

REPORT FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

From Cllr Christine Ford

Tuesday 6th October. I attended a meeting at the Queen's House Lyndhurst. I am one of the New Forest Towns' representatives on the Joint Litter Working Group. This includes the NFNPA, Forestry Commission, NFDC, Natural England and reps from the fringe Towns of the Park, to co-ordinate the group's efforts to keep the Forest clear of litter and to educate people to use appropriate means of disposing of their litter.

The annual Spring Clean up of litter in the Forest is well established now, but next year it is hoped to start organising more of these events, probably in the early Autumn too. (After all the ground nesting birds are safely fledged).

I would very much hope that this Council with other groups and individuals can come together and make a community effort to clear an area to be designated for our particular attention. More on this early in the New Year

Wednesday 7th October. Attended the Cabinet meeting. My colleague Cllr Treleaven (who has steered this Document) can tell you more about the critical NFDC Local Development Framework- Core Strategy Document which was adopted at this meeting. This has a major affect on the NFDC **outside the National Park**.

Council housing and affordable housing is very much to the fore at the moment and great efforts are being made to not only find funding for projects but also to identify sites upon which these houses can be built.

Saturday 10th October. Morning Surgery with Cllr Thierry. One Ringwood resident asked for a grim collection of litter/debris to be cleared from the A31 embankment near Spittalfields. After taking some photos of it I had a meeting with the NFDC officers who were able to arrange for it to be cleared up within 3 days. There we were, back to the litter problem again, sadly it does seem to be a never ending problem in this country.

Monday 19th October. Back on the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) panel – sat on a decision making panel whether to confirm an Order on a healthy 250appr year old tree situated at the bottom of three gardens. These are interesting and soul searching panels involving site visits and a quasi judicial hearing.

Thurs 22nd October. Was present at the Project Integra (PI) Annual Conference near Winchester. PI is the overarching organisation, for the whole of Hampshire co-ordinating all the recycling and processing of recyclate, for dispatch to companies who manufacture items from dry recycled materials. eg Fleeces from plastic bottles. Of much concern was the search for new onward processing companies in order that a wider range of items could be recycled. It being somewhat pointless recycling items which cannot be used other than in an incinerator, or have to be shipped abroad to overseas processors. Think carbon footprint!

Friday 23rd October. Attended the Environment Porfolio holder's briefing. I was firm in my condemnation of the Ringwood Leisure Centre placing a barrier between the public and the the recycling bins. Then discovering the bins lurking at the extreme end of the rear car park out of site, and then finally having to go into the leisure centre to acquire a token to be able to exit. It was agreed that this was not a satisfactory state of affairs and that discussions would take place between the two departments to try and resolve the situation.

Same day. Attended a working group where a priority list of refurbishment/rebuild of the NFDC's Public Toilets was agreed. It was agreed that Ringwood was top of the list and that every effort was being made to hasten progress bearing in mind the possible refurbishment/rebuild of the Visitor Information Centre. We are asked to be patient!

Christine Ford

Cllr NFDC and RTC Ringwood North