



# **ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

Members of the Environment and Heritage Committee

are summoned to attend a Meeting at **7.45pm** on

**Tuesday 28 January 2025**

to be held at

Loughton Town Council, Council Chamber  
1 Buckingham Court, Rectory Lane, Loughton IG10 2QZ

to transact the business shown in the agenda.

**Mark Squire**  
**Town Clerk**  
22 January 2025

**Councillor C C Pond (Chairman)**  
**Councillor K Valentine (Vice Chairman)**

**Councillors**

A Fricker  
J Obaseki

W Dodd  
C Ubah

S Harriman

Note to Councillors:  
If you are unable to attend the meeting,  
please email your apologies to the office [contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:contact@loughton-tc.gov.uk)

## A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies**  
To RECEIVE any apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest**  
For Councillors to declare any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any items on the Agenda.
- 3 Confirmation of Minutes**  
To CONFIRM the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024.
- 4 Public Representations**  
To hear any representations from members of the public who have registered a request to address the Committee in accordance with no 5, Appendix C, of the Standing Orders.
- 5 Town Clerk's / Chairman's Report**
  - The Evolis, Speed Indicator Device (SID) is scheduled to be fitted on the lamppost by the Highway Rangers at 9 Valley Hill on 29 January 2025.
  - The next 3-year tender for Christmas lights has now been posted on the 'Gov.Uk Contracts Finder' website.
  - Pyrles Lane (former) Allotment site EH35.2 refers. No response has been received from EFDC to date.
  - Salt bins – The impasse remains with Essex County Council (ECC). The Chairman will provide an oral update.

To receive and note.
- 6 Jessel Green – Fields in Trust – Min EH52**  
Work on this project will commence at the first available opportunity to include local residents questionnaire/consultation/ feedback.  
  
To receive and note.
- 7 Weekly Markets – Min no EH53**  
See attached report page 6.  
  
Members to review and recommend a way forward.
- 8 Heritage Asset and Conservation Areas - Extension and Protection of areas within Loughton – Min EH54.1**  
See the response from the Senior Conservation Officer, Planning Services, Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) date 6 December 2024  
*Thank you for your email and for raising the question regarding the formal Heritage Asset Review (HAR).*

*While it is correct that the HAR was produced 12 years ago, we maintain a thorough understanding of the evolution of the area of Loughton. This is achieved through our recent and ongoing assessments of planning applications and regular site visits. This allows us to closely monitor changes to the townscape and ensure the conclusions of the HAR remain robust and reflect the current context.*

*At this time, we have no elements or observations that would lead us to deviate from the conclusions of the 2012 HAR, and therefore, it is unlikely that the Council would consider further designation of the area of Loughton.*

To receive and note.

**9 Allotments - Willingale Road Allotments Report**

Members to receive the attached report, see page 7.

Members to review.

**10 Events**

**10.1 Loughton Wombles**

Loughton Wombles has now reached its third anniversary. Typically, there are larger group meets each month, splitting into two working parties of litter pickers to cover different areas around Loughton. Recent meets: -

- Saturday 23 November 2024. One team focused on the Hillyfields Open Space and the other on the hedgerow in Colebrook Lane and Jessel Green.
- Saturday 14 December 2024 - a party tackled the Loughton Station Approach and surrounding pathways including Great Eastern Path.
- Saturday 18 January 2025 – One group cleared the green next to the Maple Gate housing area and opposite the Lidl supermarket, continuing up to the Baldwins Hill junction on Goldings Hill. The second Group worked on Chester Road and surroundings.
- Further Womble gatherings are scheduled for 15 February and 22 March 2025. We are aware that litter that ends up on the ground does not simply disappear. See some interesting statistics below of approximate rubbish breakdown timelines:

Plastics bags	-	5 - 100 years
Chewing gum	-	20 - 25 years
Cigarette butts	-	1 - 100 years
Aluminium cans	-	200 - 500 years
Plastic bottles	-	450 - 1000 years
Organic material i.e. apple core	-	1 month

To receive and note.

**10.2 Loughton Day**

Saturday 20 September 2025 has been scheduled for 'Loughton Day'.

To receive and note.

**11 Spring Bulb Display on Borders Lane – Min no EH58**

There are approximately forty outstanding cases registered along Borders Lane, on the ECC Highways website, the majority have an undefined timeline for completion. The likelihood of any response from ECC Highways anytime soon is remote.

Members to review and recommend a way forward.

**12 Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59**

See report pages 8 – 17. Members to recommend and develop a strategy, going forward based on this background information.

**13 Christmas Windows Competition – Min no EH60**

See report attached pages 18 – 20.

To receive and note.

**14 Locality Fund.**

There is the possibility that Cllr Pond (in his capacity as an ECC Councillor) may be able to access funding from the County Council's Locality Fund. A possible use of these funds is a feasibility study for solar panels, which has been sought, following a site visit from a potential contractor. However, the response is likely to be in the form of a quote, with only modest, or no cost.

The funding has to be spent by 31 March 2025 (with evidence that the project has been completed).

Given the above scenario, members to consider alternative use of the funds which can be utilised quickly.

**15 Tree Whips – see Recreation Committee Meeting agenda dated 15 .1.25, agenda item 13 and subsequent minute number RC83**

Cllr MacKinnon has at his disposal some 100 tree whips. Members to consider where they should be planted? Possibilities for this Committee to consider to plant in the narrower gaps in perimeter 'green growth', surrounding Lady Whittakers Mead / Davenant Playing Fields? Willingale Allotements?

Members to discuss and recommend a way forward.

**16 Litter along Station Approach**

Transport For London (TFL) have been approached regarding the debris along the ditch, adjacent to Loughton Station Approach and Roding Valley School football astro turf pitches. The accumulated rubbish and takeaway food that is dropped, attracts rat infestations. TFL have informed that this stretch of land belongs to EFDC. TFL will produce a map, which illustrates this designation of ownership. A further oral update may be forthcoming at the meeting.

To receive and note.

**17 Financial Position  
Current Financial Position**

The current financial position as of 20 January 2025 is attached together with current details of the funds available from earmarked reserves. (See pages 21 – 22)

Members to review.

**18 Environmental Issues**

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Committee to discuss concerns and improve the ambience and environment of Loughton by tackling adverse factors and promoting positive ones.

The methodology agreed is as follows:

Councillors should send to the Town Clerk at least 14 days before the meeting a statement of what the eyesore is, its exact location, its ownership, if known, and the desired course of action. Members would discuss the matter, come to a conclusion, and then the Clerk would write to the responsible body outlining what the Town Council would like to see done. If no action were taken, the matter could be publicised and revisited at a subsequent meeting.

**19 Future Work of the Committee**

The opportunity for members to suggest topics to be considered by the Committee at a future meeting, subject to the Committee's agreement.

**Mark Squire**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
22 January 2025

**Agenda item 7**

**Weekly Markets – Min no EH53**

**Background**

Pre-Christmas it was left with Hughmark that they would revert to let us know whether they would be able to run a market, based on the reduced number of stalls (circa 13) as specified by Essex County Council (ECC) Highways. Hughmark would revert after liaising with his potential market stall operators. No response had been forthcoming. Town Clerk chased a response on 20 January 2025

.....  
21.1.25 - response received as follows.

Mark,

May I suggest that we agree a suggested start date and start planning it that way. Then we have firm commitment from the traders we then start the legal process of licencing etc. Indications are Ok but that is all. People cannot commit or even seriously plan until we have either a date or even month to work to.

Kind Regards

Hughmark

.....  
This is a 'chicken and egg' scenario. Ordinarily the end of April 25 would be recommended as a starting date. This leaves adequate time to finalise all agreements/ paperwork both with Hughmark, but also to ascertain that it is acceptable to ECC Highways. This would not be a wasted exercise, as even if Hughmark do not deliver, it would be useful for any other providers that come forward in the future.

However the conundrum is that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the layby closure will need to be made (taking circa 3 months and costing circa £,1000.) The Town Council will not presumably wish to pay for this if the market comes to nothing. Equally, it is doubtful whether Hughmark will want to pay for this either, unless the market operator knows he has enough traders on board to start with.

Members to review and recommend a way forward.

MS 22.1.25

**Agenda item 9**  
**Willingale Road Allotments Report**

**Current Situation**

We have 2 full and 2 half plots currently vacant. Presently we do not have anyone on the waiting list.

The next site inspection will take place in February 2025.

**Cesspit**

Officers are currently monitoring the level of water in the pit, since all the bad weather recently the pit is now full of rainwater. Officers will arrange to have it emptied and the new access frame fitted along with the plate to cover the area to stop rainwater filling the pit.

**Best Allotment Competition**

Members to review and decide whether they wish to continue the competition in 2025.

D Taylor – Allotment Officer 9 January 2025

**Agenda Item 12**  
**Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59**

**Nottingham Declaration – LTC Sustainability Initiatives**  
*(Since 2019)*

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Min No</b>
<b>GROW Community Garden</b>	April 2019	<i>EH124.1.1.3</i>
<b>Ban on the Use of Metaldehyde Slug Pellets</b>	June 2019	<i>EH138.1.1.4</i>
<b>Bee Hotels</b>	Oct 2019	<i>EH151 and EH179.13</i>
<b>Hedgerows</b>	Nov 2021	<i>EH52.3</i>
<b>Re-greening of Loughton &amp; Cycle Routes</b>	Mar 2020	<i>EH168 &amp; EH200, &amp; (EH133.1) RC150.4.6.1, RC159.4.7, RC167.3.6</i>
<b>Loughton Wombles</b>	Jan 2020	<i>EH179.6, EH197, EH230, EH38.4, &amp; EH59</i>
<b>Tree matters</b>	Mar 2020	<i>EH233.1</i>
<b>Woodland Trust &amp; Roding Valley Recreation Ground - Planting Scheme and Footpaths</b>	March 2020	<i>EH233.2, EH283, RC124.1.1, RC124.11, RC131.1, RC149, RC159.4.1, RC167.3.1, RC174, RC183, RC188, RC200.5, RC200.10, RC233, RC245. RC7, RC25, RC47, RC66, RC86, RC215.2, RC266, RC293</i>
<b>Plant a Tree Queen’s Platinum Jubilee</b>	Sept 2021	<i>RC31, RC52, RC99</i>
<b>Trees – Miscellaneous</b>	Sept 2021 & Jan 2022	<i>RC30, RC51, RC11, RC38, RC39, RC46, RC47, RC80</i>
<b>Tree Surveys</b>	Every 2/3 years	<i>RC133, RC 155, RC176, RC 196, RC 196.2, RC196.3, RC215.2, RC266, RC10, RC37</i>
<b>Hedgerows Survey</b>	Sept 2022	<i>RC46, 111, 138. 158, 178</i>
<b>SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace)</b>	Sept 2022 - Mar 2023	<i>RC111, 131, RC194</i>
<b>Electric Bus Towns</b>	Oct 2019	<i>EH172, EH203</i>
<b>Environment &amp; Sustainability Policy</b>	Sept 2021	<i>EH35, EH52.2</i>



<b>Waste Recycling</b>	Jun 2022	<i>EH119</i>
<b>Town Council Van &amp; Charging Point</b>	Nov 2022	<i>EH157, RC140, RC160, RC181, RC200, RC224, RC301.1.1, RC301.1.1</i>
<b>Solar Panels – Murray Hall (&amp; Utility Costs) &amp; Environmental Sustainability (ES)</b>	Jan 2023  Nov 2024	<i>RC174, RC202.1, RC225.1, RC44, RC65.1  EH59, EH63.1</i>
<b>ECC Climate Action Advice Packs</b>	Jun 2024	<i>EH20</i>
<b>Hillyfields Open Space Flood Alleviation Scheme</b>	Mar 2019	<i>RC124.1.1, RC131.1, RC139.1, RC150.1.1, RC159.1, RC177, RC224.1</i>
<b>Drainage Works – RVRG</b>	Sept 2020 (completed Mar/Apr 2022)	<i>RC194, RC200.11, RC234, RC8, RC26, RC48, RC87, RC200.8</i>
<b>Fields in Trust</b>	Nov 2020 & Nov 2024	<i>RC199.2 &amp; RC64</i>
<b>Willingale Road Nature Reserve</b>	Sept 2022	<i>RC141 &amp; RC253</i>

N.B.

In 2021 EFDC led a climate change forum, entitled ‘Epping Forest Net Zero Forum’ which Loughton Town Council officers attended on a regular basis. Unfortunately, this was short lived and was disbanded by EFDC, presumably due to resources issues.

Further initiatives include: LED (greater energy efficiency) lights fitted at Buckingham Court.

Heating system upgraded at MH to a more energy efficient system. Windows replaced at Kingsley Hall – more energy efficient.

One member of staff (Planning Committee Clerk) works 2 days per week from home, cutting office energy costs and car emissions.

Work is starting to establish Jessel Green with ‘Fields in Trust status.

Staff encouraged to:

Only print what is necessary. Stationery items reused – folders, storage items.

Sparing use of lighting and heating

Recycling of office waste products – paper, plastics, batteries etc.

## **Agenda Item 12**

### **Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59 - continued**

#### **The Nottingham Declaration**

#### **LTC Initiatives – Sustainability**

LTC have promoted / implemented the following sustainable projects to support encourage its ecological credentials:

#### **GROW Community Garden – Apr 2019**

This community initiative was adopted to encourage local residents to come together in a safe and supportive environment and grow their own fruit and vegetables. (*EH124.1.1.3*)

#### **Ban on the Use of Metaldehyde Slug Pellets – June 2019**

The EHC approved the introduction of advising Willingale Road Allotment Plot holders of the ban on this pesticide in the UK from 30 June 2020. (*EH138.1.1.4*)

#### **Bee Hotels – Oct 2019**

EHC agreed to install six bee hotels on council property to increase awareness of this important ecological issue. Sites included: Loughton Cemetery, Murray Hall, Roding Valley Recreation Ground, Willingale Road Playing Field and Willingale Road Allotments. (*EH151 and 179.13*)

#### **Hedgerows – Nov 2021**

Cllr Davies gave a presentation to the EHC on this initiative and Members AGREED for an edited article based on this presentation should be included in the next 'Think Loughton' newsletter, and also that a letter be written to local MP Eleanor Laing, to seek support for the hedgerow initiatives, in keeping with the aims of the countryside charity, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Essex. (*EH52.3*)

#### **Re-greening of Loughton & Cycle Routes – Mar 2020**

EHC AGREED to adopt most of the ideas in principle of this EFDC proposal for a proposed planting scheme to combat riverbank erosion and promote flood control. The Town Clerk would also make contact with those authorities that have responsibility for those affected areas not under the responsibility of LTC e.g. the City of London Corporation. Also, to implement green cycle and walking routes, subject to amendment of existing byelaws. (*EH168 & EH200, & (EH133.1) RC150.4.6.1, RC159.4.7, RC167.3.6*)

#### **Loughton Wombles - Jan 2020**

The Town Clerk began this process in early 2020, but due to the Covid Pandemic, initial attempts to implement this group were delayed following social distancing and lockdown rules. The scheme finally became active in November 2021 when Covid restrictions were lifted being staged in two different locations in Loughton on the morning of Saturday 20 November. Waste collections have been undertaken on a monthly basis with growing numbers of volunteers joining ever since. (52 volunteers registered: 15 regulars) (*EH179.6, EH197, EH230, EH38.4, & EH59*)

#### **Tree matters – Mar 2020**

Essex Forest Initiative - Essex County Council's commitment to planting 375,000 trees across Essex within 5 years. It was AGREED to support the initiative in principle, and to refer this item to the Recreation Committee. (*EH233.1*)

## Agenda Item 12

### Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59 - continued

#### **Woodland Trust & Roding Valley Recreation Ground - Planting Scheme and Footpaths**

March 2020: Woodland Trust offered subsidised tree packs for parish councils – an opportunity to help the district reach its aim for carbon neutrality by 2030. Packs of 50 saplings each, up to 2 per land holding made available. Parish councils to plant and maintain the trees, so budget implications. Epping Forest Country Care for planting and supply of tree guards etc - £420.00 + VAT per day. (Budget for tree work is £6,000 ).

Recreation Committee AGREED (9/9/2020) to support initiative and decide location of the free trees - to be included in the tree planting scheme adjacent to the River Roding on the Roding Valley Recreation Ground, (*plans to re-plant and re-landscape the pathways / immediate green corridor adjacent to the Roding River along the Recreation Ground*).

EFDC to commence improvement of paths and planting works at the Roding Valley Recreation Ground at end of September / early October 2020. Tree planting would enhance the reinforcement of the riverbanks, - postponed until Autumn 2021.

March 2021: The Services Manager collected two packs of saplings, donated free by Woodland Trust. Planting of these trees to be added to the Roding Valley Recreation Ground planting scheme, which should be completed by EFDC by Autumn 2021.

March 2022: EFDC funding no longer available for further path works as part of this project. All remaining funds within EFDC's existing budget to be exclusively used for the planting scheme.

(EH233.2, EH283, RC124.1.1, RC124.11, RC131.1, RC149, RC159.4.1, RC167.3.1, RC174, RC183, RC188, RC200.5, RC200.10, RC233, RC245. RC7, RC25, RC47, RC66, RC86, RC215.2, RC266, RC293)

#### **Plant a Tree Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Sept 2021**

REC Cttee agreed a suitable location would be considered. The Memorial Garden in Roding Road was identified the tree to replace a Sycamore lost to Storm Eunice. (RC31, RC52, RC99)

#### **Trees – Miscellaneous – Sept 2021 & Jan 2022**

REC Cttee has considered various applications for Memorial trees across LTC sites. A Tree planting and Bench Policy has now been adopted regarding such matters. (RC30, RC51, RC11, RC38, RC39, RC46, RC47)

REC Cttee supported EFDC planting proposals for Jessel & Rochford Greens (RC80)

Regular **Tree Surveys** are undertaken (had been 3 yearly, would now be 2 yearly) to assess the condition of LTC trees and implement remedial / replanting works as appropriate.

(RC133, RC 155, RC176, RC 196, RC 196.2, RC196.3, RC215.2, RC266, RC10, RC37)

#### **Hedgerows Survey – Sept 2022**

REC Cttee agreed two metre grass strips would be left uncut to further enhance the value of hedgerows. However, following discussions with counterparts at EFDC, the costs for this scheme would not be sustainable for LTC to pursue. (Jan 2023). (RC46, 111, 138. 158, 178)

## **Agenda Item 12**

### **Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59 - continued**

#### **SANG – Sept 2022 - Mar 2023**

It was hopeful that following the adoption of the Local Plan, the Roding Valley Recreation Ground would be declared a SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) and therefore qualify for local authority grant funding for the upgrading of footpaths and for tree planting. (RC111, 131, RC194)

#### **Electric Bus Towns - Oct 2019**

EHC AGREED TC should contact ECC - express interest in making a bid for Loughton to become an electric bus town, when further scheme details known. This has particular relevance since all Loughton routes run directly through the Special Area of Conservation. Criteria set by Department for Transport (DFT). ECC to work on shortlist of possible towns for a bid, Loughton to be added to their list. 11 February 2020: Cllr CC Pond reported: still ongoing with regard to Loughton being included as an Electric Bus town. However Loughton may be lower down the list in terms of selection criteria. (EH172, EH203)

#### **Environment & Sustainability Policy – Sept 2021**

A draft policy was drafted for EHC members to agree. Approved in November 2021. (EH35, EH52.2).

#### **Waste Recycling – Jun 2022**

Cllr Davies addressed the EHC on re-cycling of waste items. EHC AGREED Town Council should encourage EFDC, as the local waste collecting authority, to broaden scope of its waste re-cycling capability and that LTC DCs take matter forward on behalf of the Town Council. (EH119)

#### **Town Council Van & Charging Point– Nov 2022**

EHC agreed purchase of electric van (c £25k), plus charging point, for replacement TC vehicle. Leased March 2022. Charging point to be installed at MH – not feasible for use by public. £1K towards the costs of this installation were secured by Cllr Pond from the ECC Locality Fund for this project. (EH157, RC140, RC160, RC181, RC200, RC224, RC301.1.1, RC301.1.1)

#### **Solar Panels – Murray Hall (& Utility Costs) – Jan 2023 & Environmental Sustainability (ES) – Nov 2024**

REC Cttee agreed to investigate the feasibility of installing Solar Panels at Murray Hall. A report received in May 2023 concluded that LTC did not currently have the funds for such a project. However, it was agreed to investigate other potential savings on energy costs at the site (a new air conditioning system) (RC174, 202.1, 225.1, 44, 65.1)

&

EHC agreed to add Solar Panels at MH to the list of future priorities & to add ES as a high priority. (EH59, EH63.1)

#### **ECC Climate Action Advice Packs – Jun 2024**

EHC agreed to review TC's own green practices and to forming a plan going forward. (EH20)

#### **Hillyfields Open Space Flood Alleviation Scheme – Mar 2019**

RC provided with detailed plans from ECC regarding this scheme (new bund placed at site) – completed Nov 2019. Maintenance costs to be borne by TC (RC124.1.1, RC131.1, RC139.1, RC150.1.1, RC159.1, RC177, RC224.1)

**Agenda Item 12**

**Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59 - continued**

**Drainage Works – RVRG – Sept 2020 (completed Mar/Apr 2022)**

REC Cttee agreed to progress minor drainage works on the RVRG by the Children's Playground where there was continual flooding. (*RC194, 200.11, 234, 8, 26, 48, 87*). Subsequently, it was decided to relocate the playground to a new area within the RVRG due to the continual flooding of the site and its inaccessibility of users of the playground. (*RC200.8*)

**Fields in Trust – Nov 2020 & Nov 2024**

REC Cttee acquired Fields in Trust status for Loughton Crick Ground – ensuring it protected status from (*RC199.2*). Looking into Fields in Trust status for Jessel Green (*RC64*)

**Willingale Road Nature Reserve – Sept 2022**

A request for a pond at this site from CountryCare was rejected on safety grounds (*RC141*)  
An asbestos water tank, discovered by CountryCare was removed from this site (*RC253*).

DP/MS 20.1.25

**Agenda Item 12**  
**Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59 - continued**



**COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2008**

**NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Nottingham Declaration is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. It represents a high level, broad statement of commitment that any council can make to its own community.
- 1.2 To date over 330 local authorities have signed the Declaration.
- 1.3 The Declaration is supported by DEFRA, IDeA, LGA, the Environment Agency, the Carbon Trust, UK Climate Impacts Programme and ICLEI, the worldwide association of local governments concerned with sustainability.
- 1.4 This report seeks to raise awareness of the Declaration and the opportunity for this Council to sign it. It also considers the broad implications of making the Declaration.

**2. THE DECLARATION**

- 2.1 A copy of the Declaration is attached to this report.

**3. IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

- 3.1 Much of the Declaration is about acknowledgement of the issue, supporting the action already taken by Government and recognising this Council's community leadership role in this issue.
- 3.2 These are all themes having high profile in our Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy. "Working to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council and the District" is one of the 7 key themes of our Corporate Plan.
- 3.3 The results of recent consultation amongst our members, citizens and young people demonstrate a strong majority, recognising the need to tackle climate change backed up by a willingness to change behaviour.
- 3.4 The commitments in the Declaration tie in well with the outcomes from the Green Audit in terms of developing and delivering improvement action plans, designed to reduce carbon emissions and make the best use of natural resources as well as

making sure we are well prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change.

- 3.5 It also has strong links with the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, which identifies climate change as a priority and includes the climate change community engagement initiative as one of 6 flagship projects. Work is progressing well on this and the Council has engaged with householders, business and industry, Hampshire County Council, town and parish councils, the farming community, interest groups such as Friends of the Earth, LSP partners and schools in recent months. It is also engaged in community led initiatives such as the New Forest Transition and the Hyde Climate Change Forum.
- 3.6 The new national performance management regime, in particular the use of relevant parts of the National Indicator Set, the Local Area Agreement, and the future Use of Resources assessments, also has strong relevance to this issue.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The timing appears right to consider this issue. The Council is aiming to do its bit to mitigate the causes of climate change in its roles as estate manager, service provider and community leader and is developing its approach to adapting to climate change through existing strategy development and specifically through one of the themes of the Green Audit.
- 4.2 A Climate Change Strategy is planned to flow from the Green Audit.
- 4.3 From now on, performance measures relating to this issue will be significant elements in assessing the Council's and the area's performance.

#### **5. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS**

- 5.1 The Portfolio Holder supports the recommendation that the Council signs the Nottingham Declaration.

#### **6. FINANCIAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

#### **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The signing of the declaration is a public commitment to improving environmental performance. It will be a positive step for encouraging internal and external working on this agenda and will help further develop much of the good work that the Council has done in this area.
- 7.2 The lack of a declaration will leave the Council open to question as one of a small minority of Councils not signing up to the agreement. This might bring about lost opportunities for achieving positive environmental impacts with partners and the community.

**8. RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 That the Council sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

**For Further Information Please Contact:**

Keith Smith  
Head of Performance & Strategic  
Development Tel: 023 8028 5551  
E mail keith.smith@nfdc.gov.uk

**Background Papers:**

Published documents



Agenda Item 12  
Environmental Sustainability – Min no EH59 - continued

# The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change

**We acknowledge that**

- Evidence shows that climate change is occurring.
- Climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on the UK's people and places, economy, society and environment.

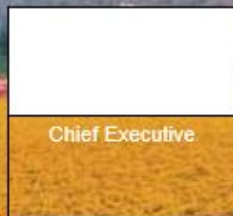
**We welcome the**

- Social, economic and environmental benefits which come from combating climate change.
- Emissions targets agreed by central government and the programme for delivering change, as set out in the UK Climate Change Programme.
- Opportunity for local government to lead the response at a local level, encouraging and helping local residents, local businesses and other organisations - to reduce their energy costs, to reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities.
- Endorsement of this declaration by central government.

**We commit our Council from this date \_\_\_\_\_ to**

- Work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010.
- Participate in local and regional networks for support.
- Within the next two years develop plans with our partners and local communities to progressively address the causes and the impacts of climate change, according to our local priorities, securing maximum benefit for our communities.
- Publicly declare, within appropriate plans and strategies, the commitment to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from our own authority's operations, especially energy sourcing and use, travel and transport, waste production and disposal and the purchasing of goods and services.
- Assess the risk associated with climate change and the implications for our services and our communities of climate change impacts and adapt accordingly.
- Encourage all sectors in our local community to take the opportunity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- Monitor the progress of our plans against the actions needed and publish the result.

\_\_\_\_\_ Council  
acknowledges the increasing impact that climate change will have on our community during the 21st century and commits to tackling the causes and effects of a changing climate on our city/county/borough/district.



**E&H Agenda item 13  
Christmas Window Competition 2024**

All Loughton businesses that decorated their windows gained automatic entry into the Christmas-themed shop window competition, as part of the Town’s festive celebrations.

Businesses are split into four classes of entry – local/independent businesses, multiples/chain stores, charity shops and eateries (cafes, pubs and restaurants). The judges were Town Mayor, Katie Valentine, assisted by Councillors Carol Davies and Ian Allgood, using the new simplified judging grids. This year’s results were as follows:

Class	Winning businesses	£75 donation made to nominated charity by the Town Council
LOCAL/INDEPENDENT		
<b>Winner</b>	<b>David Smith Financial Services 78 The Broadway, IG10 3ST</b>	<b>St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood Road Hastingwood, CM17 9JX</b>
Runner-up	Elliott James, 165 High Road, IG10 4LF	
Highly commended	Bababoom, 255 High Road, IG10 1AD Bird + Fairley, 269 High Road, IG10 1AH Geraldines, 76 The Broadway, IG10 3ST Jimmy’s Barbers, 42 The Broadway, IG10 3SY Tony’s, 61 The Broadway, IG10 3SP Woodbury Homes, 244 High Road, IG10 1RB	
MULTIPLE/CHAIN STORE		
<b>Winner</b>	<b>David Clulow Opticians 297 High Road, IG10 1AH</b>	<b>Cancer Research UK 2 Redman Place, London, E20 1JQ.</b>
Runners-up	Chigwell Window Centre, 305-307 High Road, IG10 1AH Helping Hands Home Care (Chigwell), 68 The Broadway, IG10 3ST	
CHARITY SHOPS		
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Haven House Children’s Hospice, 188 High Road, IG10 1DN</b>	<b>Haven House Children’s Hospice, The White House, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LB.</b>
Runner-up	The Children’s Society, 20 The Broadway, Debden, IG10 3ST	

Highly commended	St Clare Hospice Shop, 72 The Broadway, IG10 3ST	
EATERIES (Cafes, Pubs & Restaurants)		
<b>Winner</b>	<b>The Aviary Bar &amp; Brasserie, 3 Centric Parade, 200 High Road, IG10 1DN</b>	<b>Haven House Children’s Hospice, The White House, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LB.</b>
Runner-up	Aura, 179-181 High Road, IG10 4LF	
Highly commended	Atesh Grill & Bar, 280-282 High Road, IG10 1RB Efezade Mezze Grill, 12-14 The Broadway, IG10 3ST	

Each of the category winners received a laminated certificate, along with an engraved cup (to keep for 11 months). The winners were all absolutely delighted with the recognition shown for their efforts. Runners-up and highly commended entrants received laminated certificates.

The judges commented on the winning entrants:

David Smith Financial Services impressed with a Christmassy scene of a festive Gingerbread house and group of Gingerbread men, playing in the snow. Much of the tableau was made from materials such as cardboard, paper and cotton. There were also large snowballs / pieces of snow suspended on cotton, appearing to be either ‘falling from the ‘sky’ or being ‘thrown’ by the Gingerbread characters. We also liked the light garland, ‘Merry Christmas’, and the reindeer. This fun festive scene will be enjoyed by passersby on this part of The Broadway. We also liked that a staff member, Daisy Rathbone, had personally devised and executed this display.

David Clulow Opticians: We liked the **visual impact** created by this very simple festive window design. A collection of unusual, large, colourful, shiny, Christmassy balloons, creating the appearance of baubles from a giant’s Christmas tree. Team member, Androula said she had been entering for the last seven years and was thrilled that her efforts had been recognised.

Haven House Children’s Hospice Shop: This fun and festive window display was selected for its **creativity, artistic merit and effort**. Consisting of a tree with lights and decorations, predominantly in red. A string of candy cane ‘bunting’ hangs from the top of the window, while pine garlands frame the bottom and the sides. Upside down, we see a pair of kicking legs - poking out from a sack filled with presents. In front is a small row of elves, also upside down. The whole scene is framed by two mannequins dressed in red festive outfits.

**E&H Agenda item 13**  
**Christmas Window Competition 2024 – continued**

The Aviary: The window display was quite impressive and the visual impact considerable, cheering the street scene creating a warm, inviting and festive ambience. The many twinkling lights, large wreaths with snowflake motifs, and a pair of deer, in the windows add to the whole effect. A light curtain frames the top of the window and inside you can see a large sparkling tree, topped by an ornate peacock with long flowing tail. Through the front door you see the wall, decorated with large parcel motifs, tied with bows. The festive scene was devised and created by the owner's mother-in-law, who is not a professional decorator.

After the judging, a 'thank you' card was given to all the shops to display in their windows, these were produced by the Council Office with the only costs incurred being the colour printing.

Discretionary Certificates of Recognition were also awarded this year (as agreed at EHC March 2017) to two residents: one in Forest Road and another in The Broadway, having created wonderful spectacles for the enjoyment of local children and their families.

Report by Debra Paris  
Planning Committee Clerk & Admin Officer

**Agenda Item 17  
Financial Position**

**Current Financial Position**

**Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 20/01/2025**

Month No: 10

**Environment & Heritage Committee Report**

		Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Budget	Variance Annual Total	Funds Available	% of Budget
<b><u>Environment &amp; Heritage</u></b>							
Christmas Best Dressed Window	Expenditure	375	340	350	10	10	97.1%
Cemetery (Church Lane) (1)	Expenditure	57,994	48,353	74,047	25,694	25,694	65.3%
	Income	12,395	13,702	13,178	(524)		104.0%
Street Furniture	Expenditure	38,648	26,964	33,524	6,560	23,145	80.4%
Allotments (2)	Expenditure	4,536	6,942	6,188	(754)	0	112.2%
	Income	4,020	4,155	3,675	(480)		113.1%
Lady Whitakers Mead (3)	Expenditure	1,180	2,170	942	(1,228)	0	230.4%
Other Services (4)	Expenditure	2,114	4,769	2,250	(2,519)	0	212.0%
	Income	880	1,728	400	(1,328)		432.0%
Service Re-charge (5)	Expenditure	125,000	0				0%

**INCOME – EXPENDITURE TOTALS**

Environment and Heritage Expenditure	<b>229,847</b>	<b>89,539</b>	<b>117,301</b>	<b>27,762</b>	27,762	<b>76.3%</b>
Income	<b>17,295</b>	<b>19,590</b>	<b>17,253</b>	<b>(2,337)</b>		<b>113.5%</b>
Net Expenditure over Income	<b>212,552</b>	<b>69,950</b>	<b>100,048</b>	<b>30,098</b>		

Notes:

- 1) £3,500 other works budget remaining for 24/25.
- 2) £2,630 tree works, £975 fencing.
- 3) £1,480 tree works.
- 4) Additional community event costs to be included in budget for 25-26.
- 5) Service re-charge for 2024/25 is £132,000 which is deducted at the end of March 2025. Qualis have now started to invoice on a monthly basis.

**Agenda Item 17**  
**Financial Position**

**Current Financial Position**

**Earmarked Reserves**

A summary of the Committee's reserves showing the amounts available from reserves as at 31/12//2024 is provided below:

<b>Environment &amp; Heritage Committee</b>	<b>31/10/2024</b>
Christmas lights	350
Cemetery	17,292
Salt Bins	5,000
Cemetery plot maintenance endowment (restricted fund)	8,262
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,904</b>