

Workington Town Council

Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2RS

Telephone: 01900 702986

Email: office@workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



15 January 2020

To Members of Environment Committee

Cllr H Harrington (Chair)	Cllr J Hunter
Cllr C Armstrong	Cllr P Scott
Cllr H Briggs	Cllr S Stoddart
Cllr R Briggs	Cllr W Wilkinson (vice chair)
Cllr G Glaister	Cllr L Williams

(Copy for information only to other members of Workington Town Council)

You are summoned to a meeting of Workington Town Council Environment Committee on Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CB' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Chris Bagshaw
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive and accept any apologies. If accepted, apologies will be considered to be for reasons approved by the Council under the terms of Local Government Act 1972, s85.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest relating to matters which appear on this agenda, but which have not been previously declared on members' declarations of pecuniary interest and other interests.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

To consider whether there are any agenda items during consideration of which the press and public should be excluded.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

To receive the minutes of the meeting on 6 November 2019 and affirm them as a true record.

5. Allotments

To receive a brief report on the activities of the Allotments Sub-Committee.

6. Workington Nature Partnership

To receive a brief update on the activities of the partnership.

7. Workington In Bloom

To receive an update on the entry for 2020 and make any necessary decisions

8. Local Impact of Traffic Related Air Pollution

To consider if there is action the Town Council can take to reduce the harm of traffic related air-pollution in the town.

9. Local Heroes Award

To consider a proposal to establish an award for local Environment Improvement champions. See Appendix A.

10. Back Lanes

To review the progress made towards improving back lanes in Workington and make any consequential decisions or recommendations.

Background

The Town Council holds earmarked funds of around £50k to improve the environment of the Town's back lanes. The traditional approach to this has been to engineer new tarmac road surfaces and install lighting and drainage connected to the mains sewerage system. This was done in the past on Harrington Road (2013), Frostoms Road 2013 1nd 2016) and Hunter Street (2000). In 2013, parallel work was undertaken by Allerdale Borough Council on different streets but with the same contractor and design management. Elsewhere, environmental improvement was taken on by Allerdale Borough Council through its Environmental Health powers under various Housing Acts. This included the imposition of Housing Action Areas and General Improvement Areas from around 1969 onwards. There seems to have been a general consensus in all schemes except the most recent, that the ultimate goal was formal adoption of the back lane by the Highway Authority (Cumbria County Council after 1974). However there seems little evidence that this actually took place. This is possibly because the legal process for adoption was not integrated into the improvement programme, and was therefore left undone.

The result is that the town's back lanes are in a peculiar position. Whilst the vast majority are in good condition (they compare very favourably with back lanes in Barrow and Carlisle which are actually adopted by the highway authority), there is little agreement for their ongoing maintenance. Cumbria Highways will maintain lanes that are on their official list of streets to be maintained at the public expense, Allerdale Borough Council will occasionally be coaxed into maintenance work on a handful of lanes it has done work on previously, or where it has installed lighting that is directly attributable to them. However, in many parts of the town the situation is

unclear and residents do not know where they stand in terms of liabilities. The burden for helping residents steer a course through the confusion often falls on the Town Council. Inquiries to Cumbria County Council are dealt with through the Highways Hotline reporting system, which is limited to the back lanes which appear on their statutory list of streets maintainable at the public expense. Allerdale's property management system is less sophisticated, and this often leads to inconsistent responses. The Town Council's role in the matter is non-statutory, but is picked up through the Council's long-standing commitment to improving the lanes. Research into the status of individual back lanes is time consuming and often leads to unsatisfactory outcomes (for example when a resident is informed that the lane is not owned by any statutory authority).

Decision Required

The Town Council has an opportunity to make a meaningful intervention into an issue which has rumbled on for many years. Perhaps through the new Towns Fund, or through its own funding, it could research and publish all the current knowledge on the various liabilities in a form that residents could understand. It could also fund a limited maintenance programme for residents, which might help avoid some of the longer-term problems with back lanes, relating to fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

11. Public Seating

To receive an update on plans to introduce more municipal seating to Workington, including using any residual funds from the Harrington Green Day.

12. Play Area Development

To receive a brief update on current projects and issues and to make any necessary decisions.

13. Vulcan Park Budget

To consider the budget for Vulcan Park and make any consequential amendments or decisions. A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure in Vulcan Park will follow.

14. Vulcan Park Bowling Green and Bower

To consider any necessary actions relating to the Bowling Green and Bower.

Background

The Committee has requested a meeting with the members of the Bowling Club to discuss the future plans for the Bower and Green.

15. Allerdale Tree Planting

To consider sites suitable for the expansion of tree planting proposed by Allerdale Borough Council.