

Ringwood Town Council
Council Summons and Agenda
Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1AT
Tel: 01425 473883
www.ringwood.gov.uk

Dear Member

20th May 2026

You are hereby summoned to attend the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Town Council on **Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 7pm.**



Mrs Charmaine Bennett
Town Clerk

Note: there is no public participation at the Annual Meeting – *Handbook Section 29 – Procedure for Public Participation at Meetings 5.5.1 adopted 13.01.10 refers.*

AGENDA

1. Election of Town Mayor
2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Town Mayor
3. To receive Apologies for Absence
4. To receive Declarations of Interest
5. Appointment of Deputy Town Mayor
6. Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Deputy Town Mayor
7. Committee Membership

To note that members have been appointed to:-

- a. Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee;
- b. Planning, Town & Environment Committee; and
- c. Staffing Committee

The current list is attached as *Report A*. In the event that any councillor wishes to relinquish membership of a committee, to appoint a replacement. The appointment of Members to the Policy & Finance Committee will be dealt with after the adjournment at Agenda Item 8 below.

(Note: Standing Orders provide for Councillors to be appointed for a 4-year period (2023 - 27) subject to amendments referred to above being possible at each Annual Meeting. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex officio members of all committees.)

8. Adjournment of Meeting
To adjourn the meeting to allow for meetings of Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and Planning, Town & Environment Committee, at which each will elect their

Chairman and Vice Chairman and confirm appointments to sub-committees and working parties

[Resumption of Meeting]

9. Membership of Policy and Finance Committee
To appoint members to Policy & Finance Committee taking account of existing protocol that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Chairs of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee and the Planning, Town & Environment Committee are automatically appointed to that Committee.

10. Adjournment of Meeting
To adjourn the meeting to allow for a meeting of Policy & Finance Committee, at which to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and to confirm appointments to sub-committees and working parties.

[Resumption of Meeting]

11. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2026

12. Representatives on Outside Bodies
To note that representatives to outside bodies have been appointed, until the next elections in 2027 (*current list attached as Report B*). However, in the event of any councillor wishing to relinquish an appointment, to appoint a replacement.

13. To receive Minutes of Committee:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES | DATE: 6 th May 2026 |
| PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT | DATE: 1 st May 2026 |
| POLICY & FINANCE | DATE: 20 th May 2026 |

14. DELEGATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEWS
To approve delegation of the annual governance reviews to the Policy and Finance Committee

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION
To consider the Town Clerk's report and the issues for decision therein (*Report C*)

- 16.* To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may desire to lay before the Council

- 17.* To receive Reports from County and District Councillors

- 18.* To receive Reports from Ringwood Town Councillors

19. Forthcoming Meetings – to note the following dates:

Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces	7.00 pm	Wednesday 3 rd June 2026
Planning, Town & Environment	10.00 am	Friday 5 th June 2026
Policy & Finance	7.00 pm	Wednesday 17 th June 2026
Full Council	7.00 pm	Wednesday 24 th May 2026

20. Communications
Members to decide on items requiring a press release and to confirm a spokesperson if required.

21. Exclusion of the press and public
To consider exclusion of the press and public from the meeting, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1(2), to transact business for which publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature

22. Legal matters
To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk on legal matters

If you would like further information on any of the agenda items, please contact Mrs Charmaine Bennett, Town Clerk, on 01425 473883 or Charmaine.bennett@ringwood.gov.uk

Council Members:

Cllr Andrew Briers
Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn
Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr James Swyer
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Glenys Turner
Cllr Becci Windsor

	RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2025-26 (updated 29.1.26)				A
	FULL COUNCIL	PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT	RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES	POLICY & FINANCE	STAFFING COMMITTEE
Chair	Cllr Rae Frederick	Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Andy Briers	Cllr Mary DeBoos	Cllr John Haywood
Vice Chair	Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Luke Dadford	Cllr James Swyer	Cllr Peter Kelleher	
Members & Ex-officio Members (NB Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor are entitled to be ex officio members of all committees)	Cllr Andrew Briers Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Ingrid De Bruyn Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr James Swyer Cllr Michael Thierry Cllr Glenys Turner Cllr Becci Windsor	Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr John Haywood Cllr James Swyer Cllr Glenys Turner	Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr John Haywood Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Glenys Turner	Chair PTE – Cllr Philip Day Chair RLOS – Cllr Andy Briers Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr James Swyer Cllr Michael Thierry Cllr Glenys Turner	Mayor - Cllr Rae Frederick Chair P+F - Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr James Swyer Cllr Glenys Turner
Ex-Officio Members		Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Philip Day	Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Philip Day

RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL - Representatives on Outside Bodies 2025-26–updated 28.5.25

ORGANISATION / POSITION	COMMENTS	REPRESENTATIVE
New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)	Two councillors needed. Representatives from every town and parish council in New Forest district are invited to meet quarterly to consider reports from NFDC and NFNPA and other issues of mutual interest.	Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Flood Wardens	Two councillors needed to join a co-opted volunteer: Peter Street.	Cllr Peter Kelleher Cllr Mary DeBoos
New Forest Business Partnership	Two councillors	Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Rae Frederick
*New Forest Consultative Panel	One councillor needed	Cllr Janet Georgiou
New Forest National Park Authority - South West Quadrant	One councillor needed Representatives from every town and parish council in the SW quadrant of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives.	Cllr Gareth DeBoos
Ringwood Twinning Association	The Mayor is President <i>ex officio</i> . Two other councillors are needed. Organizes exchange visits and fund-raising.	Mayor-Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Luke Dadford Cllr Becci Windsor
The Ringwood Society	Two councillors needed. Monthly meetings to monitor planning applications and discuss local development issues.	Cllr Glenys Turner Cllr Michael Thierry
Tree Warden	One councillor needed. Works with Town Clerk and other staff on tree management issues especially those involving members of the public.	Cllr Glenys Turner
*Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group	One councillor needed. Representatives from every town and parish council in this Conservation Area on the edge of the National Park are invited to meet quarterly to consider relevant National Park issues and initiatives	Cllr Janet Georgiou
Ringwood United Charities	Up to six trustees appointed to the role by the Council (this can be anyone with a connection to Ringwood). Legal office with associated duties	Cllr Mary DeBoos Cllr Michael Thierry DC Jeremy Heron DC Rippon-Swaine
Sports Development at Long Lane Steering Group	Council representatives	Cllr Andy Briers Cllr James Swyer (deputy)
Thriving Market Place	Council representatives	Cllr Gareth DeBoos Cllr Rae Frederick Cllr Janet Georgiou Cllr John Haywood
Ringwood & Fordingbridge Business Community	Council representative (adopted informally)	Cllr Rae Frederick
*Need to establish if these groups still meet as Cllr Georgiou has never been invited to attend.		

FULL COUNCIL**27TH MAY 2026**

Local Government Reorganisation – New Forest Together Request

1. Purpose

1.1 To consider a request from the “New Forest Together” campaign seeking Ringwood Town Council’s support for its objectives relating to Local Government Reorganisation proposals affecting the New Forest.

2. Background information and options

2.1 The Council previously submitted a corporate response to the Government consultation on Local Government Reorganisation supporting retention of the New Forest as a coherent area and opposing Option 1A.

2.2 The “New Forest Together” campaign reflects similar concerns regarding the fragmentation of the New Forest area under the current proposals.

2.3 New Forest District Council has also publicly expressed opposition to the proposed fragmentation of the New Forest and has resolved to explore legal options in relation to the Government’s proposals.

2.4 Representatives of the campaign have approached town and parish councils seeking support including:

- (a) passing resolutions of support;
- (b) assisting with publicity and community engagement;
- (c) hosting public meetings/roadshows; and
- (d) supporting petition awareness activity.

2.5 Members are therefore asked to consider whether Ringwood Town Council wishes formally to support the objectives of the campaign and, if so, what practical support the Council may wish to provide.

2.6 Any Council involvement should remain non-party political and compliant with the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

Members are asked to consider whether:

- a) Ringwood Town Council supports the objectives of the ‘New Forest Together’ campaign in seeking to retain the New Forest as a coherent area under Local Government Reorganisation proposals.
- b) the Council agrees in principle to support local community engagement activity relating to the campaign, including:
 - hosting a public meeting/roadshow;
 - permitting campaign information within Council venues; and
 - assisting with factual publicity relating to local engagement events; and
- c) authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to agree practical arrangements.

For further information, contact:

Charmaine Bennett, Town Clerk
Direct Dial: 01425 484720
Email: charmaine.bennett@ringwood.gov.uk



Sanctuary Cottage
Orchard Way
Dibden Purlieu
New Forest
Hampshire
SO45 4AP

Request for Ringwood Town Council Support

21st April 2026

Dear Councillor,

We write on behalf of New Forest Together. We are campaigning for a reversal in the decision by government to adopt 'option 1a' for establishment of unitary councils within Hampshire, under Local Government Reorganisation, which would see Totton and the Waterside parishes split from the New Forest to become part of the Southampton unitary authority, under the name South West Hampshire.

We are opposing the break-up of the New Forest district, which is unnecessary, unjustified, and overwhelmingly rejected by local people. We ask the government to stop this unwarranted, unjustified and unpopular decision.

This decision not only affects the parishes of The Waterside that will be absorbed into the South West Hampshire unitary authority but will have major consequences for the whole New Forest District too.

An assessment showed that the Waterside has 37% of properties, provides 32% of Council Tax revenues, 54% of business rates and 40% of the NFDC's housing stock, also two of the schools providing for SEN services. Moving these to a different authority would leave the remainder of the New Forest area revenue and resource poor. A particular problem with so much of the New Forest being covered by national park development constraints.

In addition to this, a number of serious concerns have been raised by residents, businesses and community groups across the district:

- **Local businesses** operating across the district have expressed deep concern about being split between two separate authorities, with duplicated regulation, business rates, planning regimes and licensing.
- **Residents have raised fears about the social housing register**, and the possibility that New Forest residents could lose access to housing stock across the district if boundaries are redrawn.

- **Concerns have been raised about school funding and catchments**, particularly where children currently attend schools across what would become a hard administrative boundary.
- **The future of the New Forest parking clock scheme** has been repeatedly mentioned by residents and businesses, who fear that splitting the district could undermine a system that supports local commerce and keeps communities connected.
- **Environmental and ecological concerns** have been raised about the level of development likely to take place on the Waterside if placed under an urban-centred authority, and the knock-on effects this would have on the wider Forest.
- **There are also major concerns about the financial viability of the proposed Mid-Hampshire authority**, which do not include Totton, The Waterside, Nursling, Chilworth, Rownhams and parts of East Hampshire, areas with high-density industry and commerce that currently underpin the existing District Councils tax base.

This is an undemocratic decision, 97% of residents who responded to the public consultation opposed these plans. It is Southampton and Eastleigh who proposed this change in order to provide land for growth of the city west of Southampton Water and in other rural areas currently in Test Valley.

The proposal ignores the Forest's special unique historic identity and community cohesion. Parts of The Waterside parishes are within the New Forest National Park. Commoner's rights continue to the water's edge. These lands are part of the New Forest, they have been so for hundreds of years. The people identify with The New Forest, they are not city dwellers.

No evidence has been provided to show that splitting the district would improve services or save money. There will be a particular challenge in Southampton providing services efficiently and cost effectively to a land corridor 12.5 miles long and only 3 miles wide, divided from the city by Southampton Water. It is easy to conclude this is purely a decision driven by politics, not the best interest of affected communities.

We believe that in arriving at this decision the government has breached its own official 'Guidance from Secretary of State for proposals for unitary local government'.

Furthermore, the Government's own criteria stated that existing districts should form the building blocks of any new unitaries. This has not been followed. Hampshire County Council has also expressed grave concern about the financial viability of the proposed new authorities, noting that any net benefit may not be seen for up to ten years.

At their meeting on 13th April, New Forest District Council unanimously approved our motion calling for a formal Counsel Opinion on the Government's Local Government Reorganisation proposals. This means the Council will now seek specialist legal advice, and a Judicial Review is formally on the table as a next step if Counsel confirms there are grounds to proceed.

However, this is just the start. We very much hope that every parish council within the New Forest will support these aims by:

- a) Passing a resolution to support the process commenced by New Forest District Council.

- b) Promoting the objectives with your parishioners, advertising on noticeboards and in your parish magazines, on your websites and on social media to win maximum community engagement.
- c) **Most Importantly** - Get as many people as possible to sign the online petition please. <https://www.change.org/NewForestTogether>

We intend to use the strength of this petition to support our New Forest MPs in securing Westminster Hall time for a parliamentary debate on Local Government Reorganisation. Both Sir Julian Lewis and Sir Desmond Swayne are actively campaigning to overturn this decision.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the residents of your parish who have been instrumental in helping this campaign achieve such extraordinary momentum. Their support, engagement and determination have brought us rapidly towards 20,000 petition signatures, and their voices are a vital part of this collective effort to protect the New Forest.

If you would like more information, please get in touch or visit our website. We would be very happy to make time to meet with you or with any of your councillors to discuss these issues in more detail.

Kind Regards,



James Hartley-Binns



Emily Hartley-Binns

Campaign Coordinators - New Forest Together

Telephone: 07801 35 44 68 / 023 8084 8074

Email: NewForestTogether@gmail.com

Website: www.NewForestTogether.co.uk

Facebook: [New Forest Together](https://www.facebook.com/NewForestTogether)

Instagram: [New Forest Together](https://www.instagram.com/NewForestTogether)