

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on
Wednesday, 9th June, 2021 at 4.30 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall,
Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

PRESENT: Councillor C Sampson (Chair)
Councillors C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, S Collop, M de Whalley, I Devereux,
A Holmes, A Kemp, J Kirk, J Lowe, J Rust, S Squire and M Wilkinson

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor S Sandell – People and Communities

Members attending under Standing Order 34:

Councillors A Holmes and J Rust

Officers:

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director/Management Team
Representative

Alan Gomm – Planning Policy Manager

David Robson – Environmental Health Manager

Henry Saunders – Climate Change Officer

Mark Whitmore – Principal Environmental Health Officer

EC1: APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

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The Chair invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Panel for the forthcoming year.

Councillor de Whalley seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilkinson proposed Councillor Squire.

Councillor Kirk seconded by Councillor Bubb proposed Councillor Mrs C Bower.

On the vote being taken for each nomination, Councillor Mrs Bower was approved Vice Chair on the Chair's casting vote for the forthcoming year.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mrs C Bower be appointed Vice Chair for the forthcoming year.

EC2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

EC3: MINUTES

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RESOLVED: The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

EC4: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EC5: URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

EC6: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34

Councillor A Holmes and J Rust were present under Standing Order 34.

EC7: CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

EC8: APPOINTMENTS TO TASK GROUPS AND INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

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RESOLVED: 1) That the Homelessness and Housing Delivery Task Group continued to operate and the Democratic Services Officer be instructed to seek Membership of the Task Group from the Group Leaders for the 2021/2022 municipal year.

2) Membership of the Informal Working Groups to continue as per the current membership.

EC9: NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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RESOLVED: The following Councillors were nominated to participate in the outside bodies set out below:

Borough Council Council/College of West Anglia Liaison Board (1 representative) – Councillor J Lowe

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee (3 representatives) –
Councillors Bubb, de Whalley and Kemp

Norfolk County Council – Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel (1 representative and substitute)

Representative – Councillor A Kemp
Substitute – Councillor A Bubb

West Norfolk Community Transport Project (1 representative) –
A new representative to be appointed.

King's Lynn Football Club Board (observer) – Democratic Services to contact Mr P Bland to ascertain if he wished to continue the role as observer.

EC10: **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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Councillor A Bubb on behalf of the Climate Change Information Working Group addressed the Panel and provided an overview of the work which had been undertaken to date.

The Panel received a presentation from the Environmental Health Manager and Climate Change Officer. Officers responded to questions and comments, a summary of which is set out below:

- Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.
- Importance of public interest and being as open and transparent as possible.
- Concerns in relation to district emissions – industrial and commercial, peat area, some housing provision not being energy efficient, woodland areas, fuel poverty.
- Phase 2 to be developed as soon as possible in order to receive funding.

Councillor de Whalley commended the Council and officers for the work which had been undertaken to date.

Councillor J Rust addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34.

The Environmental Services Manager highlighted the document was currently in draft format. Members were invited to forward any comments to the Environmental Services Manager which would be considered by the Council.

The Chair thanked officers for the presentation.

RESOLVED: That the Panel considered the Strategy and Action Plan.

EC11: **URBAN WILDLIFE**

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The Panel received a presentation from Councillor Bullen (copy attached).

Councillor Bullen proposed:

- That the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk adopt a formal policy of encouraging and supporting urban wildlife for the benefit of residents and wildlife.
- As lead developer the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk take the initiative to install swift, bee bricks and bat boxes in Borough Council property and developments and install "hedgehog highways."

The Panel supported the above proposal.

The Chair thanked Councillor Bullen for his presentation.

RESOLVED: 1) An Informal Working Group be established to look at this subject in more detail and report back to the Environment and Community Panel in August.

2) Consider the Terms of Reference for the Informal Working Group.

3) Members interested in participating in the Informal Working Group to inform the Chair and Democratic Services via email.

EC12: **HOUSING STANDARDS UPDATE**

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The Principal Environmental Health Officer presented the report and responded to questions and comments in relation to:

- Housing – energy efficiency.
- Compliant electricity safety certificates.

The Chair thanked the Principal Environmental Health Officer for providing an update.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EC13: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

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The following items were suggested for the future work programme to be considered at the next sifting meeting:

- Tidal Rivers Quarterly Bathymetric Survey Overview.
- Chalk Streams.
- EA Future of the Fens Study Phase 1.
- Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Assistance to sufferers of domestic abuse.
- Modern slavery.

RESOLVED: The items listed above would be discussed at the next sifting meeting.

EC14: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel would be held on 13 July 2021.

The meeting closed at 6.12 pm