

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024 AT 6.00 PM

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
Councillors C Booth, C Govier, M Lithgow and S Pringle-Kosikowsky

In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Darren Hill (Open Spaces Manager)
Stephen Tate -Climate Change Project Officer (online)
Steve Saunders, Footpath Volunteer Coordinator for agenda item 7.

Councillor J Thorne
One member of the press
One member of the public

61. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Councillor M McGuffie was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

62. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

Councillor S Pringle-Kosikowsky was elected a Vice Chairman for the coming year.

63. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

65. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of the footpath at Crosslands, the lack of a public footpath sign in Tonedale, the need for clearing of footpaths in the Tonedale area and the amount of litter in the park particularly in the summer and on the football pitch.

Councillor J Thorne spoke in support of agenda item 14 the Highways England Tree Planting Proposal.

66. FOOTPATH UPDATE

- (i) Steve Saunders provided an update on the work of the footpath volunteers and said that he would pick up the points made by the member of the public earlier in the meeting. The Open Spaces Manager reported that some people had indicated a willingness to volunteer in his Open Spaces Survey. The Town Clerk suggested that a meeting be convened in relation to this and the next item on the agenda.
- (ii) Letter from Somerset Council's Service Manager – Rights of Way – after some discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk would

write to the Service Manager saying that in principal the Council was willing to explore taking on more responsibility but that more detailed information was needed to allow an in practice decision to be made.

67. CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

- (i) Climate Change Strategy Workshops
The Town Clerk provided an outline of what had been discussed at the workshops and also said that time would be set aside at the Council Visioning Session on the 12 June to discuss the plan in more detail.
- (ii) Pop up Climate Survey Results – these had been circulated with the agenda and would form the basis of further work.

The Town Clerk also advised that he was in discussions with the Climate Change Project Officer about extending his contract given the amount of work that was required to continue moving the project forward.

68. GREEN CORRIDOR ADVISORY BOARD

The meeting had taken place the previous evening so notes of the meeting weren't yet available. The Town Clerk advised that the meeting had considered the grass cutting plans for the corridor so that the Open Spaces Manager could begin to approach contractors to get prices.

69. WELLINGTON COMMUNITY FOOD FUNDING REQUEST

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To provide funding of £2,405.60 as a contribution to match funding to be drawn from the Green Corridor Budget.
- (ii) To approve the installation of additional structures on the farm site and the ground works required for that and for installing a water supply as set out in the report.

At this juncture Councillor C Booth gave his apologies and left the meeting.

70. GREEN CORRIDOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGETS 2024/5

Papers outlining work being undertaken to plan spend against the budgets were circulated with the agenda and were noted and the following decisions made. It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That Mike Fletcher be commissioned to undertake fencing works associated with improving safety in the Green Corridor at a price of £3,297.87.
- (ii) That the notice board at Wellington Park should be replaced at a cost of £1,663.23 and £300 installation in preparation for the Green Flag assessment process. The design as set out in the paper with the addition of Town Council crests.

(iii) That two heritage 'Keep off the Grass' signs be ordered at a cost of £50 each plus £100 installation each in preparation for the Green Flag assessment process.

71. OPEN SPACES SURVEY UPDATE

A summary of the responses received to date was noted.

72. TOWN CENTRE AND PARK PLANTING

A paper had been circulated with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the updated maintenance costs for the watering of the town centre beds, tubs and living walls be accepted being still within the budget previously set.
- (ii) That Council officers be given delegated spending authority to use the remainder of the Town Centre Planting Budget to contract additional watering if required.

73. HIGHWAYS ENGLAND TREE PLANTING PROPOSAL

RESOLVED that officers should proceed with discussion with Highways England in relation to the proposed planting proposal.

74. PLAY AREAS

- (i) The committee noted the RoSPA reports for the Burchills Hill and Richards Close Play Areas.
- (ii) Quotes had not been received for the work required. It was **RESOLVED** that to enable essential repairs to progress quickly officers be authorised to spend up to £4,000 from the Play Areas Budget.

75. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

- (i) The notes of the Basins Allotments Advisory Board held on the 22 April 2024 were noted.
- (ii) It was **RESOLVED** to approve expenditure of up to £1400 from the Allotments Budget to allow officers to order skips as and when needed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm

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Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman

A CALL FOR JUSTICE

**A right to grow for
healthier greener lives**

An Incredible Edible briefing for local councils.



A CALL FOR FOOD JUSTICE

A right to grow for healthier greener lives.

An Incredible Edible briefing for local councils.
October 2022

Why we need a Right to Grow

We know we can transform people's lives for the better by actively growing food together in our neighborhoods and by supporting more local food producers and markets. The biggest obstacle to more local food growing is the lack of available land close to people's homes. The land is there across our public realm, from verges to unloved, often forgotten, sites. It simply needs to be repurposed to better nurture our communities. In the middle of the cost-of-living crisis unlocking local healthy food could be a life line for many communities offering practical hope for everyone.

The Incredible Edible model has shown how local food growing can bring people together to reduce loneliness, connect with nature, combat climate change, provide healthy diets and stimulate local economies. Our experience over the years has shown that local growing can achieve multiple benefits for people and planet. Transforming space in cities for food growing creates green cities which are cooler in summer, less polluted, better for our mental and physical health, better for wildlife and encourage local food spend. And because many of these actions are about giving power to people to shape their community, they turn out to be more sociable and more connected places

The frustrating thing is that the land is there in underused verges, space waiting for development or land which is simply derelict. We all know the plots of land near where we live which

could be permanently, or just for a few years, made available for growing. A lot of this land is in public sector ownership and is either costly to manage or not managed at all. Where communities have the resources and the opportunity they may enter into leases or even buy small pieces of land. But for most community food growers that aspiration is out of reach and what we need is a simple way for local people to access land which is cheap and doesn't involve lengthy and complicated legal agreements.

A new Right to Grow

We know there is plenty of land that could be used for local growing, so we ask a simple question. How can we make a new law to speed up and simplify access to land for community growing? The answer is the Community Right to Grow Bill and you can read the detail of how it works here. If adopted, it will give people a right to grow on suitable public sector land. This new right would create opportunities for communities and the public sector to come together, play to each other's strengths, build trust and make the very best use of public sector land. We are campaigning for new law in Parliament, but local Government can also act now to adopt the principles of right to grow and to begin to see how it can release land for local food growing. We are calling on all parts of local Government to adopt the right to grow as a motion to full council and below we have set out some draft wording which suggests the actions that local authorities might take to encourage local food. Local councils will wish to tailor the motion to their circumstances but whatever detail we hope every local council will want to be part of community food growing revolution.

Draft motion to full council

'The Right to Grow'

This council notes that the cost-of-living crisis and the continued efforts to recover from the pandemic brings a new focus on ensuring that residents have access to enough fresh food for day to day living.

This council notes:

- The increasing need to put the health and well-being of residents at the heart of our corporate strategies.
- The powerful evidence which demonstrates the link between people's health and wellbeing and the availability of fresh locally produced food.
- That the cost-of-living crisis is creating real hunger reinforcing the need for healthy fresh food at an affordable price.
- That communities coming together to grow food can radically reduce costs to NHS and social care budgets by reducing loneliness and providing healthy food.
- That there is plenty of under used publicly owned land which could be used for community food growing while also improving the public realm.

This council agrees (or to the extent that the below concern executive functions, recommends to the executive) to adopt a right to grow on council owned land which is suitable or cultivation.

As a result, this council will:

- Identify and produce a map of all council owned land suitable for community cultivation.
- Make this land available for cultivation by a simple license to community organisations at no cost.
- Consider community food growing on sites awaiting development for other uses on a fixed term basis.
- Write to MPs who represent the council area and ask them to support the Incredible Edible campaign or national right to grow.



incredibeedible.org.uk

Allotments

Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Committed	Variance
44	Allotments	£ 2,910.00	£ 388.58	£ 1,400.00	£ 1,121.42
92	Longforth Allotment	£ 3,000.00	£ 4,650.00		-£ 1,650.00
148	Allotment Deposits				
Total		£ 5,910.00	£ 5,038.58	£ 1,400.00	-£ 528.58

Environment and Planning

Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Committed	Variance
46	Footpaths PRow Maintenance	£ 500.00			£ 500.00
49	Emptying Dog Bins	£ 12,600.00			£ 12,600.00
50	Provision of Benches & Litter/Dog Bins	£ 2,500.00			£ 2,500.00
51	Planning Administration				£ -
113	Electricity for Street Light	£ 850.00	£ 310.41		£ 539.59
129	Additional Street Lighting				£ -
131	Green Corridor	£ 30,000.00	£ 10.44	£ 5,703.47	£ 24,286.09
168	Cycle Route Cont.	£ 10,000.00			£ 10,000.00
Total		£ 56,450.00	£ 320.85	£ 5,703.47	£ 50,425.68

Play Areas

Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Committed	Variance
45	Tone Play Area	£ 5,000.00			£ 5,000.00
145	Weavers Reach Play Area	£ 5,000.00	£ 78.48		£ 4,921.52
146	Annual Play Inspections	£ 500.00			£ 500.00
Total		£ 10,500.00	£ 78.48		£ 10,421.52

Unitary Devolution

Code	Title	Budgeted	Actual	Committed	Variance
172	Play Area	£ 10,500.00			£ 10,500.00
174	TC Planting	£ 15,000.00	£ 8,659.30	£ 5,219.00	£ 1,121.70
175	Park Planting & Security	£ 25,000.00	£ 5,505.10		£ 19,494.90
	Total	£ 50,500.00	£ 14,164.40	£ 5,219.00	£ 31,116.60

Earmarked Reserves

Code	Title	Opening Balance	Spend	Committed	Remaining
75	Railway Station	£ 22,500.00			£ 22,500.00
77	Playing Pitch Strategy	£ 9,000.00			£ 9,000.00
52	Environmental Improvements	£ 40,000.00	£ 63.50	£ 2,263.23	£ 37,673.27
	Open Spaces Development	£ 135,000.00			£ 135,000.00
	Total	£ 206,500.00	£ 63.50	£ 2,263.23	£ 204,173.27

Agenda item 9i

Influence --->	Direct control	Timeframe	Co-benefit	Procurement	Timeframe	Co-benefit	Placeshaping	Timeframe	Co-benefit	Engaging and influencing	Timeframe	Co-benefit	
Buildings and energy (parish/community halls, residents home energy use)	Town Council Carbon Audit to establish where cost and carbon savings could be made - e.g zonal heating systems that heats rooms in use rather than whole building	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - lower energy costs	Switch energy supplier, LED lighting in council offices	Short (3-6 months)	Economy - lower energy costs	New buildings and housing-commenting on planning applications/consultations asking for high environmental standards and energy efficiency	Ongoing	Society - high level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes.	Engage with sports clubs, churches and community groups to make their buildings more energy efficient. Use existing council green grants to help get this going.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - lower energy costs	
	Look into fitting solar panels and insulation to council-owned buildings.	Long (18 months - 3 years)	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)				Sports centre putting solar panels on the roofs.	Ongoing	Environment - reduced greenhouse gas emissions				
	Survey of existing solar on town's housing using Parish Online or CSE's solar survey website, work out percentage and launch publicity drive to double amount of solar on rooftops, with links on council website to funding sources	Ongoing	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)										
				Two thermal imagers, one for Apple phones, the other for Android phones. Why? Waiting list for Somerset Council's loan service via Wellington Library, with three-day turnaround as imagers come from Taunton. Use from Oct-March	Short (3-6 months)	Society - improved public sector finances							
	Housing charter - what type of housing do councillors want built in the town?	Short (3-6 months)	Society - awareness raised				Town council could draw up a list of preferred low energy building standards that it would expect a developer to follow.	Ongoing	Economy - lower energy costs	Engage housing developers to make them aware the council has passed a housing charter that encourages them to build houses capable of withstanding future climate shocks.	Ongoing	Economy - improved household finances	
							Inform community of retrofit & solar projects in town - e.g retrofit of 26 Crosslands & PV on Bulford sheltered housing	Ongoing	Society - awareness raised	Engage Somerset Council's Housing department on retrofitting social housing stock in Wellington	Ongoing	Health & wellbeing - Reduced fuel poverty	
	Standalone units like toilet blocks, easier to install energy efficiency measures.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - lower energy costs					Short (3-6 months)	Society - high level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes.				
Transport (EVs, public transport, active travel)							Community transport scheme - local community network looking at this and supporting transport to and from other villages close to Wellington.	Medium (6-18 months)	Society - community brought together	Reviving community transport initiatives/getting people getting involved as community drivers to take people without cars to appointments.	Medium (6-18 months)	Society - community brought together	
							Free Off Peak buses to Taunton on Wednesdays	Short (3-6 months)	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity				
							Pedestrianisation of centre of Wellington.	Long (18 months - 3 years)	Health & wellbeing - reduced air pollution				

							More shared spaces that are safer for cyclists.	Medium (6-18 months)	Health & wellbeing - opportunities for physical activity			
Consumption of materials and food	Totnes - managed to keep major chains out of the high street. Can Wellington do this? Promoting local businesses e.g. Support Local! Keep 'Eat' Food Fair out of Wellington (vendors aren't local). Promote Wellington-focused food fair instead with local businesses.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - money retained in local economy									
	Supporting repair cafes - currently monthly - could it be expanded. Could there be a marketplace for repairing? Online directory for local repairs people.	Medium (6-18 months)	Economy - opportunities for skills and training									
							Slow Food - How much food could Wellington's community farm produce for the town?	Ongoing	Resilience - food security (security in local food supply)			
	Look into library of things	Short (3-6 months)	Economy - improved household finances									
Waste	Collecting street litter	Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces									
				Ballot Bin - Encourages cigarette smokers to put fag ends in the bin	Short (3-6 months)	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces				Approach Trewin Restorick, founder of Hubbub, now CEO of Sizzle, he developed ballot bin and other ideas that have proved successful at changing community behaviour	Short (3-6 months)	Society - community brought together
	Local composting initiative - take your green waste to the local nature reserve	Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - reduced waste going to landfill									
Natural spaces and biodiversity (including play spaces)	Could rivers be used to harness energy? Look into the weir at Lindon Drive for this? Demonstrator piece. Could they work with the community farm?	Medium (6-18 months)	Resilience - security in energy supply (less reliance on international imports)					Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - improved green spaces	Rewilding - need to explain to the residents what rewilding is and why it's important. Some councils left grass uncut, but people didn't understand why - complained. Can we leave .5m border up to the fence? Communications around this e.g. no mow May	Short (3-6 months)	Society - awareness raised
	Tree Strategy - Walk the town with Woodland Trust's Rosie Walker to plot where trees could be sustainably planted. Work out green space per person and its distribution using UK Tree Equity Scheme	Short (3-6 months)	Environment - reduced overheating risk				Planting trees in town to improve climate canopy. Established links with tree planting groups, Woodland Trust and schools interested in teaching pupils how to plant trees.	Ongoing	Environment - creation of more attractive public spaces	Engage Steve Fry from Sherborne Castle Gardens & Nursery, part of Gardens Group (www.gardensgroup.co.uk), about heat-tolerant trees, and Forestry Research (research arm of the Forestry Commission), which has produced useful info on heat-tolerant trees	Medium (6-18 months)	Environment - increased biodiversity
							Establish more weather-monitoring stations in Wellington.	Medium (6-18 months)	Society - high level decision makers (ie national gov) influenced to make positive changes.	Engage town weather man Simon Ratsey who has produced detailed plans of the best places in town to set up new weather station to monitor climate change	Ongoing	Society - awareness raised

Town and Parish Council Housing Charter

The purpose of this charter is to outline the principles and expectations for housing development within our parish. By adopting this charter, we aim to create a resilient and sustainable housing stock that meets the needs of current and future generations.

Guiding Principles

1. **Futureproofing Housing Stock:**

- All new housing developments should be designed with longevity in mind. Consideration must be given to the changing needs of households over time, including adaptability for aging residents and evolving family structures.
- Incorporate flexible spaces that can be easily modified to accommodate different uses (e.g., home offices, additional bedrooms, or accessible features).

2. **Low Carbon Operation:**

- All dwellings must prioritize energy efficiency and low carbon emissions.
- Mandate the use of renewable energy sources (such as solar panels or ground-source heat pumps) wherever feasible.
- Encourage passive design strategies (orientation, insulation, and natural ventilation) to reduce energy consumption.
- Consider natural, "breathable" insulation materials e.g. hemp, if possible. Otherwise, non-irritant insulation material made from recycled feedstock should be preferred e.g. non-itch loft insulation.

3. **Optimizing Running Costs Over Build Costs:**

- Evaluate housing proposals based on their long-term operational costs rather than just upfront construction expenses.

- Consider ongoing expenses related to utilities, maintenance, and repairs.
- Refuse planning permission for developments that prioritize cheap construction but result in higher running costs for occupants.

4. Glazing

- All windows should be triple glazed. In accordance with L1A all glazing units must be to latest standards possible in terms of coatings, with a maximum U-value of 1.2 W/m²K (a.k.a. passivhaus standard).

5. Resilient Energy Supply, Storage and EV charging:

- Promote designs that incorporate energy generation and storage solutions (e.g., PV & batteries (including heat batteries) or community energy storage systems).
- Prioritize developments that minimize reliance on peak-time electricity grid draw, assuming widespread adoption of Time of Use tariffs. The combination of battery storage and time of use tariffs can dramatically cut bills and should therefore be a top priority for all housing, but especially social housing.
- Ensure that energy systems can withstand extreme weather events (e.g., storms, floods, and power outages).
- Domestic Hot Water (DHW) system should favour heat batteries using phase change materials rather than conventional cylinders or thermal stores, as this makes design and installation easier cheaper and more flexible in terms of location within a building plan, whilst eliminating the need for annual servicing and eliminating legionella risk.
- All buildings should offer the ability to charge either EVs or Electric bicycles outside the human-occupied space in a well-ventilated space to prevent fire risk.

6. **Extreme Weather Resilience:**

- All buildings must be designed to cope with extreme weather events, including flash-flooding and overheating caused by excessive solar gain.
- Implement flood-resistant construction techniques, elevated foundations, and proper drainage systems.
- Heatwaves are already increasing in frequency and severity. Therefore, use heat-resistant materials and shading strategies to prevent overheating during hot spells. Some solar gain is good, but too much is bad.

7. **Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation:**

- Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) systems should be mandatory in all new dwellings. In retrofit, MVHR should be featured in any project where renewal or supplementing of loft insulation is involved.
- MVHR ensures healthy indoor air quality by exchanging stale air with fresh outdoor air while recovering heat.
- Avoid condensation and mould issues by promoting proper ventilation and humidity control.
- Extractor fans fitted to existing buildings should be mandated to require humidistat control.

8. **Avoidance of Wood-Burning Stoves:**

- Discourage the installation of wood-burning stoves due to their excessive emission of particulates.
- Promote cleaner alternatives for heating, such as efficient electric heat pumps or district heating systems.

Implementation and Monitoring

9. **Planning Applications:**

- Assess all planning applications against the principles outlined in this charter.

- Reject proposals that do not align with our sustainability goals.

10. **Collaboration with Developers and Builders:**

- Engage with developers and builders to encourage compliance with the charter.
- Provide incentives for projects that exceed the minimum requirements.

11. **Regular Review:**

- Periodically review the charter to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.
- Adapt as needed to address emerging technologies and best practices.

This charter reflects our commitment to creating a thriving, environmentally conscious community. Let us work together to build homes that enhance our quality of life while minimizing both running costs and our ecological footprint.

The Ballot Bin is a customisable ashtray, proven to reduce cigarette butt litter by up to 73%.

Each Ballot Bin displays a question and two answers. Smokers vote by putting their cigarette butt in the slots underneath their preferred answer. The litter stacks up behind the clear glass front in two columns, showing which answer is more popular.

The questions can be easily changed by the Ballot Bin owner. They can be funny, topical, provocative – whatever works for your audience.

Studies show that proposals to decrease cigarette butt pollution have been largely ineffective, with cigarette butts consistently being the single most collected item in beach clean-ups and litter surveys.

Smokers find the Ballot Bins much more engaging than alternative ashtrays and are more likely to use them. Independent evaluation shows the Ballot Bin reduces cigarette butt litter by 73%.



A Poisonous Problem



Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter in the world, with an estimated 4.5 trillion cigarette butts thrown away every year.¹

Cigarette filters are made from cellulose acetate, a type of plastic that can take up to 13 years to break down.²

Butts not only leak harmful toxins into the environment, young children and wildlife are also at risk from ingesting them.

In fact, they are the greatest single source of marine litter, ranking even higher than plastic bags and straws, and have been commonly found in the stomachs of fish, birds, whales and other marine creatures.³

The Ballot Bin seeks to tackle this problem, with independent evaluation showing that the Ballot Bin reduces cigarette butt litter by 73%.

¹ van Schalkwyk, Novotny, McKee (2019). No more butts. *BMJ*, 367:15890.

² Joly, & Coulis. (2018). Comparison of cellulose vs. plastic cigarette filter decomposition under distinct disposal environments. *Waste Management*, 72, 349-353.

³ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/plastic-straw-ban-cigarette-butts-are-single-greatest-source-ocean-n903661>

Testimonials

“We have even seen people coming up and picking cigarette butts off the floor and put it in the bin to cast their votes.”

— Nick, Creative Engagement Manager, Arcola Theatre

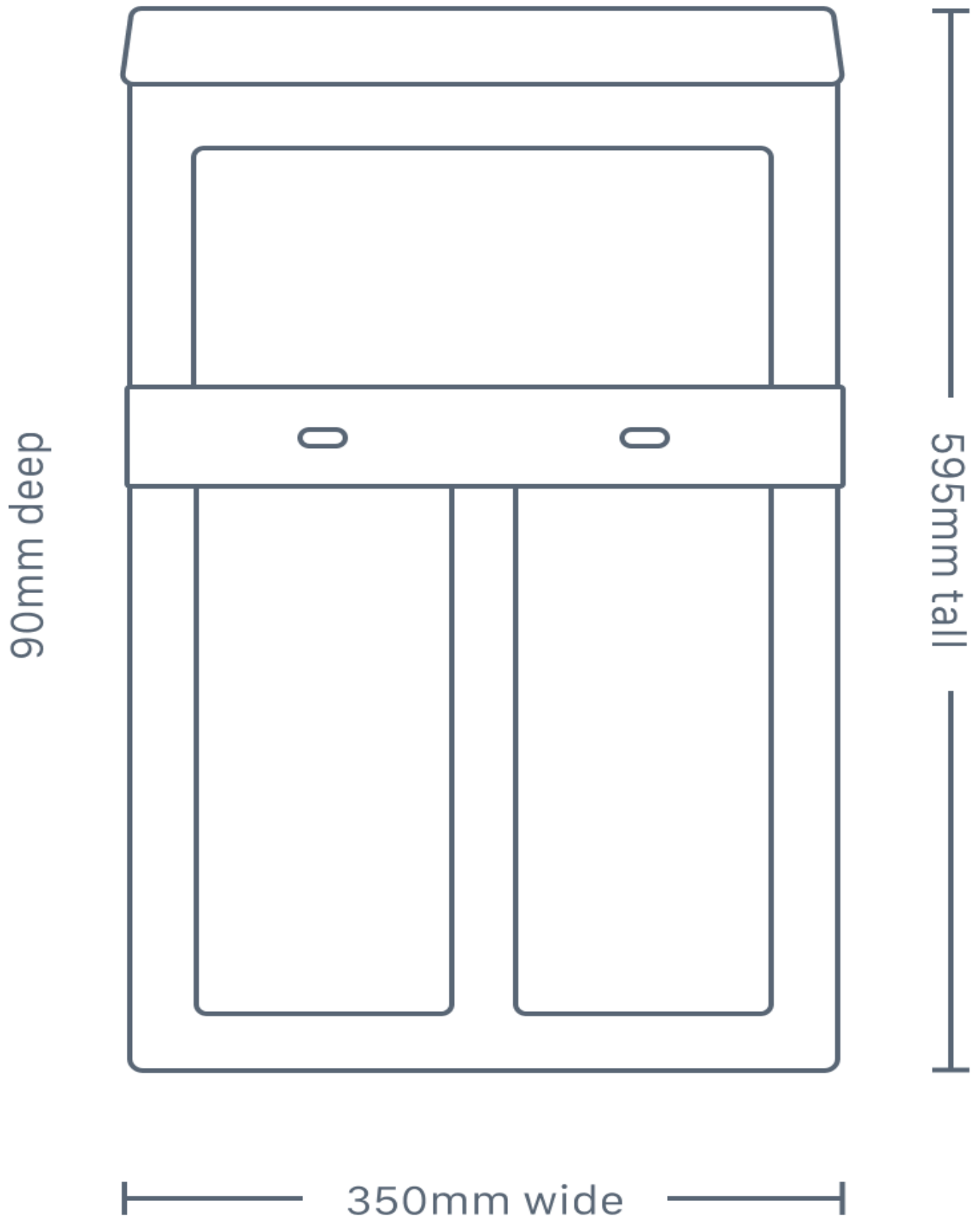
“The Ballot Bin uses the nudging behaviour change approach and is a fun way to get people engaged in putting butts in a bin rather than just stubbing them out on the floor ... We were able to reach 9 million people via Twitter during the first week of our campaign.”

— Philip Robinson, CEO, Keep Australia Beautiful

“It’s just a great way to tackle cigarette litter. When we put it on social media the response was incredible. It got so much praise from councillors, the public, media – right across the board.”

— Alison Dewey, BID Manager, Southend BID.

Specifications



The bin weighs 9.3 kilos, please exercise care while lifting and carrying it. The ashtray features an easily changeable question plate. Write with the magnetic letters provided, a dry-wipe marker or print out our [question template](#) and slot in a sheet of A4 paper.

A voting system encourages use of the ashtray; users vote by simply dropping their cigarette butt into one of the two bins. The black aluminium stub panel minimises tobacco stains.

The ashtray is secured by two high quality cam latch locks on the side.

Once unlocked, the bins can be removed for emptying and cleaning using one hand and the sign can be changed or updated.

The ashtray can be mounted to a pole with the fixing provided, or even directly onto a wall. We also sell fixings to mount it onto railings.

The Ballot Bin is designed to resist rust. It has an anti-rust primer coat and all seams and sharp edges and are welded, ground and rounded, which reduces the areas in which rust can form.

The glass is bonded in to make it very difficult to break.

The packaging is made from recycled card and is 100% recyclable. Included in your order:

- Ballot Bin ashtray
- Mount for pole (rail fixings can be ordered at an additional £17)
- 200 magnetic letters (English alphabet)
- Dry-wipe marker pen
- Key
- [Instruction leaflet](#) & [starter pack](#)