

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Held on Friday 6th September 2024 at 10.00am at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Philip Day (Chairman)
Cllr Glenys Turner (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr James Swyer

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Office Manager

ABSENT: Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Becci Windsor

P/6331 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were two members of the public present interested in agenda items.

P/6332 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Frederick and Kelleher and Deputy Town Clerk Mrs Jo Hurd.

P/6333 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

P/6334 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August 2024, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

With the agreement of Members agenda items 8. Greening Ringwood, planning application 24/10686 and agenda item 7. Thriving Market Place were brought forward.

P/6335 GREENING RINGWOOD

Thanks were extended for the very comprehensive report on Greening Ringwood (*Annex A*) which had been prepared by the Co-ordinator. She addressed the Committee and highlighted two projects which have made the most impact on Ringwood this year.

The Repair Café – This was set up in April and as a result of the Greening campaigns collaboration with HCC it has benefitted from a waste prevention grant which will cover costs for the first 12 months. The café is working with the Hampshire Repair Cafe network and collaborating with Fordingbridge, Wimborne and other repair cafes. Ringwood is very firmly on the map in raising awareness of the repairing (not the ‘throwing away’ culture) and to date 118 items have been seen. 101 of which being able to be repaired, with only 17 at the end of life.

The Energy Efficient Homes initiative – This started during Phase 1 of Greening Ringwood and continues into Phase 2. There are a growing team of volunteers being trained to use a thermal imaging cameras supplied by the Greening campaign. Although the focus is on helping Ringwood householders making their homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer, they are also working in collaboration with the New Forest Heat Project Home Energy Advice team. This will enable more volunteers to become energy champions of Ringwood and could even lead to a green career role.

The Co-ordinator wished to thank the Town Clerk particularly, for the initial introduction of the Greening campaign to the Council in November 2021, as this has given the town the opportunity to engage more widely at both district, county and national government level on these important environmental issues.

RESOLVED: That the update from the co-ordinator on Greening Ringwood (*Annex A*) be received.

**P/6336
PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members considered planning application 24/10686. The remainder of the list was considered later in the meeting (*P/6339 refers*).

RESOLVED: That the observations summarised in *Annex B* be submitted.

ACTION Nicola Vodden

**P/6337
THRIVING MARKET PLACE**

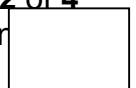
HCC officers presented their initial proposals to the Working Party on 3rd September 2024 and, in order for all Members to influence the plans as they evolve, an informal briefing will be arranged. Public consultation will be carried out when the scheme has the broad support of all three authorities.

RESOLVED: That the verbal update from the meeting held on 3rd September 2024 be received.

At 10:15am, with the agreement of Members, a brief session of public participation was permitted as a member of the public was unable to make the start of the meeting.

**P/6338
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident highlighted highways issues with the road between Poulner and Rockford. There are potholes which need repair and the verges are wearing away; signs of increasing traffic for which this narrow road is unsuitable. Whilst this is the responsibility of Hampshire County Council, he



suggested that the Council and Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council work together to lobby HCC for the problems to be addressed. It was suggested that he contact the County Councillor or lobby Town Councillors for support.

P/6339

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration of the planning applications resumed and were dealt with in list order.

RESOLVED: That the observations summarised in *Annex B* be submitted and the decision made under delegated powers be noted.

ACTION Nicola Vodden

At 11:35am, there was a short 5 minute break.

P/6340

STRATEGIC SITES

Land off Crow Lane / Crow Arch Lane (Beaumont Park) – There was no update.

Land north of Hightown Road (21/10042) – A meeting has been arranged for 3rd October to discuss flood mitigation measures and those attending will include representatives from the Environment Agency and HCC Flod & Water Management team.

Land off Moortown Lane (21/11723 and 23/10707) – Both applications are to be considered by NFDC Planning Committee on 11th September. Cllr Day would prepare a written submission and Cllr M DeBoos would be registered to speak. Following the decision, Members will review the outcome and further options, as appropriate.

2 Market Place and Meeting House Lane (23/11255) – There was no update.

Land at Snails Lane – There was no update.

RESOLVED: That the update on Strategic Sites be noted.

P/6341

PLANNING REFORM CONSULTATION

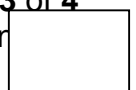
A draft response to the consultation (*Annex C*) had been prepared by Cllr G DeBoos. Members thanked him for his work on the draft and the Deputy Town Clerk for her suggestions and reviewing the document.

RESOLVED: That the response to the Planning Reform Consultation (*Annex C*) be approved for submission.

ACTION Jo Hurd

P/6342

PROJECTS (current and proposed)



Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) – Information on RNP will feature on the Council’s website in future.

Crow Stream Maintenance – The clearance of the stream is scheduled for 3rd October. Volunteers are welcome. It was noted that a private landowner has agreed to restore a section of stream in Barrack Lane by removing a culvert and reprofiling the banks. This will help alleviate the flooding that occurs on the west side of the lane. To facilitate this, a section of hedge was included in the annual flail, which was carried out last week.

Bus shelters – Cllr Turner reported that usage will be monitored in order to assess needs in the different locations.

Railway Corner – It was noted that the second installment of the funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund had been received.

Memorial Bench – The bench will not be installed in time for Carnival and the aim now is for it to be in place for the Christmas Lights Switch-On event.

RESOLVED: That the update in relation to projects (*Annex D*) be noted.

**P/6343
NFDC/NFNPA PLANNING COMMITTEE**

NFDC’s Planning Committee is scheduled for 11th September 2024 and two Ringwood applications 21/11723 and 23/10707 appear on the agenda. Cllr M DeBoos is to be registered to speak at the meeting on behalf of the Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:55am.

RECEIVED
25th September 2024

APPROVED
4th October 2024

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Note: The text in the Action Boxes above does not form part of these minutes.



Greening Ringwood – Report August 2024. Ringwood Town Council Planning, Town and Environment Committee

(working with Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and Ringwood Town Council)

Following our previous report in February 2024, we attach a spreadsheet of all the activities and events we have organised and run in the last 6 months, plus actions for some of future events and projects.

In summary: -

March 2024

Actions: -

- 75 willing volunteers delivered over 5,000 Greening Ringwood postcards to some 95% of Ringwood households, raising awareness and detailing the ways they could engage with the five Greening projects.
- We were part of the New Forest National Park Authority Awakening project with two 'Propagation events' at Four Acre Farm (part of the Cycle of the Seed team) <https://www.four-acre.farm/>; and a Home Energy Event at Greyfriars with our Energy Efficient Homes team with speakers from The Greening Campaign <https://greening-campaign.org/phase-two/> Energy Alton <https://energyalton.org.uk/> The Environment Centre <https://environmentcentre.com/> and the Sustainability Centre <https://www.sustainability-centre.org/>
- Hosted a 'Love Food Hate Waste' display in Ringwood Library in conjunction with HCC Smart Living Waste Prevention team <https://lovefoodhatewaste.com/> and Ringwood Community Fridge <https://www.facebook.com/groups/523555478827824>
- Applied and secured a HCC Waste Prevention grant of £1,900 for our newly incorporated Ringwood Repair Café (RRC) with assistance from Ringwood Mens Shed while we registered our constitution and arranged a bank account and insurance (RRC is an Unincorporated Not for Profit Association)

April 2024

Actions: -

- We joined in the RACE Seed Swap event at Trinity Church Hall with our Space for Nature and Cycle of the Seed teams
- Our big Greening Ringwood Launch Event outside Ringwood Gateway – with contributions from all 5 projects, Moyles Court School Eco Club, choirs from Burley and Sopley Schools, Sing for Joy Community Choir, The Tuesdays Community Singing Group, Ian Roberts (Idelica) and Graham Wey, and Nigel Revill. Refreshments by Idelica – it was all captured on video and can be see here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGDbnNGmXC4>
- Ran a Waste Prevention and Tick Trail around Ringwood, to raise awareness of how to stop waste at source - where to buy pre-loved clothes, books, toys, games, use refill shops and buy goods without single use plastics – as well as highlighting the dangers of tick borne diseases which are increasing as our climate changes
- Set up Ringwood Repair Café's First event at Greyfriars Community Centre! – with 20 volunteers, 31 items brought for repair – all data on the Restarters website <https://restarters.net/party/view/10592> We are part of the Hampshire Repair Café Network
- Created a Mapping Walk around Ringwood with Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife - looking at areas where wildlife biodiversity could be improved and focussing on household gardens with a view to enhancing 'wildlife corridors' between neighbours

May 2024

Actions: -

- Participated in the RACE Eco Fair outside the Gateway and in the Furlong Centre

- The Cycle of the Seed Team fitted a water butt to the Ringwood library downpipe and established the Square Foot Gardening demonstration garden between the Library and Greyfriars
- Aim is to be the start of a future Community Garden – to show households how they can grow veg, herbs and fruit in just one square metre of garden
- Our second Ringwood Repair Café – 13 volunteers, 21 participants – data here <https://restarters.net/party/view/11006>

June 2024

We participated in the Climate Coalition Great Big Green Week with: -

- The third Ringwood Repair Café -20 volunteers, 36 participants – data here <https://restarters.net/party/view/11007>
- The Kerbside Freecycle Event in partnership with RACE – 22 Ringwood households took part with very positive reports of ‘re-gifting’ most of their goods to others in the Ringwood community – a great example of a circular waste economy with less stuff going to landfill

July 2024

- The fourth Ringwood Repair Café – 13 Volunteers, 23 participants - <https://restarters.net/party/view/11117>
- 8 Waste Trail boards erected around Ringwood (supplied by the Hampshire Greening Campaign) – outside Greyfriars, Ringwood Library, Memorial Gardens, Carvers, and The Close- to raise the awareness of areas we can all help to prevent waste – electricals and tools, clothes, toys, recycling, food and plastic bottles
- Ringwood School Year 12 Sustainability Day – we ran two activities in conjunction with Ringwood School.
 1. Raise awareness of wildlife biodiversity in the local area by using modern apps such as Merlin Bird ID <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> , Seek https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app , Plantnet , British Trees, iNaturalist to engage the young people.
 2. Run in partnership with Ringwood Mens Shed, raising awareness of the need to provide places for birds to nest in, learning basic carpentry skills and constructing swift and other bird nest boxes

August 2024 – Holidays

Future plans and dates for the diary

September 2024

- Ringwood Carnival walking entry in the afternoon procession
- Formation of Greening Ringwood into an Unincorporated Not for Profit Association to enable us to get a bank account, apply for funds, and accept donations. We are grateful for the initial RTC contribution of £50 for this Phase 2 of Greening Ringwood. We will be looking for further moderate financial support. Currently, our volunteers personally fund all costs, including hall hire for events and other resource costs.
- Home Energy Event – Thursday 6 November 7.30 pm Greyfriars Community Centre
- New Forest HEAT project <https://newforesttransition.org.uk/heat/> and Greening Ringwood Energy Efficient Homes team will work together in identifying volunteers to be trained in thermal imaging.
- The 2 organisations will work closely in liaising over grants and funding for energy poverty households with the aim of improving energy efficiency and costs of more homes in Ringwood
- Ringwood Household Compost Club – in partnership with Four Acre Farm – aiming for local Compost Champions to collect their neighbours’ food waste and deliver to Four Acre Farm’s RIDAN composter – combining Four Acre Farm’s need for more compost, and a sustainable destination for household food waste, thereby creating a local circular food waste economy.
- Greening Ringwood stall at Ringwood’s Winter Wanderland Sun 1 December 2024

Greening Ringwood Phase 2

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Diary Dates **L=Lead Team**

Project done!

Future projects events

Ringwood Winter Wonderland - Sunday 26 November 2023 10 am - 6 pm
Thermal Imaging Surveys - December 2023 - March 2024 - trial run 29.12.23
Buy Nothing New - Keep Britain Tidy Campaign - January 2024
Big Garden Birdwatch 26 - 28 January 2024
Climate Coalition - Show the Love Campaign February 2024 (10- 17 Feb 2024 ?)
Sow Along at Four Acre Farm - Sat 24 (or Sun 25) February 2024
Ringwood Library Green & Thrifty Fortnight 10 - 24 February 2024
Awakening Festival New Forest Park Authority March 2024
Plant your Pants 21 March 2024
Postcard delivery 18 March - 13 April (2-4 weeks before Public Launch)
RACE Seed Swap event Greyfriars Sat 13 April - 1 Stall Cycle of Seed/Space for Nature
Public Launch Event - Gateway Centre - Saturday 20 April 2024 - All 5 Pillars have a stall
Ringwood Eco Fair - Saturday 11 May 2024 - 2 Greening Stalls
Mental Health Awareness week - Eco Anxiety TBA - link with Climate Café
National Walk to school week TBA
Climate Coalition Great Big Green Week 8 - 16 June 2024
Cycle UK Bike week - TBA
Ringwood School Sustainability Day/week Mon 8 July 2024
Big Butterfly Count 12 July - 4 August 2024
Ringwood Carnival - Sat 21 September 2024

Projects, Activities, Events	Cycle of the Seed	Space for Nature	Waste Prevention	Energy Efficient Warmer Homes	Health Impacts of Climate Change
Food Composter - Ridan at Four Acre Farm - Household food waste collections - pilot August 2024	X		X L		
Mass Unwrap (Surfers Against Sewage Toolkit - TBA			X L		
Demonstration Veg beds - May 24	X L	X			
Water Butt by veg beds - May 24	X L		X		
Nature Mapping walk - 28.4.24 10 am		X L			X
Wildlife Survey - Big Garden Bird Watch 26-28 Jan 2024		X			
Wildlife survey - Big Butterfly Count 12 July - 4 Aug 2024		X L			X
Wildlife survey - Dragon Watch April 2024		X L			X
Create pollinator corridors ongoing		X L			X
Kerbside Freecycle events Sat 15 June 2024 and ? TBA			X L		X
Litter Pick - Keep Britain tidy Great British Spring Clean 15 - 31 March 2024 ; Rwd school Mon 8 July		X	X L		X
Beautify grotty areas - TBA		X			
Repair Café Launch 27 April 2024			X L		
Thermal Imaging Surveys Jan & Feb 2024				X L	X

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Bulk buy insulation, draught proofing in conjunction with NF HEAT project?				X L	X
Training Energy Champions - Sandi, Robin with NFHEAT project and Greening Campaign				X	
Training Waste Prevention Champions - Ongoing			X		
Training Cycle of the Seed Community Champions - Chantelle - ongoing	X				
Home Energy Event Mon 11.3.24				X L	X
Restore Pond Ringwood school TBA		X L			X
Veg beds Ringwood Infants school - pilot Sept 24	X L				
Install Swift, bird, bat boxes TBA		X L			X
Seed swap event - RACE 13.4.24	X	X L			
Wild' neighbourhood verges outside houses ongoing		X L			X
Hedgehog highways in conjunction with RACE		X L			
Art, Photograph, craft, sculpture exhibition TBA					X L
Waste Prevention and Tick Trail around Ringwood - Date 20.4.24			X L		X
Household Waste Audit - TBA			X L		
Projects, Activities, Events	Cycle of the Seed	Space for Nature	Waste Prevention	Energy Efficient Warmer Homes	Health Impacts of Climate Change
Climate Café- TBA					X
No Mow May (Let it Bee) - Ongoing		X			
Media campaign - Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
Website - Ongoing	X	X	X	X	X
Show the Love Campaign 10 - 17 Feb 2024	X	X	X	X	X
Nappy Library display			X L		
Love Food Hate Waste display Feb 2024 Library			X L		
Tool Library - TBA	X		X L		
Clothes Swaps with RACE			X L		
Flash Mob Sat 17 Feb 2024					X L
Pop Up Art in different Nature locations TBA					X L
Rwd School sustainability Day Mon 8 July 2024	X	X	X	X	X
Rwd Library Green & Thrifty Fortnight 10 - 24 Feb 2024	X	X	X	X	X
National Walk to school week TBA					X L
Cycle UK Bike week TBA					X L
Reusable Period Products Display - TBA			X L		

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Agree your Team's launch event activities Sat 20 April 2024	X	X	X	X	X
Buy Nothing New January - Keep Britain Tidy campaign Jan 2024			X		
Plant your Pants 21 March 2024	X	X			X
Waste prevention grant application			X		
Love Food Hate Waste week 4 - 10 March 2024			X		
Projects, Activities, Events	Cycle of the Seed	Space for Nature	Waste Prevention	Energy Efficient Warmer Homes	Health Impacts of Climate Change
Waste Trail Boards - 8 boards around Ringwood June/July 2024	X	X	X L	X	X
Greening Campaign Conference - Sat 7 September 2024	X	X	X	X	X
Home Energy Event Thurs 6 Nov 2024				X	
Wildlife Gardening Event - Oct 24 TBC	X	X L			X
Ringwood Carnival - Sat 21 September 2024	X	X	X	X	X
Set up Greening Ringwood as an Unincorporated Association - not for profit organisation Sept 24	X	X	X	X	X

Annex A to Planning, Town Environment Committee Minutes 6th September 2024
Ringwood Town Council - Planning Observations - NFDC

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
23/10821	New House, Market Place And 1-3 Strides Lane, Ringwood, BH24 1ER	Roof extension to accommodate x2no. flats; change of use of part of existing first floor and second floor from office to residential use; extension to existing building at 1 to 3 Strides Lane to accommodate 1 dwelling with parking court and landscaping	Refusal (4)	The Committee noted the altered plans but still feel the proposal would be overdevelopment of the site. The additional storey would be inappropriate in that location and overbearing and imposing on the surrounding properties. It is out of keeping in the Market Place, Conservation Area and would be detrimental to the Listed Buildings in the vicinity. There is also some concern about the impact on views from the surrounding area, both within the town and from a distance. In addition, the application is contrary to the design code in the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan.
24/10521	Plot 9, Forest Gate Business Park, Spring Lane, Ringwood. BH24 1PD	Variation of conditions 2 and 3 of planning permission 22/11027 to allow use of cladding instead of brickwork	Officer Decision (5)	The Committee does not have a particular view with regard to this application, but note the cladding is out of keeping with other styles of industrial and office buildings in the vicinity.
24/10526	20 Northfield Road, Ringwood. BH24 1LU	Rear extension and creation of first floor; front dormer, rooflights & fenestration alterations; new porch; render walls		The Committee agreed to make no comment on this application.

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
24/10626	The Old Stream House, Quomp, Ringwood. BH24 1NT	Replacement of x2 no. front elevation windows and x2no. rear elevation windows at ground and first floor level	Permission (1)	
24/10640	85-87 Hightown Road, Ringwood. BH24 1NJ	x3no. air conditioning units (retrospective) and proposed timber fence	Permission (1)	
24/10669	2 Gypsy Lane, Ringwood. BH24 1QW	Single-storey front extension; amended window arrangement to front elevation; change of brickwork to render and cladding; new access and parking area and fence to front boundary	Refusal (4)	The Committee had no issue with the application in principle, save for the proposed fence to the front boundary, which is contrary to Policy R7 clause (v) of the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan, due to its height at 1.8m. If it was to be no more than 1m, then this would be acceptable.
24/10673	The Old Stream House, Quomp, Ringwood. BH24 1NT	Replacement of x2 no. front elevation windows and x2no. rear elevation windows at ground and first floor level (Application for Listed Building Consent)	Permission (1)	
24/10686	25 North Poulner Road, Ringwood. BH24 1SN	Single-storey extension; 4no. rooflights; solar panels	Permission (1)	
24/10704	56-67, 80, 81, 84 & 85 Euston Grove, Ringwood. BH24 1FB	Replacement UPVC (white) windows	Permission (1)	

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
24/10718	Land of Castlemans Farmhouse, Sandford, Ringwood. BH24 3BU	Installation of ~15m of underground low voltage (LV) cable(s). Section 37 consent is being sought as this is currently a single user line which will in-turn become a multi-user line.	Permission (1)	
24/10736	49, Seymour Road, Ringwood. BH24 1SQ	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 22/10642 to allow an extension to the approved first floor design	Permission (1)	
24/10746	Barclays Bank, 6-8 High Street, Ringwood. BH24 1BZ	Change of use from financial services (Use Class E(c)i) to the provision of education (Use Class F1); x3no rooflights; balustrade to terrace; fenestration alterations	Refusal (4)	The Committee considered the application for change of use to be contrary to Policy 2 clause C of the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan (RNP), in that it 'will result in the loss of an active retail, commercial, business or service use of a ground floor frontage'. Even if it is not contrary to Policy, the proposed use is out of keeping and considered inappropriate for this prominent location on the high street, which is an essential core of the primary shopping area (as designated in the RNP) because it is not an active use of the ground floor. With regard to the proposed rooflights, Members objected to the one at the front of the building as this is out of keeping with the style of the other windows, the façade of the building and given that it is in the Conservation Area.

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
24/10747	Barclays Bank, 6-8 High Street, Ringwood. BH24 1BZ	Fascia sign to front elevation (Application for Advertisement Consent)	Officer Decision (5)	
24/10750	Netherbrook House, 86 Christchurch Road, Ringwod. BH24 1DR	Internal alterations to remove asbestos contaminated material (Application for listed building consent)	Permission (1)	
TPO/24/0379	Colten House, Wellworthy Way, Ringwood. BH24 3FE	Alder x 2 -Fell; Alder x 1 - Reduce; Birch x 1 -Fell; Willow x 1 - Reduce	Officer Decision (5)	The Committee queried the felling of the first Alder as it appears to be a healthy tree. With regard to the other proposals there is no issue.

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Ringwood Town Council - Planning Observations - NFNPA

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
24/00823FULL	Laconia Lodge, Picket Hill, Ringwood. BH24 3HH	Internal extension of habitable floorspace; garden gym and spa with outdoor hot tub and raised terrace; garden office with raised terrace; car port with storage room; window and door alterations; covered porch; pergola with covered roof; cladding and render; replacement roof tiles; replacement raised terrace; 5no. roof lights; air source heat pump; solar panels; demolition of 4no. existing outbuildings	Officer Decision (5)	The Committee queried whether the proposal complied with the 30% rule and if it does not, the application is contrary to Policy.
24/00883FULL	The Stables, Christchurch Road, Bisterne. BH24 3BN	Alterations to entrance to include removal of existing infill, new glazing and cladding; courtyard landscaping	Officer Decision (5)	The Committee had concerns that the design, appearance and materials were out of keeping and, as this is a material consideration, it requested the Planning Officer consider whether the proposals are appropriate for this building.
24/00906CAC	Brackenrigg, Hangersley Hill, Hangersley, Ringwood. BH24 3JN	Open porch to dwelling; 3no. outbuildings; demolition existing 5no. Outbuildings	Permission (1)	

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Observation	Comments
24/00960LDCE	The Cabin, Land at Valley View, Cowpitts Lane, Ringwood. BH24 3JX	Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for existing building, septic tank and subsequent change of use of building and area of land surrounding it to a single dwelling (use class C3)		No comment.
24/01020CONS	Hangersley Height, Hangersley Hill, Hangersely, Ringwood. BH24 3JS	Fell 2 x Silver Birch trees (T1 & T2 on the plan)	Permission (1)	

1 - Recommend Permission, but would accept officer's decision 2 - Recommend Refusal but would accept officer's decision 3 - Recommend Permission 4 - Recommend Refusal
5 - Will accept officer's decision

Applications decided under delegated powers : to be noted on 6th September 2024

Number	Site Address	Proposal	Decision
TPO/24/0 257	Trilogy, 205 Christchurch Road, Ringwood. BH24 3AN	Chestnut x 1 Reduce	2.8.24 P(1) Recommend permission, but would accept the Tree Officer's decision.

REPORT – PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Government is seeking views on its proposed approach to revising the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and wider policy proposals. Full details of the consultation, which ends on 24 September 2024, can be viewed online at [Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system).
- 1.2 A draft response has been prepared by Cllr Gareth DeBoos. The response references chapter numbers rather than individual questions, and makes reference to some of the policies in the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan, attached as Appendix A.

2. DRAFT RESPONSE

- 2.2 This is a response to the ‘Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system’ (Proposed Reforms). It is not a list of answers to the 106 questions, but is a more general response to the strategic direction that the Government appears to be taking and will refer to the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) that was made in July 2024.
- 2.3 We agree with your statement in **Chapter 1, Paragraph 2**, ‘*Nowhere is decisive reform needed more urgently than in our planning system*’. We believe in smarter regulation rather than deregulation and we think our RNP policies reflect that. We are not against development in Ringwood, but want any development to be appropriate, building on and enhancing the area. We also agree with **Chapter 2, Paragraph 4f** ‘*ensure communities continue to shape housebuilding in their areas*’. We believe that the RNP is an example of this.
- 2.4 We note that the current NPPF states: ‘*Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies*’ and ‘*the adverse impact of allowing development that conflicts with the neighbourhood plan is likely to significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits*’. The Proposed Reforms do not reference any changes to these sections of the NPPF, but we would like reassurance that there is no intention to weaken the legislative position of Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) within the planning system. We would be pleased if you could confirm that, as our RNP is current and evidence based, ‘the presumption’ referred to in **Question 6** is not relevant for the Parish of Ringwood, albeit that it is relevant for the local planning authority. As stated in **Paragraph 17**, ‘*the presumption cannot offer a route to low quality, unsustainable development*’. We believe that our RNP provides a strong basis for quality, sustainable development appropriate to our parish and reflects local views.
- 2.5 We wish to now make some suggestions in no particular order regarding the planning system that the Government may wish to consider as they look at changes.
- 2.6 **Brown/Grey/Green:** We note that the Government is content with the brownfield first approach and this is explicit in RNP Policy R1. The proposals for Green Belt are more concerning. During the last review of Green Belt, areas were viewed to be ‘weak’ if they were adjacent to built-up areas, which could be viewed as being in accord with

criteria laid out in **Chapter 5, Paragraph 10**. The problem with this approach is that it encourages urban creep. We think a more strategic approach is required, which is hinted at in your consultation paper, so we hope that more detail will follow. We also have concerns about 'grey belt', which could lead to sprawl along roads and have an adverse effect on wildlife corridors established in RNP Policy R9 and links to Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Note that Ringwood sits between the New Forest National Park and the Avon valley SSSI areas with the Dorset Heathland areas beyond the river.

- 2.7 **Gentle Densification:** RNP Policy R1 also mentions 'gentle densification'. We note that the planning applications that RTC considers as a statutory consultee frequently involve the expansion of a small property into one with a larger footprint and more bedrooms, which we don't believe is an uplift in density. In part, this is why RNP Policy R5 supports the building of smaller dwellings within residential schemes. We have a concern that the Government proposals may inadvertently promote applications for dwellings to be enlarged. We wonder if it might be possible to favour applications which enable a dwelling to be easily split into two at a later stage and would give explicit permission for this to be done. We also believe that there are sites, such as groups of district council owned garages, that could be turned into small dwellings and we note that some councils are investigating the feasibility of this.
- 2.8 **Energy:** Many of the proposals are aimed at increasing the amount of energy that is generated across the country from renewable sources and considers relaxation of constraints on, for example, NSIP projects. We believe that requiring new housing to be built to a very high energy performance, as stated in RNP Policy R10, helps to not increase the ongoing energy demand, but the Government could go a step further by requiring new buildings to generate more energy than they are expected to use, by requiring electricity generation (such as PV roof tiles) on new dwellings for example. Consideration could also be given to the compulsory incorporation of local battery storage on larger developments. These kinds of initiatives would be consistent with **Chapter 2, Paragraph 4i** '*unlock new sources of clean energy*' and **Chapter 9**.
- 2.9 **Home Ownership:** The RNP Policy R6 supports First Homes, which would appear to align with **Chapter 2, Paragraph 4d** '*bring home ownership into reach*'.
- 2.10 **Compulsory Purchase:** Strengthened compulsory purchase powers suggested in **Chapter 2, Paragraph 4e** would potentially align with RNP Policies R3 and R11. We are unclear why it should be limited to Green Belt sites, as suggested in **Chapter 5, Paragraph 31 and 32**.
- 2.11 **Hoarding:** One of the two strategic sites allocated in Ringwood under the current NFDC Local Plan was granted outline planning permission in March 2023. However, a decision notice has yet to be issued as the s106 agreement has not been completed. This has delayed submission of a detailed planning application and the site is effectively in limbo. We believe that there should be time limits and penalties to discourage 'hoarding' of sites with the aim of ensuring faster development delivery and, for smaller sites, it would benefit small and medium size builders, as referred to in **Chapter 6, Paragraph 15**.
- 2.12 **Presumption:** We agree that, as stated in **Chapter 2, Paragraph 17**, '*the presumption cannot offer a route to creating poor quality places*'. Ringwood Parish has an industrial site built in the last few years that was approved by the LPA based on it achieving a BREEAM 'Very Good' rating. It didn't. We also have an estate built in the last 10 years that has been described on record as 'excellent' by a LPA Planning Officer but has yet to transfer the open spaces to the LPA due to poor standards and has other

documented quality issues. We urge that any changes to 'presumption' are well trialled to avoid unforeseen poor consequences.

- 2.13 **Viability:** Viability is frequently used as the reason to reduce the affordable housing provision of strategic sites in our district. The accepted range for developer profit is currently 15-20% and the viability assessments here are usually based on a 20% profit. We think that the profit range should be set at 15% to better protect the 50% affordable housing provision. We also support your plans regarding Benchmark Land Values in relation to viability assessments as set out in **Chapter 5, Paragraph 29**. We would further urge the Government to ask the Environment Agency to review the Avon phosphorus mitigation scheme, which is effectively a 'tax' on new homes paid by developers to a developer that negatively impacts viability.
- 2.14 **Well Designed Development (Chapter 5):** We agree that 'beauty' is subjective and not helpful in planning policy. Well-designed development is covered in various policies of the RNP, including the use of the 'Building for a Healthy Life' tool to assess plans in Policy R8. However, we did not make it clear that the assessment should be carried out by a truly independent assessor, resulting in one developer effectively doing their own assessment which delivered only 'green' scores. We wonder if the proposals Government are planning might include obligatory use of such tools with conditions to ensure independence.
- 2.15 **Housing Stock (Chapter 4):** We support this change proposed in Question 15. RNP Policy R5 was based on housing stock evidence.
- 2.16 **Golden Rules:** We support the delivery of 50% 'affordable housing' with mixed tenure for all large housing developments, although we suggest the Government make adjustments to reflect what the public would think it should mean. For us, 'affordable' means small. It means a working couple can get a mortgage. It means energy efficient, ideally sitting within a green mortgage definition. We do support the needs-based approach outlined in **Chapter 6, Paragraph 4**, but would ask that the 'local areas' is not simply district wide. The needs of Ringwood are very different to other areas within the LPA's jurisdiction. We would therefore suggest that there is a mechanism to allow Parish level involvement in the process that must be taken into account by the LPA's.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the draft response, as outlined in paragraph 2 above, be submitted in response to the Government consultation.

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APPENDIX A - Referenced Policies from Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan

Policy R1: A Spatial Plan for Ringwood

A. The focus for new development in the Parish of Ringwood, outside of the National Park will be on reusing brownfield land and on realising other suitable development opportunities within the settlement boundary, as shown on the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan Policy Map. The principles of 'brownfield first' and of 'gentle densification' in the town will deliver a supply of developable land over the Plan period that will reduce the need for land to be released from the Green Belt for development.

B. The focus on using brownfield land and for gentle densification will contribute to bolstering and sustaining the town centre's vitality and viability as the primary centre for retail and other town centre uses. Market Place and its environs will retain its special clustering of café/restaurant, public houses and niche retail uses. The local centre at Poulner will continue to help meet the day-to-day needs of the local community in line with '20-minute neighbourhood' principles. Outside the town centre, the residential character of the suburban areas of the town will be sustained and enhanced through sensitively designed high quality infill and plot redevelopment.

C. Beyond the settlement boundary the focus will be on enhancing the natural environment, contributing to nature recovery, protecting and enhancing the National Park landscape and maintaining the essential characteristics of openness and permanence of the Green Belt in accordance with national policies, avoiding inappropriate development.

D. The harmful effects of traffic congestion, especially traffic with an origin and destination outside the town centre, will be tackled through the promotion of other means of moving about the town including the delivery of effective walking and cycling measures to better connect the new communities at Moortown Lane and Hightown Road.

Policy R2: Maintaining a Successful and Prosperous Town Centre

A. Proposals to maintain the established mix of town centre retail, commercial, community and residential uses within the town centre boundary, as shown on the Town Centre Inset Policy Map, will be supported.

B. Proposals will also be supported which enable the delivery of the Market Place shared space 'vision' and other heritage and cultural led regeneration initiatives that improve access from Furlong Drove and Pedlars Walk, and deliver improvements which 'green' the town centre.

C. Proposals for a change of use that will result in the loss of an active retail, commercial, business or service use of a ground floor frontage within the Ringwood Conservation Area will be supported where all of the following criteria are met:

- i) the proposed ground floor use falls within the NPPF definition of a main town centre use;
- ii) the proposed use and any associated physical alterations would maintain an active and publicly accessible ground floor use that enlivens the streetscene;
- iii) the proposed use would not undermine the character and diversity of that part of the Town Centre; and

iv) the proposed use and associated works would not harm the historic interest or character of the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings.

Policy R5: Smaller Housing

Provision should be made for small dwellings with one and two bedrooms, in schemes of residential development where this can be achieved without detriment to the amenities and the character of the surrounding area and neighbouring properties. The number of small dwellings should be greater than 50% of the total in schemes of five or more dwellings.

Policy R6: First Homes

Affordable housing will be supported in new development in areas outside of the New Forest National Park as required by Local Plan Policy HOU2. Within that provision, a minimum of 25% of new affordable homes shall be provided as First Homes.

Policy R7: The Ringwood Design Code

As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, residential development proposals must demonstrate high quality design and legible layouts which, where relevant, have taken account of the positive aspects of local character defined in the Ringwood Design Code (Appendix B), and should also:

- (i) Minimise the impact of development on higher ground by careful siting and by comprehensive landscaping;
- (ii) Include on a Landscape Plan the opportunities to create wildlife corridors and deliver biodiversity net gain;
- (iii) Include amenity space having sufficient size, shape and access to sunlight for the provision of recreational benefits to the occupants;
- (iv) Offer highly permeable residential layouts for cyclists and pedestrians moving within and through the development;
- (v) Front boundary treatments should be in keeping with the historic and rural character of Ringwood (DC.03.02 and DC.05.2). Hard boundary treatments up to 1m high will be permitted, where taller boundaries are deemed appropriate (for example, for clear reasons of security or privacy) this should be achieved by planting unless otherwise justified by historic character. Hard boundaries should be permeable to wildlife; and
- (vi) Be respectful of the tranquil setting of the National Park and protective of its dark skies. Lighting should be fully justified and well designed to shine only where it is needed.

Policy R10: Zero Carbon Buildings

A. All developments should be 'zero carbon ready' by design to minimise the amount of energy needed to heat and cool buildings through landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping.

B. Wherever feasible, all buildings should be certified to a Passivhaus or equivalent standard with a space heating demand of less than 15KWh/m²/year. Where schemes that maximise their potential to meet this standard by proposing the use of terraced and/or apartment building

forms of plot size, plot coverage and layout that are different to those of the character area within which the proposal is located, this will be supported, provided it can be demonstrated that the scheme will not have a significant harmful effect on the character of the area.

C. All planning permissions granted for new and refurbished buildings should demonstrate that they have been tested to ensure the buildings will perform as predicted prior to occupation.

D. All planning applications for major development are also required to be accompanied by a Whole Life-Cycle Carbon Emission Assessment, using a recognised methodology, to demonstrate actions taken to reduce embodied carbon resulting from the construction and use of the building over its entire life. Consideration should be given to resource efficiency at the outset and whether existing buildings can be re-used as part of the scheme to capture their embodied carbon.

E. An Climate Change Statement will be submitted to demonstrate compliance with the policy (except for householder applications). Applicants are directed to the Cotswold Net Zero Toolkit for guidance on matters to be addressed at pre-planning and initial design stage. The statement will demonstrate how opportunities to reduce the energy use intensity (EUI) of buildings over the plan period have been maximised in accordance with the energy hierarchy. Designers shall evaluate the operational energy use using realistic information on the intended use, occupancy and operation of the building to minimise any performance gap.

Policy R11: Encouraging Active and Healthy Travel

A. The Neighbourhood Plan Policy Map identifies the existing Sustainable Travel Network and opportunities for improvements, as shown on the Active Travel Policy Map, for the purpose of prioritising active and healthy travel.

B. Development proposals on land that lies within or adjacent to the Network will be required, where practical, to provide opportunities for a more joined-up Network of walking and cycling routes to the town centre, local schools and community facilities and accessible green space by virtue of their layout, means of access and landscape treatment.

C. Proposals for major development (10 dwellings or above) should adopt the Sustainable Accessibility and Mobility Framework, as illustrated, and demonstrate how they have, in the following priority order:

- (i) sought to minimise the need to travel beyond the parish;
- (ii) for longer trips, sought to encourage and enable the use of active, public and shared forms of transport; and,
- (iii) for trips that must be made by car, sought to encourage and enable the use of zero emission vehicles.

Current Projects Update

D

No.	Name	Status	Recent developments	Description and notes	Lead Officer/Member	Financing
Full Council						
FC1	Long Lane Football Facilities Development	In progress (scheduled for completion in 2024)	The artificial turf pitch has been completed and is now in use. Utility works by statutory undertakers have been completed and work on the pavilion has resumed. The new building is expected to be ready for occupation in September 2024.	A joint venture with Ringwood Town Football Club and AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust to improve the football facilities for shared use by them and the community.	Town Clerk	The current expectation is that the Council's contribution to the project will, in effect, be limited to a modest loss of income from the site (but over a long term).
Planning Town & Environment Committee						
PTE1	Neighbourhood Plan	Complete	83% of residents voted "yes" in the Referendum on 04/07/2024. The Plan has been adopted (made) by NFDC and NFPA and is now part of the NFDC Development Plan and must be taken into consideration in the determination of planning applications.	To prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the civil parish of Ringwood but limited in scope to a few specified themes.	Deputy Town Clerk	Spent £25,282.42 (£18,000 funded from Locality grants, £3,650 additional budget agreed for SPUD youth engagement work (F/6061)). £3,167.58 unspent of original RTC budget.
PTE3	Crow Stream Maintenance	Annual recurrent	Spraying of stream banks undertaken 19/06/24, annual flail to be carried out in August and stream clearance by volunteers on 3 October. Working with various agencies and local landowners on developing wider project on holding back flood water and increasing outflow.	Annual maintenance of Crow Ditch and Stream in order to keep it flowing and alleviate flooding	Deputy Town Clerk	Budget of £1,000 funded by transfer from earmarked reserve
PTE6	Shared Space Concept - Thriving Market Place	In progress	£10,000 released by NFDC from UKSPF to undertake options appraisal/feasibility study. Project Brief agreed and HCC instructed to carry out work outlined in Brief. Next meeting of Working Group scheduled for 03/09/2024.	Concept for town centre shared space identified through work on the Neighbourhood Plan. Working in partnership with NFDC and HCC.	Deputy Town Clerk	HCC funded survey work. £10,000 grant from UKSPF (via NFDC).
	Greening Ringwood	In progress	Official launch of Phase 2 held on 20/04/2024 in Gateway Square. Numerous activities taking place. Update report on agenda.	Greening Campaign Phase 2 to run from Sept 2023 to July 2024, focussing on making space for nature; energy efficient greener homes; climate impacts on health and wellbeing; waste prevention; and cycle of the seed.		£50 signing up fee funded from General Reserve.
	Bus Shelters	In progress	HCC framework contractor has completed survey of shelters free of charge. Action Plan prepared and being worked through with intention of bringing report with recommendations to cttee in October.	Review of Council owned bus shelters.		No agreed budget
Projects being delivered by others which are monitored by the Deputy Clerk and reported to this committee:						
	Crow Lane Footpath	In progress	Developers' contributions paid to HCC to implement. Additional funds required to progress and approved by NFDC Cabinet on 02/11/2022 - report indicates delivery in 2024/25. HCC working on design.	New footpath to link Beaumont Park with Hightown Road, alongside west of Crow Lane	Hampshire CC	Developers contributions
	Railway Corner	In progress	Project supported by RTC. Planning application approved (23/11081).	Project to improve and promote historical significance of triangle of land at junction of Hightown Road and Castleman Way.	Ringwood Society	No financial implications.
	Memorial Bench for Michael Lingam-Willgoss	In progress	Consent to install bench has been granted by HCC. Legal fees covered by County Cllr Thierry. Date for installation yet to be agreed.	Provision of memorial bench in Market Place in memory of Michael Lingam-Willgoss.	Ringwood Carnival / Ringwood Rotary	No financial implications.
Policy & Finance Committee						
PF5	Poulner Lakes Lease	On hold	Awaiting track maintenance solution - see Recreation Leisure & Open Spaces Committee item RLOS21.	Negotiating a lease from Ringwood & District Anglers' Association of the part of the site not owned by the Council	Town Clerk	Some provision for legal advice or assistance may be needed eventually.
PF11	92 Southampton Road	In progress (commenced March 2023)	Vacant possession has been recovered. Details about possible alternatives to re-letting are being obtained and will be reported to committee before any further repairs are commissioned or re-letting agreed.	Reviewing the letting of this council-owned house	Town Clerk	Rent receipts and other financial implications of any changes are unclear at present but will be considered as part of the review.

PF12	Base budget review	Commenced Feb. 2024	Inaugural meeting held on 17th April. Workstreams and lead councillors for each agreed.	A review by members and officers of the council's base (revenue) budget, probably focused on a few types of expenditure or areas of activity, to identify possible options for change and/or savings.	Finance Manager	No anticipated costs other than staff time.
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Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee

RLOS4	Grounds department sheds replacement	In progress (Commenced design work in April 2021.)	Officers have been working with a planning consultant on project design and two rounds of pre-application planning advice have been completed. A planning application has been prepared in draft but members will be invited to consider further design changes at the meeting on 4th September.	A feasibility study into replacing the grounds maintenance team's temporary, dispersed & sub-standard workshop, garaging and storage facilities. Combined with a possible new car park for use by hirers of and visitors to the club-house.	Town Clerk	Revised capital budget of £4,000 (originally £10,000 until virement to RLOS19)
RLOS5	Cemetery development	In progress (Commenced design work in April 2021. Aiming to complete by December 2024.)	Design and funding arrangements for a memorial wall have been agreed in principle. An architect has been instructed. Only two responses to the public tender were received; both considerably in excess of the agreed budget. Officers are considering next steps but have enlarged the provision for interring cremated remains in the interim.	Planning best use of remaining space, columbarium, etc.	Town Clerk	Capital cost estimated at £37,500 will be met from a combination of earmarked reserves.
RLOS10	Waste bin replacement programme	In progress (Commenced April 2020)	The final replacements in the current programme will be installed this autumn. Future needs will then be re-assessed.	Three-year programme to replace worn-out litter and dog-waste bins	Grounds Manager	Budget of £2,000 a year.
RLOS14	Poulner Lakes waste licence	In progress	Surrender requirements and process have been investigated and discussed with Environment Agency and New Forest District Council. Consultants, ACS Testing, have been engaged to provide technical advice and support. Their reports on the recent water sampling are clear and they are preparing a surrender report.	Arranging to surrender our redundant waste licence to avoid annual renewal fees	Town Clerk	
RLOS19	Carvers Strategic Development	Completed May 2024	The Masterplan prepared by landscape designer New Enclosure, after being consulted upon and revised, was formally adopted on 1st May 2024. It will now serve as a vision to guide future planning and developments but since it will remain a living document subject to potential updating, this item will remain open until further notice.	Devising a strategic vision and plan for the future of Carvers Recreation Ground pulling together proposals for additional play equipment and other features	Carvers Manager	Revised budget of £6,000 (virement from RLOS4).
RLOS21	Poulner Lakes track maintenance	In progress (under discussion since Jan. 2021)	NFDC is developing a concept design of an improved access on the basis that RTC will fund essential maintenance/improvements to the vehicular access element and NFDC will fund the rest. The design concept and proposed works are expected to be ready for consideration at the meeting on 4th September.	Devising a sustainable regime for maintaining the access tracks at Poulner Lakes to a more acceptable standard.	Town Clerk	Yet to be settled
RLOS23	North Poulner Play Area skate ramp request	In progress (commenced Mar. 2023)	A 'half-pipe' has been identified as a likely cheaper and easier option. The safety standards are being researched in order to finalize the cost and identify any funding shortfall.	A local resident requested provision of a 'quarter-pipe ramp' at this site and has been fund-raising for it	Deputy Town Clerk	Yet to be quantified and agreed
RLOS25	Open Spaces Management Review	About to commence	The Council appointed members to a new task and finish group at the meeting on 31st July. A list of sites with relevant information has been compiled. Inaugural meeting	A strategic priority project to review the council's management of all its public open and green spaces	Town Clerk	Staff time only

Staffing Committee

None

Proposed/Emerging Projects Update

No.	Name	Description	Lead	Recent developments	Progress / Status Stage reached	Estimated cost	Funding sources
Full Council							
	None						
Planning Town & Environment Committee							
	Roundabout under A31	Planting and other environmental enhancements		Area being used by National Highways for storage of materials during works to widen the A31.	Floated as possible future project		
	Lynes Lane re-paving Rear of Southampton Road	Ringwood Society proposal Proposal by Ringwood Society to improve appearance from The Furlong Car Park and approaches			Floated as possible future project Floated as possible future project		
	Dewey's Lane wall	Repair of historic wall		Re-build/repair options and costs are being investigated	Shelved as a TC project		
	Signage Review	Review of signs requiring attention - e.g. Castleman Trailway, Pocket Park, Gateway Square	Cllr Day		Floated as possible future project		
	Crow ditch	Investigate works required to improve capacity and flow of ditch alongside Crow Lane, between Hightown Road and Moortown Lane					Developers contributions
Policy & Finance Committee							
	Paperless office	Increasing efficiency of office space use	Cllr. Heron	Discussions with Town Clerk and Finance Manager			
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee							
	None	(Current projects expected to absorb available resources for several years)					
Staffing Committee							
	None						

Closed Projects Report

No.	Name	Description	Outcome	Notes
Full Council				
FC2	Strategic Plan	Exploring ideas for medium term planning. Aim to have complete for start of budget-planning in Autumn 2022.	Completed in October 2022	
Planning, Town & Environment Committee				
	Pedestrian Crossings - Christchurch Road	Informal pedestrian crossings to the north and south of roundabout at junction of Christchurch Road with Wellworthy Way (Lidl)	Completed by HCC	
	Cycleway signage and improvements	New signage and minor improvements to cycleway between Forest Gate Business Park and Hightown Road	Completed by HCC	
	Carvers footpath/cycle-way improvement	Creation of shared use path across Carvers between Southampton Road and Mansfield Road	Completed by HCC	
	Replacement Tree - Market Place	New Field Maple tree to replace tree stump in Market Place.	Completed in January 2022 by HCC	
PTE4	Climate Emergency	Funds used to support Greening Campaign, community litter-pick and Flood Action Plan leaflets.	Completed March 2023	
	A31 widening scheme	Widening of A31 westbound carriageway between Ringwood and Verwood off slip to improve traffic flow; associated town centre improvements utilising HE Designated Funds	Scheme completed by National Highways and road re-opened in November 2022.	
	SWW Water Main Diversion (associated with A31 widening scheme)	Diversion of water main that runs along the A31 westbound carriageway. Diversion route included land in RTC's ownership at The Bickerley.	Scheme completed by SWW in 2022.	
	Surfacing of Castleman Trailway	Dedication and surfacing of bridleway between old railway bridge eastwards to join existing surfacing.	Surfacing works completed by HCC early April 2022.	
	Bus Shelter Agreement	Request by ClearChannel in Nov. 2020 for RTC to licence the bus shelters in Meeting House Lane and the advertising on them. Despite various communications, we have had no contact for over a year and therefore regard the original request to be defunct.	Request not followed up by ClearChannel, therefore defunct and removed from project list October 2023.	
PTE5	Human Sundial	Work to refurbish human sundial and install surrounding benches complete. Time capsule cover stone replaced on 21/07/2023. Interpretation board with details of sundial, Jubilee Lamp etc. to be considered as part of Thriving Market Place project.	Completed.	
PTE2				
Policy & Finance Committee				
PF1	New Council website	Arranging a new website that is more responsive, directly editable by Council staff and compliant with accessibility regulations.	Completed	
PF2	Greenways planning permission	Consideration of applying to renew planning permission for bungalow in garden previously obtained	Decided not to renew	
PF3	Detached youth outreach work	To provide youth workers for trial of detached outreach work	Transferred to Recreation Leisure & Open Spaces Committee (see RLOS20)	
PF4	Review of governance documents	A major overhaul of standing orders, financial regulations, committee terms of reference, delegated powers, etc. Routine periodic reviews will follow completion of this work.	Completed in July 2022	All governance documents will now receive routine annual reviews.
PF6	Health & Safety Management Support Re-procurement	Re-procuring specialist advice and support for discharge of health and safety duties	Completed in February 2023	
PF7	Financial Procedures Manual	Preparation of a new manual for budget managers and other staff detailing financial roles, responsibilities and procedures	Completed in September 2022	Will be updated by Finance Manager as necessary
PF8	Bickerley Legal Title	An application to remove land from the Council's title was made	Completed in October 2023	Application successfully resisted
PF9	Greenways office leases	The tenant of the first floor suite gave notice and left. The building was re-let as a whole to the tenant of the ground floor suite.	Completed in November 2022	
PF10	Councillors' Email Accounts	Providing councillors with official email accounts (and devices, if required) to facilitate compliance with data protection laws.	Completed in August 2023	
Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee				
RLOS1	War Memorial Repair	Repair by conservation specialists with Listed Building Consent with a re-dedication ceremony after.	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS2	Bickerley Tracks Repair	Enhanced repair of tracks to address erosion and potholes (resurfacing is ruled out by town green status) and measures to control parking.	Fresh gravel laid in 2021-22.	No structural change is feasible at present.

RLOS3	Public open spaces security	Review of public open spaces managed by the Council and implementation of measures to protect the highest priority sites from unauthorised encampments and incursions by vehicles	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS6	Community Allotment	Special arrangement needed for community growing area at Southampton Road	Ongoing processes adapted	Agreed to adopt as informal joint venture with the tenants' association
RLOS7	Bowling Club lease	Renewal of lease that expired in April 2023.	Completed in July 2023	New lease granted for 14 years.
RLOS8	Ringwood Youth Club	Dissolution of redundant Charitable Incorporated Organisation	Completed in July 2023	Charity removed from Register of Charities
RLOS9	Aerator Repair	Major overhaul to extend life of this much-used attachment	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS11	Ash Grove fence repair	Replacing the worn-out fence around the play area	Completed in 2021-22	
RLOS12	Van replacement	Replacing the grounds department diesel van with an electric vehicle	Suspended in 2023	Van will be replaced in accordance with Vehicle & Machinery replacement plan
RLOS13	Bickerley compensation claim	Statutory compensation claim for access and damage caused by drainage works	Completed March 2022	Settlement achieved with professional advice
RLOS15	Acorn bench at Friday's Cross	Arranging the re-painting of this bespoke art-work	Completed in 2021-22	Labour kindly supplied by Men's Shed
RLOS16	Town Safe	Possible re-paint of this important survival, part of a listed structure	Suspended indefinitely in September 2022	Complexity and cost judged disproportionate to benefit
RLOS17	Crow Arch Lane Allotments Site	The transfer to this Council (pursuant to a s.106 agreement) of a site for new allotments off Crow Arch Lane	Completed in November 2023	
RLOS18	Cemetery Records Upgrade	Creation of interactive digital cemetery map and scanning of cemetery registers as first stage in digitizing all cemetery records to facilitate remote working, greater efficiency and improved public accessibility.	Completed in 2021	Cost £5,467. Further upgrades are needed to digitize the records fully
RLOS20	Detached youth outreach work	Trialling the provision of detached outreach work by specialist youth workers.	Completed in May 2022	
RLOS22	Bickerley parking problem	Unauthorised parking on the tracks crossing the Bickerley is causing damage and obstruction	Closed off in September 2023	Additional signage has been installed. An estimate of £5,510 to move the "dragon's teeth" was judged disproportionate to the problem.
RLOS24	Poulner Lakes circular path	HCC has funded the creation of a circular path for pedestrians and cyclists to improve accessibility and so encourage greater use	Completed in May 2024	RTC is now responsible for maintenance

Staffing Committee

S1	HR support contract renewal	Renewal of contract for the supply to the Council of specialist human resources law and management support	Completed in 2021-22
S2	Finance Staffing Review	Reassessing staffing requirements and capacity for finance functions and re-negotiating staff terms	Completed in 2021-22