

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Gareth Deboos, Town Mayor  
Cllr Rae Frederick, Deputy Mayor  
Cllr Andy Briers  
Cllr Philip Day (*from 7.50pm*)  
Cllr John Haywood  
Cllr Jeremy Heron  
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly  
Cllr Tony Ring  
Cllr Derek Scott

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk  
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk

ABSENT: Cllr Hilary Edge  
Cllr Peter Kelleher  
Cllr Darren Loose  
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine  
Cllr Glenys Turner

### **C/6871 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were several members of the public present, most of whom were in attendance for agenda item 6; Ringwood Town Futures – A Young People's Vision.

### **C/6872 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Day (*although he was in attendance from 7.50pm*), Edge, Kelleher, Rippon-Swaine and Turner.

### **C/6873 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none declared at this time.

### **C/6874 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **C/6875 RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Cllr Briers presented the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 be received.

**C/6876**

**PLANNING, TOWN AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Frederick presented the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning, Town and Environment Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be received.

**C/6877**

**POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Heron presented the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 be received.

**C/6878**

**RINGWOOD TOWN FUTURES – A YOUNG PEOPLE’S VISION**

Members received a presentation on the report resulting from work by SPUD with young people on the Neighbourhood Plan (*Annex A*).

The NP Project Manager Mary Deboos led the presentation, with input from Miss Lewis a Ringwood School teacher and two students, as well as Mark Drury, Director of SPUD.

Miss Lewis said the School had welcomed the opportunity to re-establish links with the community and for students to have face-to-face contact and share their ideas, something they had missed out on over the past two years. It is important that young people feel they can contribute and it is hoped that further engagement can take place to build the relationship.

Key points/recommendations identified by the young people include:

- Improvements to existing green spaces to make them more usable, and addition of green spaces in the town centre;
- Improvements to the bus station area by Gateway Square, which is one of the most used areas by young people;
- Improved entrance to the town and connections around it – introduction of an arts trail, new public art/landmark features and improved lighting and lighting displays;
- There’s nothing to attract young people into the town centre, better shops are needed;
- The old cinema is an important building in the town’s history – raise awareness of this and work with developers to consider some of the ideas raised;
- Provide space for young people to hang out and relax, and opportunities to learn to cook;
- Improvements to the skate park.

The report includes an illustrated map, which brings together all of the young people’s ideas.

Cllr Frederick, Chair of the Carvers Working Group, welcomed the young people’s ideas and asked to work with them on the current project looking at the future of Carvers.

Thanks were extended to the students, the School and SPUD for the enlightening report.

**C/6879**  
**FLAG FLYING POLICY**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report (*Annex B*) regarding a change in guidance from central government on when flags should be flown on government buildings. This encourages the Union Flag to be flown all year round.

Members were supportive of this change in practice, and also of other flags listed in the report being flown on relevant dates.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the Union Flag be flown all year round, except on days when other approved flags are flown; and
- 2) That the following flags be purchased and flown on relevant dates:
  - The Flag of St. George
  - The Hampshire Flag
  - The Commonwealth Flag
  - The Armed Forces Day Flag

<b>ACTION</b> C Wilkins
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**C/6880**  
**SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT LONG LANE**

The Town Clerk reported that the contractors were making good progress with construction of the artificial turf pitch, and it was hoped that it might be completed ahead of schedule. A further stage payment had been made and grant reimbursement received.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted.

**C/6881**  
**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED**

The Town Mayor reported on events and activities he had participated in since the last meeting. He highlighted the two events, Fireworks and Christmas Lights Switch-On, which had both been very well attended. He praised the Events Manager, Events Team and all the volunteer organisations who had helped to make the events run so smoothly.

He had received a letter from His Majesty the King, thanking him for the letter of condolence sent on behalf of the Council and the people of Ringwood following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

**C/6882**  
**REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Thierry presented a written report (*Annex C*).

District Councillor Heron reported that NFDC Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> December would be recommending the setting of the Council Tax Base for 2023/24, and recommending the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding as part of the Solent Freeport designation. It was noted that the Council had expressed an interest in the Freeport becoming an Investment

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Zone, on the condition that this would not result in the planning powers being removed from NFDC or NFNPA.

*Cllr Day arrived 19.50*

**C/6883  
REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Frederick thanked the Events Team for giving up their time and helping to make recent community events such a success, which could also not have been achieved without the Events Manager.

Cllr Day echoed Cllr Frederick’s comments on events. He added that he had attended all Remembrance events and wished to put on record thanks to Reverend Terry Roberts and Ringwood & Burley Band for their involvement. He also thanked Cllr O’Reilly for the fantastic decoration of Gateway and Santa’s Grotto.

Cllr Scott reported on the Ringwood Twinning Association, which had now agreed a way forward with a new focus and rebrand as a cultural organisation, reaching out and raising awareness in the community and bringing people together for the benefit of Ringwood. He said the organisation faced an uncertain future without more support and indicated that he would be working with the Chairman to prepare a report for Policy & Finance Committee in December. It was noted that Cllr Frederick, as Chairman of the Events Team, had offered to give the group some advice on events, but had made no commitment to any further involvement.

Cllr Haywood reported that several residents had mentioned the state of the artwork in the A31 underpass, and it was noted that the underpass was the responsibility of National Highways. It was also noted that National Highways would be undertaking works before the end of March 2023 to improve drainage in this location.

**C/6884  
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Planning, Town and Environment	10.00am	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2022
Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces	7.00pm	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
Policy & Finance	7.00pm	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
Full Council	7.00pm	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2022

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.11pm.

APPROVED  
*21<sup>st</sup> December 2022*

TOWN MAYOR



Ringwood  
Town Futures  
Young People's Vision

We must remember:

***"Young people are the future inhabitants of our towns and cities, therefore it's critical their voices are heard"***



# Introduction



## Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan

For a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) to have real local credibility, it must be prepared by the community that lives in, works in and uses the Neighbourhood.

The Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan Team wants to ensure community engagement and participation not just simple consultation. To encourage an active dialogue with the younger people of the town, the team chose to work with SPUD to run workshops and drop in sessions that would capture their concerns, ideas and thoughts.

This report is the output from those sessions.

The team was encouraged by the quality of the thinking and delighted by the fresh ideas that were put forward for the future of Ringwood.

# Workshops

## Giving Young People a Voice

A series of group workshops for young people were organised by charity SPUD during October 2022. Drop-in workshops took place at the Carver Clubhouse and Skatepark and at Ringwood School. In total 30 young people took part and had an opportunity to share their ideas, through a series of written, visual and mapping activities. The following report pulls together their various thoughts and ideas and identifies some of their key priorities for potential change.





# Key Outcomes

## What matters most...

- Green spaces
- Better lighting and lighting displays
- Skate Park facilities
- Limited shops of interest to young people
- Poor bus station area
- Nothing to do in the town centre
- The old cinema to be re-used
- Attractive public art





## Love it...

What do young people love about the town and want to keep:

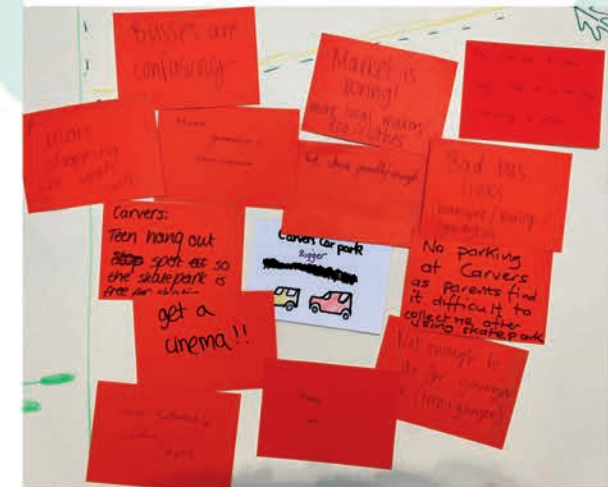
- green spaces e.g. Bickerley Common
- christmas lights
- public art e.g. acorn bench and Jubilee lamp
- Carvers skatepark



## Improve it...

What do young people think could be made even better with improvements:

- picnic areas and pocket parks
- better shops especially for younger people
- landmark public art
- facilities at Carvers skatepark
- improved bus stops
- a town centre cinema
- walking and cycling routes



## Loathe it...

What don't young people like about Ringwood:

- confusing buses/timetables and poor bus station area
- boring market
- poor links to other towns like Lymington
- no parking at Carvers skatepark
- no cinema
- town centre (High Street) has no greenery



# Green Spaces

Young people repeatedly talked about the importance of green spaces in Ringwood. They referred to Bickerley Common, the Castleman Trail, Carvers Park and the various pocket parks around the town. These were important spaces for them to 'hang out' and enjoy themselves with friends or family.

They also wanted to see improvements to some of these areas including:

- fitness trail/equipment along the Castleman Trail. Possible low level led, solar lighting for night use.
- lighting and a toddlers skatepark at Carvers
- a covered area over the skatepark, to make it usable year round
- better entrances and attractive picnic seating in the pocket parks
- lack of greenery/green spaces in the centre of town, especially on the High Street





# Bus Station

The area of the bus station/bus stops came up repeatedly in conversation. It was felt that the area was not attractive and there was nothing to do or see there. This made it feel unsafe and unwelcoming, especially at a key location in town for potential visitors.

Young people felt the area had the potential for some colour, artwork, planting and improved lighting. The back of the supermarket building was identified as a key area to improve.





# Public Art

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A broad range of conversations were had around public art that already existed in town or could be created. Young people quickly identified the acorn bench, Furlong horses and Jubilee lamp-post as examples.

There were some great ideas to create an art trail to guide visitors into the heart of the town using the symbolism of acorns, oak leaves and trees. This could be extended into seating designs and way-markers.

Young people like the Christmas lights, but wanted to see light and colour all year round. One suggestion was to have a canopy of illuminated art strung across the High Street, possibly with a nature theme.

It was also felt that a landmark piece of sculpture was needed to act either as a gateway or to identify the centre of the town. This could also double up as some form of shelter and seating space. A covered area was something that young people wanted as a casual meeting space.



Acorn Bench



# Shops & Cafes

Young people understand that a local authority does not have the power to determine which shops occupy its town centre, but they felt that there was a strong case for making the High Street and Market Place more attractive areas so people want to spend time, shop and in turn attract new retail businesses.

It was felt strongly that there was little on offer for young people in the High Street and that most of the shops served an older audience. In fact most young people made it clear that they only ventured as far as Sainsburys or that the High Street was just an area they passed through on the way to somewhere else. None of the youngsters said they spent any time there.

Young people found themselves travelling to Bournemouth or Southampton for shopping and 'young people friendly' cafes, but again mentioned the often prohibitive cost of public transport.



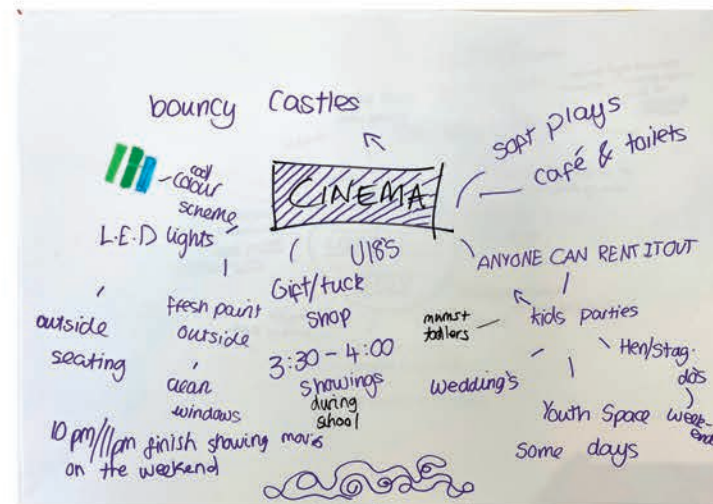


# Old Cinema

Out of all the buildings in the Town Centre, the 'old cinema' on Market Place was mentioned repeatedly. Many young people said they'd love to have a cinema back in town, especially as public transport was so expensive to get to cinemas at neighbouring towns such as Bournemouth.

They also understood that sustaining a cinema in town could be difficult and suggested that the building could also have alternative uses, such as soft play, bouncy castle, party venue, cafe and that films be shown just at weekends.

The young people were also keen that the building be renovated to improve the look of the street. It could be illuminated for different holidays such as Christmas and Halloween to make an eye-catching focal point.





# Youth Space

There was a lot of conversation around a space for young people to 'hang out' and spend time with friends. Some of this linked back to the Carver clubhouse. Youngsters were not looking for a programmed youth club, but rather an informal space where they could meet, spend time with friends, buy a drink and snacks. The requirements for a space like this varied from it being fun and having music, to also having quite spaces to read and relax.

The idea of cooking facilities came up to - with young people saying they wanted to be able to cook properly and learn how to cook - not simply a meal pinged in a microwave.

Any development of a new youth space needs the input of young people from the start to gather a clear understanding of what they want, rather than make assumptions such as putting a table tennis table in.







# What Next

## Sharing young peoples ideas

The map on the following page pulls together many of the young peoples ideas and presents them in a visually cohesive and stimulating way. The map was created during the workshops with young people and illustrated by artist and local resident Daisy Kate. The map and report will be shared with the Ringwood Town Council, Ringwood School and online at:

[www.spud.org.uk/spudyouthringwood](http://www.spud.org.uk/spudyouthringwood)

These ideas will be used to shape the vision of Ringwood in the Neighbourhood Plan, they will be shared with the whole of town. The Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan Team will provide feedback to those who took part and plans to continued to work with the young people of Ringwood to further develop some of the ideas.





# Get Involved

To find out more about the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan and next steps get in touch at:

## Email

[john.haywood@ringwoodnp.org.uk](mailto:john.haywood@ringwoodnp.org.uk)

## Neighbourhood Plan Website

[www.ringwoodnp.org.uk](http://www.ringwoodnp.org.uk)

## spudYOUTH Website

[www.spud.org.uk/spudyouthringwood](http://www.spud.org.uk/spudyouthringwood)

Report created by SPUD C.I.O: [www.spud.org.uk](http://www.spud.org.uk)

Illustrations by Daisy Kate: [www.daisykate.me](http://www.daisykate.me)

**Flying Flags**

1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 In light of a recent change in guidance from central government, officers seek decisions from members about flag flying from the flag-pole in Gateway Square.

2. Background, Options and Implications

- 2.1 The normal practice of the Council has been to fly the Union Flag only on those days previously approved in respect of government buildings. The government recently issued revised guidance which allows and encourages the Union Flag to be flown from official buildings all year round.

- 2.2 There are other flags which could properly be flown but which the Council does not have at present. The more relevant of these are as follows:

- The Flag of St. George
- The Hampshire Flag
- The Commonwealth Flag
- The Armed Forces Day Flag

- 2.3 Flags are usually raised or lowered by a member of the grounds team and each movement typically takes about 60 minutes total staff time (including travelling). Flags wear out more quickly and therefore require replacement more frequently, the more they are flown.

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

- 3.1 Should the Union Flag be flown only on the days previously approved or all year round (except on days, if any, when other approved flags are flown)?**
- 3.2 Which other flags (if any) should the Council buy and fly on suitable days?**

For further information, contact:

Christopher Wilkins, Town Clerk  
Direct Dial: 01425 484720  
Email: [chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk](mailto:chris.wilkins@ringwood.gov.uk)

Kelvin Wentworth, Grounds Manager  
Direct Dial: 07918 615200  
Email: [kelvin.wentowrth@ringwood.gov.uk](mailto:kelvin.wentowrth@ringwood.gov.uk)



# County Council November 2022 Report

Councillor Michael Thierry - Ringwood Division

## **Hampshire County Council.**

**Hampshire County Council is no different to other authorities, both small and large, currently going through the exacting budget process.**

The period ahead will be financially challenging times. The county has a policy of looking at budgets not year by year but planning to cover at least two years. Some extremely difficult choices will need to be made at all levels of administration. However, critical services will be protected, particularly those members of our communities who depend on the services the county provides.

It would be proper and prudent, for example, for Councils to assess at some 'Cinderella' enhancement schemes which, though desirable, are not necessarily essential and can be delayed into the future.

The programme of road repairs continues. The A31 improvement works have impacted feeder roads; I am requesting that officers assess these roads, which may not have received the attention they might have had were not for the ongoing works on the A31.

Significant changes are taking place in the county's staff and councillors structure. Several senior directors are retiring. Cabinet responsibility is being streamlined, and several roles are being dovetailed. This restructuring is ongoing.

## **Ringwood Town Council.**

Congratulations to all those who contributed to making last Sunday's Winter Wonderland a success. Once again, the residents of Ringwood and, indeed, from further afield, flocked to the town in impressive numbers. In terms of entertainment value, it was a tremendous success. We hope that local businesses were able to take advantage and that the event will spearhead an economically successful Christmas for the town.

Is there another town in The New Forest that can put on such a magnificent show?

## **Local issues.**

The County casework continues. I am receiving requests from elderly residents asking what 'help' might be available to meet energy bills

## **Monthly Councillors' Surgery.**

The November MP and Councillor surgery was held. The number of people attending confirming the need of constituents to meet with their elected representatives.

Cllr Michael Thierry - 01425 479095