Item 11 (a)

Motion to: Council

22 November 2022

Subject: Library story time events

Proposer: Councillor Stonard

Seconder: Councillor Huntley

Norwich's Millennium Library at the Forum recently hosted a 'Storytime with Auntie Titania' event for children. This positive, inclusive, and educational event was warmly supported by many residents of Norwich, as children enjoyed being read to in the public space of a library.

Reading aloud to children has proven benefits around improving literary skills, while doing so in a group further benefits social interaction and developmental skills, especially important in children who have lost out on much of this developmental interaction through the experience of government-mandated pandemic restrictions. The story time events teach children a positive message of a supportive, inclusive, diverse, and tolerant community for all.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

1) affirm support for the continuation of such story time events as a way of promoting positive, inclusive, and non-discriminatory attitudes within the city

2) re-affirm the Norwich 2040 vision of celebrating our diverse neighbourhoods and communities; and

3) ask the leaders of all groups to write to the relevant Norfolk County Council member expressing the city council's wish for further such events to be held in the city.

Item 11(b)

Motion to: Council

22 November 2022

Subject: Sweetbriar Marshes

Proposer: Councillor Galvin

Seconder: Councillor Lubbock

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is to create a brand-new nature reserve in the heart of Norwich, a centrepiece for their vision for a Wilder Norwich for All, giving Norwich residents the opportunity to access nature in the heart of their city.
Sweet Briar Marshes cover 90 acres along the River Wensum close to the city centre: a rare wild wetland, fenland and woodland habitat, including areas of SSSI and County Wildlife site status.

The project has led to NWT recently achieving its fastest ever appeal - with support from Aviva, charitable trusts and local campaigners and communities - for £600,000, to purchase the land, which shows how highly people value nature. Congratulations to all concerned for this incredible effort.

We call on the city council to:

1) acknowledge and support this exciting opportunity, and

2) call a special meeting to consider bestowing the Freedom of the City on the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Rivers Trust and Broads Authority in recognition of their work to support the River Wensum and its associated marshes, and to celebrate this new nature reserve and its links to the river, demonstrating the city's commitment to natural networks and corridors.

3) ask cabinet to:

    a) Work with NWT to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site, and encourage and enable communities, including schools, to understand and appreciate its value as habitats for wildlife and experience peaceful enjoyment of nature.

    b) Ensure that the River Wensum Strategy Partnership continues to work to protect the river - with a particular new focus on its relationship with the marsh as an intrinsic part of its rich ecology.

    c) Work with NWT to review Norwich City Council's land ownership around the site with a view to providing wildlife protection and enhancement, access and appropriate boundaries to the site including maintenance etc.

d) Support and develop future funding bids for the Marshes, for example through the Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS), CIL and other financial or 'in kind' contributions such as NCSL getting involved with volunteering.

e) Ensure Norwich citizens are given every chance to be part of caring for the area, including supporting council-owned properties and estate e.g. community centres and parks which border the site to play an active role in its management and restoration.

f) Consider how the marshes fit into the natural networks and corridors across the city, and facilitate the linkages through the Norwich city council biodiversity strategy also the planning process which provides the opportunity to fill in gaps in the natural networks that connects up with Sweet Briar marshes.

Item 11(c)

Motion to: Council

22 November 2022

Subject: Development Management Policies

Proposer: Councillor Bogelein

Seconder: Councillor Young

The Norwich Development Management Policies Local Plan forms an important part of the local planning process which is used to guide and justify planning decisions and also to reject inappropriate planning applications. The Development Management Policies Local Plan was adopted in December 2014. In planning meetings over the last few years, there have been statements by members of the planning committee stating that there is a need to urgently update the DM policies so that they are fit for purpose in the Norwich of the 2020s.

The DM policies provide a crucial lever for the council to ensure the quality and sustainability of the built environment in Norwich. The DM policies should also provide communities with a democratic means of influencing planning for Norwich.

Council notes that:

1) currently it is expected that the next review of the DM policies will commence in 2024 following adoption of the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

2) a review of DM policies needs to take account of any changes to the National Planning Framework and policies in the adopted Greater Norwich Local Plan.

3) it is desirable for the DM policies to be reviewed as soon as national policies and the adoption of the Greater Norwich Local Plan allow so that they reflect new evidence, science and challenges.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

4) Schedule a series of engagement events with elected councillors and the public to discuss areas where DM policies need to better support the council's corporate objectives and be fit for the future, for example:

a) Air quality
b) Climate adaptation
c) Energy efficiency
d) Biodiversity Net Gain
e) Public health protections
f) Water resilience and sustainable drainage
g) Quality of amenity
h) Active travel

i) Heritage
j) Gardens
k) Good design

These engagement events will clarify where reviews are necessary and explore where local members and the local community want to see changes to the policies. The events will enable the review of DM policies to be progressed a lot more quickly following the publication of modifications to the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

5) ask group leaders to write to the government echoing the concerns of the Town and Country Planning Association by seeking to preserve the primacy of the local plan.

Item 11(d)

Motion to: Council

22 November 2022

Subject: Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

Proposer: Councillor Osborn

Seconder: Councillor Champion

Norwich City Council has set itself a target of reaching net zero carbon emissions across the whole city by 2045. This will only be possible with action from all partners and will require rapid decarbonisation of sectors that contribute the most to emissions in Norwich and Norfolk, namely transport and the built environment.

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP) is a partnership of the environmental officers of all the district councils in Norfolk and the county council. The NCCP's officer members report to the portfolio holders' group of cabinet members with responsibility for climate change at the respective councils.

The NCCP has thus far commissioned a study on the use of hydrogen in refuse collection vehicles, and a study on the opportunities for community energy in Norfolk. The NCCP does not currently have a forward work programme or agreed priorities.

This month, scientists have warned that current policies would lead to a global temperature rise of 2.8C in the next 80 years. And the UN Secretary General António Guterres has warned that humanity must "co-operate or perish", saying that under current policies, "we are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator."

Council notes that:

1) In order to reduce carbon emissions effectively in Norwich and other parts of Norfolk, district and county councils need to work together.

2) Members of the NCCP are over-stretched and there is a need for a dedicated climate action officer for Norfolk, including Norwich.

3) There is an urgent need for the NCCP to prioritise the decarbonisation of transport and energy use in buildings to achieve net zero across the county, including in Norwich, as these are the two largest sources of emissions across Norfolk.

4) Virtually all housing and transport in Norwich and Norfolk will need to be brought to zero carbon emissions by 2050 in order to meet net zero targets, as there are other sectors where total decarbonisation is not feasible (*e.g.* some industry) and therefore the offsetting that is relied on to deliver net zero must be dedicated to offsetting those sectors, not housing or transport.

5) Decarbonising housing through insulation and installation of renewable energy brings many other benefits including reduced fuel poverty, greater energy security, more green and decent jobs, and better health outcomes.

6) Support from the Government for decarbonisation is inadequate, but this does not prevent councils from working together to establish strategies, financing mechanisms and delivery models for advancing the decarbonisation of housing and transport.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

7) Call on the NCCP to establish an evidence-based county-wide climate action plan, covering Norwich and other districts, with buy-in from senior officers and cabinet members with a focus on decarbonising transport and housing as the main sources of emissions.

8) Work with other districts and the county council to jointly fund a climate action officer for the NCCP, who would lead on the design and implementation of the county-wide climate action plan, and who would identify and prepare applications for relevant funding streams; and

9) Seek the backing of the NCCP to write to the new Prime Minister, BEIS Secretary, DLUHC Secretary, and DEFRA Secretary calling for a national programme of insulation and renewable energy installation, to be delivered in partnership with local authorities.