Marlow Town Council
Court Garden
Pound Lane
Marlow
SL7 2AG

E: office:marlow-tc.gov.uk
T: 01628 484 024

Minutes of the Environment and Community committee held on **Tuesday 18th August 2026** at **7pm** in the Pink Room, Court Garden House, Pound Lane, Marlow.

Present: Chair Cllr M Boulay, Cllr O Elliott, Cllr G Nuttall, Cllr L Riches, Mayor Cllr J Simnett, Cllr J Towns, Cllr J Whelan, Deputy RFO Mrs D Abbott, Deputy Clerk Mrs K Joy, 3 members of the public.

Public forum
Nothing raised.

EC.12.26 Apologies for absence

Resolved:
That Committee accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs Hawkins, Cllr Schoofs and Cllr Skoyles.

EC.13.26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

EC.14.26 Committee minutes

Resolved:
That Committee agreed the minutes dated 23.06.2026 as a true record.

EC.15.26 Tree planting and watering proposal

The Committee was asked to review the attached tree planting proposal "Trees for Marlow".

The Chair took and answered questions from Committee members.

Resolved:
That Committee:

1. Supported in principle the *Trees for Marlow* project as outlined in the proposal.
2. Nominated the Community Resilience working group with one officer to the "Trees for Marlow" initiative.
3. Agreed that working group members work with Releaf Marlow, Transition Town Marlow and Buckinghamshire Council to develop the detailed partnership arrangements, including a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council, Transition Town Marlow and ideally Buckinghamshire Council, which would incorporate governance, liability and maintenance responsibilities.

4. Requests the working group bring a proposal to Council setting out the detailed implementation plan, funding proposals and any financial implications for Council approval.

EC.16.26 Twinning policy

This item was deferred.

EC.17.26 Floral dressing contract

The Committee was asked to appoint the Grounds Maintenance Tender working group and one officer to work on the following:-

- Scope for summer / winter planting scheme for delivery starting summer 2027
- Location plan
- Funding proposals to include business / corporate sponsorship
- Community support

The working group will present their findings and recommendations to this Committee at their meeting scheduled for October 2026.

Resolved:
That Committee nominated the Grounds Maintenance Tender working group and one officer as detailed above.

EC.18.26 Warm spaces and cool places initiative

Committee approval is sought to investigate the creation of a directory of community venues within Marlow that may be available to residents during periods of extreme cold or extreme heat.

Periods of prolonged cold weather and increasingly frequent heatwaves can have a significant impact on vulnerable residents. Across the country, many local authorities have worked with community organisations to identify buildings that are able to offer welcoming indoor spaces during periods of adverse weather.

It is proposed that Marlow Town Council undertakes an initial piece of work to identify local organisations that may wish to participate in a voluntary network of "Warm Spaces and Cool Places".
Potential partners may include:

- schools
- churches and faith organisations
- community centres
- library
- public buildings
- other suitable community venues

The purpose of the exercise would be to establish what facilities already exist and whether participating organisations would be willing for their details to be included in a publicly available directory.

<u>Governance</u>
This proposal seeks approval only to investigate the initiative.
Participation by organisations would be entirely voluntary.

Any future scheme, funding commitment or formal partnership arrangements would be subject to a further report to Committee if required.

Data Protection
Only organisational information that has been voluntarily supplied for publication would be included within the directory.
No personal information would be collected or published unless appropriate consent had been obtained.
The directory could be published on the Council's website and shared with partner organisations such as Age Concern, Buckinghamshire Council, health services and other voluntary organisations supporting residents.

Resource Implications
There are no direct financial implications arising from this proposal other than officer time.
The work would primarily be undertaken by interested Members, supported by officer assistance in coordinating responses, maintaining the directory and publishing information.
Benefits

The initiative would:

- improve awareness of facilities already available within the community
- strengthen links with local organisations
- support vulnerable residents during periods of extreme weather
- contribute towards the Council's climate resilience objectives
- provide a valuable community resource at minimal cost

Conclusion
The proposal represents a low-cost opportunity to improve community resilience by mapping and promoting existing facilities across the town. It is anticipated that the work can largely be undertaken by Members, with limited officer support.

Strategic theme
This initiative falls under “Getting ready for extreme events” and “Community Resilience” under *Caring for our Town* and although a stand alone project feeds into resilience planning.

Resolved:
That Committee:

1. Approved the investigation of a Warm Spaces and Cool Places initiative for Marlow.
2. Authorised members, supported by officers where appropriate, to approach residents, schools, churches, community organisations and other suitable venues to establish whether they wish to participate.
3. Agreed that a voluntary directory of participating organisations be compiled and published on the Council's website and shared with relevant partner organisations, subject to the agreement of participating venues and compliance with data protection legislation.
4. Requested that members report back to Committee on the outcome of the investigation, together with any recommendations for future development of the initiative.

EC.19.26 Street Angels – Proposal from Cllr Simnett

Street Angels are a nationwide initiative started over 20 years ago in Halifax. There is currently no headquarters. They are based on groups of volunteers who patrol town centre streets, car parks and green areas as a non-conflict and non-judgmental presence. They have a calming effect which has been proven to lower crime and ASB, and provide a visible reassuring deterrent. They are typically set up as a registered charity with volunteers and trustees. They carry radios and can call-in possible criminal situations to Thames Valley Police or CCTV camera hubs but essentially will listen and safeguard any young people who are alone or vulnerable. They may even pay for a

young person's taxi home if necessary. The local groups to Marlow are High Wycombe, Windsor and Maidenhead, all of whom have been contacted.

Maidenhead Street Angels started 15 years ago and operates with 15 volunteers and 6 trustees (covering chair, treasurer, safeguarding, rota). They patrol every Saturday night and the last Friday of every month from 9.45pm to 12.15am in mixed male/female groups of 3 volunteers who never split up for their own safety; there is never any lone-working. They wear a uniform (fleece or gilet, waterproof jacket, polo shirt) with a hi-viz jacket which has a luminous logo. They carry rucksacks with first aid kits and have a radio. The Maidenhead group is faith-based through Churches Together but Windsor is not. Street Angels give out lollipops for sugar rush to counteract alcohol and as a conversation starter, flip-flops to girls who may be unsteady on high heels and bottles of water. There is a debrief at the end of each patrol.

Volunteers have basic DBS certification and receive training on conflict avoidance, safeguarding, substance awareness, predatory behaviour, first aid, vulnerability and on defibrillators and bleed kits.

The main set up cost is the uniforms and rucksacks. Maidenhead Street Angels do no fundraising themselves as they are supported by local Rotary, Lions Club, churches, and a generous grant from the Police Commissioner of Thames Valley Police, Matthew Barber. Their lollipops and water are donated by local pubs. As a registered charity, their full accounts may be found on the Charity Commission website. The biggest challenge in setting up is getting volunteers.

An invitation has been extended to individual Marlow Town Council councillors and officers to accompany Maidenhead Street Angels on a night patrol.
In support of the Council's strategic objectives of community wellbeing, resident safety and creating an inclusive and connected community, the proposal is that the Environment & Community Committee approves the following:

Resolved:
That that officers undertake the initial steps of establishing interest from potential trustees and volunteers and days/hours/areas of operation in setting up such a scheme, with particular consideration given to its operation as an independent volunteer led organisation, requiring no ongoing operational resource from Marlow Town Council, councillors or officers.
The findings to be reported back to the Committee and to Council to endorse the launch of Street Angels Marlow.

EC.20.26 Information reports

a) Update on water testing WG – Cllrs Elliott and Boulay

Cllr Boulay and Cllr Elliott reported that getting volunteers together was proving difficult.

b) Update on Carbon Footprint calculations – Cllr Boulay

The carbon footprint report would be circulated to members in due course.

EC.21.26 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 27th October 2026 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chair…….. Date……..