



WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET, ON
WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2026**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.27 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Caroline Reynolds (C), Ray Armstrong, Catherine Gibbons and Richard Tucker.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager), Alison Garner (Democratic Services Officer), Lisa Clemons (Grounds Service Manager), Steve Clark (Arboricultural Consultant) and one member of the public.

The Chair welcomed and invited members of the public forward to address the committee.

Debbie Apted, a community volunteer, addressed the committee in relation to the Community Arboretum Management Plan informing that she had the privilege of leading an environmental think tank during the Sea Monster installation in 2022, which sparked wider conversations about the town's relationship with nature, energy and the future of Weston-super-Mare. One positive legacy from this work was the creation of the Weston Tree and Plant Group and a community tree nursery, where initial discussions quickly developed into practical action through local volunteers and expertise. She explained that the proposed Community Arboretum is a natural continuation of this movement, helping reconnect people—particularly young people—with trees and nature, while improving canopy cover, biodiversity and air quality, and providing an accessible outdoor learning space for all. Debbie added that the arboretum would also support Weston's developing identity as a forward-thinking town engaged in climate action and complement initiatives such as the emerging Weston Forest project. She concluded by requesting that the council approves the Community Arboretum Management Plan.

The Chair thanked the member of the public for their address.

336 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitution

Apologies were received from Councillors Peter Crew, John Carson, Tim Taylor and Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz with no substitutions.

It was noted that Councillor Marcia Pepperall was not in attendance.

337	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Councillor Gibbons declared a non-pecuniary interest as member of North Somerset Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee</p>
338	<p>Minutes of the previous Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 4th February 2026.</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 4th February 2026 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong SECONDED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That minutes of the 4th February 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>
339	<p><i>7.09 pm At this point in the meeting, the Chair brought forward items 7a and 7b for discussion to allow the Arboricultural Consultant to present his reports and answer questions from the committee.</i></p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong SECONDED BY: Councillor Tim Taylor</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were suspended at 7.11pm</i></p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL</p> <p>a) To receive the report of the Arboricultural Consultant</p> <p>The report of the Arboricultural Consultant had been previously circulated.</p> <p>339.1 RESOLVED: That the Arboricultural Consultant report be noted.</p> <p>b) To receive the Weston-super-Mare Community Arboretum Management Plan</p> <p>The report of the Community Arboretum Management Plan had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Arboricultural Consultant to present the Weston-super-Mare Community Arboretum Management Plan (WCAMP).</p> <p>The Consultant reported that the project was nearing completion and noted that the Stonehouse Community Arboretum management plan had been used as a template with permission. The draft had been developed with input from the Tree and Plant Group and reviewed by the North Somerset Council (NSC) Tree Officer to reflect both authorities' approaches to tree management, balancing NSC's risk-based approach with the Town Council's focus on tree health and longevity.</p> <p>Members welcomed the targets in section 6.2, including the ambition to plant 10,000 trees, with emphasis on successful establishment and a target of 80% survival after three years. The Consultant advised this may be challenging in high-footfall areas and noted previous</p>

issues relating to younger trees, limited budgets, insufficient protection and vandalism. Stronger protective measures were suggested for future planting.

The Consultant advised that climate change was reducing the distinction between native and non-native species and confirmed that planting in both residential and urban areas remained important despite the challenges of hard landscapes. It was further noted that the WCAMP aims to celebrate existing trees and encourage further planting across Weston-super-Mare, including in private gardens, and would support an application for the town to be recognised as a Community Arboretum by ArbNet.

The Chair thanked the Consultant for his report and recommended that the committee supports the adoption of a Community Arboretum Management Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong

SECONDED BY: Councillor Richard Tucker

A vote was taken and accordingly it was unanimously **carried**.

339.2 RESOLVED: That committee supports the adoption of a Weston-super-Mare Community Arboretum Management Plan for formal adoption at a future Town Council Meeting.

7.28pm At this point in the meeting the Arboricultural Consultant, Lisa Clemons (Grounds Service Manager) and member of the public left the meeting.

7.29pm Standing Orders were resumed.

PLANNING

340

Matters for Consideration:

There were no matters for consideration.

341

Matters for Noting:

The matters for noting had been previously circulated to ward councillors.

- a) North Somerset Local Plan 2041**
- b) Brendon Avenue Appeal ufm27**
- c) Carlton Street Appeal ufm77 & ufm82**
- d) Locking Road 21 Day Notice**
- e) Pavement outside 36 High Street ufm39 & ufm63**
- f) WsM Cricket Club Digital Infrastructure**

g) 12 Albert Quadrant Decision Notice & Delegated Report

h) 9 Kew Road Decision Notice & Delegated Report

RESOLVED: That the committee noted all items for noting.

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

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

At the time of despatch, this includes weekly lists dated:

- a) 26th January – 1st February 2026**
- b) 2nd February – 8th February 2026**
- c) 9th February – 15th February 2026**
- d) 16th February – 22nd February 2026**

The following applications were discussed with further comment and recommendations as follows:

<i>Application Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
2632	SUPPORT – WSM TC – The committee welcomed the application
0138	SUPPORT – WSM TC – The committee noted the neighbours' concerns/comments which needed to be considered by the NSC Planning Officer.
0162	SUPPORT – WSM TC - The committee supported the application, noting that the environmental report had answered any questions raised.
0195	SUPPORT – WSM TC - The committee were pleased to see that work was going ahead which was welcomed and encouraged.
0196	SUPPORT – WSM TC - The committee were pleased to see that work was going ahead which was welcomed and encouraged.
0236	OBJECT – WSM TC – The committee objected on the grounds that the removal of trees was unnecessary to achieve the desired additional parking. However they were happy to support the removal of the decaying maple tree.
0124	SUPPORT – WSM TC – The committee noted that 20 comments of objection had been received, however, supported the application due to local housing needs and demands.
0180	NEUTRAL – WSM TC – The committee noted objections received. Taking neighbours comments into account and the SFRA report being clarified.
0261	NEUTRAL – WSM TC – The committee noted that they had previously rejected the application citing concerns regarding the size of the fifth bedroom.

0274	SUPPORT – WSM TC – The committee noted that previous comments had been addressed.
0280	OBJECT – WSM TC – The committee objected on the grounds that no reason for the tree removal was specified in the application.
0304	SUPPORT – WSM TC – The committee acknowledged that the application would enable care and support for a family member.
0306	SUPPORT WSM TC – The committee acknowledged that the application would enable care and support for a family member.
0336	SUPPORT WSM TC – The committee acknowledged that the application would enable care and support for a family member.
0341	OBJECT WSM TC – The committee objected on the grounds that required proof was needed that mitigation measures (condition 9 noise scheme) had been installed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council’s comments on planning applications discussed be directly uploaded to the ‘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.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.27pm.

Signed.....Dated
 Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee