



Council Supplement Agenda

To All Members of the Council on Friday, 04 October 2024

Date of meeting: Monday, 07 October 2024

Time: 18:30

Venue: Council Chamber

Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough.

Members of the public can access a live broadcast of the meeting from the [Council website](#), and the meeting webpage. The meeting will also be open to the public.

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Harborough District Council, which you are invited to attend, is to be held as detailed above.

The business to be transacted is set out in the Agenda below.

Yours faithfully

JOHN RICHARDSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE
HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Agenda

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Circulate to: **All Councillors**

Leader's report

for Council 7 October 2024



Key updates

Nominations now open for Community Awards

Anyone can nominate voluntary and community groups, charities, volunteers, individuals, or partnerships for specific awards to recognise and thank them publicly under the council's new Community Awards scheme.

Award categories are: Volunteer of the Year; Voluntary and Community Group of the Year; Young Person of the Year (11-18 and 19-25) and Special Recognition Award for an individual who has made a significant, long-term contribution to their community. The awards event will also incorporate a presentation of the Citizenship Cup by the Harborough Civic Society.

The first awards event will take place on 5 December 2024 and will be held in the Council Chamber in the council offices in Market Harborough. Future events will be rotated around different venues across the district and could be bigger, with business sponsorship being a potential source of income to cover some of the cost of the event itself. Further information is at: www.harborough.gov.uk/communityawards24

Successful Lutterworth Leisure Centre open day after refurbishment

Lutterworth Leisure Centre hosted a spectacular Open Day on Saturday 28 September 2024 to celebrate the completion of the state-of-the-art refurbishment and renaming of the facility.

Sporting celebrities British swimming legend, and multiple gold-medallist, Mark Foster, and local Olympic rowing gold medallist, Lauren Henry, were on hand to pose in photographs and chat with delighted fans.

Lutterworth Leisure Centre has been renamed from Lutterworth Sports Centre to represent the improvements brought about by the capital investment from Harborough District Council alongside operator Everyone Active. The refurbishment of Harborough Leisure Centre is on reschedule and an open day will take place on Saturday 30 November 2024.

Seeking to correct misinformation about housing numbers

I continue to push for a ministerial meeting to discuss the wide range of issues that are surfacing in respect of the government's proposed approach to revising the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

There has been speculation and inaccurate information distributed to residents in Great Glen which is dangerously upsetting to the community. There have been inaccurate claims including that 1.5m homes will be built in the area and that a new town of 10,000 homes is being forced next to Great Glen. We are taking steps to correct these claims and replace them with facts.

Harborough in Bloom

Congratulations to all the winners from the Harborough district at the East Midlands in Bloom contest.

- Market Harborough in Bloom were crowned winners of the Large Town category for the third year running
- Lubenham in Bloom won the Best Village category
- Little Bowden Bowls Club was given a Judges Award for its garden
- Stamps Funeral Directors in Little Bowden received a Gold Award for its floral displays

Congratulations to all who have played their part in brightening up our town and district. It's wonderful news about these achievements. These beautiful flower displays always do so much to boost the mood of the day. My thanks again to everyone involved.



New process for signing off open space works on new developments

The council is developing a process which invites greater involvement from ward members and residents in the sign-off of open space works on new developments (Practical and Final Completion Certification).

I hope this will send a strong message to developers that we are now giving residents a greater voice to help to get it right the first time and that the council won't be looking to sign sites off until all parties are satisfied.

Fleckney benefits from village centre makeover

A programme of measures to enhance and improve the centre of Fleckney for residents has been completed.

High Street shops have received grants to make changes to signage and repaint their frontages. The area by the village pond has had new benches and knee rail posts installed, the trees have been cut back and damaged railings have been replaced and painted. The library and museum have a new sign that makes it clearer to visitors what local services are provided. Work to the wall at the entrance to the village hall car park has been carried out, graffiti has been removed from road signs and traffic calming signs on the highway have also been refreshed.

The improvements, carried out by Harborough District Council, are government funded with £25,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and a contribution of £8008.80 from Fleckney Parish Council.

Small market manager of the year winner

Congratulations to Gail Bates, the council's Market and Events Manager, for winning the Market Manager of the Year Small Market award in the recent National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) awards. These prestigious awards celebrate the dedication, innovation, and service of individuals and teams who contribute to the success of the UK's vibrant market industry.

Despite being relatively new to the industry, Gail has led a significant revamp of her historic market, creating a thriving and community-centred marketplace with exciting events like the Comedy Festival and Young Trader Markets. A huge thank you to Gail and her team at Harborough Indoor Market for their ongoing dedication and hard work.

Football success

Congratulations to Harborough Town on their FA cup success. Dunton & Broughton Ladies must also be congratulated for getting through to the 3rd qualifying round.

Working more closely with parish councils

I have met with more parish councils, including the Kibworths, Broughton Astley and Great Bowden, which have been very positive and productive. Parishes are keen to work with the council and have shared information about the issues and priorities of their communities.

Corporate Peer Challenge in November

The council has arranged for the Local Government Association (LGA) to conduct a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) from 11 - 14 November 2024. The last peer challenge was conducted in 2018 and are normally done every five years.

The peer team has been selected by the LGA independently. Meetings with specific members, such as leaders and chairs of committees will be arranged, as well as meetings with other members from all parties to get a holistic view of the organisation. Key staff member meetings and staff focus groups will also be arranged with the peer team to ensure that both members and officers are fully involved in the process.

Following a corporate peer challenge, a report outlining the key findings and recommendations from the peer team is shared with the council. In the spirit of openness and transparency, councils are required to publish this report, alongside an action plan.



Harborough District Council



Report to Council Meeting of 07 October 2024

Title:	Appointment to Outside Body
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	N/A
Report Author:	Nancy Barnard, Head of Democratic and Elections Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Beadle, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services
Appendices:	None

Summary

- i. This report asks Council to approve a change to the Council Appointed representative on the Market Harborough and the Bowdens Charity.

Recommendations

1. To approve the appointment of John Richardson as the Council's representative on the Market Harborough and Bowdens Charity, replacing Liz Elliott.

Reasons for Recommendations

- ii. It is a requirement of the appointment that the Council is represented by a senior officer of the Council and this sits appropriately with the Chief Executive.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Council's representative on the Market Harborough and Bowdens Charity and enable the Council to continue to be represented in line with the requirements of the Charity.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Market Harborough and Bowdens Charity is active in community organisations, health, education, the arts, heritage and in helping individuals within Market Harborough, Great Bowden and Little Bowden.
- 2.2 In accordance with the Charity's requirements, the Council is represented by a senior officer of Harborough District Council. Previously this appointment was held by the Interim Chief Executive and this report seeks to update this to appoint the Chief Executive.

3. Details

- 3.1 Harborough District Council's Constitution has designated appointments to Outside Bodies as a function of Council and this has not been delegated further. Therefore it is the responsibility of Council to appoint representative to Outside Bodies.
- 3.2 The Market Harborough and Bowdens Charity is a charitable body which allocates grants to individuals and groups. Their ethos is helping to change people's lives for the better, whether it's for individuals, communities or specific organisations. They also provide practical help for people in times of difficulty.
- 3.3 Some of the organisations it has helped include
 - Harborough Youth and Community Trust
 - Home-Start South Leicestershire
 - Living Rock Trust
 - The Emergency Cadets of Market Harborough
 - Harborough FM
 - Voluntary Action South Leicestershire
 - Vista
 - Harborough Town Football Club
- 3.4 It is a requirement of the Charity that the Council's representative is a senior officer. Historically the Chief Executive has been appointed and therefore, following the change of postholder, it is recommended that Council approve the appointment of John Richardson as the Council's representative on the Charity.

4. Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The recommendation supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan Priorities of Community leadership to create a sense of pride and belonging and Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.

Consultation

- 4.2 No consultation was required

Financial

4.3 There are no financial implications to this decision.

Legal

4.4 The recommendation is in line with The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and the Council's Constitution.

Environmental Implications

4.5 None

Risk Management

4.6 The risk of not appointing to the Charity would be that the Council would no longer be represented and would not have the opportunity to input into the work of the Charity.

Equalities Impact

4.7 Equalities consideration will need to be taken into account by the Charity.

Data Protection

4.8 The Charity is a separate legal entity and therefore will need to have its own Data Protection procedures.

5. Alternative Options Considered

Not to appoint – this option was rejected to enable the Council to continue to be represented.

To appoint a different representative – this option was rejected as the role sits appropriately with the Chief Executive and has historically sat with that postholder.

6. Recommendation

To approve the appointment of John Richardson as the Council's representative on the Market Harborough and Bowdens Charity, replacing Liz Elliott.

7. Background papers

None

