



Agenda

Clean & Green Committee

Monday, 26 June 2023 at 7.00 pm
Council Chamber, Brentwood Borough Council, Ingrave Road,
Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY

Membership (Quorum – 3)

Cllrs Aspinell (Chair), Mrs Fulcher (Vice-Chair), Barber, Dr Barrett, Naylor, Reed, Russell, Wiles and Worsfold

Substitute Members

Cllrs Barrett, Gorton, McCheyne, Munden and Mrs Pound

Agenda

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Live broadcast

[Live broadcast to start at 7pm and available for repeat viewing.](#)

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| 1. | Apologies for absence | | |
| 2. | Minutes of the Community, Environment & Enforcement Committee held on the 13th March 2023 | | 5 - 8 |
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Jonathan Stephenson
Chief Executive

Town Hall
Brentwood, Essex
16.06.2023

Information for Members

Substitutes

The names of substitutes shall be announced at the start of the meeting by the Chair and the substitution shall cease at the end of the meeting.

Where substitution is permitted, substitutes for quasi judicial/regulatory committees must be drawn from Members who have received training in quasi- judicial/regulatory decision making. If a casual vacancy occurs on a quasi judicial/regulatory committee it will not be filled until the nominated member has been trained.

Rights to Attend and Speak

Any Members may attend any Committee to which these procedure rules apply.

A Member who is not a member of the Committee may speak at the meeting. The Member may speak at the Chair's discretion, it being the expectation that a Member will be allowed to speak on a ward matter.

Members requiring further information, or with specific questions, are asked to raise these with the appropriate officer at least two working days before the meeting.

Point of Order/ Personal explanation/ Point of Information

Point of Order

A member may raise a point of order at any time. The Mayor will hear them immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Procedure Rules or the law. The Member must indicate the rule or law and the way in which they consider it has been broken. The ruling of the Mayor on the point of order will be final.

Personal Explanation

A member may make a personal explanation at any time. A personal explanation must relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate, or outside of the meeting. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

Point of Information or clarification

A point of information or clarification must relate to the matter being debated. If a Member wishes to raise a point of information, he/she must first seek the permission of the Mayor. The Member must specify the nature of the information he/she wishes to provide and its importance to the current debate. If the Mayor gives his/her permission, the Member will give the additional information succinctly. Points of Information or clarification should be used in exceptional circumstances and should not be used to interrupt other speakers or to make a further speech when he/she has already spoken during the debate. The ruling of the Mayor on the admissibility of a point of information or clarification will be final.

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If you wish to record the proceedings of a meeting and have any special requirements or are intending to bring in large equipment then please contact the Communications Team before the meeting.

The use of flash photography or additional lighting may be allowed provided it has been discussed prior to the meeting and agreement reached to ensure that it will not disrupt proceedings.

The Chair of the meeting may terminate or suspend filming, photography, recording and use of social media if any of

these activities, in their opinion, are disrupting proceedings at the meeting.

 **Private Session**

Occasionally meetings will need to discuss some of its business in private. This can only happen on a limited range of issues, which are set by law. When a Committee does so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

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 **Evacuation Procedures**

Evacuate the building using the nearest available exit and congregate at the assembly point in the Car Park.



Minutes

Community, Environment & Enforcement Committee Monday, 13th March, 2023

Attendance

Cllr Russell (Chair)	Cllr Laplain
Cllr Gelderbloem (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Naylor
Cllr Aspinell	Cllr Slade
Cllr Barber	Cllr Reed
Cllr Dr Barrett	

Apologies

Substitute Present

Also Present

Officers Present

Marcus Hotten	- Director - Environment
Kim Anderson	- Corporate Manager Communities, Leisure & Health
Jonathan Woodhams	- Corporate Manager, Community Safety
Claire Mayhew	- Corporate Manager (Democratic Services) and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Zoe Borman	- Governance and Member Support Officer

389. Apologies for Absence

No apologies had been received.

390. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the last Community, Environment & Enforcement Committee were agreed as a true record.

Cllr Russell **MOVED** and Cllr Gelderbloem **SECONDED** a motion to vary the order of the agenda to hear Item 4, Axis Presentation, before Item 3. This was agreed by Members.

391. Axis Presentation

Ms Kellie Turner and Mr Eamon O'Donnell attended the meeting on behalf of Axis. They presented to Members an overview of the community investment programme delivered in partnership with the Council over the past year, 2022-23. This summarised what had been achieved in areas such as Employment, Education and Training; Community Projects and Funding Support.

Members thanked Axis for the presentation.

392. Year in review

This presentation provided Members the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved by this Committee for the municipal year 2022-23. This is keeping in line with Council's Corporate Strategy 2021-2025.

The presentation was given by senior officers, Kim Anderson, Jonathan Woodhams and Marcus Hotten each highlighting their particular service areas.

Members thanked officers for their hard work.

Following discussion, and as suggested by the Chair, an appetite was shown by Members to visit King Georges Playing Fields and also to visit the newly renovated Control Room within the Town Hall.

393. Chairs Update

Cllr Barber requested a delivery timetable for the EV charges in car parks in Shenfield and Ingatestone areas. Marcus Hotten advised he would provide the information outside of the meeting.

Following a full discussion Members noted the report.

394. Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2023-2026

Brentwood Borough Council's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures provides guidance and procedures that can support staff and elected Members on their legal obligations to safeguard children, young people and adults with care and

support needs. The purpose of the Council's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2023-26 is to provide guidance to employees, volunteers and elected Members of Brentwood Borough Council on their legal obligations to safeguard Children, Young People and Adults with Care and Support Needs and what to do if they have any safeguarding concerns.

Mrs Kim Anderson summarised the report.

Officers ensured further Safeguarding training was being offered to all Members later this year.

Following discussion, Cllr Russell **MOVED** and Cllr Laplain **SECONDED** the recommendations in the report.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED** to:

Agree to the revised Safeguarding Policy and Procedures 2023-26 for Children, Young People and Adults with Care and Support Needs.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (Appendix A) has been reviewed and revised to take into account any new legislation and any emerging issues, so that the Council can meet its safeguarding obligations and ensures that all staff, members and the public are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, and that they can access appropriate support services if and when required.

395. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance and support.

The meeting concluded at 21:00

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COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Chairs Update
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager – Communities, Leisure & Health

This report provides an update to Members in relations to the areas covered under the Terms of Reference of the Clean & Green Committee.

Brentwood Centre

A specification is currently underway for solar panels and thermal tubes to go on the roof of the Brentwood Centre, this is to determine what the Council is able to put on the roof (weight and size implications)). Once that has been finalised then it will go out to tender.

Football Hub

Any new developments including the Football Hub will need to comply with the new BREEAM (Building Research establishment Environmental Assessment Method) requirements as set out in the new Local Development Plan. The BREEAM assessment undertaken by a third party and provides a certified standard to help improve asset performance at every stage, from design through construction, to use and refurbishment.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

Essex County Council and their consultants WSP consultants plan to have a map of the to be ready for public consultation which officers are having a final say on this week for both walking and cycling route improvements. This concentrated on Brentwood and Shenfield areas only. Public consultation scheduled to launch at the end of June.

And will be between 4 weeks or 6 weeks consultation period. After this period the public comments will be taken into consideration for the final map with the priority routes.

In addition, Essex County Council are looking ECC are looking a County wide map to pick up the rural locations which is due to be completed this year.

Environment Strategy

At present the Environment Strategy sets out how the Council can influence actions and outcomes to achieving carbon neutral across the Borough by 2050. Officers intend to develop a further action-plan, a Carbon Reduction Plan, with a greater level of detail setting out how the Council will specifically achieve net zero by 2040, for approval by the Clean and Green (previously referred to as the Community Environment and Enforcement) Committee later, in 2023.

The Council has only recently approved its Environment Strategy and it is acknowledged that more needs to be done to embed the strategy and work on underlying action plans and actions. An independent review of the approach has identified some areas for improvement, mostly focused on the need for improved communications and action planning. These will assist in strengthening the monitoring of the agreed actions and support achievement of the Council's objectives and targets in relation to climate change and carbon reduction.

A key recommendation was that the Council should consider establishing a climate sub-committee which receives reports on a quarterly basis on the progress made against actions within the action plan. This climate sub-committee should report into the Environment Committee and Council on progress made against the strategy, and the reduction in carbon emissions.

It is proposed that a Climate Emergency Sub-Committee will be established as set out above to take forward three key pieces of work: The current Environment Strategy, the specific Carbon Reduction Plan for the Council, and the recommendations as set out in the independent audit review.

Tree Planting

Planting schemes were previously brought to the December 2023 Committee setting out the proposed planting of approximately 14,500 trees in Open Spaces & Country Parks through the Trees for Climate fund; and a further 167 larger trees, through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, to provide instant impact in the urban street setting.

These trees were successfully planted as per the scheme, with work now concentrating upon mulching and weed control, so as to provide the greater opportunity for establishment. A contractor has been secured to provide the watering of the street trees, on a as and when required basis. Officers have also reached out to parish councils and local community groups to offer the opportunity to 'adopt a tree' through volunteering to undertake the regular watering of the tree. However, the default position will be the use of a contractor for tree-watering, should such an offer not be taken up.

EV Chargers

Believ (the trading name of Liberty Charge) will be seeking planning permission for the EV chargers, planning is expected to be submitted by no later than 23rd June. The requirement for planning permissions is due to the size of the charging points at King Georges and Chatham Way and the fact that the points will be within 2m of the Highway at Chatham Way. Due to the need for planning the proposed earliest timeframe for installation is going to be September this year depending on when planning permission is granted.

Both Car parks will have two fast and two rapid chargers installed. There are also 4 charging points proposed for the visitor's car park at the Town Hall the Council needs to balance the need for visitor parking for those using the services from the Town Hall and installing electric vehicle charging. Legals are progressing on the proposed charging points for the town hall.

Community Safety & Partnership

Community Safety- Engagement/Campaigns/Projects

The Baker Partnership Hub

The HUB continues to thrive and be a productive and innovative environment for Essex Police Community Policing Team to work alongside Council's Community Safety team and wider community safety partners such as Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Probation, NHW, Crime Stoppers, SEPP, and Youth Services as well as many more. We will soon be joined by Phoenix who will be providing outreach for drug and alcohol abuse.

This has greatly improved our already healthy partnership with daily communication between the agencies which has already resulted in quicker results such as closure orders and dealing with community safety issues immediately; we recently planned our joint operations with police to patrol Brentwood's half marathon and assisted in both police and Council obtaining legal orders to curb anti-social behaviour and manage repeat offenders. It also enables us to continue to have the following regular meetings between partners:

- Weekly Community Safety Intelligence and Tasking
- Daily Police Briefings
- Biweekly ASB and CCTV project meetings
- Monthly ASB partnership meetings
- Ad Hoc case review meetings
- Partnership engagement and ops planning

These partnership meetings have resulted in better/productive use of available resources, an improved intelligence product identifying hot spots, repeat offenders, times of offences and emerging community safety trends and issues, improved use of CCTV and camera positioning, improved regular community engagement, improved communications on individual cases between agencies, prompter and more accurate responses to victims and more accurate risk assessments.

We plan to hold some interactive workshops with members in our HUB in the next twelve months to further illustrate the success of the HUIB and the benefit partnership working is having for our community.



Comms

We have progressed our recent comms campaign to increase Community Safety profile on social media and highlight to our community a lot of the work we do on a daily/ weekly basis. This has already incorporated Community Safety, Anti Socai

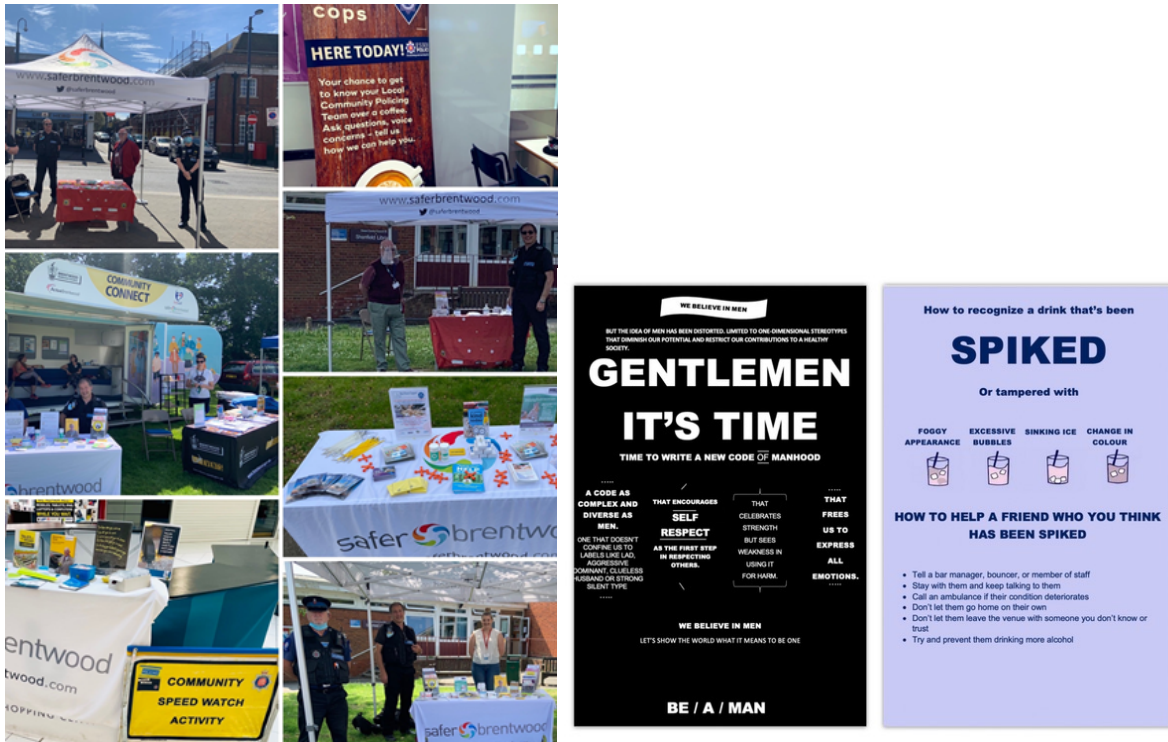
Behaviour, Community Engagement and Enforcement coordinating with Essex police comms team on this to showcase our partnership working including joint events and joint patrols in hot spot areas. We have now produced comms on social media with South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) to highlight our efforts to address unlawful parking and promote the work we are doing to address Community Safety Partnership priorities such as Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), White Ribbon and anti drink spiking. This campaign continues to meet with great success and we hope to produce more in details comms pieces such as ‘a day in the life’ of a Community Safety Officer and maps of our patrol routes in the next twelve months.

We are also working to produce a members newsletter which will be a regular newsletter highlighting and updating the work of Community Safety including partnership working with police, HUB activities, CCTV, ASB, Community Engagement and Enforcement.

Community Engagement

The partnership has continued to deliver as many community engagement events across the borough and wider Essex where possible. Since April 2022, 65 events have been delivered. Another area of focus for the partnership is linking in with local, regional, and national campaigns including:

- Ending Violence Against Women
- Assisting Essex police with their ‘Walk with Us’ initiative at transport hubs during rush hour
- Anti-spiking events with police in and around our night-time economies
- White Ribbon Day- Engaging with men and boys to end violence against women
- National Road Safety Week
- Project Edward – European Day without a road death



Projects

Through the CSP the Community Safety team remain committed to tackling key issues for Brentwood by focussing on specific projects such as working closely with local schools and facilitate and Chair the Schools Liaison Meeting every month. This includes representatives from all local secondary schools as well as Essex Police, ECC (Essex County Council) Youth Service, and other community agencies. Through this group excellent relationships have been formed and go from strength to strength improving communication and collaboration.

Projects being delivered include:

- Purchasing two electric bikes for police and community safety to conduct joint patrols across the borough
- Project Minerva - PFCC Initiative to work with police data and identify hot spots where offences against women and girls are identified and implement partnership action plans to reduce reported offences.
- Mentoring Sessions for young people to help with communication, personal development and to work on behaviours, vulnerabilities, consequences and self esteem

- Outreach work in hotspot areas to engage with young people
- N-Act Theatre performances for all schools. 'Friend' is a play about gangs, county lines, knife crime and consequences
- 'Unacceptable' performance on peer-on-peer behaviour and awareness around sexism, sexual harassment and sexual violence isn't acceptable
- Crime awareness sessions delivered in schools around drugs, gangs, and knife crime
- Boxing project established in the Brentwood Centre for young people
- Speedwatch has been revamped with a new dedicated website and email, greater focus on delivering services and improved communications across Essex. This will still be co-ordinated by the Community Safety team & volunteers. Whilst this scheme is primarily to target speeding drivers it is also a very visible presence in a locality which can only help to assist with discouraging burglars.
- The Essex Restorative and Mediation Service holds offenders to account and helps them take responsibility for the harm they have caused. Victims are given the chance to explain the impact the crime or conflict has had on them, ask questions of the perpetrator, and seek an apology.
- Seasonal Burglary Operation - The partnership has previously been involved in targeting and preventing the seasonal increase in burglaries that occurs across the whole county over the Winter months and will do so again this year.
- Operation Insight consists of a system of analysis and the deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. Intelligence is shared with partners and the Council's Community Safety team then disseminate to other departments within the Council to make sure staff are aware and can factor this information into their regular patrols, visits, and work schedule etc.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

We continue to receive reports and cases of Anti-Social Behaviour, but these have reduced slightly in the last few months which could be a result of the ASB officer working from the Baker Partnership HUB with police CPT; greater sharing of

intelligence, risk assessments and dedicated action plans between police and Community Safety have enabled us to improve our response to reports of anti-social behaviour. We have arranged a monthly partnership meeting in the Baker Partnership HUB to address our highest risk ASB cases with agreed dedicated action plans. We have introduced a new ASB app which is sent to complainants of anti-social behaviour to improve our service to complainants, improve how we collect evidence, improve our communication with complainants and give complainants greater say in the resolving of anti-social behaviour cases.

We have also been using our intel product and weekly intel meetings to arrange and organise patrols and joint patrols with police in ASB hot spot areas. We have also been advertising these patrols and areas using comms via social media

Objectives

- Introduce a new Case Management System to improve reporting and response for residents.
- Work with partners to reduce overall ASB in Brentwood through the HUB and connections with local schools.
- Continue out of hours patrols of the ASB Hotspot areas.

Environmental Enforcement and Patrols

Daily patrols undertaken across the borough dealing with fly tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, early presentation of waste and supporting the wider team where possible. This includes other teams across the Council such as such as Environmental Health, Planning Enforcement and Licensing. We recently successfully caught a fly tipper and the fine of £400 was paid and have since captured another fly tip offender on CCTV with the payment of FPN going to court due to failure to pay. We have successfully installed a solar powered CCTV mast in Navestock to primarily detect and prevent fly tipping which has worked in significantly reducing fly tipping in the immediate locale of this camera. We now want to build on this success and increase our surveillance coverage in the area and at

ither fly tipping hot spots. We have also added littering and fly tipping hot spots to our intel pack to enable us to deploy our environmental resources to these areas, last year National Enforcement Solutions conducted over 7,500 hours of enforcement patrols for littering, fly tipping and commercial waste as highlighted in figures at the end of this report. Community Safety Enforcement conducted 57 patrols with SEPP last year issuing 594 parking PCN's.

Objectives

- To introduce a red route in Brentwood High Street and consider other potential areas. Officers are currently in discussions with SEPP on the route. A report will be presented to a future committee for ratification.
- To maintain a visible presence with Corporate Enforcement, NES, SEPP and Essex Police (including OOHs)
- Improve our surveillance of fly tipping and littering hot spots.
- Install further CCTV in Navestock and at other fly tipping hot spots to address fly tipping
- Joint meetings to address environmental offences in Navestock including representatives from Havering and Epping Forest
- To proactively use CCTV footage to continue to tackle ASB, nuisance and littering in the Town Centre
- Maintain the patrol schedule and feedback to relevant agencies
- Continue to develop promotional material to bring back better engagement with residents and visitors (ASB & Fly tipping)
- Identify further hotspots

CCTV

Following the audit and review of the CCTV service including connectivity, cameras, camera positioning, software and protocols and policies we have already enlarged the current control room by removing the dividing wall, and also creating a monitoring suite

to make us compliant with legislation. We have agreed with a local CCTV supplier and operator to lease half of the enlarged control room and a lease is being drawn up by Assets to this effect. This will still leave us with the extra capacity to offer other social landlords/ agencies to further invest in our control room. This agreement with a local CCTV supplier and operator, and hopefully other local companies/ organisations, increases Brentwood Council's offer of inclusive growth to the community of Brentwood. This service/ offer could also be rolled out to partners outside of the borough.

Working in partnership with the local CCTV supplier and contractor will allow us to invest in new technology to deliver 24/7 operations from a new and improved control room to cover our out of hours functions such as senior fire marshal, police radio, out of hours calls etc without having to look for extra funding. We will be investing in our equipment so that we have automated cameras with analytic capabilities (cameras capable of detecting arson, groups gathering, discarded items, other crimes and ASB etc with a pre-set protocol of required actions to be followed) and new command software. This does not mean any redundancies but will mean new Job Descriptions, a pay raise for existing staff to match the current job market, updating current and expected duties, a new working rota and full staff consultation.

Objectives

- Increased vigilance of areas of high ASB
- Refurbished control room
- New command software
- Analytical capable cameras
- Ability to take on monitoring and control room functions for other parties including other social landlords and private market to generate further revenue
- Offer investment opportunities to other organisations
- Become a cost neutral service to Brentwood and generate own revenue
- Increased use of CCTV for fly tipping and littering

- Work with Essex Police and enforcement team to proactively reduce hotspots
- Continue to deliver and expand surveillance solutions to new and previously unmonitored areas affected by crime / ASB
- To upgrade all equipment including software, connectivity and cameras

Breakdown of FPN's issued by National Enforcement Solutions

Offence	Number of FPN's issued
Alcoholic Drinks	1
Black Bag - Domestic	10
Black Bag - Other	5
Bottle	1
Bottle Top	1
Business DOC FPN	83
Business DOC Notice	140
Cardboard Box	11
Chewing Gum	2
Cigar	3
Cigarette Butt	1176
Coffee Cup	2
Commercial Waste FPN	2
Discarded Food	11
Dog Fouling	3
Fast Food Related	1
Fly Tipping Business	12
Fly Tipping Domestic	83
Household Duty of Care	14
Littering from Vehicles	22
Non-Alcoholic Drinks Related	1
Other Litter	25
Packaging	12
Printed Literature	24
Public Urination	84
Rolled up cigarette	202
Soft Drink Can	1
Total	1932

Community Safety Key Performance Indicator's 2022/23

Month (for year 2022/23)	Joint Out of Hours Patrols	FPN's (Litter and Fly Tipping-NES)	PCN's (Parking -issued by or with Community Safety)	Incidents captured by CCTV	CPW/ CPN's/ Injunctions	AS B Cases	AS B Home Visits	Closure Orders/ Notice Seeking Possession (for ASB)	Community Engagement Days
April	12	123	69	30	1	13	13	0	4
May	8	129	98	35	0	12	22	0	5
June	11	131	48	21	1	14	8	1	4
July	9	151	74	21	3	15	28	2	7
August	4	111	49	41	2	18	9	1	3
Sept	7	120	93	30	1	8	10	0	4
Oct	6	48	41	32	1	6	15	0	6
Nov	13	74	85	39	1	12	13	0	7
December	6	108	37	33	2	9	8	0	1
January	7	261	56	28	0	5	13	1	3
February	9	275	130	30	0	7	9	0	4
March	9	147	53	36	0	8	10	0	6
April	7	83	TBC	37	1	10	7	0	6

May	6	171	TBC	31	2	9	21	0	5
Total	114	1932	594	444	15	14 6	18 6	5	65

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COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Public Conveniences, Brentwood High Street
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out an initial proposal to consider alternative options for the longer-term use of the public conveniences in Brentwood High Street. A further report will be brought back to the Committee setting out the business case for each option.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The current public conveniences located at Brentwood Highstreet, consist of male toilets (4 urinals & two toilets); and female toilets (4 toilets (one with baby changing facilities)). There is also an additional Changing Places unit that benefits from level access to the pavement, whereas the remaining facilities are below pavement level and access via steps down to the toilet lobby.

The public health Act 1936 gives Local Authorities the discretion to provide public toilets, but it imposes no statutory duty to do so.

The toilets have remained closed since February 2023, due to persistent vandalism and antisocial behaviour. Officers are currently undertaking work to make such modest repairs as required to allow them to re-open. However, the toilets are of a design that will continue to attract antisocial behaviour, due to the below ground element to the siting, and a layout that incorporates a large lobby space allowing for congregation of visitors whilst obscured from the adjacent public pavement.

It is proposed that a report will be brought back to this Committee to consider three broad options of service delivery:

- To close the public conveniences without establishing any further provision. Potentially the asset could be sold or leased to a third-party. The closing and sale of the toilets will give the greatest certainty in terms of saving that can be achieved and realising the value of asset. This could clearly have a significant impact on the community.

- To partially close a portion of the public conveniences, rationalising and modernising the current provision – seeking to alleviate, where possible the opportunities for anti-social behaviour that the current design fosters but allowing a proportion of the space to be leased to a third-party for commercial or community use.
- To overhaul and modernise the toilet block in its entirety, seeking to alleviate, where possible the opportunities for anti-social behaviour that the current design fosters. This would aim to secure the current level of provision and access that the residents benefit from.

2.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

This report is for noting and has no financial implications. A further report may well have cost implications and they will be addressed at that stage.

3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

As stated within the report, the public health Act 1936 gives Local Authorities the discretion to provide public toilets, but it imposes no statutory duty to do so.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

None, the report is at this time, effectively setting out the scope of the proposed project.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Consultation with relevant stakeholders will be considered as set out in the report to follow, once the business case for the different options has been established

6.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health
Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful

- b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

Currently the toilets in the High Street have a Changing Places facility which allows disabled adults to be changed. There is another Changing Places facility located within the Town Hall building, but this would only be accessible during the normal opening hours of the building. These facilities are registered on the Changing Places website so any new proposal option that would mean closure will need to bear that in mind.

7.0 ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

Provision of public conveniences more generally may have an impact on the local economy in terms of the visitor experience and footfall. The options identified should be discussed with the council's Economic Development team as part of liaison with High Street businesses and related work.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Marcus Hotten

Title: Director - Environment

Phone: 01277 312500

Email: Marcus.hotten@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

None

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COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Reducing Fly Tipping in the Borough
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director - Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

The report sets out the proposal to explore a range of behavioural interventions developed by Keep Britain Tidy to reduce fly tipping and return with a further report outlines feasibility and resources required.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) imposed duties under section 89(1) and (2) on certain landowners and occupiers to keep specified land clear of litter and refuse.

Under the Act, Brentwood Borough Council are defined as a Principal Litter Authority Council and as such must keep any publicly maintainable highway within the Borough clean and clear of litter and refuse (as far as is practicable). The Council must also keep clear land that is: publicly accessible, and under their direct control; and, open to the air at least on one side.

Fly-tipping is often regarded as one of the top environmental challenges faced by many local authorities in this country. It is a crime, a nuisance and a hazard, with significant costs – both financial and environmental.

Brentwood Borough Council has to this effect, successfully engaged National Enforcement Services (NES) to undertake investigation and enforcement of littering offenses, including fly-tipping. Although the partnership has been successful, the number of fly-tips recorded in the borough, have not witnessed any decrease. This is unfortunately typical of the situation facing England as a whole.

According to the Keep Britain Tidy (2023) around a million fly-tipping incidents are reported in England every year and almost two-thirds of all recorded fly-tips are made up of household waste. Despite resources going into tackling fly-tipping –

education, monitoring, enforcement and removal – incidents of fly-tipping continue to increase.

Keep Britain Tidy is an independent charity with years of experience in gathering insights into specific behaviours to inform a systematic approach to tackling litter and waste issues. Over the past few years, they have conducted extensive research into why people fly-tip and have brought this insight together into a publication; Beyond the Tipping Point: Insights to Tackle Householder Fly-Tipping.

This publication, developed by the Keep Britain Tidy Centre for Social Innovation, examines eight key insights into the behavioural drivers behind householder fly-tipping. Using these research insights, tested targeted 'interventions' were developed – actions for local authorities and other land managers to use with residents to tackle this behaviour head-on and reduce householder fly-tipping.

In 2019, Keep Britain Tidy embarked on the award-winning Better Streets programme, in partnership with Newham Council to tackle the fly-tipping that was blighting their borough and costing them, like local authorities across the country, millions of pounds a year to deal with.

These interventions had some fantastic results with some seeing initial reductions in fly-tipping of at least 64% on average with, crucially, longer-term reductions averaging at least 50% lower than pre-trial levels. Newham has gone on to replicate the approach in other areas of the borough, with two thirds of sites delivering an average 42% reduction in fly-tipping.

Keep Britain Tidy offer a package of support to Local Authorities. It is proposed that a report is brought back to this Committee setting out the approach that is undertaken by Keep Britain Tidy, identifying the suitability of the interventions and the resource that would be required for delivery.

2.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

None.

3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

Local authorities are responsible for investigating, clearing and taking appropriate enforcement action in relation fly-tipping on public land.

Any work undertaken by the Council, either by itself or in partnership will be in line with statutory legal guidance.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

None, the report is currently, effectively setting out the scope of the proposed project.

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

None.

6.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

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The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

7.0 ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

There are no direct economic implications. More generally, the upkeep of a clean and pleasant environment in the borough positively contributes to the local economy.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Marcus Hotten

Title: Director - Environment

Phone: 01277 312500

Email: Marcus.hotten@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

None



COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Re-Wilding Parks & Verges
REPORT OF:	Adam Aldridge, Corporate Manager – Green Spaces (interim)

REPORT SUMMARY

The report sets out the initial proposal to consider relaxing the mowing upon specific verges and open spaces, with a view to returning to the Committee with a more detailed report setting out management options.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Over the past decade, land managers have widely embraced the concept of relaxing mowed areas to promote biodiversity. Research findings consistently indicate that allowing grass and wildflowers to grow longer in these designated areas contributes positively to various environmental aspects. Not only does it enhance carbon absorption, but it also aids in reducing pollution levels and has a significant beneficial effect on wildlife.

Further, by relaxing the mowing regime in targeted areas that maximise wildlife benefit, resource will be freed up to allow additional cuts of more formal amenity areas and parks.

Brentwood Borough Council does not currently have recorded identified areas or a policy dedicated to rewilding, however the implementation of these naturalised areas could be achieved relatively simply.

The first steps will be for officers to identify suitable sites for consideration, where benefits to wildlife will be the greatest, and outline management options for those given areas whereby a 'wilder' approach to maintenance is taken. This list of sites will be presented within the body of a report to this Committee for consideration, later in this municipal year.

The report will also consider the practical implications of altering the grounds maintenance regime, and how these changes are perceived by residents and the

users of the Borough's Open Spaces. The impact of, and communication to park users these changes will be a key element of any finalised plans.

Alternative to No Mow areas

Natural Regeneration within Green Spaces

Natural regeneration, the process by which woodlands naturally establish and regenerate without human intervention, offers significant benefits within Brentwood and promotes ecological resilience and biodiversity.

Natural regeneration allows for the establishment of diverse and healthy ecosystems by enabling native tree species to regenerate and thrive. The absence of human intervention allows for a more natural selection process which leads to the development of diverse and resilient woodland areas that can better withstand diseases, pests, and climate change impacts. Natural regeneration also provides opportunities for the re-establishment of native flora and fauna, creating vital habitats for a wide range of species.

Natural regeneration is cost-effective and sustainable. Unlike artificial planting methods, which require significant resources, natural regeneration relies on the inherent regenerative capacity of the land. It reduces the need for manual tree planting and associated costs, such as whips, labour, and maintenance.

Creation of Woodland within Green Spaces

Woodland planting using whips offers numerous benefits for both the environment and society. Firstly, it plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change. Woodlands act as carbon sinks, absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. By planting whips, which are young, flexible tree seedlings, landowners can establish new woodlands and enhance existing ones. As these trees grow, they continue to capture carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help to combat global warming.

Secondly, woodland planting provides essential habitats for wildlife. Whips planted in woodlands create a diverse ecosystem that supports a wide range of flora and fauna. Trees offer nesting sites and shelter for birds, mammals, and insects, while the undergrowth provides cover and food for smaller creatures. Planting native species promotes biodiversity, as these trees have evolved to support local wildlife.

Woodland habitats also contribute to the preservation of endangered and threatened species, acting as important corridors for their movement and dispersal. Planting whips contributes to the conservation of the UK's natural heritage and helps protect vulnerable ecosystems.

Planting of Wildflower Meadows

Planting wildflowers in our borough can bring about several ecological benefits. Wildflowers contribute to increased biodiversity and provide valuable habitats for pollinators and other wildlife. The colourful blooms attract a wide range of bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, supporting their populations and promoting pollination.

Wildflowers also provide food sources and shelter for birds, small mammals, and other wildlife, creating a thriving and diverse ecosystem within the clay soil habitat. Planting wildflowers in clay soil can help improve soil health and reduce erosion. The deep-rooted nature of many wildflower species helps to break up compacted clay soil, improving its structure and drainage. The extensive root systems also stabilize the soil, reducing the risk of erosion and runoff. As the wildflowers establish and grow, they contribute organic matter to the soil through fallen leaves and decaying plant material, enriching the soil and supporting its long-term fertility. It should be noted that there is a significant cost to implementing and maintaining these areas.

What are Neighbouring Authorities doing?

1. Rochford District Council: The Council has launched its Parks for Nature initiative which is currently in its second year of establishment. This project aims to create a balance between recreation and wildlife and has involved the creation of naturalised woodlands, meadow and conservation areas within green spaces and active tree planting projects in partnership with Essex County Council and the Woodland Trust.
2. Essex County Council: The council has initiated several projects to promote meadow and woodland creation across the county. For example, they have established the Essex Biodiversity Project, which aims to enhance and create new meadow habitats. They also provide guidance and resources to landowners and communities interested in creating woodlands through initiatives like the Essex Community Tree Planting Scheme.
3. Basildon Borough Council: The council has been involved in various meadow creation initiatives. They have designated specific areas as Local Wildlife Sites, where meadows are protected and managed to promote biodiversity. Basildon Borough Council has also partnered with local community groups to establish wildflower meadows in public spaces, contributing to pollinator-friendly habitats.
4. Chelmsford City Council: The council has implemented meadow creation programs as part of their commitment to enhancing biodiversity. They have transformed unused land into wildflower meadows and actively manage them to support pollinators. Chelmsford City Council also provides guidance and

resources to residents interested in creating their own wildflower meadows or small woodlands on private land.

5. Colchester Borough Council: The council has prioritized woodland creation and restoration projects. They have established community woodlands and actively manage them to enhance biodiversity and provide recreational opportunities for residents. Colchester Borough Council also collaborates with local organizations to create meadows in urban areas, promoting green spaces and supporting pollinators.
6. Tendring District Council: The council has launched initiatives to promote meadow and woodland creation within the district. They work with landowners and local communities to identify suitable sites for meadow establishment and provide support and guidance throughout the process. Tendring District Council also actively manages woodlands to improve their ecological value and public accessibility.

2.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

None at this stage.

3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk

Any work undertaken by the Council, either by itself or in partnership will be in line with statutory legal guidance.

4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

None, the report is currently, effectively setting out the scope of the proposed project.

6.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Consultation with relevant stakeholders will be considered as set-out in the report to follow.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health
Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

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The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic.

8.0 ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

There are no direct economic implications. More generally, the upkeep of a clean and pleasant environment in the borough positively contributes to the local economy.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Adam Aldridge

Title: Corporate Manger – Green Spaces

Phone: 01702 318053

Email: Adam.Aldridge@brentwood.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

None

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COMMITTEE TITLE: Clean & Green Committee

DATE: 26 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Waste Strategy
REPORT OF:	Marcus Hotten, Director of Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

This report proposes to establish a working group to develop, with the assistance of a suitable consultant, a waste collection strategy for the Borough's residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

R1. Agree a budget of £30,000 is made available for the appointment of a suitable consultant to support the development of a waste strategy.

R2. Establish a Waste Strategy Working Group to undertake the work as set out in the body of the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that the Council's waste collection service can adapt to anticipated changes that may be required by the Government.

To ensure that procurement of Waste Collection Vehicles and the future of design and location of any operational depot consider longer term strategic needs,

To explore opportunities to minimise waste collection and maximise kerb-side recycling.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Environment Act legislation received Royal Assent on 9 November 2021.

The Environment Act operates as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Environment Act allows the UK to enshrine some environmental

protection into law. It offers new powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction.

The Act is a vehicle for several Departments for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) different environmental policies and sets out the legal framework for significant reforms to local authority waste and recycling services. Taken together, the Act establishes a new relationship between central and local government on environmental improvement.

The need for a waste strategy

Typically, the purchase of waste collection vehicles and supporting infrastructure represent significant long-term investment to a local authority. Therefore, it is important that a strategic view is taken to determine how the Council may wish the collection service to operate and identify potential changes that may be required to address longer term strategic goals.

It is important we refresh and review our waste collection policies to ensure we have the right approaches to deliver the best outcomes for Brentwood.

The strategy will bring a new focus on how we will deliver an effective, efficient, and sustainable service for the future. Following the Environment Act 2021, national policy and the emerging Essex Waste Management Plan.

Development of a Draft Waste and Recycling Strategy

To assist in the development of a strategy it is proposed that a Working Group is established that will take the following approach:

- To identify and discuss strategic drivers and key principles that are likely to shape the strategy; these key principles will include reducing the impact that waste management has on climate change.
- To commission the modelling of a range of contrasting waste collection options with accompanying estimated costs and recycling rates;
- To identify any options that satisfy the previously identified key principles;
- To draw up a draft strategy based on the outcomes of the modelling and testing.

The strategy will be research based and data-driven, setting out the reasons for our approach; the principles of what we will do; and the targets that we will strive to meet.

Expert consultancy advice will be required to support the approach set out above, at an estimated cost of £30,000.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

The £30,000 estimated cost of the consultancy advice will be funded from a budget held against a vacant post in the service.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Joint Acting Up Director People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk

The Council has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

None, the report is currently, effectively setting out the scope of the proposed project.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Consultation with relevant stakeholders will be considered as set out in the report to follow, once the business case for the different options has been established

9.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health
Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

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The proposals in this report will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on anybody with a protected characteristic, however consideration will need to be given to those who currently have assisted kerbside collections within any new Waste Strategy.

10.0 ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

There are no direct economic implications. More generally, the upkeep of a clean and pleasant environment in the borough positively contributes to the local economy.

REPORT AUTHOR: Name: Marcus Hotten
Title: Director - Environment
Phone: 01277 312500
Email: Marcus.hotten@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

None

Members Interests

Members of the Council must declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests and the nature of the interest at the beginning of an agenda item and that, on declaring a pecuniary interest, they are required to leave the Chamber.

- **What are pecuniary interests?**

A person's pecuniary interests are their business interests (for example their employment trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which they are associated) and wider financial interests they might have (for example trust funds, investments, and asset including land and property).

- **Do I have any disclosable pecuniary interests?**

You have a disclosable pecuniary interest if you, your spouse or civil partner, or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner have a disclosable pecuniary interest set out in the Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

- **What does having a disclosable pecuniary interest stop me doing?**

If you are present at a meeting of your council or authority, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of your authority, and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting, you must not :

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, of if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting participate further in any discussion of the business or,
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

- **Other Pecuniary Interests**

Other Pecuniary Interests are also set out in the Members' Code of Conduct and apply only to you as a Member.

If you have an Other Pecuniary Interest in an item of business on the agenda then you must disclose that interest and withdraw from the room while that business is being considered

- **Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Non –pecuniary interests are set out in the Council's Code of Conduct and apply to you as a Member and also to relevant persons where the decision might reasonably be regarded as affecting their wellbeing.

A 'relevant person' is your spouse or civil partner, or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner

If you have a non-pecuniary interest in any business of the Authority and you are present at a meeting of the Authority at which the business is considered, you must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest whether or not such interest is registered on your Register of Interests or for which you have made a pending notification.

Green and Clean Committee

The functions within the remit of the Green and Clean Committee are set out below:

1. Waste management, refuse collection and recycling
2. Environmental improvement schemes
3. The quality of the public realm, including street services and grounds maintenance
4. Highway matters that are the responsibility of the Borough Council (including highway closures under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847) and drainage
5. Public conveniences
6. Cemeteries and closed churchyards
7. Environmental Health
8. Environmental nuisance and pollution controls
9. Other miscellaneous powers enforced by Environmental Health
10. Unlawful incursions
11. Operational facilities management (including maintenance) of the Town Hall and the Depot
12. Oversee and monitor the enforcement activities of the Council
13. Community Safety (including Community Safety Partnership) and CCTV
14. To implement working parties as required

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