



# Lichfield City Council

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**Town Clerk: Anthony Briggs** BA (Hons), CILCA

18 June 2024

**To: Members of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee**

Councillors J Blackman (Chair), K Farrelly, R Harvey-Coggins, A Lax, A Rushton and E Strain.

Dear Councillor

**Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee to be held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall at **6.00pm on Wednesday 26 June 2024** for the transaction of the following business. Any Councillor unable to attend should forward their apologies to the Town Clerk.

Yours sincerely

Tony Briggs  
Town Clerk

## AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of this committee held on 3 April 2024 (copy attached) [*minutes adopted by council on 15 April 2024*] and any matters arising from those minutes.

**4. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

Following discussions, certain priorities have been agreed. Updates on these priorities are provided below:

**1. Herb Garden Areas in LCC Open Spaces**

This matter has not been progressed significantly due to workload on other matters, however, a request for community groups to come forward with suggested areas of LCC land on which they would wish to work with LCC in regard to wildflower areas, herb gardens or any other biodiversity project was included in the June issue of the Council's 'City View' supplement that appears in the 'City Life' magazine.

**2. Water Fountains/Refill Points.**

Following discussion at the last meeting (see minute 19 (2)), the Town Clerk established that there are 21 sites within the City that have added themselves to the 'Refill' app. This was communicated to members on 5 April, with responses confirming a view that as this

provision was well established, there was little justification in proceeding with LCC's developing (and similar) proposals.

### 3. Bicycle Repair Stations

Further to previous discussions, the City Council's Grants Committee recommended a CIL allocation of up to £3,000 to cover the costs associated with the purchase and installation of the cycle repair station. As members will be aware, discussions had taken place with LDC regarding the installation of the station on LDC land adjacent to Pool Walk; this being the Conservation Officer's preferred site when consulted on the original proposal that was closer to Speaker's Corner on LCC land.



In late April, the Town Clerk was advised by LDC that the site originally recommended by the Conservation Officer and approved by this Committee was unsuitable. Following inspection, LDC's Estates Surveyor stated:

*'We would not advise the Cycle Repair Station being located next to the wall. We believe the installation will cause the wall to move further (it is likely the wall does not have any foundations as we have found this issue nearby). An alternative location is needed.'*

The Town Clerk contacted the Conservation Officer to establish whether the originally proposed location adjacent to Speakers Corner would require any permissions or would be in contravention of any applicable policies etc.

The Conservation Officer did not support the originally proposed location, and instead suggested two alternatives as denoted by red dots in the birds eye view photo overleaf, one of which is in a very similar location to that originally proposed, but is sited against the wall that abuts Dam St. Both locations are on LCC land.

Informal discussion with the Chair and Cllr Strain revealed a preference for the 'Speakers Corner' site over the 'Pool Walk' site due to accessibility and the desire to not encourage cycling along Pool Walk. The 'Speakers Corner' site currently hosts two benches and a waste bin, the bench nearest to Speakers Corner itself being dedicated to the memory of Lichfield's late Town Crier, Ken Knowles. It is therefore recommended that the bench adjacent to the bin (ringed in red in the photograph overleaf) is re-sited to allow the cycle station to be installed in that location, both to preserve the bench dedicated to Ken

Knowles and to place the cycle station slightly further away from Speakers Corner and in an area where the use of the station is less likely to impact passers by or users of the Speakers Corner site.



While this report provides further information on possible location, following the previous meeting there also remained some questions as to colour and specification, together with costs. It was agreed that Cllr Strain would prepare a report for this meeting of the Committee that provided options for some of these undecided matters (see Minute 19 (3)). The information provided by Cllr Strain via email on 4 April 2024 is provided as **ENCLOSURE 1**.

***RECOMMENDED: The Committee to consider next steps.***

**4. No Mow May/Wildflower Areas etc**

Signage has been included at the 'no mow' sites as was requested by the Committee. The new wildflower areas are developing well, and existing sites have already attracted positive comments, notably the area opposite St Chads Church.

**5. LCC Carbon Emissions calculations**

Cllr J Blackman to provide a report regarding the possibility of solar tiles (minute 19 (5)). The Town Clerk has been contacted by the new Ecologist/Biodiversity Net Gain Specialist at LDC, with introductions made to relevant officers.

**5. OTHER MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

To consider any representations from Committee members regarding any relevant new or emerging items for discussion that are not otherwise included on this agenda.

**6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be decided by the Committee.

**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR**

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## Lichfield City Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee held in the Moulton Room, Guildhall on Wednesday 3 April 2024 at 6.00pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Harvey-Coggins (Chair) and Councillors J Blackman, A Hughes, A Lax, A Rushton and E Strain.

**APOLOGIES:** None

#### 17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Cllr E Strain declared an interest in agenda item 4 (3) (Minute 19 (3)) – Bicycle Repair Stations - as a Trustee of Lichfield Re:Cycle.

#### 18. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

**RESOLVED:** *That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record [minutes adopted by council on 22 January 2024].*

#### 19. UPDATES TO COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

Members considered the Town Clerk's agenda report detailing progress on identified priorities since the previous meeting:

##### 1. Herb Garden Areas in LCC Open Spaces

Members considered the Town Clerk's update following site meetings at the preferred site at Leomansley View. It was agreed that support could be given by the council to local groups wishing to establish and maintain herb gardens in their area; such support including the provision of planters and plants. It was further agreed that a press release seeking engagement from Community Groups/local contacts be prepared by the Town Clerk and circulated to committee members for comment. Once finalised, the press release to be circulated to LCC members, community groups, community halls etc. Responses to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

##### 2. Water Fountains/Refill Points

The Chair provided a verbal update following her meeting with 'City to Sea', which offered an all-encompassing solution, but it was agreed by all that the costs were too high. It was agreed that stickers in shop windows that clearly advertised the availability of free water was a much cheaper way of securing a similar provision. Cllr Blackman advised that environmentally friendly stickers were available and agreed to pass details to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk to draft a letter for local businesses and circulate to the Committee for comment, the intention being that the finalised letter to include a suitable sticker, with a request for the sticker to be displayed prominently in the shop window. The Town Clerk confirmed that hand delivery of these letters to city centre shops could be arranged.

##### 3. Bicycle Repair Stations

Members considered the Town Clerk's update following various discussions with Network Rail, SCC and LDC regarding potential location/s for a cycle repair station. Cllr E Strain advised that Lichfield Re:Cycle would be willing to enter into an agreement with LCC regarding monitoring/maintenance of the station once installed – the detail of such an

agreement and its relative responsibilities to be discussed further at a later date. Both Cllr A Hughes and A Lax raised concern as to the costs of the selected station, and there were also questions as to the location and colour.

Mindful of the short timescale between this meeting and the meeting of the Grants Committee, and the detail and final costs yet to be agreed, it was decided that a recommendation be put to the Grants Committee as set out below to seek surety of funding and allow swift progress should funding be granted:

*That the Grants Committee consider allocating up to £3,000 of CIL to facilitate the purchase and associated costs of a cycle repair station to be sited on LDC land adjacent to Pool Walk as identified by LDC's Conservation Officer. Should the Grants Committee approve the request in principle and be subsequently adopted by council, the final details of the location, installation, and specification to be agreed by the Climate Change and Biodiversity Committee in consultation with LDC and other stakeholders.*

It was agreed that Cllr Strain would prepare a report for the next meeting of the Committee that provided options for some of the currently undecided matters (exact location within the Conservation Officer's preferred area, colour, final spec etc).

#### **4. No Mow May/Wildflower Areas**

Members considered the Town Clerk's update which confirmed 'no mow' provision being as it had been for 2023, focusing on nether Stowe and Festival Gardens. The report also confirmed that officers had progressed two additional wildflower areas for 2024 (Broad Lane and Eastern Avenue) and that work on these was ongoing. It was agreed that the signage used for the 'no mow' sites in 2023 would be used again in 2024 to advise residents and visitors of the actions being taken.

#### **5. LCC Carbon Emissions**

Members considered the Town Clerk's update following discussions with the Conservation Officer as to the possibility of solar panels being fixed to LCC owned buildings – such discussions being generally negative but not excluding the possibility, and the information requested from LDC regarding carbon reduction/sequestering, confirming that the main officer contact had now left LDC. It was agreed that any maintenance to the Guildhall roof should include discussion of the possibility of solar panels. Cllr J Blackman agreed to provide a report to the next meeting of the Committee regarding the possibility of solar tiles.

***RESOLVED: That the update be noted and matters progressed as individually discussed.***

## **20. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed once the outcome of discussions at the Grants Committee are known, but likely to take place prior to the June meeting of Council; the Town Clerk to circulate updates in due course.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS  
THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.55pm**