Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL will be held in Committee Room 'A', Town Hall, Nuneaton on Thursday 10th October, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Public Consultation will commence at 5.30 p.m.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN FRANKS
Managing Director

To: All Members of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Councillors J. Glass (Chair), D. O'Brien (Vice Chair), S. Doughty, J. Foster, W.J. Hancox, P.D. Hickling, D.C. Navarro, J. Sheppard and W.H. Sheppard).
A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside the Yorkshire Bank on the opposite side of the road.

Exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs.

If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

Please also make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

2. APOLOGIES - To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. MINUTES - To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 15th August, 2013. (Page 5).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and of the Party Whip in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 4E, Paragraph 16(b).

Note (1): Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

N.B. Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.
Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council’s Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.

Note (2): Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 4E, Paragraph 16(b) states "when considering any matter in respect of which a Member must declare the existence of the whip, and the nature of it before the commencement of the OSP’s deliberations on the matter”.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - Members of the public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items if notice has been received.

6. TREES AND PLANNING POLICY – report of the Director – Regeneration and Public Protection attached. (Page 8) (Overview)

7. CAR PARK LIGHTING – report of the Director – Assets and Street Services attached. (Page 10) (Overview)


9. WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14 - presented by the Principal Democratic Services Officer (Committees) - attached. (Page 12)

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS which in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances (which must be specified).

N.B Agenda Item Descriptors

Scrutiny = Members to consider the evidence presented in detail (e.g. service delivery, value for money, performance, customer satisfaction, social outcomes) and make recommendations for any necessary changes/improvements to service provision or resources and/or request further information.

Overview = Members to consider the information presented and make observations, comments and/or recommend further considerations to be taken into account and any additions or amendments required.
CORPORATE PLAN AIMS AND PRIORITIES

**Aim 1**
- To improve the quality of life and social justice for residents so it is much closer to that enjoyed by the rest of Warwickshire.

**Priority 1**
- To provide a choice of housing to meet the needs of the residents of the Borough.

**Priority 2**
- To create a healthy, diverse and robust economy which provides employment opportunities for local people.

**Priority 3**
- To work in partnership to improve health and reduce health inequalities for residents in the Borough.

**Priority 4**
- To develop a confident, cohesive and diverse community.

**Aim 2**
- To work in partnership to reduce the level of crime and disorder so that the community is and feels safer.

**Priority 1**
- Dealing with anti-social behaviour by working in partnership and provide diversionary activities to engage with youngsters.

**Priority 2**
- Environmental improvements and support for selective CCTV to reduce fear of crime.

**Priority 3**
- Use of the Council's enforcement powers to support community safety initiatives.

**Aim 3**
- To provide a pleasant environment for those living, working and visiting the Borough.

**Priority 1**
- To create a greener and cleaner environment.

**Priority 2**
- To lead in environmental issues addressing climate change and protection of the environment.

**Aim 4**
- To provide quality services which represent value for money.

**Priority 1**
- To continue to improve the performance and quality of key services.

**Priority 2**
- To improve access arrangements for all Council services and the way that those who use them are treated.

**Priority 3**
- To use value for money procedures to test the way all services are delivered.
A meeting of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Thursday 15th August, 2013.

Present

Councillor J. Glass – Chair
Councillor D. O’Brien – Vice Chair

Councillors S. Doughty, J. Foster, W.J. Hancox, P.D. Hickling, and J. Sheppard.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W.H. Sheppard

Courtesies

The Chair welcomed Members, officers and speakers to the meeting.

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th June, 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Declarations of Interest/Party Whip

Councillor S. Doughty declared an Other Interest in any relevant item by reason of her being a Member of Warwickshire County Council.

Borough Plan

The Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development gave a verbal presentation to the Panel on the consultation process being used for the Borough Plan, its timeframe, the methods of communication, the number of resident responses and the timetable for taking the Borough Plan forward to implementation.

The following comments and concerns were raised by the Panel;-

- poor coverage through attendance of public at consultation events;
- lack of evidence based options and poor detail on the maps provided;
the importance of the infrastructure being appropriate for the increased in development;

- concerns that the public were finding it difficult to access the information on the website and to complete the comments forms;

- as there will be another opportunity in the process for the public to engage in consultation it would not be necessary to extend the consultation at this stage.

RESOLVED that the following comments of the Panel be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Civic Affairs for consideration:-

(a) the need to address the coverage of the Council’s In-Touch magazine, as this is an important route of communication between the Council and the Borough residents; and

(b) improvements are required to the Council’s website to allow residents to access and complete more easily the Borough Plan Consultation forms.

Speakers: Avril Bonsor - Resident
Councillor K.A. Kondakor
Councillor K.D. Wilson

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Director - Assets and Street Services submitted a report setting out the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2013-2016 Action Plan.

RESOLVED that the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2013-2016 Action Plan be recommended to Cabinet for approval with the following comments included:-

(a) representation be made to the relevant Government office regarding grants for solid wall insulation; and

(b) where no costs have been included in the strategy, estimated costs be used for guidance.

Integrated Performance Report – Full Year 2012 - 13

The joint report of the Director – Finance and Procurement and the Performance and Quality Manager providing appropriate performance measures and financial budget information for service areas within the scope of the Panel and also providing the Panel with appropriate information to monitor performance and finance information to address issues arising was considered.
Various items marked ‘red’ were considered and the following comments and concerns raised;

- pleased that there had been a change in the indicator for the Food Hygiene Scheme;
- request for those indicators listed as ‘Other’ in the report to be broken down to identify which are measuring as ‘red.

**RESOLVED** that the Integrated Performance Report – Quarter One and the Performance Indicators attached to the report be noted.

**Work Programme 2013/14**

The Work Programme 2013/14 was presented to the Panel together with a briefing note regarding a meeting at Warwickshire County Council regarding Civil Parking Enforcement.

Members made the following comments and concerns regarding Civil Parking Enforcement:

- the monthly figures received from Warwickshire County Council were questioned;
- the need to have a locally managed service is important, with any income being used to improve the parking service;
- an increase is needed in the number of out of hours parking patrols
- suggested need for a working group following the meeting with the County Council

**RESOLVED** that:

(a) the Work Programme be approved; and

(b) the Chair of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel takes the comments and concerns raised by the Panel to the meeting at Warwickshire County Council on 4th September 2013 regarding Civil Parking Enforcement.
1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform members about the role the Borough Plan plays in terms of protecting existing woodland and improving woodland cover.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Scrutiny Members note the approach proposed in the Preferred Options Borough Plan.
2.2 Scrutiny Members to identify any issues that they would like to be considered further concerning trees and the Borough Plan.

3. Background

3.1 The Borough Plan is currently being prepared and so at this stage is subject to change. Once finalised, it will replace Nuneaton and Bedworth’s adopted Local Plan. The plan will play a key role in shaping the future of the Borough and influence what development will take place, how much and where it will be located. It also considers a wide range of economic, social and environmental matters.

4. Relevant Preferred Option Borough Plan Policies

4.1 The emerging Borough Plan recognises the need to protect existing woodland, including ancient woodland, and the need to improve woodland and tree cover through a number of policies. These are set out below:

INF2 Green Infrastructure – Green infrastructure has benefits for the economy, transport, health and well-being, wildlife and biodiversity, landscape character and cultural heritage. This policy aims to protect and improve the green infrastructure network – trees, parks, gardens, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands. As well as protecting existing open space and providing new open space, it aims
to increase the connectivity of green corridors for wildlife. These all provide opportunities for new tree planting.

ENV1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity – this policy aims to ensure that ecological networks and biodiversity features are conserved, enhanced, restored and where appropriate created. The ecological network includes a number of assets which are considered to be irreplaceable. Priority habitat sites including ancient woodland are such assets that should be protected from development. The policy also indicates that development should ensure a net gain in biodiversity by avoiding any adverse impacts. Where this is not possible, the adverse impacts must be mitigated. Biodiversity Offsetting is promoted as a way of mitigating such adverse impacts off site. This may include opportunities for new woodland planting.

ENV2 Landscape Character – this policy aims for development proposals to conserve, enhance, restore or create a sense of place and respond positively to the relevant landscape setting. This policy refers to the Landscape Character Assessments for the non-urban areas of the Borough. These assessments include a description of the existing features of the landscape, including trees and woodland, which form the landscape character and guidelines for new development to take into account when designing the proposal. This includes conserving and enhancing existing woodland and new planting where appropriate to that landscape character area.

ENV3 Urban Character and Design Quality – this policy requires new development to be designed to positively contribute to local distinctiveness, local character and history by reflecting urban character. This is similar to the Landscape Character approach but within the existing urban area.

Locality Areas and Strategic Development Sites – Suitable Green Infrastructure projects from the Green Infrastructure Plan are identified as part of the infrastructure requirements for the Strategic Sites. For example, for the Arbury housing site and the Bermuda employment land extension, a woodland management project to enhance the Forest of Arden landscape, is included.
1. **OBJECTIVES OF SCRUTINY**

1.1 To provide the Panel with information to help them consider the energy efficiency and cost implications of changing the Council’s surface level car park lighting to LED.

2. **WHAT IS THE PANEL BEING ASKED TO CONSIDER**

2.1 The Members of the Panel are asked to consider and discuss the information given in Appendix A relating to the lighting within the Council’s surface level car parks.

3. **WHO CAN THE PANEL INFLUENCE?**

3.1 The outcomes of the Panel’s considerations will be discussed with the Cabinet Members for Planning & Development and Health & Environment.

4. **INFORMATION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PANEL**

4.1 Information on the current lighting in the Borough Council’s surface level car parks, and its energy implications, is given in Appendix 1, as is information relating to alternative LED lighting.

4.2. The cost of replacing each traditional lighting unit with an LED equivalent is, on average, £700 if the existing column can be re-used and £1,800 if a new column is required.
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<th>Lights</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
<th>days</th>
<th>Existing Wattage</th>
<th>kWh/yr</th>
<th>Cost per kWh [£]</th>
<th>TOTAL COST PER YEAR [£]</th>
<th>LED Wattage</th>
<th>kWh/yr</th>
<th>Cost per kWh [£]</th>
<th>TOTAL COST PER YEAR [£]</th>
<th>Savings per 5 yr [£]</th>
<th>Revenue 5 yr [£]</th>
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* Assumes lantern change only at £700.

** Does not include any cost of capita financing - i.e. interest incurred or foregone.

NOTE: Riverside and Town Hall car parks are already lit by LED lights.
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