashton was discussed. Cllr Hardingham confirmed that Chancellors Park was designated as a LEAP (Locally-equipped Area for Play) and whilst some s106 funds remained in the council's budget, this funding will also need to cover maintenance and renewal in the two Taylor Wimpey housing areas (Kings Croft and Perry Road). Cllr James to investigate external funding opportunities.

It was RESOLVED to develop a scoping study to understand the current and emerging expectations of play areas across Long Ashton. Cllr James will take this action forward.

E21.023 Long Ashton Burial Ground and Closed Churchyard

The Clerk shared information about a headstone with a non-approved embellishment showing an image of the deceased – images of the deceased aren't allowed on headstones in the Burial Ground. The Clerk has spoken with the Funeral Director and reached an understanding that when the

surviving partner (who is of advanced years) passes away, the embellishment will be removed.

Cllr Fagg suggested we reviewed our policies to ensure we're aware of changing expectations in society about burials and offered to investigate for discussion at a future date.

It was RESOLVED to allow the embellishment to remain until the surviving partner passes and at that time, the funeral director would oversee its removal.

This is to be seen as a pragmatic way to resolve this particular issue and doesn't signal any change in the council's policy of not allowing images of the deceased to be included or added to any memorial stone or plaque within the Burial Ground.

E21.024 Footpaths and Cycleways

Cllr Fagg updated the committee about the work of the Footpaths User Group and a report was shared with three key areas of focus:

- a. Improving access for less-mobile people including identification of some practical improvements that could be made.
- b. Maintenance of the footpaths network – a future meeting is being held with NSC Footpaths Team.
- c. Extending the network and mapping lost paths – Kester Harris is developing this and linking with neighbouring parishes.

Cllrs and Members of the Public are invited to join this group.

E21.025 Community Speedwatch

- a. Stuart McQuillan updated the Committee about work progressing to begin this project very soon. Three sites have been agreed with the police including the 20mph zone outside of Piccolos.
- b. Cllr James advised the school speed awareness project is currently on hold.
- c. Cllr Fagg updated input into NSC's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan, identifying key priorities and recommendations which were shared in a report with the Committee:
 - a. Improving safety on the road crossings on the Festival Way. Lots of progress already made on this priority thanks to work done by Sustrans and Stuart McQuillan.
 - b. Clear the footpath from the cattle-bridge on the Festival Way to provide a safe route to the Park & Ride. The PC should prioritise work on this objective.
 - c. Create a footpath linking Ashton Hill Woods to Tyntesfield. Wraxall and Failand PC also identified this as a priority but it was felt useful that LAPC continues to engage to help ensure this objective is achieved.
 - d. Improve road safety at Kingscott Mill Park Homes. At present there doesn't appear to be a straightforward solution to this problem.
 - e. Designate the track crossing Yanley Quarry landfill site as a PRoW. This could be achieved at no cost to the council.
 - f. Provide a safe crossing from Long Ashton to Ashton Court. The recommendation was that this scheme wasn't achievable at this time.

- g. Two additional schemes proposed by Mr Ives that would benefit the village were also discussed:
 - i. A DMMO108 order for a path around the cricket pitch – the PC has adopted this idea; work is needed to progress this. Taylor Wimpey are the landowners who do not appear to be engaging with this idea at present.
 - ii. The steps in Hanging Wood need repairing. Churngold are the landowner of this site and have recently been taken over by an American company and aren't yet aware of the site.

Stuart McQuillan suggested making contact with a resident who was active in the North Somerset cycle forum regarding the Park and Ride link.

- d. Cllr James proposed a project to install 2 x 1000mm (width) x 750mm (height) planters at the entrance of Hollis Close to improve road safety, especially for children and parents walking to the nearby school. The cost of these planters would be approx. £900 plus soil & plants – overall budget of £1200.

It was RESOLVED to proceed with the purchase of the two planters subject to the outcome of a consultation yet to be carried out.

Purchasing of the planters would be delegated to Cllr James, Cllr Anderson and The Clerk.

The council would need to approach NSC to reinstate the zig-zags at the entrance.

A thorough consultation will first be carried out in the local area which should be widely publicised. Stuart McQuillan to lead on carrying out the consultation with support from Cllr James and Cllr McAllister-Kemp. Stuart McQuillan also advised that the planters should be delivered to the NSC depot to have road signs affixed and for a Highways Engineer to oversee their installation.

E21.026 Kingcott Mill Farm Road Safety

Cllr's Fagg and Lansley updated the Committee about a meeting they'd had with residents at Kingcott Mill Farm.

NSC have advised that no cost-effective solution for improving road safety at this location had been identified during previous meetings to discuss the issue. It has been suggested that residents use the field along this particular stretch and a conversation with the landowner and the local Residents; Association was apparently underway. An update will be sought from Cllr Cave to clarify options.

E21.027 Bristol's Clean Air Zone (CAZ)

The meeting was suspended at this point to allow two members of the public to participate on this item.

Cllr Harris confirmed the impact of Bristol's proposed CAZ would have a significant impact on Long Ashton, Leigh Woods and surrounding communities, including areas of south Bristol. It didn't seem to make sense to include the Cumberland Basin in the CAZ which would result in diverting a lot of traffic from major trunk roads such as the Portway, onto smaller roads. Stuart McQuillan advised the Committee about concerns raised by NSC with Bristol City Council. Liam Fox MP has written to the minister (Rebecca Pow)

raising concerns, along with the leader of North Somerset Council, Donald Davies. Stuart McQuillan offered to share the letter that had been written by Barrow Gurney with the PC.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr's Fagg and Harris meet with The Clerk and agree a letter to send to Bristol City Council, Liam Fox MP, Rebecca Pow MP and Donald Davies to register our objections to the CAZ.

E21.028 50mph Speed Limit on Weston Road

It was RESOLVED that Cllr James contacts James Dawson at NSC to raise the issue and report back any the options available.

E21.029 Village Enhancement Schemes

Cllr Hardingham shared a report and encouraged the re-establishment of the VES Working Group to take outstanding projects forward.

Cllr Harris advised that some delays to the project to improve the current parking situation in Leigh Woods had been detected. Cllr's Cartman and Johnson were both pursuing this with NSC. More temporary Double Yellow lines were being painted by NSC to address particular hotspots for poor parking – in advance of the main scheme that is expected later this year.

E21.030 Pollution, Recycling and Waste

a. Electric Vehicle Charging Points Consultation.

The Clerk updated the Committee about promotional work that had been done by the PC to encourage residents to engage with this. LACA had also engaged to suggest the Community Centre as a potential location.

b. Waste and Recycling.

Stuart McQuillan updated the meeting about NSC's changes to their waste and recycling services – the contract has been taken over by the council's in-house waste company, but residents should continue to put their waste and recycling out for collection in the usual way.

E21.031 Community Engagement and Volunteering

a. Maps of Meaning.

Cllr McAllister-Kemp updated an idea being progressed by the CEWG to develop on project called 'maps of meaning' whereby residents will be able to engage with a process to add detail to an emerging map of the parish, identifying assets and information that's meaningful to them.

b. Volunteer litter-picking activities.

There are plans underway to develop and support community litter picks and engage with NSC's Adopt a Street programme.

For PC-led activities, volunteers will be required to register their details if not already registered.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr McAllister-Kemp will lead on organising a litter-picking activity in the coming months.

c. Noticeboards.

Cllr McAllister-Kemp shared a report with recommendations to repair and replace noticeboards in the parish and install new noticeboards at other locations where there were none – further consultation with residents will be carried out first.

It was RESOLVED in principle to take forward the report's recommendations and delegate the project (including prioritisation)

to The Clerk, Cllr McAllister-Kemp and Cllr James with a budget of £1500 (using Village Enhancement EMR)

E21.032 Correspondence

a. Birches Farm.

Any issues with PRow would need to be notified to Elaine Bowman at NSC. Cllr James to discuss with Elaine Bowman.

b. Brook Close

Encroachment of hedgerow onto footpath. Land is owned by Barratts. Responsibility is with landowner. The Clerk to follow up with Elaine Bowman at NSC to ensure they're aware of the issue.

c. 20's Plenty Campaign for NS. Cllr Fagg has written in support of this.

d. Leigh Woods car-parking.

It was felt this correspondence added weight to the scheme that's been prepared and is waiting to be implemented.

The Clerk to write to Mark Cannaford at NSC requesting an update of the scheme that can be shared with the wider community.

e. LA Together introduced their proposal to take forward a project to paint a mural in the council's Bus Stop by the Little Tipple.

It was RESOLVED to support this activity in principle, provided that the activity's organisers and artist/s can fulfil the necessary safeguarding requirements (including DBS for paid workers and organisers). The organisers should submit evidence of this in a Risk Assessment, along with a project plan and insurance details to The Clerk for approval in advance of the project commencing.

Date of next meeting – Monday 24th May 2021.

At 22:13 hours, the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.