



**DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Duston Parish Council  
Duston Community Centre  
Pendle Road  
Duston  
Northampton  
NN5 6DT

## **Environment Committee**

Cllrs Enright-King, Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Liddon, Craven, Dickinson

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee to be held at Duston Community Centre on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 commencing at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Issued by:

Gary Youens  
Parish Clerk, Duston Parish Council

### **AGENDA**

**EC89/24. To receive apologies for absence**

**EC90/24. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (APPENDIX A)**

**EC91/24. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda** (*Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business*).

**EC92/24. Public Participation Session** (*Persons wishing to address the committee on an agenda item may register their intention to do so by telephone or email by 12 noon on the day of the meeting and may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes*).

**EC93/24. Overflowing Bins**

- To discuss the problems of overflowing bins in Duston

**EC94/24. Environmental Maintenance Program**

- To receive a presentation from staff on forthcoming environmental maintenance and projects including rewilding

**EC95/24. Sandy Lane Hedge**

- To discuss and consider damage to the hedge of the Sandy Lane (adjacent to the Parish Boundary, APPENDIX B).  
*Proposed by Cllr F Craven*

**EC96/24. No parking at Junction Signs**

- To further discuss possible locations of the no parking at signs in Duston

**EC97/24. Enforcement**

- a) Discuss the legal powers of a parish council when it comes to enforcing
  - Parking
  - Littering
  - Fly tipping
  - Graffiti  
(APPENDIX C)
- b) Discuss how to proceed with these powers and budgetary implications.

**EC98/24. Updates on ongoing Environment Committee projects**

- To receive an update from Councillors and staff on various pieces of ongoing work
  - Entrance to Mendip Park
  - Bench in Mendip Park
  - Streetlighting in Meeting Lane
  - CCTV in Limehurst Square
  - Noise deterrent in Limehurst Square
  - Victim Support
  - Goal Posts in Errington Park
  - Table Tennis in Errington Park & Melbourne / St Luke's Field.
  - Welcome To Duston Sign repaint



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## **Environment Committee Minutes** **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Chair:** Cllr P Enright-King

**Councillors Present:**

Cllrs Craven, Dickenson, Ennis-Clark, Ingram, Liddon

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gary Youens – Clerk

Ryan Ikavnieks – Assistant Clerk

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**EC79/24. To receive apologies for absence**

- **RESOLVED:** None

**EC80/24. To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (APPENDIX A)**

- **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

**EC81/24. To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda**

- Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests in the items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. There were no interests declared.

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#### EC82/24. Public Participation Session

- There were no members of the public present.

#### EC83/24. Limehurst Square

- Due to recent crime events in Limehurst Square, Councillors have raised concerns over the current CCTV provision. The Clerk noted that a majority of the businesses in the square operate their own CCTV, but theft and crime still persist.
- The Chair also highlighted concerns about potential, but not reported, increase in anti-social behaviour from young people due to the Parish installing benches at the Square.
- The Committee discussed that whilst CCTV can be useful in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour it doesn't eliminate it.
- The point was made that CCTV can play a role in reducing the fear of crime and so making people more safe.

- **RESOLVED:**

- a) That the Clerk contacts the local policing team and Sharon Henley, the Designing Out Crime Officer for information to support the proposal to install CCTV cameras around Limehurst Square.
- b) That the Clerk investigates the following proposals:
  - A Cricket: A device that plays a high-frequency that only young people can hear to repel them from loitering.
  - A speaker to play Jazz: As young people don't like Jazz it.

The Clerk highlighted concerns with both noise related proposals due to residential dwellings being located above the shop.

#### EC84/24. Mendip Park Entrance

- The Committee noted whilst the new soakway was working flooding at the entrance still remained a problem after heavy rain fall. Various solutions was discussed.
- **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contacts the contractor used to install the soakaway to seek suggestions on how to mitigate the flooding further and to seek a potential flooding consultant for input.

#### EC85/24. Streetlighting

- **RESOLVED:** To discuss how to proceed with possible streetlights in the following areas:

- Meeting Lane (including the alleyway with Sycamore Road): That Cllr Liddon Contacts the Boys Brigade to enquire about the feasibility of installing lighting on the HQ building.
- Cllr Enright-King and Cllr Ingram will look into a light at the Conservative Club.
- Ashtree Way near the Bakery: That the Clerk contacts the bakery to enquire about the feasibility of installing lights on their building to cover the alleyway.

At a later date the Committee will then consider

- Alleyway from Southfield Road to Dover Court (Upton): The Clerk will in the meantime we again try to investigate using "Safer Routes To Schools". Previously no response was forthcoming.
- Alleyway between Brockwood Close and Limoges Ct

#### **EC86/24. Victim Support**

- **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk contacts Victim Support to seek effective ways to support the organisation.

#### **EC87/24. Vehicle Activated Signs**

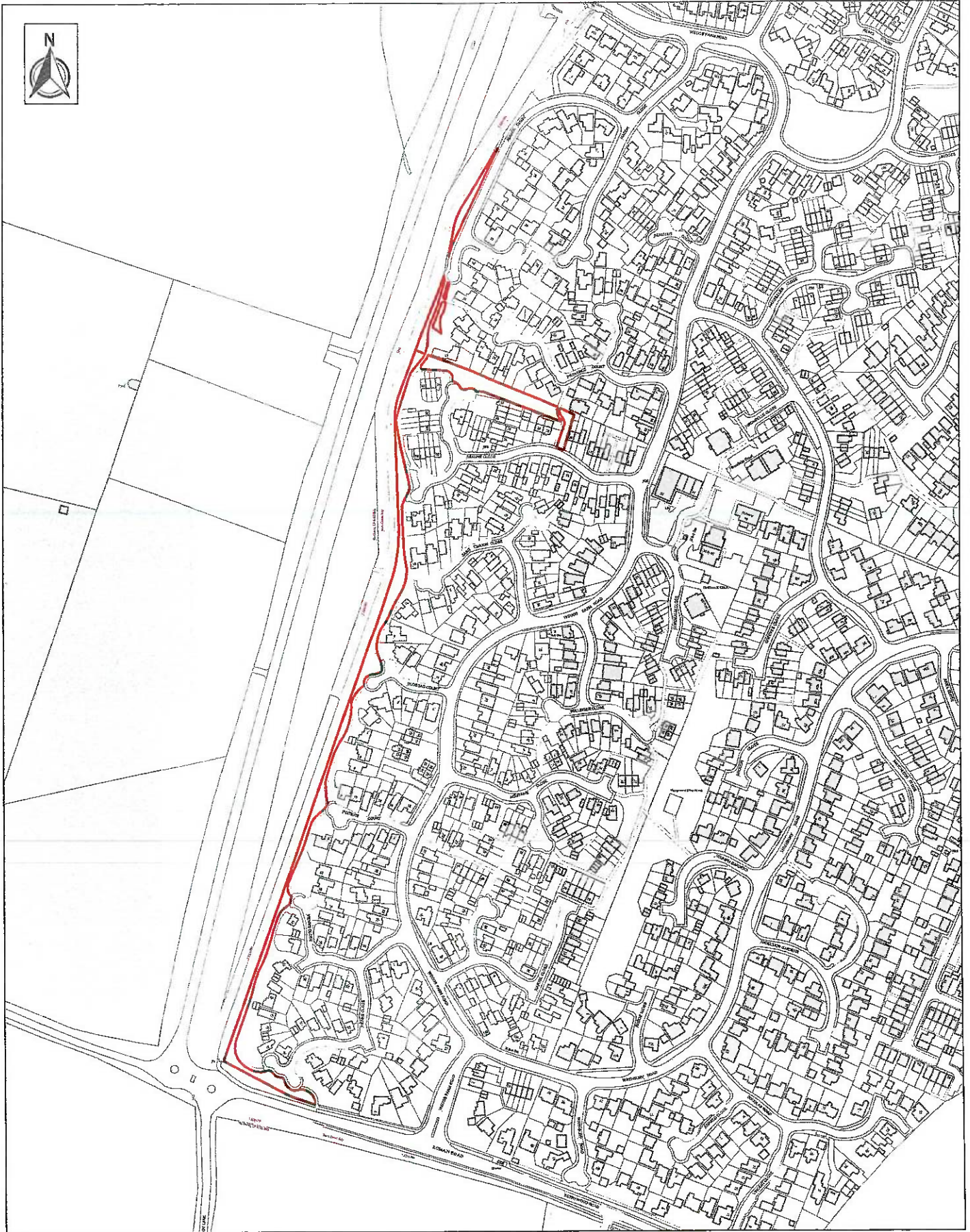
- **RESOLVED:** That the information from the Speed Activated Signs was received discussed and noted (APPENDIX B)

#### **EC88/24. Northampton West LAP**

- **RESOLVED:** That the information from Northampton West Local Area Partnership was received discussed and noted (APPENDIX C).

*The meeting finished at 8:31pm*





West Northamptonshire Council

Title: Sandy Lane & Alsace Close Open Space

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Date: 08-06-2022

Scale: 1:2,500 @A3

Drawn: -LP-





Hello,

In preparation of a forthcoming Environment Committee I have asked NCALC about parish council powers in respect of enforcement:

*Thank you for your enquiry. Parish councils can use power under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, s.88 to issue fixed penalty notices for litter offences in the council's area. I don't know of any parish council's currently using this power and have asked Danny and Lesley if they are aware of any.*

*With regards parking, the unitary authority is responsible for all highways matter, including parking. Parish councils have the power to provide and maintain suitable off-street car parking places (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.57(1)(b)) and to regulate the use of car parks and charge for their use (RTRA 1984, ss.59(3), 35(1)).*

So legally speaking a parish council can issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for some environmental offences. However, to do this you would need to employ trained staff or get a specialised contractor to do this. Since patrolling and issuing FPN is a labour intensive activity if we were to go down this road then it would be a significant budgetary cost to the Council. I assume this is why so few parish councils actually do this in practice. I am not putting councillors off the idea in considering this but just making you fully aware. According to NCALC parish councils have no power to enforce the highway code and traffic offences with FPN.

I have asked about who is the WNC Neighbourhood Ward for the Duston area? Could we ask them to come into our area for a while. They have the powers to issue FPN for environmental type crime like littering. I have received the replay from WNC

*In short we don't currently have a list of wardens allocated to parishes that we can share, it changes all the time at the moment as we are short staffed and keep getting pulled in to other projects etc.*

*The best way to contact them is via [envcrime@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:envcrime@westnorthants.gov.uk) then we can get someone out to them depending on their issues. As we have such a small resource now*

*across whole of west we are having to make some difficult decisions about where we deploy and what we can get involved in.*

*I would urge whoever is experiencing the problems to report them through; using the online forms and the Report It app. We prioritise where we deploy based on the number of reports we receive and the general need of the area. Whilst wardens do still patrol areas to identify issues themselves, it's based on need, so if we don't know there are issues they won't get much resource.....*

*We are currently looking to engage a new environmental enforcement contractor who will operate across the whole of the west so again, if we know about specific issues we can look to deploy appropriate resource.*

*I hope that helps. Please encourage reporting.”*

Therefore they do not currently have capacity due to staffing shortages for us to be able to hire them.