



**HAYWARDS HEATH  
TOWN COUNCIL**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024**

To all Councillors on the Environment and General Purposes Committee and others for information.

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the **Environment and General Purposes Committee** to be held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024** at the Town Hall in the Council Chamber at **7.00pm** when the following business will be transacted.

Yours sincerely

**Steven Trice**

Town Clerk

### **AGENDA**

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. Public Participation The public are invited to attend the meeting to observe in person. They may ask questions under the council's remit or make representation on a matter that is on the agenda. Speaking is guided by the Council's standing order 1 (available on website). You should indicate that you wish to speak by raising your hand. There is no right of reply. Should you wish to circulate anything to the committee this should be sent to the Town Clerk no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

To commence not later than 7.15pm

3. To receive the minutes of the Environment and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024. (pages 3 – 6)
4. To note Substitutes.
5. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda.
6. To receive a presentation from Matt Roberts of CT Sussex Community Transport.
7. To consider the Council's community events in 2025/2026. (pages 7 – 9)
8. To consider the draft Environmental and General Purposes budget for 2025/2026. (pages 10 – 13)
9. To receive a request from Fairer Lindfield regarding Town Council Planting processes. (pages 14 – 15)
10. To receive a verbal update on South and South East in Bloom.
11. To consider any items that the Chairman agrees to take as urgent business.

Committee Members: Environment & General Purposes Committee: Cllrs: N Chapman (Chair), A Rees (Vice Chair), A.M Cooke, S Ellis, S Inglesfield, D Nicholson, D Pascoe, L Wilson

*'During this meeting the public are allowed to film the Committee and officers only from the front of the public gallery, providing it does not disrupt the meeting. **Any items in the Exempt Part of the agenda cannot be filmed.** If another member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. The use of social media is permitted but all members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.'*

**Town Mayor** Cllr Stephanie Inglesfield

**Town Clerk** Mr Steven Trice

## HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Environment and General Purposes Committee 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

**Nick Chapman (Chair)**  
**Alison Rees (Vice Chair)**  
**Anne- Marie Cooke**  
**Sandy Ellis**  
**Stephanie Inglesfield**  
**Deanna Nicholson**  
**Duncan Pascoe**  
**Leila Wilson\*\***

**Apologies\*\* Absent\***  
**Also present: Town Clerk**

#### 13. Apologies

Member	Reason
Leila Wilson	Holiday

#### 14. Public Participation

Sujan Wickremaratchi thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and made comment about Item 9 – Mural at Haywards Heath Station. He stated that while he does support artwork, it needs to be in the right place. He said he has concerns because the bridge by the station is quite old and the brickwork is very specialised brickwork. Several years ago, when he was a Councillor, the Council wrote a letter to Network Rail to clean up the bridge and relocate the pigeons, because it was in a worse state than it currently is. This took about 5 years for Network Rail to complete, although the issue with the pigeons was not resolved. The brickwork was done by former Mayor Richard Goddard grandfather's company, making it about 90 years old. He stated that the bridge is currently quite clean. He said the nearby bridge in Wivelsfield, which has murals on both sides is in a terrible state and he did not want the same thing to happen in Haywards Heath, or for the brickwork to fall into disrepute. He raised a query of whether it would be better to improve the lighting under the bridge instead of adding the artwork. He also stated that he was concerned about what long term maintenance and upkeep costs would be for the mural and what costs to the taxpayer would be, as well as what road closure costs would be during painting of the mural. He stated that overall, in Haywards Heath a wonderful job has been done to keep the place looking nice, especially the fantastic green spaces. He thanked Haywards Heath in Bloom and the Council groundstaff for arranging this.

#### 15. Minutes

The minutes of the Environment & General Purposes Committee dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 were taken as read, confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

#### 16. Substitutes

None.

#### 17. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or other interests.

#### 18. Receive a report from the ECO

The Town Clerk presented the report on behalf of the ECO. Cllr Pascoe thanked the ECO, Imogen Wilson, for organising the Town Day event, one of the most well attended events. Cllr Inglesfield congratulated the ECO on her organisation and said that the day was more than just about charities raising money, it was about them connecting with the community. Cllr Chapman said following feedback from last year, would it be possible to wrap some

of the gifts for the Leave No One Behind at Christmas project and queried the costing of this. The Town Clerk stated that this was not a costing issue but a resources issue. It was noted that Councillors would be invited to join in the wrapping on a date to be confirmed. Cllr AM Cooke suggested getting community groups such as the Guides involved. Cllr Ellis suggested it would be nice if community groups involved could write a note to go in each parcel they wrapped. Cllr Pascoe suggested notes and comments could be written at the Christmas Festival on 23<sup>rd</sup> November and a call for volunteers could go out there.

The Town Clerk highlighted the Social Media issues raised in the report, confirming that the Council current uses Facebook, X and Instagram and the uses of these would be reviewed. He stated that since Twitter had become X regulation on the platform had dropped and inappropriate content had become more prevalent. He noted that the ECO is considering other options, including reducing X content and using different platforms. Cllr Nicholson suggested closing the Council's profile on X completely as engagement figures were low.

Members **NOTED** the **ECO's report and the proposed event dates of 2025/2026.**

**19. Receive a report from the Projects Officer regarding interaction with local schools.**

The Town Clerk presented report on behalf of the Project Officer. He stated that the e-newsletters were planned to encourage engagement with the Council and that alongside schools these could be sent to other youth community groups such as the Cubs and Brownies. He noted that council agendas are now being put onto Council social media to further encourage engagement. Cllr Nicholson suggested that Councillors could go into schools and tell them what the Council does. Cllr Inglesfield said she did this at Bolnore School with other councillors and this was a very good experience for the children. The Town Clerk noted that the Cubs will be doing a mock Full Council experience with the Mayor on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024.

Members **RESOLVED** to **adopt a Newsletter Policy for communication with Schools/Colleges in the Town.**

**20. To receive a motion from Cllr Inglesfield regarding the organisation of the annual Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 onwards.**

Cllr Inglesfield presented her report stated that the Holocaust Memorial Day had been marked since 2001. This had previously been done in Haywards Heath, before being stopped and restarted by the local Amnesty International branch. She stated that at other councils such as Burgess Hill, Holocaust Memorial Day is run as a Council event like Town Day. She stated that it is a well-documented event and this makes it very impactful, as it shows what happens when minorities are not protected. She stated that the Holocaust involved the 'traditional' minorities but society changes and new minority groups are changing, which we must be aware of. She said that it is important for generations to come to know what happens when we do not take care of the rights of minorities.

Cllr Rees asked about what the event would look like. Cllr Inglesfield described the current format which involved; children and young people attending the War Memorial, schools displaying their art at the Town Hall and talks from a guest speaker.

Cllr Ellis requested if future Holocaust Memorial events could be videoed and put out into the wider community via Social Media and schools, display what is being done in the town and show Haywards Heath highlighting the importance that history must not be repeated.

Members **RESOLVED** to make **National Holocaust Memorial Day** a formally organised **Haywards Heath Town Council** event from 2026.

**21. To consider making an application to Networks Rail to place a mural under the bridge at Haywards Heath Railway Station**

The Town Clerk stated that there was a meeting between Cllr P Lucraft, Cllr Bates and Network Rail and Southern Rail, which this motion was born from. Cllr Inglesfield suggested for costings a sponsorship opportunity would be the way forward. Cllr Ellis said that the community should continue to celebrate the town's history and that Haywards Heath was built by the railway and brickwork is important, it is a form of art. She stated that she had previously tried to get better lighting around the bridge, similar to the viaducts in Brighton, which are fully lit up and illuminated without their structure being touched. Cllr Ellis stated that she strongly objected to the bridge being painted on as there are plenty of other places for the community to come together to make art. She stated that it was a lot of money to get the bridge cleaned and repointed and then painted on top. She further said that the issues on the bridge are not fully resolved; water still flows down the walls and young pigeons still roost under the bridge and often get run over. She said that enhance lighting would potentially stop pigeons coming in and that, while she thinks there should be some artwork, perhaps a better location would be the disused advertising hoarding opposite the station. Cllr Nicholson said that she thought putting a mural under the bridge would be unsuitable as the ongoing issues with running water would mean mould could ruin the mural, She stated that while she appreciated the historic brickwork, the station is not an attractive area entrance to Haywards Heath as people just see the advertising. She stated that something there like lighting could cheer up the area. Cllr Pascoe suggested that a working group could look into lighting instead of a mural, but the Arts and Culture board could also be involved with enhancing the area surrounding the bridge. Cllr AM Cooke we should improve that area as a link. She stated that local businesses could be approached for financial support, including the Network South East community fund. Cllr Ellis suggested that the Council could work with the greening people to flower that up the area around the station and that the Council should put investment into the whole Station Quarter, as they have a duty to engage the community if we are going to paint a Victorian structure. She also suggested that Network Rail should be part of the process if the Council are looking to improve the station area. Cllr Pascoe stated that there was a County Council Plan for the Station Quarter, although he was unsure what stage it was at. Cllr Chapman stated that he had concerns about the safety of any painting under the bridge as it is a high traffic area. Cllr Elli suggested that Section 106 monies could be spent on improving the Station Quarter.

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend that the **Arts and Culture board** look into the mural project and or other enhancements within the area of the railway bridge and surrounding area progress with.

**22. To consider a motion from Cllr Ellis that requests that the Town Council holds public consultation in line with the Pavement Licensing Policy**

Cllr S Ellis requested that an audit of placement of bins be undertaken, as bins in Haywards Heath may be inappropriately placed, causing rubbish to be strewn around – especially as there are no bins at the station. She stated that there are also no seats or benches by the station and litter around the station nearly impacted the In Bloom entry. She requested that the bins in the parks and green spaces are also taken into consideration.

Cllr Inglesfield highlighted the area around KFC and rubbish piling up. The Town Clerk stated that this was discussed at a Town Centre Police meeting where it was noted that one of the main issues is that young people loiter in these areas as something to do as KFC and The Orchards both have free Wi-Fi with a good reach. He added that The Orchards had had to turn their Wi-Fi off overnight to dissuade children from loitering, The

Town Clerk confirmed that there is a bin list already, which can be reviewed. Town Council has a list of all the street furniture which is slowly being placed on an app.

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend that a town wide audit should be conducted in regards to litter bins and their locations in line with Mid Sussex District Council's Pavement Licensing Policy consultation.

**23. To consider a request from West Sussex County to place Electric Vehicle Charging points on Muster Green along Muster Green North.**

The Town Clerk stated that a County wide EV charging project was being undertaken, which is why this request had been received. Cllr Inglesfield queried the efficiency of charger points being put in this area as the parking was always full with commuters. Cllr Nicholson stated that while she supported electric vehicles, the Muster Green area is inconvenient and inappropriate, as the charging points will be inaccessible as the parking is full with commuters. Cllr Inglesfield suggested that more charging points could be put in Orchards. Cllr Ellis stated that she did not support the introduction of charging points on Muster Green, which has a green flag, as this could cause more congestion in the area. She suggested that charging points could be put into the car park at the Harvester as this is a large car park and would not cause any congestion, as well as encouraged people to use the facilities. She further suggested that perhaps local supermarkets could install some charging points. Cllr Chapman suggested the Dolphin could be a charger site, however Cllr Rees suggested Dolphin car park is also very limited already.

Members **RESOLVED** to refuse West Sussex County Council permission to place Electric Vehicle Charge Points on Muster Green on the grounds of the detriment to appearance of the Green and that there were more suitable locations around the Town.

**24. To consider the introduction of a Community Events grants programme**  
Without comment;

Members **RESOLVED** to recommend the Policy and Finance Committee that a Community Event Funding programme be introduced that would be managed by the Environment and General Purposes Committee

**25. South and South East in Bloom**

Cllr Ellis stated that groundman Andy would be attending the Britain in Bloom Manchester event to pick up any award received. She also stated that a Christmas litter pick had been planned for the Christmas period with Sam at Glendale, with a date to be confirmed.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the update.

**26. Urgent Items**

Cllr Chapman queried the progress of the damaged railing at the War Memorial with the Remembrance Day event approaching. TC confirmed that the ironmonger had confirmed this would be fixed before the event.

**Meeting closed at 8.22 pm**

**Committee Meeting: Environment and General Purposes**

**Report of:** Events and Community Officer (ECO)

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Subject:** Town Council Events Budget 2025/26 and Work Schedule

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**Purpose of Report:**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Councillors on proposed Town Council events for the 2025/26 budget setting process.

**Summary:**

2. The Environment and General Purposes committee sets an events budget as part of the Committee budget setting process, which is then recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee. The following report outlines the required budget costs for the events proposed to be held during 2025/2026. This accompanied by a work schedule for the delivery of events for Member information.

**Recommendation(s):**

- a) **Members are recommended to RESOLVE a £30,250 Events Budget for inclusion in the Environment and General Purposes budget 2025/2026, plus agreement that £7,100 be taken from the Events Reserve to allow a total expenditure of £37,350.**
- b) **Members views are sought on the arrangements for the 2026 Christmas Festival as directed under point 10 of this report.**

**Background:**

3. The Town Council organises and hosts a variety of Community Events each year. The ECO works hard to secure sponsorship for the events; however, this cannot be relied upon each year and therefore cannot be taken into account during the budget setting process.
4. There is currently £14,837.76 in the Town Council Events Budget reserve, with £1,000 needing to be brought forward for the Community Awards this March. This will leave a reserve of £13,837.76. In addition to this, within year, it is forecasted that there will be a circa £3,000 underspend result in circa £16,500 being available at the end of the financial year.
5. The reserve amount has been built from underspends due to securing sponsorship as well as pitch fees from businesses at events and the sale of advertising space in the Town Day Programme, but these cannot be relied upon with the budget setting process.
6. The budget that is recommended to be agree is in line with the Events Programme that Councillors are reminded that they agreed at a meeting of the Committee date on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 under item 18, as follows.

## Events Schedule with proposed budget

Event	Event Type	Event Date	Proposed Budget
Mid Sussex Marathon	In Partnership (Annual)	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	£1,000
Haywards Heath Gets Active	Annual	Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	£100
VE Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events	One Off	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	£7,500
Youth Enterprise (YEAHH) Market	Annual	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Separate budget but to be noted as part of the workload.
Spring into Summer	Annual	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	£4,000
Carers Event	Annual	19 <sup>th</sup> June	£550
Teddy Bears Picnic	Annual	TBC	£750
Town Day	Annual	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	£16,000
Remembrance Sunday and Schools Service	Annual	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November/ Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	£750
Christmas Festival	Annual	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	£4,500
Leave No One Behind at Christmas	Annual		Separate budget but to be noted as part of the workload.
Holocaust	Annual	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026	£200
Community Awards	Annual	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	£1,000
Twinning Events			£1,000 (it is worth noting nothing has been called upon for the previous two years).
			Total £37,350

## ECO/ Projects Officer Work schedule for events

7. The ECO has included the event schedule workflow. This highlights when the planning for each event, with the workload increasing considerably in the weeks leading up to the event. Each event requires a lead time of at least 2 months planning prior to the event taking place.
8. The ECO's work schedule can be full on for the run up to an event date. The events always take priority over other works. Whilst time management is implemented, with as much organised prior to the event as possible, there are always unexpected challenges and items of work that arise prior to the event. The ECO's work is supported by the Project's Officer.



9. Councillor support and attendance on event days is absolutely vital and pivotal. Frequently in the past year, the ECO has had to rely on family members to be able to help run the event.

2024				2025												2026			
Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April
Planning		Christmas Event																	
Planning			Leave No One Behind at Christmas																
			Planning	Holocaust Memorial															
			Planning			Community Awards													
							Haywards Heath Bike Ride												
					Planning			Marathon/Haywards Heath Gets Active											
			Planning					VE Day 80th Anniversary Event											
			Planning					Youth Enterprise Market (YEAHH)											
			Planning						Spring into Summer										
					Planning				Carers Event										
								Planning/ support to HH Foodbank			Teddy Bears Picnic								
Planning (Initial enquiries and bookings made)				Planning				Planning intensifies and becomes priority in workload				Town Day							
												Planning	Remembrance						
												Planning		Christmas Event					
												Planning			Leave No One Behind at Christmas				
												Planning				Holocaust Memorial			
															Planning			Community Awards	
Set up of Community Events Funding							Overseeing Community Events Funding Scheme												

### Christmas Event 2026

10. The ECO would like the Councillors thoughts on the Christmas Event for 2026. The ECO would like to deliver a similar event in 2026, but would like Councillors thoughts on the closure of South Road. It is worth noting, that whilst a last-minute contingency plan was able to be made this year, it came at a cost of a tremendous workload, additional hours and stress.

### Financial Implications

11. The ECO is asking for a budget of **£30,250** to be allocated towards events this year. A total budget of £37,350 is required, with £7,100 being taken from reserves. This equates to just over 50% of the reserves forecast at the financial year end. This does not include an additional £1,000 being taken from reserves for the Community Awards in 2025. Last year’s event budget was £28,500. This budget is being asked for as it will cover the events costs should no sponsorship be obtained. Any sponsorship secured would then go towards reserves.

### Legal Implications

12. Statutory duty to set a budget and resulting precept each year.

**Events and Community Officer**

**Committee Meeting: Environment and General Purposes**

**Report of:** Town Clerk

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Subject:** Environment and General Purposes Budget 2025/2026

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**Purpose of Report:**

- 1) The purpose of this report is for Members to consider the first stage of the annual budget setting process.

**Summary:**

- 2) As part of the budget setting process, which has to be completed to allow for notification of the Town Council's precept (including any Council Tax rise) to be given to Mid Sussex District Council by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025, the Environment and General Purposes Committee considers its budget in December so it can be recommended for insertion into the Town Council's overarching budget, which will be considered by the Policy and Finance Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This process is undertaken with a view to Full Council ratification of the Town Council's budget for the 2025/2026 financial year on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025. As a result, the following report presents the draft 2025/2026 Environment and General Purposes budget for consideration.

**Recommendation;**

**Members are recommended to recommend the draft Environment and General Purposes Committee Budget, as per Appendix 1, to the Policy and Finance Committee for inclusion in the 2025/2026 budget.**

**Background;**

- 3) Members will find attached, as Appendix 1, the draft Environment and General Purposes Budget. The budget as presented includes a 5.4% increase in the expenditure budget against 2024/2025 in which the Town Council is currently operating. This equates to a budget of £157,693 for 2025/2026 against £149,588 in the current 2024/2025 financial year. Income over expenditure is 5.6%
- 4) Please see the explanatory notes A to E in appendix 1. It must also be noted that;
  - The Christmas Light contract is up for re-procurement early next year.
  - The allotment budget has been inflated in line with this year's overspend due to the vulnerability of the bank at America Lane Allotments.
  - The Christmas Light maintenance reserve has inflated due to known costs for testing the sockets on the lampposts, which is due.
  - The CCTV budget has been removed due to the re-procurement of the contract by MSDC, which removed Town Council's requirements to contribute.
  - Days Out project will not go ahead and the Young Enterprise Project will be the main focus in this area of work next year.

- 5) In advance of this report Members will have considered pre-budget reports on the Town Council's Events programme for 2025/2026 any change resolved under that report that effect the budge as presented will need to be fed into the resolved budget under this item.
- 6) **Financial Implications** - these will be dealt with by the Policy and Finance Committee.
- 7) **Legal Implications** - statutory duty to set a budget and resulting precept each year.

**HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL — ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
DRAFT BUDGET 2025/2026**

	Actual to 31/10/2024 (£)	Budget '24/25 (£)	Forecast to 31/03/2025 (£)	Draft Budget '25/26 (£)	% change from '24/25 to '25/26	Notes
<b>INCOME</b>						
2. Allotment Rents	4,626.75	4,634	4,627	4,766	2.8%	
3. Cemetery	24,675.65	35,000	36,261	37,250	6.4%	
Roundabout Income (WSCC)/Flower Bed						
1. Sponsorship	0.00	7,250	7,250	7,250	0.0%	A
	<b>29,302.40</b>	<b>46,884</b>	<b>48,138</b>	<b>49,266</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	
<b>REVENUE EXPENDITURE</b>						
2. Allotments	7,511.19	8,000	13,067	10,500	31.3%	
3. Cemetery	3,424.60	7,050	6,527	7,050	0.0%	
4. External Contract for Cemetery	8,172.77	17,779	16,345	17,162	-3.5%	
Hanging Baskets, Goblet Baskets & Tiered						
5. Planters	2,247.97	4,680	4,614	5,085	8.7%	
Muster Green, Roundabouts & Other Flower						
6. Beds	12,171.76	21,752	19,800	20,750	-4.6%	B
7. Public Clock (St. Wilfrid's)	0.00	200	200	200	0.0%	
8. Street Lighting — Power & Maintenance	10,398.11	17,750	17,477	16,750	-5.6%	
9. Street Lighting — Improvement/New Schemes	3,840.00	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0%	
10. Severe Weather Contingency	0.00	315	315	325	3.2%	
11. General Maintenance/Repairs	2,211.30	4,838	4,775	4,918	1.7%	
12. Town Initiatives	0.00	8,072	8,072	5,381	-33.3%	C
13. Best Kept Garden/Allotment Competitions	120.00	971	971	971	0.0%	
14. Christmas Lights	7,118.12	14,900	14,898	17,500	17.4%	
15. Christmas Lights — Maintenance Reserve	1,500.00	1,500	1,500	3,000	100.0%	
16. Haywards Heath/South & South East in Bloom	1,686.21	1,076		1,076	0.0%	
17. Town Council Events	23,947.21	26,500	26,500	30,250	14.2%	D
18. Leave No One Behind	2,003.19	2,000	2,003	2,000	0.0%	
19. South Road Tree Project	2,000.00	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%	
20. Land off Hurstwood Lane — Management Costs	0.00	0	0	0	n/a	E

21. Environmental Projects	0.00	2,205	2,205	2,275	3.2%
22. Community/Young Enterprise Awards	422.18	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
23. Days Out Project	30.00	2,500	30	0	-100.0%
24. Community Events Grants	-	-	-	5,000	n/a
	<b>88,804.61</b>	<b>149,588</b>	<b>146,799</b>	<b>157,693</b>	<b>5.4%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE over INCOME</b>	<b>59,502.21</b>	<b>102,704</b>	<b>98,661</b>	<b>108,427</b>	<b>5.6%</b>

**Notes**

Assumes continuation of the WSCC Partnership Agreement for the mowing/maintenance of roundabouts (= circa £7,000).

**A**

(Separate) earmarked reserve for Muster Green at 31/10/2024 =

**B**

£8,939.49.

**C**

Reserve '23/24	0.00
Budget '24/25	8,072.00
Funds available at 31/10/2024	<b>8,072.00</b>

If £4,036 (i.e. 50% of the budget) were to be spent during the current financial year, the remainder could be carried forward as a reserve.

Added to the proposed budget for '25/26 of £5,381, this would make £9,453 available at 1/4/25.

**D**

Please refer to the report of the Events & Community Officer under agenda item 7.

**E**

Earmarked reserve at 31/03/2025 = £30,500.

**Committee Meeting: Environment and General Purposes**

**Report of:** Town Clerk

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Subject:** Fairer Lindfield and Green Lindfield Request

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**Purpose of Report:**

1. The purpose of this report is for Members to consider an enquiry from a third party organisation.

**Summary:**

2. The following report requests consideration of request/question that has been raised to the Committee by Fairer World Lindfield and Greener Lindfield regarding planting regimes.

**Recommendation(s):**

- a) **That Members consider a response to Fairer World Lindfield and Greener Lindfield.**

**Background:**

3. The matter asked of the Town Council is as follows;

Dear Haywards Heath Town Council

We understand that the Environment and General Purposes Committee is meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> and we thought we might take this opportunity to raise a question about the planting of the Haywards Heath roundabout close to the station.

Fairer World Lindfield and Greener Lindfield are two community groups whose focus is the climate and environmental crisis and the biodiversity of the surrounding area where we are based in Haywards Heath. One of our concerns is the planting on the main Haywards Heath roundabout.

We notice that at least three times a year, council workers replace annual plants, such as pansies, primulas, and geraniums. During the hot summer weeks, there has often been a need for council workers to water these plants. The cost attached to this constant turnover of plants and labour is uneconomic, an inefficient use of resources and most importantly detrimental to our biodiversity. Plastic plant pots would also be repeatedly used. The removal of plants so frequently and constant digging causes soil deprivation as each plant removed destroys the microbes in the subsoil.

To decrease labour costs, improve efficiency, save money and increase biodiversity there are several options which could be taken by the Haywards Heath Council:

- Planting evergreen small shrubs and suitable perennials
- Ensure plants are pollinator friendly
- A variation on the substance of soil changed to retain more water

The above may appear to be a small contribution to our fragile ecosystem but if Haywards Heath Town Council could take the lead and demonstrate to the local community their environmental concerns, then perhaps members of the public may think more carefully about the soil beneath their feet and what we can all do to enhance it. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a sign in the middle of the roundabout that read "Eco-Friendly Planting by Haywards Heath Council – looking after our biodiversity"! This could be a good follow-on for all your hard work in winning this year's Britain's In Bloom, large town in South and South East of 2024 award and would encourage once again all the staff, councillors and volunteers who were involved in achieving this award to take this forward.

We look forward to hearing from you after your meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Financial Implications**

4. None

#### **Legal Implications**

5. None.

#### **Town Clerk**