



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON
WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2024**

Meeting Commenced: 7.01 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.07 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Caroline Reynolds (Chair), Ray Armstrong, Owen James, Justyna Peak-Michalowicz and Richard Tucker.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer /Town Clerk) and Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer).

	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitution</p> <p>Councillor Tim Taylor had sent apologies for late attendance.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillors Martin Williams, Peter Crew and John Carson with no substitutions.</p>
	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
	<p>Minutes of the previous Planning Committee Meeting held on 21st August 2024</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 21st August had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong SECONDED BY: Councillor Owen James</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the 21st August 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>
	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Matters for Consideration</p> <p>a) Disabled Parking Bays Applications</p>

The committee considered the following applications, noting ward councillors' comments and objections from members of the public received:

1. FLAT 2, 25 LANGPORT ROAD - No ward Councillor Objections. – No Objection.

RESOLVED: To inform North Somerset of the Town Council's response.

Matters for Noting

a) Street Naming Process

A Site Notice had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: Noted.

b) Yellow Lines Process

The CEO/Town Clerk reported that correspondence from North Somerset Council (NSC) had been received on the application process for Yellow lines for members of the public. The process was unclear to members of the public on whether they needed to contact their ward Councillor. Clarity was needed in order to be able to advise accordingly on the NSC website.

RESOLVED: That the CEO/Town Clerk contact North Somerset Council, requesting that members of the public are directed to their ward Councillor, via the Town Council's website as part of the Yellow Line Process.

C) Planning Appeal- 24/P/0653/FUH 8 Spring Valley, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 9AS

RESOLVED: Noted.

Planning Applications and other Planning Matters submitted to the Town Council for consideration.

7.35pm Councillor Owen James left the meeting and returned at 7.37pm.

The Committee considered applications in respect of the weekly lists provided by North Somerset Council dated:

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- a) **12th July – 18th August 2024**
- b) **19th August – 25th August 2024**
- c) **26th August – 1st September 2024**
- d) **2nd September – 8th September 2024**

The CEO/Town Clerk advised that in order to try to increase Councillor engagement with commenting on planning applications, weekly sheets would be sent to all Councillors going forward. If no comments are received, then it would be presumed that the ward councillor(s) were in support of the application and that this would be recorded. This would be reviewed in 3 months' time.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council's comments on planning applications be directly uploaded to 'Uniform' website as part of the system of work requirement by North Somerset Council. This information would also be reflected on the Town Council's website with hyperlink back to North Somerset Council's website for referral purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The CEO/Town Clerk informed that the main projects the Town Council were involved in were outlined on the report and that more work was being undertaken with Service Level Agreement partners and Grounds department and off shoots from projects such as the Tree Planting Group had developed into other schemes including the Maltlands Tree Nursery.

It was reported how well received The Big Worle family day had been along with the Yoga at Ellenborough Park.

The CEO/Town Clerk reminded the committee that the Climate and Community Development Officer had not been replaced in the current budget and therefore resourcing was limited.

RESOLVED: To receive an extended list of all community environmental projects the Town Council were involved with, at each meeting Planning & Environmental Committee Meeting going forward.

It was raised that the road sign for Bridgwater, exiting Weston was spelt incorrectly.

RESLOVED: That the Town Clerk would write to North Somerset Council to inform them of the spelling mistake.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.07 pm.

Signed.....Dated

Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee

Applications Registered, Listed by Parish/Town Council

From: 9 September - 15 September 2024

Date Sent: 16 September 2024

21 day period ends: 7 October 2024

Parish	Application Number	Location	Proposal	Case Officer	Target Date
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1425/FUH	46 Totterdown Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 4LW	Proposed demolition of existing garage and front porch. Erection of a wraparound 2-storey extension to the front and side elevations. Replacement of 1no. rear window with bi-fold doors and 1no. rear door and window with 1no. window.	Catherine Shuker	5 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 332552 N 159419			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1483/ADV	47 - 49 High Street Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HD	Installation of internally illuminated fascia signage and projecting signs to High Street frontage; Installation of internally illuminated fascia, above window and building signage to Regent Street and Wellington Place elevations	Anna Hayes	29 October 2024
		Grid Ref: E 331918 N 161464			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1485/FUL	47 - 49 High Street Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HD	Change of use from vacant retail unit (Use Class E), with external works for a Family Entertainment Centre (FEC) (Sui Generis Use), 2no. retail units (Use Class E) and amusement arcade (Sui Generis Use)	Anna Hayes	29 October 2024
		Grid Ref: E 331918 N 161464			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1486/FUL	47 - 49 High Street Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HD	Installation of new shopfronts to High Street and Regent Street frontages	Anna Hayes	29 October 2024
		Grid Ref: E 331918 N 161464			

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1553/FUL	Rear Of Bournville Service Station Winterstoke Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 3YS	Erection of a workshop extension and security fence	Katie Lasham	4 November 2024
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Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1642/FUL	110 - 114 High Street Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HP	Removal of existing structure and erection of a five storey building comprising a public house and retail space to ground floor and 22no. flats above		13 December 2024
Grid Ref: E 333572 N 160029					

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1775/TPO	37 Monks Hill Weston-super-Mare BS22 9RQ	T1: Reduce conifer to 7ft. T2: Reduce ash by 2m in height. Suffering from add die back. T3: Reduce sycamore by 2m. T4: Reduce sycamore by 2m in height and reshape. Reduce back from the property by 2-3m.	James McCarthy	1 November 2024
Grid Ref: E 333676 N 163278					
Reason for T1-T2-T3 maintain the view. T2-T3 poor health. T4: Close proximity to the property. Trying to manage the size rather than leaving it for another year or two then having to remove larger limbs.					

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1784/TPO	13 Manor Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 2ST	T1 Ash - Prune lower branches to achieve 2.5m clearance from ground.	James McCarthy	5 November 2024
Grid Ref: E 333037 N 161889					

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1798/FUL	11 - 12 Claremont Crescent Weston-super-Mare	Proposed removal and replacement of railings to the street-level and external stairways, replacement of porch windows with new and	Kyle Williams	5 November 2024
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Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1808/FUH	502 Locking Road Weston-super-Mare BS22 8QY	Grid Ref: E 330953 N 162145	provision of external lighting (as approved under 24/P/113/FUL). Amendment to bin/bike stores (approved under 18/P/4934/FUL).	Catherine Shuker	4 November 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1825/FUH	2 Florence Mews Weston-super-Mare BS23 3FR	Grid Ref: E 335018 N 162237	Demolition of the existing rear extension and proposed erection of a replacement single storey rear and side extension.	Aniket Shinde	4 November 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1826/FUH	40 Montpelier Weston-super-Mare BS23 2RN	Grid Ref: E 332761 N 161315	Proposed erection of a single storey detached outbuilding/garden store to the rear to replace a previous structure.	Catherine Shuker	30 October 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1829/FUL	8 Upper Church Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 2DT	Grid Ref: E 332527 N 162039	Proposed change of use of existing Class E property (former hair salon) to a Launderette (sui generis).	Annika Lepoittevin	30 October 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1830/ADV	8 Upper Church Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 2DT	Grid Ref: E 331390 N 161987	Advertisement consent for 3no. non illuminated external fascia signs.	Annika Lepoittevin	30 October 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1833/ADV	Tesco Express Broadway Weston-super-Mare BS24 9HA	Grid Ref: E 331390 N 161987	Advertisement consent for the installation of 2no. non-illuminated and 1no. internally illuminated Fascia signs, 1no. internally illuminated projection sign, and 5no. non-	Jason Mak	31 October 2024

illuminated dibond graphic signs.					
Grid Ref: E 333415 N 158507					
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1876/TRCA	26 Clarence Grove Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 4AQ	T1 - Birch, crown reduce to previous points, approximately 1.5 meters of growth to be removed. T2 - Cherry plum, crown reduce to previous points, approximately 1.5 meters of growth to be removed.	James McCarthy	24 October 2024
Grid Ref: E 332151 N 160072					
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1878/TRCA	Haranstanes Montpeller Weston-super-Mare BS23 2RQ	T1 - Portuguese laurel - remove to ground level	James McCarthy	24 October 2024
Grid Ref: E 332547 N 161687					
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1900/AOC	Land At The Junction Of Bleadon Hill And Bridgwater Road Bridgwater Road Uphill	Request to discharge condition number 24 (Archaeology) on application 17/P/1138/O		7 November 2024
Grid Ref: E 332587 N 158219					

Applications Registered, Listed by Parish/Town Council

From: 16 September - 22 September 2024

Date Sent: 23 September 2024

21 day period ends: 14 October 2024

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1700/TRCA	22 Elmsleigh Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 4JN	Grid Ref: E 332038 N 159634	T1: Reduce Maple by 1.5m. T2-T3: Reduce two conifers by 1m in height.	James McCarthy	1 October 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1873/FUH	1 Mendip Edge Weston-super-Mare BS24 9JF	Grid Ref: E 332903 N 157907	Proposed enlargement and extension of existing dormers to the front and rear elevations alongside the erection of a single storey rear extension.	Courteney Cox	5 November 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1877/LDP	1 Bathurst Road Weston-super-Mare BS22 8EL	Grid Ref: E 334223 N 162029	Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed use of the existing property to be used as a dental surgery to visiting members of the public.	Anna Hayes	6 November 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1896/FUL	1 Ellenborough Crescent Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XL	Grid Ref: E 332173 N 160837	Proposed repairs to the roof and replacement of roof, ridges and hip tiles with natural slate roof tiles and associated works.	Kyle Williams	7 November 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1897/LBC	1 Ellenborough Crescent Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XL	Grid Ref: E 332173 N 160837	Listed building consent for repairs to the roof and replacement of roof tiles, works to include:- Removal of all roof, ridges and hip tiles and replace with natural roof slate tiles. Replacement of all damaged flashing and renewal of rotting timbers to match existing. Replace rotten decking where required with graded 18mm board and provide new	Kyle Williams	7 November 2024

insulation between the ceiling joists.

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1914/FUL	Land At St Andrews Parade Weston-super-Mare	Erection of 'Beacon of Hope' metal sculpture	Jason Mak	11 November 2024
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Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1923/SJA	Grid Ref: E 332100 N 161236			
		Hutton Moor Leisure Centre Hutton Moor Road Weston-super-Mare BS22 8L Y	Prior approval for the installation of 306 no. solar panels	Katie Lasham	11 November 2024

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1935/AOC	Grid Ref: E 333981 N 161092			
		The Old Town Quarry South Road Weston-Super-Mare North Somerset BS23 2LS	Request to discharge condition number 3 (No Development shall commence until one of the following have been provided (a copy of the licence issued by Natural England pursuant to Regulation 55 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 authorising the development to go ahead; or a copy of a letter from Natural England confirming that the works fall within the remit of a Bat Mitigation Class Licence (WML-CL21) and that the site has been registered in accordance with the class licence. a statement in writing from the licensed ecologist to the effect that he/she does not consider that the specified development will require a licence.)), 6 (External Lighting (details of the siting, type and location of the proposed lighting, existing lux levels affecting the site, the proposed lux levels and lighting contour plans)), 7 (CEMP), 8 (LEMP), 9 (strategy for the incorporation of	Kyle Williams	13 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 331981 N 162355			

features to enhance the biodiversity) and 11
(Walling and Roofing Materials) on application
24/P/0131/FUL

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1953/TRCA	Greystones Lodge Trinity Place Weston-super-Mare BS23 2HN	(T1) Holly tree whole crown reduction by 2 metres. (T2) Holly tree whole crown reduction by 2 metres. (T3) Oak tree whole crown reduction by 2 metres, tree is overhanging the road.	James McCarthy	1 November 2024
Grid Ref: E 331284 N 162318					

Applications Registered by Parish/Town Council

From: 23 September 2024 to 29 September 2024

Date Sent: 30 September 2024

21 day period ends: 21 October 2024

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1865/FUH	59 The Cornfields Weston-super-Mare BS22 9DY	Proposed erection of a single storey wrap-around extension with pitched roof forming new side entrance, WC, and open plan siting and dining room. Increase to the width of the existing driveway to provide off road parking and extension to existing dropped kerb.	Aniket Shinde	15 November 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1907/FUL	Birnbeck Pier, Birnbeck Island Birnbeck Road Weston-super-Mare	Restoration of pier deck and the accompanying infrastructure required for safe access	Max Smith	23 December 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1908/LBC	Birnbeck Pier, Birnbeck Island Birnbeck Road Weston-super-Mare	Listed Building Consent for restoration of pier deck and repair of trestle legs and associated bracing, repair of land abutments at Island and landward ends of pier	Max Smith	18 November 2024
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1929/TEN	Outside 16 Boulevard Weston-super-Mare BS23 1NA	Notification under Regulation 5 of the Electronic Communications Code of the intention to install fixed line broadband apparatus comprising of the installation of 1no. new cabinet. THIS IS NOT A PLANNING APPLICATION	Molly Willmot	16 October 2024

Weston-super-Mare

24/P/1940/TEN

O2 (54212) Mobile Phone Mast

Molly Willmot

17 October 2024

12

Oldmixon Crescent Car Park
Oldmixon Crescent
Weston-super-Mare

Notification under Regulation 5 of the Electronic Communications Code of the intention to install Electronic Communications Apparatus, works to include: Installation of 6no. antennas and ancillary apparatus on new support structures and relocation of 6no. existing antennas to the new support structures. THIS IS NOT A PLANNING APPLICATION

Grid Ref: E 333297 N 159163

Weston-super-Mare

24/P/1963/FUH

25 Leighton Crescent
Weston-super-Mare
BS24 9JL

15 November 2024

Grid Ref: E 333220 N 157878

Demolition of the existing conservatory and proposed erection of a replacement single-storey rear extension and associated alterations, including front porch canopy and replacement front bay.

Applications Registered, Listed by Parish/Town Council

From: 30 September - 6 October 2024

Date Sent: 7 October 2024

21 day period ends: 28 October 2024

Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1959/TRCA	Broad oak Academy Windwhistle Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 4NP	T011, T012, T013 - Alder - Fell. T014, T015 - Sycamore - Raise canopy to 5.2 meters. T017 - Prune away from street light.	James McCarthy	4 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 332090 N 159291			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1961/FUH	14 St Pauls Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 4AE	Proposed installation of 9no. solar panels to the side (west) roof elevation and replacement of existing electrical storage/ room heaters.	Molly Willmot	20 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 332296 N 160236			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1962/FUH	14A St Pauls Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 4AE	Proposed installation of 6no. solar panels to the side (west) roof elevation and replacement of existing electrical storage/ room heaters.	Molly Willmot	20 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 332296 N 160236			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1991/FUH	13 Hatfield Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 2UT	Partial demolition of rear extensions and proposed erection of larger single storey rear/side extensions.	Catherine Shuker	19 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 333487 N 161694			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1981/FUH	4 Fraser Close Weston-super-Mare BS22 9PZ	Proposed demolition of existing rear extension and conversion of existing attached garage to living space. Erection of a part-one, part-two storey rear extension.	Catherine Shuker	21 November 2024

		Grid Ref: E 335490 N 163710			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1984/LDP	1 Aycote Close Weston-super-Mare BS22 9QY	Certificate of lawful development for the proposed conversion of a flat roof detached single storey garage into an incidental home office annex.	Courteney Cox	21 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 334043 N 162624			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/1992/FUH	8 Christian Close Weston-super-Mare BS22 7TP	Proposed erection of a front porch and a first floor side extension above the existing single storey side extension.	Catherine Shuker	21 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 336520 N 163321			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/2002/LDP	Knightstone Beacon Knightstone Causeway Weston-super-Mare BS23 2AD	Certificate of lawful development for proposed remediation works comprising the removal and replacement of existing balcony flooring.	Molly Willmot	21 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 331184 N 161851			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/2003/FUL	Ship Inn 56 Uphill Way Uphill Weston-super-Mare BS23 4TN	Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey outbuilding/servery attached to the rear (North) of the existing property.		21 November 2024
		Grid Ref: E 331805 N 158455			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/2013/FUH	36 Southdown Weston-super-Mare BS22 6PE	Proposed erection of single storey front and side extensions.	Molly Willmot	22 November 2024

Grid Ref: E 335746 N 163762			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/2036/TEN	16 The Crescent Milton Weston-super-Mare BS22 8DT	Molly Willmott 25 October 2024
Grid Ref: E 333904 N 162319			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/2028/AOC	29 Locking Road Weston-super-Mare BS23 3BZ	Neil Underhay 25 November 2024
Grid Ref: E 332426 N 161270			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/2031/NMA	1B Gallagher Retail Park Marchfields Way Weston-super-Mare BS23 3YY	Aniket Shinde 28 October 2024
Grid Ref: E 333187 N 160320			
Weston-super-Mare	24/P/2034/LDP	1A Magdalen Way Weston-super-Mare BS22 7PG	Jason Mak 25 November 2024
Grid Ref: E 336163 N 163397			



Planning and Environmental Committee 16th October 2024

Roadmap to Zero Progress

Report of the Senior Development Officer

1. Background & Purpose of the Report

Background

Members will be aware that the previous report to this committee highlighted a resource issue following the decision to remove the role of Climate and Community Development Officer. This made the monitoring of the utilities and information which make up the council roadmap, difficult. A solution to this was suggested and included working with a volunteer to keep this information up to date. A suitable volunteer was found, and a couple of hours work has been done so far to update this information. There will need to be some time spent in pulling this information together into a manageable summary, but in the interim, a basic year by year comparison has been provided for members.

Purpose

To provide the current position (as of summer 2024), and provide direction for ongoing monitoring.

2. Options for Council

N/a

3. Reason for Recommendation

n/a

4. Expected Benefits

To increase understanding in the current position of the council in achieving net zero.

5. Implications

5.1. Legal

n/a

5.2. Risks

If this analysis is not carried out, there is a risk that we will be unable to understand our current position, and risk not reaching net zero by 2030.

5.3. Financial Implications

n/a

5.4. Timescales

It will take some time to get the roadmap complete to previous standard, but it is anticipated that a full summary report will be able to be provide at the end of this year



(March 2025).

5.5. Stakeholders

We are currently working with a volunteer to monitor the utilities.

5.6. Contractors

n/a

5.7. Crime & Disorder (councils have a legal duty to consider impact)

n/a

5.8. Biodiversity (councils have a legal duty to consider impact)

n/a

5.9. Privacy Impact (consider Privacy Impact assessment)

n/a

5.10. Equality & Diversity (councils have a legal duty to consider impact)

n/a

6. Appendices

For additional context, see the progress summary created in October 2024, reviewing progress across the previous seven years.

7. Recommendations

Members are requested:

To note actions to move forward with the administration and monitoring of the roadmap to zero

Molly Maher

Senior Development Officer

Drafted 7th October 2024



Planning and Environmental Committee 16th October 2024

Roadmap to Zero – Data Analysis

Report from the Senior Development Officer

Community Fridge

Summary of information:

- Data has been collected up until the end of August 2024
- You will note that at this point in the year (last data capture August 2024), we are already nearly at the total amount of KG distributed for 2022. With 4 months of reporting to go this is positive.
- However, when looking at a month by month comparison, we are redistributing less each month than the corresponding month last year. there are many possible reasons for this decline. There is less food being donated to the fridge. Supermarkets are reporting that more people are taking advantage of the yellow label products, meaning less makes its way to the fridge. There are also more initiatives offering access to free food.
- This decline is not necessarily a bad thing. The primary aim of the fridge is to reduce food waste. The fact that less food is making its way to the Community Fridge, means more is being distributed by the supermarkets, and our primary aim of reducing food waste is being met either way.
- It does mean, however, that less of our carbon output is being offset, and we may see an increase from last year in our final carbon footprint.

2021													680	1.08
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total KG	Annual Tonnes of CO2e saved Total
2022	1132	1286	1204	1419	1459	1673	1906	1828	1612	1696	2207	2576	19999	32
2023	2783	2974	3267	3212	3453	2388	2643	2792	2538	3107	1712	1251	32120	51
2024	2610	2742	2320	2556	2585	1871	2538	2015					19238	31
All-time total (kg):													72037	114

Electricity

Summary of information:

- Data has been collected up until the end of July 2024
- The numbers below detail the Kwh across all Town Council Sites



- You will notice that before last year, we had been steadily reducing usage across our sites. However, 2023/2024 did see an increase.

Year	Kwh
2018-19	187418.5
2019-20	178025.3
2020-21	118428.5
2021-22	121898.4
2022-23	115293.1
2023-24	182263.1
2024-25 (so far)	61513.1

Gas

Summary of information:

- Data has been collected up until the end of July 2024.
- The numbers below detail the Kwh across all Town Council Sites
- Gas usage across all the sites reduced last year

Year	Kwh
2018/2019	169782.59
2019/2020	153443.59
2020/2021	142766.29
2021/2022	184979.99
2022/2023	164645.55
2023/2024	139989.00
2024/2025 (so far)	18450.00

Water

Summary of information:

- Data has been collected up until the end of July 2024
- The numbers below show the m3 usage, split out into water and sewerage.
- Water usage across all the sites reduced last year

year	TOTAL	Sewerage m3
2018/2019	1685.4	1601.1
2019/2020	2104.4	1999.2
2020/2021	833.00	791.35
2021/2022	1455.2	1421.58



2022/2023	2497.63	2372.75
2023/2024	1720.00	1634.00
2024/2025 (so far)	501.00	475.95

Other areas to explore

- Fuel Genie – this has yet to be updated. This include all petrol and diesel usage for the Town Council
- Travel to Work Survey – we need to re run the travel to work survey to see how this has changed since previously carried out Tree stock – it is possible to use the council’s tree stock to inset our carbon footprint. Planting trees helps to increase the amount of carbon sinks (systems which absorbs more carbon than it releases), as well as enhancing biodiversity. By absorbing carbon, trees can help close the gap to carbon neutral.

Molly Matthews

Senior Development Officer

Drafted 7th October 2024

Weston Tree and Plant Group Meeting - Wednesday 25th September 2024 @ Weston Museum

Attendees: Dot Agassiz, Emily Burnell, Lynn Smith (Big Worle), Donna Godfrey (Big Worle), Steve Pitt, James McCarthy, Peter Barrington, Jules Newton, Carol Stevens, Gary Stevens, Tim Hurford, James Fletcher, Johnny Boxall, Simon McCoy, Beverley Martin, Sophie Newton, Anne Fisher, Laura Norton (Forest of Avon Trust), Becky Walsh, Steve Clark, Jenna Berry, Debbie Aptead.

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Reynolds.

Welcome from Dot, group introductions and an introduction to Laura Norton.

1. Talk from Laura Norton – Forest of Avon Trust

The Forest of Avon Trust <https://forestofavontrust.org> are one of England's Community Forests who work to support tree planting and improving our natural environment across the country. They work to support regeneration and growth by supporting and working together with the community, by providing funding and support, to plant trees.

They aim to increase biodiversity across the area by planting native species in South Gloucester, North Somerset, Bristol and Bath, and plant 2-4 million trees a year. This is part of the Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England <https://forestofavontrust.org/forest-of-avon-plan/> from which Weston and North Somerset have specifically set goals.

The tree planted is DeFRA funded through the Trees For Climate Fund, where anyone can apply to plant anywhere from 3 trees to multiple hectares of woodland. It provides a 100% reimbursement of costs, as well as funding an ongoing maintenance grant for up to 15 years. Laura and the Forest of Avon help you access the grant by assisting with filling in the application.

You can use it to fund orchard planting, or hedgerows (if they are over 100m in length), but the most applicable area of funding is for wood pasture, which can also be used to fund street tree planting. It is also possible to apply for funding to fence off areas for natural regeneration, and the FoAT will also help you organise volunteer days.

The FoAT also run wellbeing <https://forestofavontrust.org/for-people/woodland-wellbeing> and forest school events <https://forestofavontrust.org/for-people/forest-school-training/> for people who are isolated.

Laura has been working with North Somerset Council to map and fit street trees into their application, and Gemma and Jack are concentrating their planting of street and open space trees in Weston, this year.

Laura informed the meeting that she would be comparing the National Community Forest Conference in Bristol, the next day, where they would be celebrating their 30th anniversary.

Big Worle

Lynn and Donna then introduced the meeting to the Big Worle project <https://bigworle.wixsite.com/mysite> which has been Local Trust funded over the past 9 years. They have donated money to build the Castle Batch SEND play area with WSMTC and have also funded education and planting in the Beckett school community garden. They are also guardians for the school gardening project.

The project is now in its last year and the Town Council are now the Locally Trusted Organisation

for Big Worle as it works to finish of its projects and funding. As part of this, they would like to create an edible trail by planting 30 fruit trees in the area covered by their funding. They are also looking to fund a green roof for the local bus stop.

They have plotted out the sites that they would like to plant their trees and are reaching out to Alliance homes and North Somerset for land permissions to plant the trees this autumn.

2. Overview of tree planting

NSC are aiming to plant 100 street trees in Weston, this winter, and Osprey outdoors will be helping them with the planting.

It was requested that a planting day is organised on a weekend so that other members of the group can help plant the trees. It was agreed that we could access tools at the weekend and that we would include the newsletter link in the minutes ...

The High Street trees were also discussed, and it was reported that two are thriving and 5 have been vandalised but are still growing. It was thought that one tree has not survived its damage. James reported that the funding of replacement trees has not been forthcoming, but that other avenues were being explored to replace the damaged trees.

Steve reported that he was now reporting to the Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee and that he would be presenting on the tree planting budget at the next meeting on October 16th, 2024.

Action:

- Ask Jack to attend the next meeting and provide more details about where trees will be planted this year.
- Share details of planting days.
- Share newsletter link:

3. We SEE Trees

Emily reported that she needs more help at the nursery and wants to create a pool of Volunteers who can be called upon to help look after the trees. Jobs will include watering, weeding and grass cutting.

She also reminded us that we are in the seed gathering season and shared the following dates for seed gathering sessions:

- Saturday 28th Sep 2-4pm @ Ashcombe Park.
- Sunday 6th October 1-4pm @ Clarence Park.
- Saturday 19th October -10 am -12 midday @ Maltlands.
- Saturday 19th October – 1-3pm – working party @ We SEE Trees CTN, Maltlands.
- Sunday 20th October 2-4pm @ Grove Park – meet at the bandstand.

You are requested to take bags/ containers to collect seeds from the trees and then sort them into species for planting.

SC reported that at the Old Town Quarry meeting David Agassiz had explained about the unique micro-climates that exist on the site and requested that native calcareous tolerant

species such as Whitebeam, Spindle and Buckthorn are collected and grown. It was suggested that we would hold another seed collecting event in Worlebury Hillfort woods.

It was also requested that a working party is arranged with Fat Head Brewery to plant the trees funded by their sponsorship. It was agreed that this could be included in the working party at the Tree Nursery on Saturday 19th October 1-3pm.

4. Fundraising sub meeting

It was reported that the Business Pack for providing funding/sponsoring tree planting opportunities was complete and available on the website: <https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Tree-and-plant-group-business-1-2.pdf>

It was agreed that it was needed to have another fundraising sub-committee meeting to kick things off again. This was arranged for 10.00 Tuesday 12th November at the Bay Café in the Tropicana.

A brief explanation was provided to about how we would raise funds, including Room for Trees, where hotels will be encouraged to add a certain amount on to people's stay and this will be used for more trees to be planted (see Business Pack).

5. Community Arboretum

A brief review of the Creating a Community Arboretum talk that took place last week was shared, and it was agreed that it was brilliant and well attended. Steve shared that John Parker will be returning to share another talk in April 2025.

It was also shared that two of Si's Tree Walks – Milton Road Cemetery and Grove Park - are now available at: <https://treetrailsweston.my.canva.site/#page-0>. There is also a sign in the notice board at Milton Road, so you can use the QR code and follow the tree walk from there – give it a go, it's well worth it!

Action:

- Share the Tree Walk link to other websites such as WSMTC and Visit Weston.

6. Grow Weston

Contact them directly via the website if you want to find out what happens

AOB

- It was agreed that Emily would take over the chair for future meetings.
- Carol gave a brief report about the progress of Blooming Weston Returns <https://www.facebook.com/groups/882871907047939>. She explained the contacts she had made and the frustrations she had had in contacting Weston in Bloom. She said that there are two companies who are interested in sponsoring Weston in Bloom, and it was agreed that this would become an agenda item moving forwards.

Next meeting: November 20th, 2024 7pm @ Weston Museum. This will be a pot luck celebration of 2024, so please bring some food or fuddle (as Jules suggests!)



Planning and Environmental Committee 16th October 2024

Tree Planting Scheme

Report from the Senior Development Officer

1. Purpose and Background of Report

Previous Resolution

In October 2022, Weston-super-Mare Town Council resolved to earmark a budget of £10,000, to match fund money spent by North Somerset Council on trees:

Policy and Finance Committee – October 2022

164. RESOLVED:

1. That £10,000 be allocated to tree planting from the environmental budget for current financial year.
2. That annual funding would be considered in line with the contribution from North Somerset Council within budget consideration up to £10,000.
3. To allow funds to be held by the council in an allocated fund for tree planting. (PF)

This was in recognition of the Town Council's goal of Carbon neutral by 2030, and a desire to plant 10,000 trees.

Alternative partner

Given current local considerations, it is unlikely the North Somerset Council will be able to provide funding for new trees. As such, it has become necessary for the Town Council to find a way to approach tree planting in both an environmentally and financially sustainable way.

Following a meeting with the Civic Society, another options has presented itself. The Civic Society would like to pay for tree in certain areas (at there discretion). This would need to be understood further before any commitment could be made, as the Town Council has few viable locations for tree planting. As a suggested compromise, we could ask that they present the Town Council with a list of options annually, which would then be explored by the Town Council's Arboricultural consultant, and then agreed in final by the Town Council via this committee.

This would then need to gain permission with NSC in regards to locations (not on our own land). The Town Council would then utilise its allocated budget for the necessary



maintenance of the trees for the first 2/3 years.

Options for funding

There is opportunity to explore grant funding which would support the ongoing maintenance of trees.

Trees for Climate is a Defra backed grant being delivered through England's Community Forests. Trees for Climate can help fund:

- Woodlands: No maximum size, min 0.1ha per block of planting
- Orchards: 0.1ha or above, around 15 vigorous or 30 semi-vigorous fruit trees (non-commercial).
- Wood pasture: 0.1ha or above, at least 3 trees
- Hedgerows: each section must be at least 100m in length
- Natural regeneration /colonisation: considered on a case-by-case basis.

Trees for Climate can cover up to 100% of costs, including up to 15 years of establishment and maintenance payments and can support planting of feathered/standard trees, hedgerows with trees, community planting including orchards, and farm woodlands.

2. Options for Council

Following meetings with the Town Council's Arboricultural Consultant, and community partners, three options have become apparent for the Town Council.

1. Work with community organisations and partners, such as the Civic Society, to match fund their tree planting by way of providing the ongoing maintenance. This option recognises that there are other community group which may want to donate trees, as well as the Civic Society.
2. Plant and maintain trees within our own land. This would require using the allocated funds solely, without North Somerset Council or another organisation match funding. As this was a requirement of the original allocated funds, a decision will be required to overrule this resolution.
3. Alongside options 1 and 2, there is also the possibility of exploring income streams to increase budget provision. Grant funding could be available for ongoing maintenance, as well as the opportunity to provide ongoing maintenance, at a cost, for other local parishes.

With the in mind, it is recommended that a business case is brought to the next meeting to explore the options available. Both options 1 and 2 would see the Town Council being responsibility for maintenance, and as such thought would need to be



given on how this was done, but also how this would be monitored and ensure a certain standard of care was met. This would most likely be done by the Town Council's Arboricultural consultant, so his fee would be built into the ongoing maintenance cost.

3. Reason for Recommendation

Direction is required regarding the allocated funds for tree planting, without which the council would be unable to meet its tree planting goal.

4. Expected Benefits

Planting more trees would put Weston super Mare Town Council in a much better position to reach its goal of carbon neutral by 2030. Planting trees helps to increase the amount of carbon sinks (systems which absorbs more carbon than it releases), as well as enhancing biodiversity. By absorbing carbon, trees can help close the gap to carbon neutral.

5. Implications

5.1. Legal

The Town Council currently has a small amount of plant able space available. It may be necessary to work with North Somerset Council on finding suitable land for planting.

5.2. Risks

Previous tree planting in the town has failed in certain instances due to a lack of a formal maintenance approach. Without considering the ongoing maintenance of the current and potential new tree stock, there is a risk of any planting being unsuccessful.

5.3. Financial Implications

Budget has already been allocated for the tree planting, however option 2 would require a decision to deviate from the original terms of the resolution. Additional means of funding would be sought to support current provision.

5.4. Timescales

n/a

5.5. Stakeholders

Jack Pine
Civic Society



North Somerset Council

5.6. Contractors

Jack Pine

5.7. Crime & Disorder (councils have a legal duty to consider impact)

Historically, there have been issues with vandalism, particularly of young trees trying to become established. There would need to be a consideration of this impact within any ongoing maintenance.

5.8. Biodiversity (councils have a legal duty to consider impact)

Careful consideration would be given as to the best options for tree planting based on the surrounding environment of identified planting areas. This would be done with increasing biodiversity in mind.

5.9. Privacy Impact (consider Privacy Impact assessment)

N/a

5.10. Equality & Diversity (councils have a legal duty to consider impact)

N/a

6. Appendices

n/a

7. Members are recommended to:

1. Provide direction as to options 1 and 2, whether there is a preference, or a mixed approach would be preferred.
2. Should option 2 be the preference, review the original resolution which was made at the Policy and Finance Committee in October 2022, and provide the new Finance and General Purposes Committee with a report updating them of the change of resolution.
3. Provide direction with regards to exploring income streams, recognising the need to bring back a business case to a future meeting.

Molly Matthews

Senior Development Officer

7th October 2024