



Service Delivery Committee Working Group Update – Quarter Two – 2022 – 2023

ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Update from Working Group Meeting

For the first agenda item there was a presentation given by Lucie Hoelmer (Senior Environmental Partnership Officer LCC) regarding the work of Tree Wardens established by the Tree Council as a practical response to issues faced by trees. The Arboricultural Officer is the Borough Council Tree Warden Co-ordinator for Oadby and Wigston with LCC being the Tree Council Co-ordinator organising training for Tree Warden projects. There are 7 registered with the LCC Tree Warden Network; 2 in Oadby and the remainder in Wigston and they have recently attended a hedge surveying course and came forward with planting location for trees. There may be further work opportunities around street trees.

The second agenda item concerned planning policy and climate change: The Principal Planning Policy Officer gave a presentation related to the Local Plan Update which seeks to address in a more prominent way environmental issues, such as tackling climate change and the biodiversity crisis. Policy wants to use the Local Plan as a platform in the Borough to inspire our community and stakeholders to think about the environment in all that we do. Members particularly raised concerns around improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of infrastructure for new builds. Planning Policy Officers noted that the Future Homes Standard (due 2023) will ensure that homes are future proofed without a need for them to be retrofitted and that Active Design and Travel guidance has recently been developed by Sport England we will ensure that these are incorporated in Policy. Best practice examples in this area were shared later with EWG Members.

The final agenda item was the Climate Change Officer Update: It was noted that the Parks and Green Space Strategy has been drafted and will subsequently go through the decision-making process. It has been agreed to use the Learning Pool to roll out carbon literacy training to all staff and Members. LGA training opportunities will also be circulated to staff and Members, and we will be making use of train the trainer opportunities. An update for the Baseline Study timeline was given which will involve a report to Environment Working Group in January 2023. Usage data was provided for our EV Chargepoints - currently usage is low, but it is going up, so in the right direction. Regarding Planters on Oadby Parade LCC Highways felled two trees that had died, and it was recommended that these are replaced by shrubs.