

Taunton Shadow Town Council

**Tuesday, 31st January, 2023,
6.00 pm**

**The John Meikle Room - The Deane
House**

**Somerset West
and Taunton**

[SWT MEETING WEBCAST LINK](#)

Members: Lee Baker, Chris Booth, Norman Cavill, Simon Coles, Dixie Darch, Tom Deakin, Caroline Ellis, Habib Farbahi, Fothergill, Marcia Hill, Isaacs, John Hunt, Dawn Johnson, Richard Lees, Sue Lees, Larcombe, Libby Lisgo, Derek Perry, Martin Peters, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Francesca Smith, Federica Smith-Roberts, Talbot, Brenda Weston and Woodmason

Addendum

9. Taunton Garden Town Briefing

Officers will present a verbal update on this item at the meeting with slides.

It is recommended that the Shadow Town Council:

- Note the update on the Taunton Garden Town

(Pages 3 - 14)



**ANDREW PRITCHARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded and webcast. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions. There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions. Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 3 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes and you can only speak to the Committee once. If there are a group of people attending to speak about a particular item then a representative should be chosen to speak on behalf of the group. These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room.

If you would like to ask a question or speak at a meeting, you will need to submit your request to a member of the Governance Team in advance of the meeting. You can request to speak at a Council meeting by emailing your full name, the agenda item and your question to the Governance Team using governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Any requests need to be received by 4pm on the day that provides 1 clear working day before the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting itself). For example, if the meeting is due to take place on a Tuesday, requests need to be received by 4pm on the Friday prior to the meeting.

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting website](#).

The meeting rooms, including the Council Chamber at The Deane House, are on the first floor and are fully accessible. Lift access to The John Meikle Room (Council Chamber), is available from the main ground floor entrance at The Deane House. The Council Chamber at West Somerset House is on the ground floor and is fully accessible via a public entrance door. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available across both locations. An induction loop operates at both The Deane House and West Somerset House to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter.

Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

If you would like an agenda, a report or the minutes of a meeting translated into another language or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Taunton Garden Town: Stewardship

Shadow Taunton
Town Council
31st January 2023

Alison Blom-Cooper
Assistant Director
Strategic Place and
Planning

Jenny Clifford
Garden Town
Implementation Manager



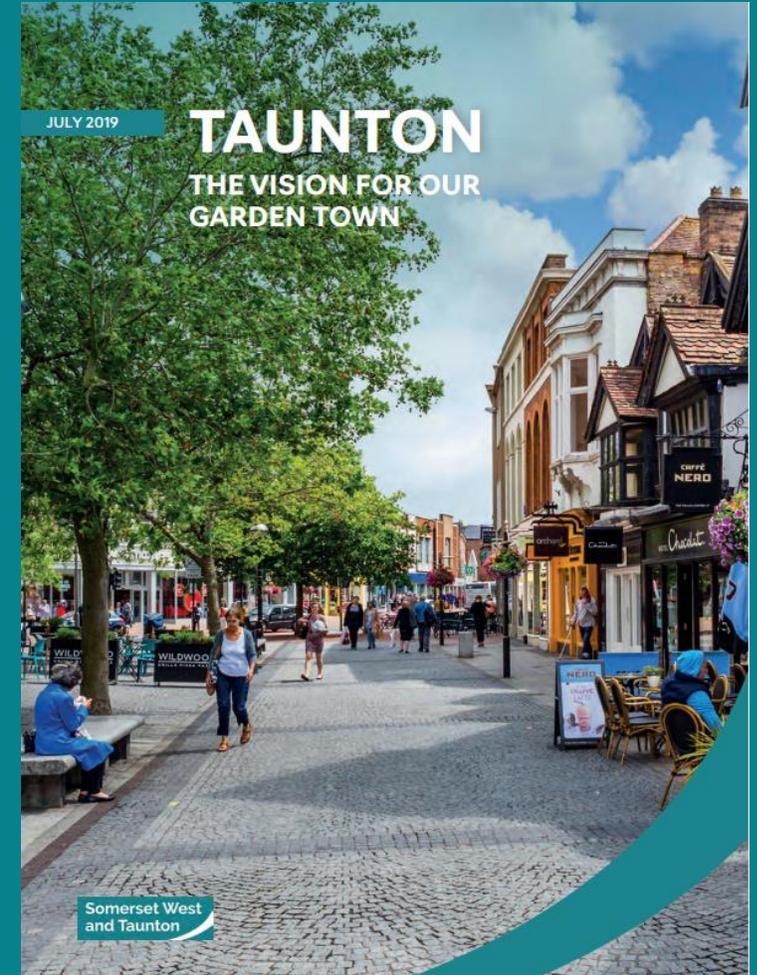
Somerset West
and Taunton



Stewardship

- Explore the concept of stewardship and its context in Taunton Garden Town
- Outline some of the opportunities for stewardship in Taunton Garden Town
- Key questions for the Shadow Town Council meeting to consider

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What is stewardship?

A key Garden Community Principle:

“ensuring that a community asset is properly looked after in perpetuity”.

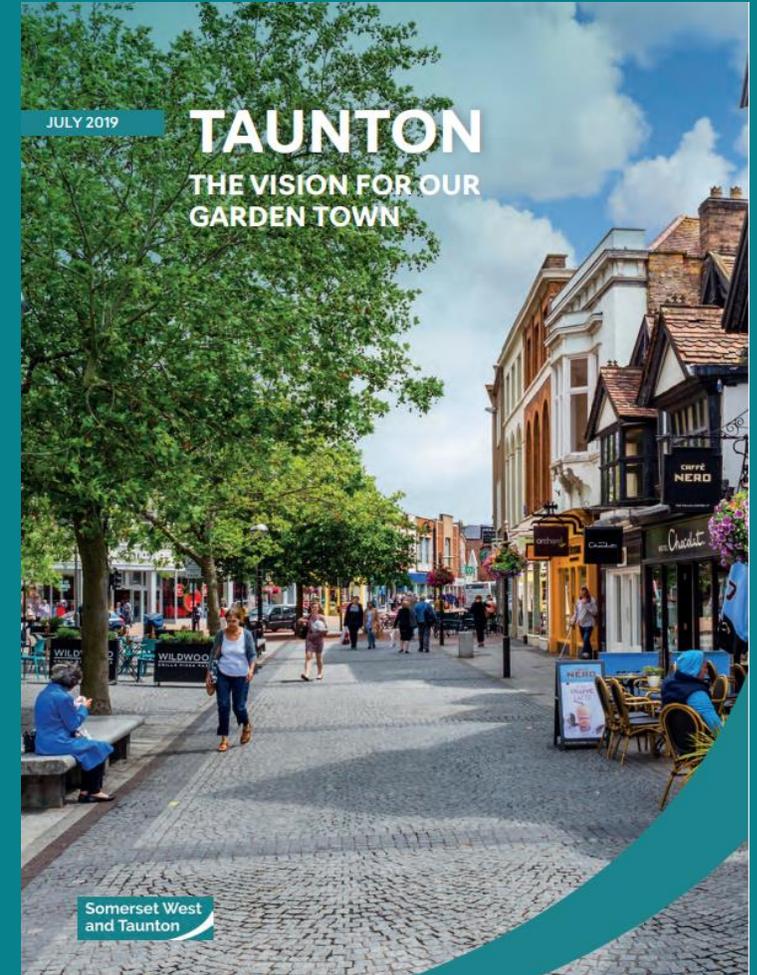
*Town & Country Planning
Association*

Community assets

Asset	Typical Existing Arrangements
Active Travel	Somerset County Council
Community Spaces	Existing parish councils / Charities
Open Space/ Green Space	Management Companies for specific sites / Somerset West and Taunton Council for some spaces
Indoor Facilities	Everyone Active
Outdoor Facilities	Local Authority / Everyone Active
Decentralised Energy	Community Managed
SuDs	Somerset County Council
Flood Defences	The Environment Agency / Somerset County Council
Education facilities	Somerset County Council and free school providers

Stewardship

- “Promote and encourage individuals, communities and partner organisations to collaborate broadly, empowering them to take initiatives and share in the long-term **stewardship** of green assets.”
- Page 7 “Legacy and **stewardship** arrangements: should be in place for the care of community assets, infrastructure and public realm, for the benefit of the whole community.”
- “Communities and stakeholders should take an active role in realising the vision from project identification through to delivery, for which the Council will take an active role to establish new governance arrangements for the Garden Town which will incorporate new and innovative ways to encourage **community participation**.”



Objectives and principles

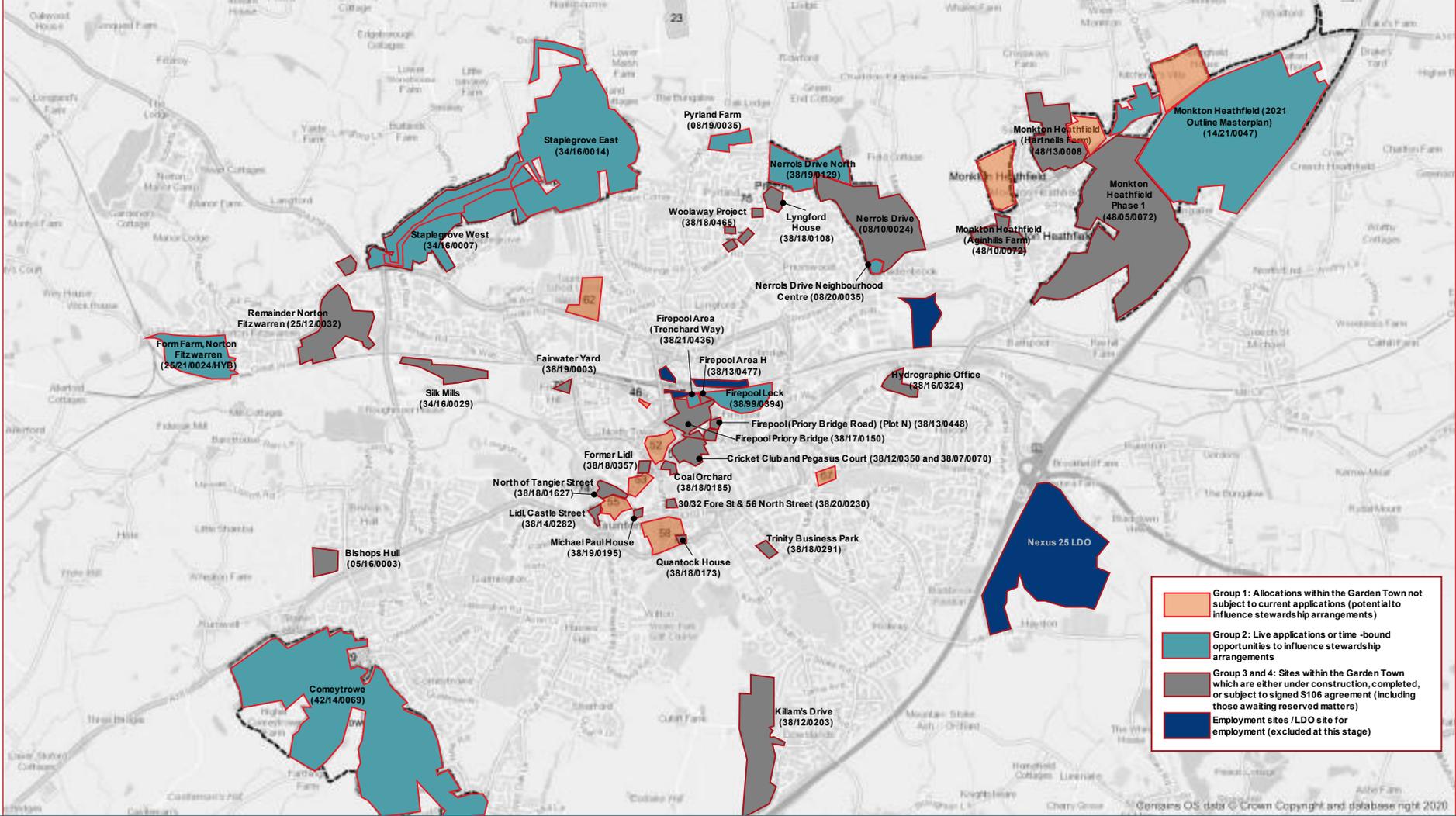
Objectives: setting the intended outcome:

- The community will have a stronger connection with the natural environment (accessible, nutrient neutral and biodiverse green spaces and assets).
- Inclusive, safe and accessible active travel and connections to public transport will be promoted and maximised.
- The community will feel empowered, involved and have a sense of ownership.
- Multi-use community assets will be maintained and enhanced to support social cohesion and interaction between existing and new neighbourhoods.
- Multi-use community assets will be maintained and enhanced to improve wellbeing, foster inclusivity and reduce inequalities.
- Economic participation, ability to experience high-quality culture and skills development of residents will be encouraged through learning and training.
- All decisions will contribute towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and be climate resilient.

Principles: defining the operational path

- Uphold the objectives of stewardship and ensure decisions are made in the long-term public interest.
- Be an effective, credible and respected custodian of assets.
- Be financially sustainable.
- Enable long term resilience (a flexible, adaptable and entrepreneurial approach).
- Access to suitable skills and expertise.
- Promote and encourage collaboration (individuals, communities and partner organisations).
- Encourage community participation and representation.
- Deepen awareness and knowledge of the benefits of successful stewardship.
- Transparent monitoring and accountability.

Stewardship opportunities



Potential stewardship models

Local Council (Community,
Neighbourhood, Parish and Town
Council)

Co-operative Society and
Community Benefit Society

Community Development
Trust and
Community Land Trust

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Unitary-led Models

Housing Associations and
Council Housing Companies

Charitable Incorporated
Organisation

Management Company /
SPVs

Community Interest Company



Shortlisted models for consideration

- Local Council model- including Taunton Town Council and existing Parish Councils
- The Land Trust (a form of Development Trust)- already operates at scales equivalent to the Garden Town
- Community Interest Company- through its commitment to the wider 'community interest' and statutory requirements for an 'asset lock' (governance and regulation). Assumed this would be a stand alone entity and not a wholly owned, arms length body of the Council
(Case studies for each considered)



Types of assets

Existing asset transfer

Allotments

Phase 1 assets:

- Parks
- WCs

Phase 2+

- Assets to be confirmed

New asset opportunities

All open space

Community halls

Active travel routes

Verges & street furniture

Public art

Sustainable Urban Drainage

Key questions for the Shadow Taunton TC

1. Is there interest in Taunton Town Council taking on the long term management and maintenance of new community assets created from development?
2. If yes, what types of asset should be considered?
3. All sites or just some?
4. Is there interest in exploring a possible role for the Land Trust (for open space assets)?

