



3 September 2021

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

A meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held at 5.30pm on Monday 13 September 2021 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Members of the public may view the meeting via the livestream on the Council's website.

Mannie Ketley
Executive Director

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2021.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of:

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

4. Annual Performance Report and discussion with the Leader and Executive Director (report to follow).
5. Motion from Council – Newbold Quarry Park.
6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme (table attached).

Membership of the Committee:

Councillors Eccleson (Chair), Gillias, Mrs Hassell, Mahoney, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Parker, Roodhouse and Dr Williams

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer on 01788 533522 or email linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk. Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Motion from Council - Newbold Quarry Park
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	13 September 2021
Contact Officer:	Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing
Summary:	<p>On 20 July 2021, Council referred a motion to Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Council Standing Order 11.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider the Motion and decide how it should be dealt with.</p>
Financial Implications:	There are no immediate financial implications.
Risk Management Implications:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
Environmental Implications:	There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.
Equality and Diversity:	There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Scrutiny Committee – 13 September 2021

Motion from Council – Newbold Quarry Park

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Leisure and Wellbeing

Summary

On 20 July 2021, Council referred a motion to a scrutiny committee in accordance with Council Standing Order 11.

The Committee is asked to consider the Motion and decide how it should be dealt with.

1. MOTION FROM COUNCIL

On 20 July 2021, Council considered a motion submitted on notice by Cllr Rabin and seconded by Cllr Ms Watson-Merret as set out below.

“The Kings Fund recommends that local authorities should “ensure that parks are well maintained, and that anti-social behaviour does not act as a disincentive for people to enjoy the space and derive health benefits from it.”

With regard to Newbold on Avon Quarry Park, the Borough Council has completed two actions in the last two years:

- 1. To place a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) upon the site (March 2019)*
- 2. To remove the viewing platform located adjacent to the disabled-user car park.*

The area is unsuitable for wheelchair or disability access. The disabled-user car park provides access for cars. Beyond that, an able person would struggle to walk the paths – particularly after any wet weather.

Newbold Quarry Park is being wasted. Council is therefore requested to establish a suitable cross-party working group to assess the following matters:

- a) a hard surfaced, pathway around the perimeter of the lake, suitable for wheelchair access directly from the existing disabled-user parking area, with several bankside viewing areas.*
- b) planning suitable interventions designed to increase access to green and open spaces for all members of our community, particularly disadvantaged groups.*

- c) *Improving the quality of those prominent green and open spaces that have received no improvements for a significant time – such as Criss Cross Park, Brownsover.*
- d) *Funding which shall include third party funding for the above identified matters.*
- e) *Engage with local communities, disability charities and volunteer groups to achieve the above objectives.*

The above activities will require a detailed knowledge of local needs, cultural contexts and attitudes, with clear objectives and strong targeting.”

In accordance with Council Standing Order 11, the motion stood referred to Scrutiny Committee.

2. MOTION ON NOTICE PROCEDURE

The Constitution requires the Scrutiny Committee to decide whether to consider the motion itself or refer it for consideration by a task group. Any task group so appointed will report back to the Committee. Once the Committee has considered the motion, or received a report back from a task group, it will report to the next available meeting of Cabinet.

Consideration of a motion might take the form of simply dealing with the motion without further scrutiny and reporting to Cabinet accordingly. If, however, the committee were to decide to consider the motion itself in more detail, any scrutiny would need to be supported by evidence that might not yet have been assembled.

3. NEWBOLD QUARRY PARK

Newbold Quarry is a local nature reserve that RBC manage in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. When the site was opened in 2000 provision was made for a small disabled car park and stretch of tarmac footpath suitable for all abilities. However, the very topographical nature of the quarry means full DDA access is neither reasonable or practicable.

RBC work closely with the Rugby Disability Forum to identify areas for improvement on our open spaces in line with our strategic plans and have attended the site in the last year. They are consulted on all open space refurbishment projects. WWT Nature force undertake weekly volunteering activities along with a small group of local volunteers who undertake daily litter picks

The quarry is a high-risk water site and can attract substantial ASB which creates significant tensions for local residents. Both ourselves, the police and fire service are constantly trying to discourage use of the site. If someone got into difficulty in the water, there is a high risk of death. For this reason, we have annual independent water safety checks undertaken.

Alongside this RBC are engaged with a geological expert with regards the site.

Should funding become available then RBC would work with stakeholders and volunteers to make any suitable improvements identified.

4. NEXT STEPS

The Committee is now asked to decide how to deal with this motion.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 13 September 2021

Subject Matter: Motion from Council – Newbold Quarry Park

Originating Department: Leisure and Wellbeing

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Date of meeting 2021/22	Item	Report Description
All meetings	Motions referred to scrutiny	
All meetings	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	Long-term rolling work programme.
22 November 2021	Finance and Performance Monitoring 2021/22 Q1	
22 November 2021	Discussion with Portfolio Holder/s and Chief Officer/s	Committee is asked to decide which portfolio holder/s it would like to invite to the meeting.
22 November 2021	Motions to Council	Progress of Motions submitted to Council.
24 January 2022	Finance and Performance Monitoring 2021/22 Q2	
24 January 2022	Discussion with Portfolio Holder/s and Chief Officer/s	Committee is asked to decide which portfolio holder/s it would like to invite to the meeting.
28 March 2022	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	An overview of the work carried out by scrutiny during 2021/22.
28 March 2022	Discussion with Portfolio Holder/s and Chief Officer/s	Committee is asked to decide which portfolio holder/s it would like to invite to the meeting.

Items to be scheduled

Item	Report Description/Notes
Crime and Disorder	Annual overview to scrutinise decisions made, and actions taken, by the responsible authorities that make up the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in connection with the discharge of their crime and disorder functions. The topic was scheduled for April but delayed due to the Purdah period.
Review of Managing Arrears (Council Tax)	Progress or final review report.

Annual review of Member training and development	Annual overview.
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Task Groups

Topic	Responsible Officer	Notes
Managing Arrears of Council Tax	Revenues Manager	Work commenced in April but has been delayed due to work on business rates and grants taking priority.
Managing Housing Arrears	Chief Officer – Communities and Homes	Due to the extension of furlough arrangements and to allow time to assess the impact of job losses this review was put on hold.

Future work programme Items carried over from 2020/21 to be scheduled

Topic	Timescale	Notes
Corporate Strategy	To be agreed	
Health and Wellbeing	To be agreed	Linked to recovery of the Covid-19 pandemic.
Digital Inclusion	To be agreed	Due to the impact of Covid-19, and changing work priorities, the Digital Strategy has been delayed. The review will focus on communication and community engagement.

Forward Plan

The topics currently listed in the Forward Plan for the period September - December 2021 are available to download [here](#)