

COURT LEET PRESENTMENTS 2019

No.	LEAD OFFICER	LEAD MEMBER	PRESENTMENT
1.	Weston Park Primary School		
<p>Tackling Food Waste</p> <p>At Weston Park Primary School we are extremely concerned about the amount of food thrown in the bin every day. This includes food not eaten by children, left overs, snack waste and some from cooking. This is a huge problem in some of our homes too. In 2018 there was 7.1 million tonnes of household food waste in the uk.</p> <p>Well you might be thinking – why is it a problem? It is wrong ethically because there are people in our community and world who do not have enough food to eat – they are less fortunate than us. Some of these families live in our communities and even come to our school. It also includes the homeless.</p> <p>All this food waste also wastes money at a time when things are getting more expensive and families are struggling – twelve point five billion pounds worth of food that could have been eaten is thrown away every year in UK homes. What could this have been spent on instead? How much does the food wasted every day at school cost?</p> <p>An estimated 80,382 tonnes of food waste are produced by schools in England per school year (40 weeks). Of this 63,099 tonnes are avoidable. The environmental impact of this avoidable food waste in terms of greenhouse gas emissions is 253,000 tonnes per year. This is comparable to the carbon produced by more than 80,000 cars in a year.</p> <p>At Weston Park Primary School we fill approximately 3 bins per day with wasted food. In a week this is 15 bags and approximately 600 bags in a school year. This is taking up space in landfill sites and then it decomposes creating methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, which adds to air pollution and negatively impacts on the climate.</p> <p>If we avoided throwing all the good food away, it would save the equivalent carbon dioxide as taking one in every four cars off our roads. In a recent article in the Guardian, scientist warned that the dramatic rises in atmospheric methane are threatening to hold global temperature rises to 2C. When methane leaks into the air it absorbs the sun’s heat, warming the atmosphere. For this reason, it’s considered a greenhouse gas, like carbon dioxide. In the 20th century most methane was caused by fossil fuels but since action to reduce them it has stabilised. We are worried that our food waste is contributing to global warming and we cannot do anything about it ourselves.</p> <p>You maybe wondering what our solution is. Our cooks at school already cook the right amount of food – we have a band system so they know so they know how many children to cook for. We have raised awareness of food waste so children are reminded to eat their food and not throw it away. We have thought of other solutions to reduce our carbon footprint but do not have the finances to support.</p>			

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	<p>In Eastleigh they offer a collection of food waste just like the collection of plastics and household rubbish. Is this something you would consider offering in Weston or even Southampton?</p>	<p>Another solution could be to use food compost bins. We could use the compost for growing plants or sell it back to the community and raise money to feed the less fortunate or set up a community food bank.</p> <p>It would be great to share what we know with the community and maybe even across Southampton. If we held a poster competition some funding to have them printed and distributed will spread tis important message to reduce food waste. We could use slogans like “only take what you’ll eat” or taste it, don’t waste!”</p>
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Rayment – Cabinet Member for Place and Transport
<p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>The Government’s Resource and Waste Strategy for England consultation closed earlier in 2019. The outcome of this consultation has not been released yet but there were questions about food waste and recycling which may result in a national strategy and a requirement for all local authorities to collect food waste in the future.</p> <p>All food waste collected currently in household waste bins by the council is incinerated at the Energy Recovery Facility in Marchwood which generates electricity which is fed back into the National Grid.</p> <p>There are no current plans to collect food waste separately in Southampton.</p>		

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2.	Weston Park Primary School
	<p>Vandalism and Graffiti in our community.</p> <p>As a group we are worried about the graffiti and vandalism we see as we walk to school and back home, as well as when we visit parks and we walk to the local shops.</p> <p>You may ask, how is this a problem and why would we bring it to you? It is unfair for home and shop owners to have to spend their hard earned money on fixing a problem that shouldn't be there. It causes stress and worries. This is not street art where people have permission, it is illegal.</p> <p>Much of the graffiti uses obscene and disgusting language or swear words which is totally inappropriate for us young people (and those even younger than us) to have to see. A park I used to visit regularly with my Nan has this issue and now we do not go there as often. I don't think that this is fair.</p> <p>This inappropriate language and the unpleasant pictures drawn could also influence other negatively and make them think it is ok to do the same. This would then make the whole situation even worse. If it is illegal, why isn't more done to stop it?</p> <p>As well as the awful graffiti, damage is done to play equipment making it unsafe to use. This is a total waste of council money and is unfair on all of us who want to be able to use the facilities to get our fresh air and fun time after school and at the weekends or in the holidays. Additionally, this gives a very negative impression of Woolston and Weston. It makes it look like an unsafe place and doesn't represent US!</p> <p>Not only does this affect communal areas like the ones we have mentioned but also our school. At Weston Park Primary we have sadly experienced vandalism and have personally suffered because of it. There have been numerous incidents when windows and skylights were broken. Over the year the repairs for the damages have cost a potential £20, 000. This has caused unnecessary stress to staff and children. As a result the school has had to pay for security to be in place in the evenings and overnight but this is very expensive and unsustainable in the long term. The lack of response and support from the local police has added to the issue and stress levels of staff.</p> <p>Our request is to have regular clean-up projects so that the unpleasant graffiti can be removed. More police presence would help. Also, boards warning of fines or community work as a consequence may deter some offenders. Cameras in key locations would support this and help us feel safer as a result. In some boroughs and counties the authorities have set up community art areas or days where adolescents can go and have a permitted space to be creative and express their imagination through street art. If there were more active things to do in the community this may not happen. We implore you to consider our points and hope that you are able to support our cause.</p>

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	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Rayment – Cabinet Member for a Place and Transport
<p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>Any offensive graffiti can be reported urgently to the council online: https://www.southampton.gov.uk/environmental-issues/street-cleaning/</p> <p>or by phone on 023 8083 3005. We aim to remove any offensive graffiti within 24 hours of the report being received.</p> <p>Unfortunately taking enforcement action against those who carry out vandalism and post graffiti in our communities is a challenge. It is not possible to provide CCTV cameras at all locations and experience has shown that the presence of CCTV cameras often do not act as a deterrent and prove ineffective when it comes to identifying perpetrators.</p>		
3.	Graham Linecar – On behalf of Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society	
<p>Matching Growth In Population With An Increase In Green Space</p> <p>I am making this presentment on behalf of Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society. For over a century, SCAPPS has campaigned to protect Southampton’s parks and green spaces. SCAPPS representations secured the firm wording in Core Strategy policy CS21 that planning decisions should not reduce the amount of open space in the City. That’s been a vital defence, if permission is given to build on open space, in making sure an equal amount is provided elsewhere.</p> <p>Southampton has an increasing population and increasing density of population especially in inner areas where there’s been rapid growth in the number of apartments, many with little or no outdoor space. These residents, along with people visiting and working and shopping in the city centre, turn to our green spaces for recreation and relaxation. Whilst the City Council is proposing extra school places in response to increasing population, no equivalent proposals are coming forward to add to public open space – indeed, the St Mark’s School draft proposals even seek to curtail informal public access to The Field. Frequent letting-out of parks in the summer for commercial events reduces what’s available for recreation and relaxation.</p> <p>My presentment asks the City Council to reaffirm commitment to retaining the overall amount of green space, not just public parks but also sports grounds and school playing fields – they count as open space even if the public has restricted or no access. Second, I ask for restraint in number and frequency of commercial events stopping normal use and enjoyment of parks. And third for the City Council to be more active in finding ways to increase the amount of public amenity space. The</p>		

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	City Centre Action Plan proposed new public open spaces be provided in association with major developments. Policy 28 proposed a pocket park replacing the Albion Place car park. What has been achieved?	
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Hammond – Leader of the Council / Councillor Rayment Cabinet Member for Place and Transport
<p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>SCAPPS continue to be a welcome critical friend of the planning process, and their deputations often assist the Planning Department in negotiating for development enhancements. As SCAPPS are aware the Council implements its Development Plan within a wider context of competing demands between housing and economic growth and prosperity, and the need to safeguard the health and wellbeing of residents whilst promoting the city as an attractive place to invest, live, socialise and work. Southampton faces the same challenges as other cities and always seeks to secure sustainable development that protects and enhances our natural assets.</p> <p>Indeed, with respect of school playing fields the Council also has a duty to consult with Sport England and their comments form a significant material consideration in the determination of such applications, with the prospect of Government intervention in the decision making process where Sport England’s comments cannot be supported at the local level. So in direct response to the 3 points made by SCAPPS the Council can clearly acknowledge the importance of open space to the health and wellbeing of the city and reaffirm its commitment to protecting its open space, but only in the context of also supporting the wider competing aspirations placed upon it by a growing population.</p> <p>The Council hosts a wide range of public events on its open spaces, some could be classified as commercial ventures. However, it is considered that these events add to the diversity and vitality of the City and continue to promote the City as a whole. Often these events use only part of an open space and as such it is difficult to give a definitive number. However a criteria of events that restrict access to part of a park / green space and the most up to date statistics are for the financial year 2018-19 this indicates that there were 9 events across the whole City.</p> <p>Finally, in respect of providing city-wide open space improvements the Council has committed 10% of the contributions made to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from new development towards public open space and suitably accessible natural green space (see attached letter).</p> <p>By way of an update to the pocket park at Albion Place I can confirm that discussions are ongoing at this time.</p>		

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4.	Graham Linecar – On behalf of Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society	
	<p>Reprinting the City Council’s map and ‘official guide to Southampton’s open spaces’</p> <p>Many will remember the informative map the City Council had available for the public a decade ago showing and describing Southampton’s parks. Stocks ran out some 5 or 6 years ago. SCAPPS worked with officers to produce a revised version. Money was allocated to pay for a print run. That has now been halted by the embargo on non-essential spending.</p> <p>My presentment asks the City Council to reconsider, and to print the revised map and guide. Yes, information can be made available on-line but this particular leaflet was, and could again be, an important way of gaining publicity for one of the City’s great assets -- its commons, parks, greenways and green spaces</p>	
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Rayment –Cabinet Member for Place and Transport
<p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>Communications budgets are centralised and the council does not currently have a budget to produce this. We are looking at ways to enable people to download and print their own copies.</p>		
5.	Mr Trowbridge	
	<p>Southampton City Council has made steps to be seen to be an eco-friendly city. For instance by using electric powered vehicles , having said that could officers of the Council when they go out on Council’s business on the estates use bus, bike or walk thus saving the Council money with reference to money given to them for using their own cars with reference to expenses.</p>	
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Leggett –Cabinet Member for Green City and Environment
<p>RESPONSE:</p> <p>SCC employees are encouraged to travel sustainably to meetings and site visits and there are a range of measures in place to ensure, for the majority of staff, they are not reliant on using their own private vehicle for in-work travel. This includes access to a car club vehicle where car travel is the only viable option, cycle parking, bike maintenance, access to pool bikes (including e-bikes), and a rail travel booking system. We regularly survey our staff to ensure we can continue to improve the options for staff to travel sustainably and efficiently around the city.</p>		

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6.	Mr Trowbridge	
	<p>Southampton City Council has made steps to be seen as an eco-friendly City Council. As I live in a walk up building, like many other people all be it tenants or residents. An officer of the Shirley Housing Office by the name of Mr Garvey has seen fit for a period of time to have the drying areas throughout the building, at that point in time known as Block 37-60 St James Close Shirley, locked so nobody in the building could use them due to them being used for fly-tipping. Having said that it states within the tenancy agreement or deeds of the property that we have the right to use the drying areas. We have been denied the right of the amenity and this has therefore created problems when people wish to dry their clothes in the properties i.e. moulds due to dampness in flats and extra electricity cost to dry clothes by using a tumble dryer especially for those with a large family. So therefore we look to the Council to reimburse us the cost of drying our clothes on a negotiable basis.</p>	
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Kaur – Cabinet Member for Homes and Culture
	<p>Response</p> <p>The drying rooms to block 37-60 St. James Close were closed off, in response to some residents dumping their bulky rubbish items in the drying room. The potential for a fire was too great for us to leave the drying rooms open and misused in this way. This was communicated to residents.</p> <p>I have checked the tenancy agreement and lease agreement and there is no mention about the use of drying areas. As a lease holder, you are not charged for the use of the drying room, therefore there is no negotiation to take place about reimbursement.</p> <p>We are always willing to consider the reopening of the drying areas, however I will add that our experience from the block next door to you, has proven to be unsuccessful.</p>	
7.	Mr Trowbridge	
	<p>Ashwood Nursing Home</p> <p>With the modifications to Ashwood Nursing Home in Shirley Avenue and recently in the Southern Daily Echo it stated that the Governments department who looks after these clients paid it a visit in which certain things weren't up to standard. Even whilst it is still being built with its clients in-situ. Having said that I understand that the management and staff have a duty of care to its clients and as it is now towers over the other houses in Shirley Avenue it has no protection with reference to a lightning strike which could be frightening for its clients and staff as well as damaging the building and therefore I ask for the</p>	

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	situation be put right as it has to meet Southampton City Councils specification for building and also meet the specification of looking after its clients.	
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Fielker – Cabinet Member for Adult Care
<p>Response</p> <p>The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected Ashwood Rest Home (a residential care home without nursing) on 13th and 18th June 2019. At that inspection the home had 12 residents, it can accommodate a maximum of 20, and the section of the home undergoing renovation was not accessible to residents. The CQC felt the provider had worked to minimise the disruption to residents, despite aspects of the décor remaining unfinished. The CQC felt this had a minor impact on some of the communal spaces, and any concerns identified by CQC during the inspection were immediately acted on by the registered manager. The feedback from service users in the report is positive. Since this inspection the Quality Team has visited and the provider continues to make good progress.</p>		
8.	Mr Trowbridge	
	<p>St James Close Estate walkabout</p> <p>Having joined an estate walkabout on the St James Close Estate Shirley with Mr Garvey of the Shirley Housing Office on 13th June 2019, with others. I talked to him about 3 issues on the estate in which he passed over the to the estate warden. After this in the following weeks these issues have not been attended to. Having said that there was another walkabout on 11 July 2019 with Mr Garvey and Ms J Nand and along with other staff of the Council on this occasion I gave Ms Nand a list of things to be looked at including the three items I mentioned to Mr Garvey previously but, these issues have not been attended to yet. Having said that in the past years we have only had one walkabout per year on the estate in which nothing has changed. I recently contacted Ms Nand by email over one of these issues at least two weeks ago but had no reply, which I find disgraceful and I ask for the person concerned to be called to account and the issue to be attended to.</p>	
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Kaur – Cabinet Member for Homes and Culture
<p>Response</p> <p>I am attaching the written response the Housing Management Officer provided to the list that was given to her on the walkabout on the 11th July 2019.</p>		

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The only outstanding issue is that we are working on removing the satellite at 55 St.James Close. Mr Robertson is the current block rep, and we are in discussion with him to find another storage area for his bird cage. It is unused and clean , so there is no potential fire hazard here.

To try to get to all the areas we manage in a walkabout at least once a year, that is not to say that the wardens and cleaners are there at a minimum every month at different times. We are always happy to arrange an additional walkabouts if there are issues of concern, for example different parts of St. James Close are visited at two separate times of the year, for organised pre planned walkabouts.

9. **Simon Reynier – on Behalf of the City of Southampton Society**

Integrated Transport Hub

This is not the first time that the City of Southampton Society has made a presentment about the need for an integrated transport hub for Southampton. Our previous requests were based on the option of using the old Toys-R-Us site which is situated mid-way between Southampton Central Rail Station and the National Express Coach Station.

There are two main benefits of having an integrated transport hub

- 1) It makes travelling on public transport easier and thus more attractive for the general public and hence Southampton a more a more attractive destination;
- 2) The use of public transport rather private motor vehicles is more environmentally friendly by reducing carbon emissions and thereby helping the Council achieve its Green City Charter.

It makes little sense for local buses to be parked in Vincents Walk where they pollute the atmosphere and emit noxious fumes not many yards distant from a children's playground. Likewise, the use of Castle Way as a bus park detracts from the value of the city walls, a listed monument and is an inappropriate use of land in the Old Town Conservation area.

For a city with a magnificent integrated transport hub, may I suggest as an example – Bradford -0 where rail, coach and local buses together with Cafes are all accommodated under one roof in a clean and efficient building. I hasten to add I am not suggesting that as many Councillors as possible visit Bradford to see for themselves!

Now that the initial plans for the use of the Toys-R-Us site as offices and apartments have been proposed by the Council, it is evident that an integrated transport hub is not being considered, Instead, according to the Echo, it is proposed that a bus station maybe situated on land to the south of the Central Rail station, land that is currently being used for short and long stay car parking, a taxi rank and a bus stop.

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	We at the City of Southampton Society, request that before formal planning approval is sought for the Toy-R-U's site, plans for a bus station to the South of the rail station are presented to the public for examination and comment.	
	Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Hammond - Leader of the Council
Response		
<p>Following the adoption of the Local Transport Plan 4 – Connected Southampton 2040 in April 2019, SCC is committed to supporting a step change in the provision of public transport and the supporting infrastructure. The strategy can be viewed here: https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/connected-southampton-2040/. We plan to transform the public transport system in Southampton and the wider area working with the bus operators in the city. This will allow people to travel easily around and across Southampton on reliable, high quality vehicles. There will be a united system that allows people to make and pay for their journeys seamlessly.</p> <p>Southampton's bus network carried 21.2m people in 2017 an increase of 11% from 2011. People in Southampton made 84 journeys per head in 2017 – the 6th highest journey per head figure outside London and major cities. The city is therefore in a strong position to build on the current success and strong growth in bus patronage, which has been attributable to successful voluntary partnerships with the bus operators and securing external Government funding to improve the bus user experience.</p> <p>The Connected Southampton 2040 Transport strategy recognises the need to improve existing public transport interchanges and this includes locations in the city centre and the south side of Central Station. Due to the nature of the bus routes serving the city centre and the changing characteristics of the city centre and its uses, there will need to be more than one location for integrated transport hubs to ensure bus passengers can access a range of locations via the strategic routes that come in and out of the city centre.</p> <p>We are currently working with the public transport operators to develop plans for an improved integrated transport hub on the south side of Southampton Central Station. This will support better interchange between rail, local bus, taxis, national coach and cruise transfers. As in many cities, we see the value in developing a high quality public transport interchange close to major rail stations and connected to high quality development areas such as the Mayflower Quarter. There will also be a focus on supporting a redesign of the public realm to ensure as a main gateway to the city centre pedestrians have a clear, high quality and legible routes.</p> <p>Southampton City Council, working in Partnership with HCC have an opportunity to secure Department for Transport "Transforming Cities Funding" to support the delivery of these improvements, which will also be integrated with the emerging plans linked to the Toys R Us redevelopment. Our bid will be submitted to Government at the end of November 2019 and we expect to find out if successful in the Spring 2020. More information on the bid can be found via this web link. https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/transforming-cities/</p>		

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More information on the plans for public transport improvements linked to the TCF bid will be shared in early 2020.