

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

MONDAY 27 JULY 2009
7.00 PM

Bourges/Viersen Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

Page No

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declaration of Interest**

At this point Members must declare whether they have an interest, whether personal or prejudicial, in any of the items on the agenda. Members must also declare if they are subject to their party group whip in relation to any items under consideration.

OPERATIONAL ITEMS

3. **A Rural Definition**

1 - 6

Determine what is meant by 'Rural Communities' to ensure scrutiny function is focused correctly.

4. **Fix it Van**

7 - 12

To provide members an opportunity to scrutinise the provision and use of the Fix it Van in rural communities.

5. **Langdyke Trust**

13 - 20

To provide members the opportunity to scrutinise the establishment of the Langdyke Trust and to discuss the establishment of other land trusts.

STRATEGIC ITEMS

6. **Rural Economy**

21 - 22

To provide members an opportunity to scrutinise the work done by Opportunity Peterborough towards strengthening and developing the rural economy of Peterborough

7. **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

23 - 36

8. **Work Program**

37 - 38

9. Date of the next Meeting

5 October 2009, 7.00 p.m.



There is an induction hearing loop system available in all meeting rooms. Some of the systems are infra-red operated, if you wish to use this system then please contact Alex Daynes on 01733 452447 as soon as possible.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure – Outside Normal Office Hours

In the event of the fire alarm sounding all persons should vacate the building by way of the nearest escape route and proceed directly to the assembly point in front of the Cathedral. The duty Beadle will assume overall control during any evacuation, however in the unlikely event the Beadle is unavailable, this responsibility will be assumed by the Committee Chair.

Committee Members:

Councillors: D Over (Chairman), G Nawaz (Vice-Chairman), M Collins, R Dobbs, D Harrington, B Rush and W Trueman

Substitutes: Councillors: L Gilbert, J A Fox and D Fower

Further information about this meeting can be obtained from Alex Daynes on telephone 01733 452447 or by email – alexander.daynes@peteborough.gov.uk

Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	Agenda Item No. 3
27 July 2009	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Alex Daynes, Senior Governance Officer

Contact Details – 01733 452447, alexander.daynes@peterborough.gov.uk

A Rural Definition

1. PURPOSE

Determine what is meant by 'Rural Communities' to ensure scrutiny function is focused correctly on rural communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Scrutiny Commission agree upon a definition, or at the least come to an understanding, of Rural Communities and identify rural areas so that members are confident about the focus of the remit of the Commission.

3. BACKGROUND

The Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities was established at Annual Council on 18 May 2009.

4. REPORT

4.1 To provide effective and focused scrutiny, the commission would require an understanding of what is deemed to be a 'rural community' and where these are located within the Peterborough boundary. This report provides definitions and also a map (Appendix A) showing the rural areas under Peterborough City Council's authority.

4.2 Dictionary definitions:

- (i) Rural: in, or like the countryside
 Countryside: land not in towns, cities or industrial areas, which is either used for farming or left in its natural condition
 (Cambridge Dictionaries Online – Cambridge University Press).
- (ii) Rural: adjective relating to or characteristic of the countryside rather than the town
 Countryside: the land and scenery of a rural area
 (Oxford Dictionaries, askoxford.com).

4.3 If the above definitions are used then rural communities are any that are located outside of the town or city area within the surrounding countryside. How far outside the city or urban area and into the countryside is not specific.

4.4 To determine where the rural communities are located, the committee needs to recognise where the town or city boundary ends. The enclosed map (attached as appendix 1) shows the neighbourhood management locations with the North and West Rural location separate from the

rest of the city and urban areas.

- 4.5 However, the map is designed using Ward boundaries (mainly drawn along lines of roads and highways) and therefore anomalies occur such as eastern parts of the Paston Ward have been included in the North and West Urban category along with western parts of the Werrington North Ward when these areas could be considered rural. The majority of the rural area is located in the North and West Rural location.
- 4.6 If the attached map is used as an indication or consensus of where rural communities are located within the Peterborough area, some common sense would need to be applied when specific locations bordering the urban/city area are discussed as it could be argued that some Ward boundaries cover both rural and urban areas.

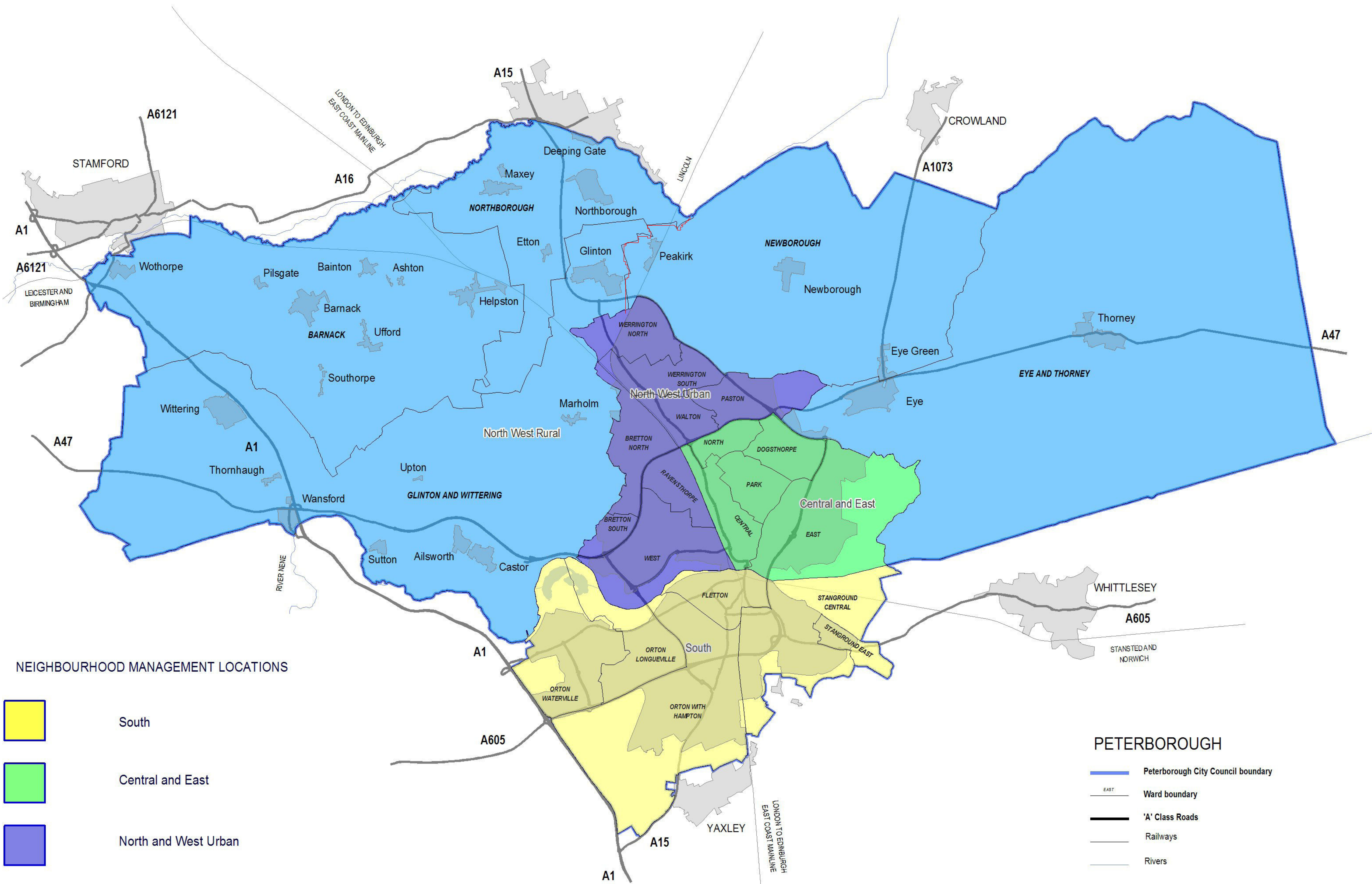
6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix A - map of Neighbourhood Management Locations.
Appendix B - letter from DEFRA.



NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT LOCATIONS

- South
- Central and East
- North and West Urban
- North and West Rural

PETERBOROUGH

- Peterborough City Council boundary
- Ward boundary
- 'A' Class Roads
- Railways
- Rivers

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CCU 7th Floor
Eastbury House
30-34 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TL



Email: ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.defra.gov.uk

Mr Alexander Daynes

CCU Ref: DWOE140455

Alexander.Daynes@peterborough.gov.uk

6 July 2009

Dear Mr Daynes,

Definition of rural

Thank you for your letter of 25 June enquiring about a definition of rural. I have been asked to reply.

The rural definition identifies the different types of settlements in which people live in rural areas – these include small towns, villages, and hamlets and scattered dwellings. Because of this single underlying criterion, the definition can be used with other information, such as housing type, car ownership and household incomes, to give a valid means of understanding how these measures vary within rural areas.

It is a more useful statistical tool than our preceding approaches to defining rural areas and provides a more sophisticated way of describing and understanding the differences between rural areas. This helps us and others apply the available evidence to target policy to those groups, communities and businesses who most require support. For us, this means being better able to deliver the priorities in Rural Strategy 2004. You can find more information on the Rural Strategy 2004 on the Defra website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/strategy/default.htm>

The new definition has two components: the first identifies the form of settlements under 10,000 population (those over 10,000 are defined using the Department for Communities and Local Government's (CLG) urban areas definition, which has been in place since 1981). The second identifies the wider geographic context in which settlements are located. This has led to a new classification of rural areas comprising 'rural towns', 'rural villages' or 'dispersed dwellings' in either 'sparsely' populated areas or 'less sparsely' populated areas.

The definition is technically complex – however, a comprehensive methodology paper is available explaining how the definition was developed and the process by which it was validated and peer-reviewed. This is available on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>



I hope that this letter is informative.

Yours sincerely,

Amanpreet Pattar
Defra - Customer Contact Unit

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 4
27 July 2009	Public Report

Report of the Commercial Services Director

Report Author – Mike Heath, Commercial Services Director

Contact Details – 01733 425301, mike.heath@peterborough.gov.uk

THE FIX-IT VAN SERVICE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the role of the Fix It Van Service and its relevance to the rural communities and to decide whether this is a service that is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the localities it serves.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1
- The service continues to be provided with two vehicles in its current format.
 - All Parish and rural communities be encouraged to take the opportunity to make better use of the service and become involved in its operations
 - That we continue to use the Fix It Van brand
 - That we request the Parish Council Liaison Committee to consider: are there any other services that could be provided through the Fix It Van Service?

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Fix It Van Service was introduced in 2001 to provide a dedicated service for the rural areas following concerns from residents in Parishes in those areas that they received little support from the Council or value from their Council Tax.
- 3.2 The service is operated by two vehicles with a single operative in each that is dedicated to working in the rural areas. The vehicle is branded with a Fix It Van logo alongside the City Council identity and is built on a 3.5 tonne GVW chassis so that they are easily identifiable. The vehicles are equipped with a range of tools and equipment and the operatives are trained to undertake a variety of tasks: This can include litter picking, painting, strimming, pruning, graffiti clearance and any other minor repairs or maintenance to public property etc.
- 3.3 The vehicles have a pre-determined rota (as set out in Appendix A) and are allocated to individual Parishes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Monday and Friday are kept clear for dealing with larger jobs and other routine matters such as regular fly-tips in rural locations and bigger jobs that cannot be dealt with on a Parish's normal allocated days.

3.4 The Parish Clerk or another notified contact is provided with a list of the dates when the vehicle will be in their locality and in many instances arrangements are made for the operative to visit the Parish Clerk in order to receive specific requests for work. Parish Clerks are also able to contact the Service Help Desk or Peterborough Direct to request assistance or for specific work to be undertaken. In addition, there is an e-mail address: fixitvan@peterborough.gov.uk. Some Parish contacts have a close working relationship either with the operatives or the management team and we provide the wide variety of contact routes as a way of ensuring that the work is undertaken as speedily as possible.

3.5 The cost of the Service is as follows:

Salaries	£38,000
Holiday and Sickness Cover	£4,700
Transport	£11,500
Overheads	£5,400

3.6 The existing vehicles are due for replacement at the end of March 2010. This is now, therefore, the opportunity to review the Service and decide whether it is fit for purpose, continues to serve a useful function and should be continued and/or reduced or extended.

3.7 Consideration should now be given to the following points:

- (a) Is this service still relevant and appropriate for the communities it serves?
- (b) Is the current level of resource sufficient, too great or too little?
- (c) How can all Parishes be encouraged to use the service rather than passively accept the work that is provided as a default?
- (d) If the service is to be continued, are there additional other opportunities or facilities that it could offer?
- (e) Is the current brand of the Fix It Van one that needs amending, strengthening or is it now recognised as part of the village life and embedded into community consciousness?

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 At this stage no consultation has taken place. Members may consider they wish to consult more broadly with the rural Parish Councils over the future delivery of this.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 None

6. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Examples of the current routing arrangements of the two Fix It vehicles.

FIX IT VAN ROUTES

DAY	WEEK 1		WEEK 2	
	WEEK COMM: 20.07.09		WEEK COMM: 27.07.09	
	VAN A	VAN B	VAN A	VAN B
MON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING
TUE	WOTHORPE SOUTHORPE	BARNACK (INC PILSGATE)	DEEPING GATE NEWBOROUGH	NORTHBOROUGH PEAKIRK
WED	CLEANSING	BAINTON (INC ASHTON)	GLINTON	THORNEY
THUR	ETTON MAXEY UFFORD	HELPSTON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S
FRI	WANSFORD	A47 LAY BY'S	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S

DAY	WEEK 3		WEEK 4	
	WEEK COMM: 03.08.09		WEEK COMM: 10.08.09	
	VAN A	VAN B	VAN A	VAN B
MON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING
TUE	EYE MARHOLM	EYE/THORNEY	WANSFORD	THORNHAUGH SUTTON
WED	CLEANSING	CASTOR AILSWORTH	CLEANSING	WITTERING
THUR	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S
FRI	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S

DAY	WEEK 1		WEEK 2	
	WEEK COMM: 17.08.09		WEEK COMM: 24.08.09	
	VAN A	VAN B	VAN A	VAN B
MON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING
TUE	WOTHORPE SOUTHORPE	BARNACK (INC PILSGATE)	DEEPING GATE NEWBOROUGH	NORTHBOROUGH PEAKIRK
WED	CLEANSING	BAINTON (INC ASHTON)	GLINTON	THORNEY
THUR	ETTON MAXEY UFFORD	HELPSTON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S
FRI	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S

DAY	WEEK 3		WEEK 4	
	WEEK COMM: 31.08.09		WEEK COMM: 07.09.09	
	VAN A	VAN B	VAN A	VAN B
MON	BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY	CLEANSING	CLEANSING
TUE	EYE MARHOLM	EYE/THORNEY	WANSFORD	THORNHAUGH SUTTON
WED	CLEANSING	CASTOR AILSWORTH	CLEANSING	WITTERING
THUR	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S
FRI	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S

DAY	WEEK 1		WEEK 2	
	WEEK COMM: 14.09.09		WEEK COMM: 21.09.09	
	VAN A	VAN B	VAN A	VAN B
MON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING
TUE	WOTHORPE SOUTHORPE	BARNACK (INC PILSGATE)	DEEPING GATE NEWBOROUGH	NORTHBOROUGH PEAKIRK
WED	CLEANSING	BAINTON (INC ASHTON)	GLINTON	THORNEY
THUR	ETTON MAXEY UFFORD	HELPSTON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S
FRI	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S

DAY	WEEK 3		WEEK 4	
	WEEK COMM: 28.09.09		WEEK COMM: 05.10.09	
	VAN A	VAN B	VAN A	VAN B
MON	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING
TUE	WOTHORPE	BARNACK (PILSGATE)	WANSFORD	THORNHAUGH SUTTON
WED	CLEANSING	CASTOR AILSWORTH	CLEANSING	WITTERING
THUR	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING	CLEANSING A1 LAY BY'S
FRI	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S	WANSFORD PICNIC AREA	A47 LAY BY'S

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Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	Agenda Item No. 5
27 July 2009	Public Report

Report of the Director of the Greater Peterborough Partnership

Report Author – Richard Astle, Director, Greater Peterborough Partnership

Contact Details – 01733 207331, richard@gpp-peterborough.org.uk

The Langdyke Trust

1. PURPOSE

To make the committee aware of the work of the Langdyke Trust as an example to consider for future establishments of land trusts.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee identify any areas of good practise and make recommendations about the future establishment and benefits to rural communities of land trusts and how these trusts could be supported by the City Council.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Langdyke Countryside Trust is a voluntary, membership based, organisation that through community action aims to preserve and enhance the natural heritage in the area between Peterborough and Stamford, including, where possible, through the restoration of the lost landscapes described by John Clare.

3.2 We have three principal theme areas of activity

1. **Places** – working with landowners, or if appropriate managing land ourselves, to enhance or create habitats in order to increase both the diversity and the numbers of our local wildlife species. In particular, we will focus on the restoration of the lost landscapes as described by John Clare, including areas of limestone grassland.
2. **People** – working with schools and other community groups and wildlife charities, we will offer opportunities for people to learn about and appreciate and support the natural environment on their doorsteps.
3. **Projects from Poems** –we will establish specific programmes of conservation activity designed to support increases in population of certain species that feature in the poetry and writing of John Clare.

3.3 The Trust was established in 1999. It now has over 150 members in the villages west of Peterborough.

3.4 It acquired its first nature reserve at Swaddywell Pit as a community nature reserve in 2003. Swaddywell was the subject of two poems by John Clare and was one of the first nature reserves established by the National Trust at the beginning of the 20th Century. It is a county wildlife site and a regionally important geological site, but in between its lease by the National Trust and the eventual acquisition by the Langdyke Countryside Trust it was ploughed up, quarried, used as a household waste tip and as a venue for the national VW Owners' Club

rallies.

- 3.5 The Trust has also recently announced the creation of a heritage and nature reserve at Torpel Manor Field, Bainton which it purchased using money for green infrastructure projects awarded by Peterborough City Council. This nine acre field was the site of a medieval manor house, owned by Roger de Torpel one of the original feudal knights of Peterborough Abbey. The remains of the manor house can still be seen in the form of a series of high mounds and ditches on the site. It is also a county wildlife site. The Trust will be renovating the stable block on the site and creating a small visitor centre there focusing not just on Torpel Manor, but on all aspects of the Trust's work.
- 3.6 In the last year the Trust has also entered into two management agreements for the creation of two more nature reserves in the area: with National Grid at Bainton Heath, near Bainton fisheries and with Tarmac at Etton-Maxey Pits. This fifty acre reserve lies to the west of the Etton-Maxey Road and is the site of a former gravel extraction quarry. Over the next few years it will be converted into a mosaic of open water, reed-bed, wet woodland and grassland with public access by permit along a nature trail with hides.
- 3.7 The restoration of the land is part of Tarmac's original planning consent with Peterborough City Council. Tarmac has already created a network of small reed beds and pools with thousands of trees planted to create the wet woodland areas. Last year for birdwatchers, a breeding pair of Avocet successfully raised four young – the first record in Peterborough for many years. In addition, the reserve is home to many species of dragonfly and other insects.
- 3.8 In total the Trust now actively manages nearly 130 acres of land in the interests of nature and the local community.
- 3.9 The Trust also runs a monthly programme of nature walks, work-parties and indoor talks and has a large nest box programme around the area, designed to provide habitat for birds, bees and insects. It also has its own flock of Hebridean sheep which graze the grassland at Swaddywell and also at Castor Hanglands.
- 3.10 The Trust is also working closely with a range of partners as part of the John Clare Country project. The idea behind John Clare Country is simple – to get all those involved in the future of the villages and countryside west of Peterborough to work together to preserve and enhance the natural and built heritage of the area, linking this with the legacy of John Clare – uniting people, places and poetry. Our thinking goes far beyond the Trust's usual focus on wildlife and heritage. Much more ambitiously we have developed a simple vision for the rural areas west of Peterborough -

“To create a model of 21st century rural living to the west of Peterborough¹ famous as an exemplar of how to build sustainable rural communities for the benefit of local people and local biodiversity.”

The model would be based on:

- A number of thriving **village communities**, each with easy access to local services and employment opportunities, local community activities and strong, empowered organs of local government
- A green **transport** infrastructure, with a network of cycle paths, footways and 'quiet roads' where priority is given to walkers and riders
- A prosperous **farming** community, profiting from a combination of eco-friendly farming practice, eco-tourism and recreational activities
- A flourishing **local economy** providing local jobs for local people, based on services provided to visitors, plus environmental businesses located in village business centres
- An outstanding **natural biodiversity** created by environmentally friendly farming practice, habitat restoration and a mosaic of smaller wildlife havens.

¹ Roughly the area bounded by the A1, A47 and A16

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Membership leaflet.

Appendix 2 – Swaddywell Pit leaflet.

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Please do support the Trust as it works to maintain the beauty of the local landscape and its wildlife! Our reserves cost over £2000 a year to run.

Yes I would like to become a member of the Langdyke Countryside Trust. I enclose £25 (or other amount, as you see fit) as my annual donation (membership is on a household basis).

NAME OF MEMBERS (INCLUDING CHILDREN AND THEIR AGES)

ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

Return this form to Jennifer Britton
8 Heath Road, Helpston, Peterborough, PE6 7EG.

Your details will be kept solely for use by the Langdyke Countryside Trust and will be updated and used in accordance with any requirements of the Data Protection Act.

For further information visit our web pages <http://www.langdyke.org> or call Richard Astle on 01733 252376



Iain Stowe



For more information about the Langdyke Countryside Trust and its regular programme of events please visit www.langdyke.org.uk or call 01733 252376

Check out our blog – www.langdykeworld.blogspot.com



Iain Stowe



Langdyke Countryside Trust



Illustration by: Carry Alroyd

If you're interested in the local countryside then please support the work of the Trust.



The Langdyke Countryside Trust is a voluntary, membership based organisation that through community action aims to preserve and enhance the natural heritage in the area between Peterborough and Stamford, including, where possible, through the restoration of the lost landscapes described by John Clare.



The work of the Trust focuses on three main areas of activity:

1. **Places** – working with landowners, or if appropriate managing land ourselves, to enhance or create habitats to increase the diversity and numbers of local wildlife.
2. **People** – working with schools and other community groups and wildlife charities, we offer opportunities for people to learn about their local natural environment.
3. **Projects from Poems** – we develop specific programmes of conservation activity designed to support increases of certain species that feature in the poetry of John Clare.

The Trust runs a series of events throughout the year for its members, including monthly nature walks and regular indoor talks as well as a programme of work-parties on our reserves.

The Trust owns or manages four nature reserves:

Swaddywell Pit, near Helpston – an old quarry and former land fill site that is the subject of two poems by John Clare;

Torpel Manor Field, the site of a medieval manor house;

Bainton Heath – home to one of the highest concentrations of nightingales in the country;

Etton Road, Maxey Pits, which it manages in partnership with Tarmac – a fabulous mosaic of reed, open water and wet woodland.

Both Swaddywell and Torpel are open for visitors at any time, but a permit is required for the reserve at Etton Road, Maxey Pits. There is no public access to Bainton Heath, but the Trust does organised guided walks there for its members.

None of our work would be possible without the financial support of our members. This money allows

us, in particular, to pay the overheads of managing our reserves such as tool costs, insurance and machinery maintenance, as well as the cost of producing the annual report and running and advertising our events programme. The Trust's work is all voluntary and there are no hidden overheads – all your money is spent on conservation tasks.

Can you spare £25 a year to help with these tasks? (this is a recommended amount – please offer what you can afford to support our work)

Members of the Trust have the following benefits:

- Free permits for Etton Road – Maxey Pits (on request)
- Free places for all the family at all Langdyke events and walks
- A free copy of the Trust's annual report
- Free email copies of the Trust's quarterly newsletter
- Free access and use of the Trust blog – up-dating you on what's happening on a daily basis in the local natural world

And you'll have the satisfaction of being part of an exciting community project that will benefit our communities for many years to come.



Several species of butterfly feed on the grasses and flowers, including the ringlet, gatekeeper and the Essex and small skipper. Day flying moths can be found here too, including the six spot burnet. This striking red and black moth is extremely poisonous, containing cyanide derivatives to deter birds.

The quarry and wetland

In the north-western part of the reserve the old quarry remains, providing a mosaic of habitats and a unique chance to see Swaddywell's important geological features.

The quarry exposes an outcrop of the lower beds of Lincolnshire limestone. The limestone formed as a marine sediment in warm, sub-tropical waters some 160 million years ago when the area lay in latitudes about equal to present day North Africa. These sediments were lifted above sea level at various times, the latest being during the formation of the Alps some 60 million years ago.

Perhaps the most interesting feature is on the north side of the quarry. The limestone beds dip steeply and lie over a white, sandy exposure. The exposure of these rocks is due to a fault – the Tinwell-Marholm fault.

Over the years the disused quarry has gradually flooded, creating a patchwork of open water, reed and scrub. It also contains small areas of grassland with banks of wild marjoram and other flowers.

One of Swaddywell's most important natural features is its population of great crested newts. Although internationally scarce, this amphibian is common around Peterborough.

In spring and summer, the quarry is alive with 14 species of dragonfly. Perhaps the most obvious is the emperor dragonfly. The emperor is the largest British dragonfly and aggressively hunts over the ponds, clashing in aerial duels with rival males. It can fly up to 40 mph, hunting out flying insects, including smaller dragonflies.



Emperor dragonfly

The reserve is also home to two tiny, but pretty moth species – the beautiful chinamark and the ringed chinamark. In July both can be found in the reeds around the main pond. Unusually the larvae of these moths are aquatic.



Beautiful chinamark

In summer large numbers of swallows, house martins and swifts fly up from their nests in the nearby villages to feed over the ponds. In winter, snipe and green sandpipers, both wading birds, search for invertebrates in the mud. In Clare's time the snipe was also a common breeding species. He wrote:

*Lover of swamps
The quagmire overgrown
With hassock tufts of sedge – where fear encamps
Around thy home alone*

For more information about the Langdyke Countryside Trust and its regular programme of events please visit www.langdyke.org.uk or call 01733 252376

Swaddywell Pit was purchased and the reserve developed with help from

- Shanks.first
- The trustees and members of the Langdyke Countryside Trust
- Peterborough Environment City Trust
- The Peterborough RIGS group
- Peterborough City Council
- English Nature ALSF
- The communities of the neighbouring villages
- Ufford Parish Council

The Trust is grateful to all those who have supported its work in any way.

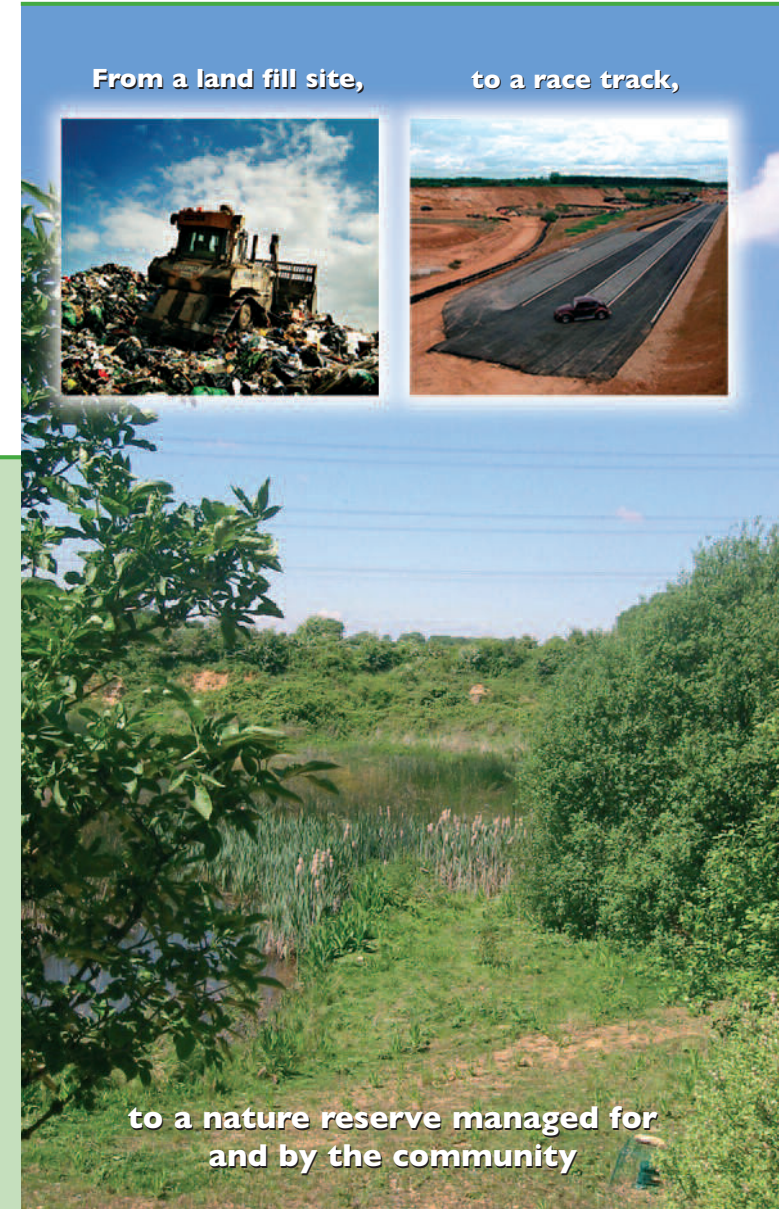


Swaddywell Pit

From a land fill site,



to a race track,



to a nature reserve managed for and by the community

The Langdyke Countryside Trust established Swaddywell Pit Nature Reserve in 2003. Located south of the village of Helpston near Peterborough, Swaddywell was the site of a quarry since Roman times and takes its name from a nearby spring where, reputedly, an ancient sword was once found. Over time Swordy Well became Swaddywell and the spring itself probably now lies beneath nearby King Street.

In medieval times, quarries such as Swaddywell would have provided stone for local churches and for the great cathedrals at Ely and Peterborough.



Six-spot burnet moth

John Clare, the famous Helpston-born poet, wrote about Swaddywell in the early 19th century, describing the changing landscape around the village brought about by the enclosure of common land and the consequent destruction of many familiar natural landmarks.

Lament of Swordy Well

*For passers-by I never pin
No troubles to my breast
Nor carry round some names to win
More money from the rest
I am Swordy Well a piece of land
That's fell upon the town
Who worked me till I couldn't stand
And crush me now I'm down*



Tree sparrow

Swaddywell was one of England's earliest nature reserves, leased by the National Trust between 1915 and 1924. Charles Rothschild, the man who initiated the modern nature conservation movement, included

Swaddywell on his 1915 list of the country's most important nature conservation sites.

Swaddywell was sold in 1924 and quarrying resumed. During the second world war it was used as a bomb dump.

After the war the original site was filled and returned to agriculture, whilst quarrying moved further east and north, creating the current pit. During the 1980's, the quarry was a rubbish tip. More recently it was used as a racetrack, but it then lapsed into neglect and became a venue for occasional raves and fly tipping.

Now Swaddywell is being returned to some of the natural glory John Clare would have known. It boasts many wildflowers typical of limestone grassland and is home to great crested newts and many species of dragonflies, butterflies and other insects. Large numbers of farmland birds, including nationally declining species such as reed bunting, yellowhammer and tree sparrow, find food, shelter and nest sites here.

The limestone grassland

Limestone grassland used to be a common habitat around Swaddywell. Now rare, such relic areas of grassland provide a vitally important habitat for wildlife.



Bee orchid

The large meadow at the top of the reserve was once a quarry and more recently a rubbish tip. When the tip was capped, it was quickly re-colonised by many species of grassland wildflowers.

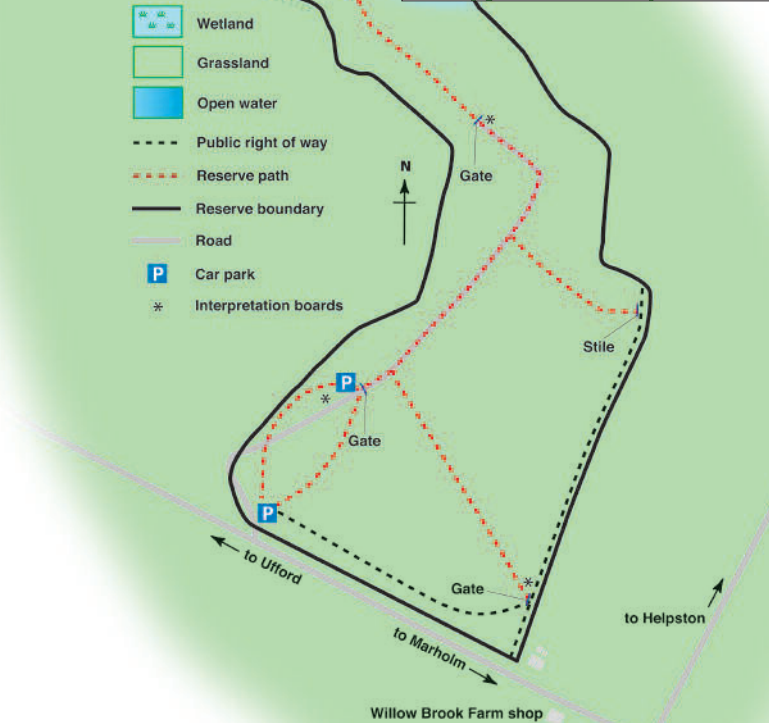
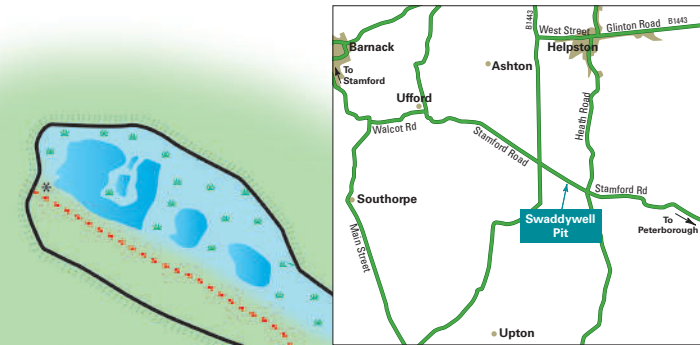
Look out for bee orchids at the southern end of the reserve during June. John Clare wrote about the bee orchid in another poem dedicated to Swordy Well.

*I've loved thee Swordy Well and love thee still
Long was I with thee tending sheep and cow
In boyhood ramping up each steepy hill
To play at 'roly poly' down – and now
A man I trifle o'er thee cares to kill
Haunting thy mossy steeps to botanise
And hunt the orchis tribes where nature's skill
Doth like my thoughts run into phantasys
Spider and bee all mimicking at will . . .*

In late summer the large, white and pink flowers of the wild carrot are common. In the 16th century a concoction of its red flowers was thought to be a great remedy for the 'falling disease', what we know today as epilepsy. The herbalist, Nicholas Culpeper considered them beneficial too to expectant mothers, advising that wild carrot could help conception when boiled in wine! You may also notice yellow-wort with its prominent yellow flowers and unique leaves that grow right around the stem.



Yellow-wort



Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	Agenda Item No. 6
27 July 2009	Public Report

Report of the Business Liaison Executive, Opportunity Peterborough

Report Author – Bill Agnew,

Contact Details – 01733 317417, bill.agnew@opportunitypeterborough.co.uk

Rural Economy

1. PURPOSE

To make the committee aware of the work of Opportunity Peterborough (OP) in supporting and developing the rural economy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee receive the report and make recommendations on the future approach to developing and supporting the rural economy and businesses.

3. REPORT ON OP'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR BUSINESSES OUTSIDE PETERBOROUGH CITY CENTRE

- 3.1 Our inward investment and economic development strategy is based upon the continued support to and growth of our recognised sector strengths which we believe provide the greatest opportunities for sustainable employment growth for our area.
- 3.2 These sectors are Environmental goods & services; Media, publishing & printing; Food & drink; Financial services; Precision engineering.
- 3.3 The lead companies and major players within their respective supply chains are predominantly based not only within the city centre but within the wider urban area and this is where our economic development activity is focused.
- 3.4 In more recently developing sectors such as logistics the need for good transport links and higher volumes of employment land mean that this growth is taking place on the edges of existing urban development. Future developments such as Gateway Peterborough at Alwalton Hill and Magna Park east of Stanground will provide further stimulus to employment potential from the surrounding rural areas.
- 3.5 We do also engage with and support companies within the larger rural areas such as of Whittlesey and the Deepings.
- 3.6 Opportunity Peterborough's Business Partner scheme and the networking and sector meetings opportunities offered by the Cambridge Chambers of Commerce, the Business Club and the FSB are all available to and supported by businesses within the wider city and rural economies.
- 3.7 Appropriate available business premises across the city and within the rural catchments are included in our property database and their availability advised to expanding companies and new inward investors.
- 3.8 Through Business Link East there is a gateway to support through the Rural Development

Programme for England which is administered by EEDA. This includes the Grant for Business Investment which offers support for sustainable business investment and job creation projects in disadvantaged areas of the sub-region.

- 3.9 We are launching a new SME support fund, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Growth Fund, which will also be available to qualifying businesses in our rural areas.
- 3.10 Apart from these initiatives we have no plans for additional specific support to rural businesses but recognise their contribution to the wider picture of economic development which certainly covers significantly more than merely the city centre.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None.

7. APPENDICES

None.

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 7
27 JULY 2009	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

Report Author – Louise Tyers, Scrutiny Manager

Contact Details – 01733 452284 or email louise.tyers@peterborough.gov.uk

FORWARD PLAN – AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2009

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee outlining the content of the Council's Forward Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee identifies any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The latest version of the Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The Plan contains those key decisions, which the Leader of the Council believes that the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member(s) will be making over the next four months.
- 3.2 The information in the Forward Plan provides the Committee with the opportunity of considering whether it wishes to seek to influence any of these key decisions, or to request further information.
- 3.3 If the Committee wished to examine any of the key decisions, consideration would need to be given as to how this could be accommodated within the work programme.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Details of any consultation on individual decisions are contained within the Forward Plan.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

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PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

1 AUGUST 2009 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2009



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS – 1 AUGUST 2009 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2009

During the period from 1 August 2009 to 30 November 2009 Peterborough City Council's Executive intends to take 'key decisions' on the issues set out below. Key decisions relate to those executive decisions which are likely to result in the Council spending or saving money in excess of £500,000 and/or have a significant impact on two or more wards in Peterborough.

This Forward Plan should be seen as an outline of the proposed decisions and it will be updated on a monthly basis. The dates detailed within the Plan are subject to change and those items amended or identified for decision more than one month in advance will be carried over to forthcoming plans. Each new plan supersedes the previous plan. Any questions on specific issues included on the Plan should be included on the form which appears at the back of the Plan and submitted to Lindsay Tomlinson, Senior Governance Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, Bridge Street, PE1 1HG (fax 01733 452483). Alternatively, you can submit your views via e-mail to lindsay.tomlinson@peterborough.gov.uk or by telephone on 01733 452238.

The Council invites members of the public to attend any of the meetings at which these decisions will be discussed and the papers listed on the Plan can be viewed free of charge although there will be a postage and photocopying charge for any copies made. All decisions will be posted on the Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk. If you wish to make comments or representations regarding the 'key decisions' outlined in this Plan, please submit them to the Senior Governance Officer using the form attached. For your information, the contact details for the Council's various service departments are incorporated within this plan.

NEW ITEMS THIS MONTH:

- MFD Contract
- Budget and Financial Strategy
- Integrated Development Programme

AUGUST – KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
Arthur Mellows Village College Gym and Innovation Centre Authority to award the contract for the construction of the gym and innovation centre at AMVC	August 2009	Leader of the Council, Councillor Cereste	Creating Opportunities & Tackling Inequalities	Ward councillors and relevant stakeholders	Isabel Clark Planning and Development Manager Tel: 01733 863914 isabel.clark@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
Midland Highway Alliance - Junction 8 Roundabout Improvements and Welland Road Traffic Mitigation Projects To appoint a contractor for the works	August 2009	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Community Development, Councillor Hiller	Environment Capital	Internal stakeholders as appropriate	Stuart Mounfield Senior Engineer Tel: 01733 453598 stuart.mounfield@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
Real Time Passenger Information Partnership Agreement Authority to enter into a partnership agreement with Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council to implement real time passenger information	August 2009	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Housing and Community Development, Councillor Hiller	Environment Capital	Consultation will be carried out with relevant internal departments as appropriate	Amy Wardell Team Manager, Passenger Transport Projects Tel: 01733 317481 amy.wardell@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made

<p>Proposed Bushfield Academy – Procurement Processes To approve processes and delegations for the procurement of the new Bushfield Academy in accordance with Partnerships for Schools guidance</p>	<p>August 2009</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Councillor Holdich</p>	<p>Creating Opportunities & Tackling Inequalities</p>	<p>Consultation will be undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Resources, local ward councillors and internal departments as appropriate</p>	<p>Brian Howard Secondary Schools Phase 2 Project Manager Tel: 01733 863976 brian.howard@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>
<p>Joint Service Centre at Hampton To commence the procurement process for a design and build contract for the provision of new leisure and library facilities at Hampton as part of the joint service centre in partnership with NHS Peterborough.</p>	<p>August 2009</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Environment Capital and Culture, Councillor Lee</p>	<p>Strong & Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Consultation will take place with the Cabinet Member for Community Services, ward councillors, affected internal divisions within PCC and potential user groups in Hampton.</p>	<p>Fiona O'Mahony Project Director JSC Hampton Tel: 01733 863856 fiona.o'mahony@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>
<p>Lady Lodge Arts Centre Options for the future use of the Lady Lodge Arts Centre site</p>	<p>August 2009</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Seaton</p>	<p>Strong & Supportive Communities</p>	<p>Consultation will be carried out with relevant ward councillors</p>	<p>Andrew Edwards Head of Strategic Property Tel: 01733 384530 andrew.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>

Debt Collection To give authority to award the contract for the authority's debt collection	August 2009	Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Seaton	Environment Capital	Consultation will be undertaken with relevant departments.	Helen Edwards Solicitor to the Council Tel: 01733 452539 helen.edwards@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
ICT Managed Service To select a partner to deliver ICT services to the Council	August 2009	Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Seaton	Environment Capital	Internal stakeholders as appropriate: ICT staff; HR; Finance; Legal Services; Departmental Representatives	Elaine Alexander Programme Manager – Business Transformation Tel: 01733 317984 elaine.alexander@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
Cash Collection and Key Holding Services Authorisation of extension to the current contract for cash collection and key holding services until March 2010	August 2009	Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Seaton	Environment Capital	Consultation is being undertaken with all stakeholders as appropriate	Lisa Osborne Category Manager Tel: 01733 452276 lisa.osborne@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
MFD Contract To approve the extension of the contract	August 2009	Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Seaton	Environment Capital	Consultation is being undertaken with all internal stakeholders as appropriate	Lisa Osborne Category Manager Tel: 01733 452276 lisa.osborne@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made

SEPTEMBER – KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
Extension to Woodston Primary School Authority to award the contract for the construction of an extension to Woodston Primary School	September 2009	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Councillor Holdich	Creating Opportunities & Tackling Inequalities	Consultation will take place with relevant stakeholders, internal departments and ward councillors as appropriate	Isabel Clark Planning and Development Manager Tel: 01733 863914 isabel.clark@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
Extension to Hampton Hargate School Authority to award the contract for the construction of an extension to Hampton Hargate Primary School	September 2009	Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University, Councillor Holdich	Creating Opportunities & Tackling Inequalities	Consultation will take place with relevant stakeholders, internal departments and ward councillors as appropriate	Isabel Clark Planning and Development Manager Tel: 01733 863914 isabel.clark@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
Stationery Contract Authorisation to award the contract for stationery to the successful supplier following the procurement exercise	September 2009	Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Seaton	Environment Capital	Consultation will be undertaken with Heads of Service and other users of the contract	Lisa Osborne Category Manager Tel: 01733 452276 lisa.osborne@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made

<p>Furniture Contract Authorisation to award the contract for furniture to the successful supplier following the procurement exercise</p>	<p>September 2009</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Seaton</p>	<p>Environment Capital</p>	<p>Consultation will be undertaken with Heads of Service and other users of the contract</p>	<p>Lisa Osborne Category Manager Tel: 01733 452276 lisa.osborne@peterborough.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made</p>
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OCTOBER – KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
<p>Older People's Accommodation Strategy To agree the next phase of implementation of the Older People's Accommodation Strategy</p>	October 2009	Cabinet	Commission for Health Issues	Consultation will be undertaken with relevant stakeholders as appropriate	Denise Radley Director of Adult Social Services and Performance Tel: 01733 758444 denise.radley@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance team one week before the decision is made
<p>Budget and Financial Strategy Consideration of the Council's budget and financial strategy, including provisional cash limits for the forthcoming year and its medium term financial plan.</p>	October 2009	Cabinet	Environment Capital	Internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.	John Blair Head of Finance Strategic Resources Tel: 01733 384564 john.blair@peterborough.gov.uk	Public Report will be available from the Senior Cabinet Officer one week before the decision is made
<p>Integrated Development Programme To set out priorities for infrastructure provision to facilitate growth and regeneration of the city.</p>	October 2009	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Growth & Human Resources, Councillor Croft	Sustainable Growth	Relevant stakeholders as appropriate	Shahin Ismail Head of Delivery Tel: 01733 452484 shahin.ismail@peterborough.gov.uk	Public report will be available from the Governance Support Officer one week before the decision is made

NOVEMBER - KEY DECISIONS

KEY DECISION REQUIRED	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	RELEVANT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	CONSULTATION	CONTACT DETAILS / REPORT AUTHORS	REPORTS
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There are currently no decisions scheduled for November

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Communications
Strategic Growth and Development Services
Legal and Democratic Services
Human Resources
Policy and Research
Performance and Programme Management
Economic and Community Regeneration
Housing Strategy
Drug Intervention Programme and Drug and Alcohol Team

CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT Nursery Lane, Fengate, Peterborough PE1 5BG

Property Services
Building & Maintenance
Streetscene and Facilities
Finance and Support Services

STRATEGIC RESOURCES DEPARTMENT Director's Office at Town Hall, Bridge Street, Peterborough, PE1 1HG

Finance
Internal Audit
Information Communications Technology (ICT)
Business Transformation
Strategic Property
Customer Services

CHILDRENS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT Bayard Place, Broadway, PE1 1FB

Family and Communities
Commissioning and Performance
Learning and Skills
Resources

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT Bridge House, Town Bridge, PE1 1HB

Planning Services
Building Control Services
Environmental and Public Protection
Cultural Services
Transport and Engineering Services
Emergency Planning
Occupational Health
City Centre Services

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**SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES
WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

Meeting Date	Item	Progress
27 July 2009 (Papers to be despatched on 17 July)	A Rural Definition	
	Determine what is meant by 'Rural Communities' to ensure scrutiny function is focused correctly.	
	Contact Officer: Alex Daynes Fix it Van	
	Determine what is meant by 'Rural Communities' to ensure scrutiny function is focused correctly.	
	Contact Officer: Mike Heath Langdyke Trust	
	To provide members the opportunity to scrutinise the establishment of the Langdyke Trust and to discuss the establishment of other land trusts.	
	Contact Officer: Richard Astle Rural Economy	
	To provide members the opportunity to scrutinise the establishment of the Langdyke Trust and to discuss the establishment of other land trusts.	
Contact Officer: Bill Agnew, Opportunity Peterborough		
5 October 2009 (Papers to be despatched on 25 Sept)	ENVIRONMENT	
	Street Lighting, Signposting, Footpaths and Bike lanes, Waste collection and recycling, renewable energy provision, wildlife and biodiversity, flood defence	
	Roads and Traffic Mitigation	
	Consider and recommend improvements to efforts made in traffic calming in rural areas.	

	Contact Officer: Andy Tatt

The remaining topics that were identified at the briefing in June were:

- Planning and Development - housing
- Children – schools, play and leisure provision
- Policing – traffic enforcement, local officers
- Business – tourism, agriculture, country pursuits, skills
- Councillors – regular meetings, effectiveness of Area Committees
- Communications and Access – maintained roads, cycling routes, rail links

23 November 2009 (Papers to be despatched on 13 Nov)		
25 January 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 15 Jan)		
22 March 2010 (Papers to be despatched on 12 March)		