

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON  
MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.33 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors James Clayton (Chair), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, John Carson, Owen James, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:** Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee & Office Manager), Molly Maher (Senior Development Officer), Wayne Hughes & Chrissie Simpson (CR) and Ali Waller (YMCA).

The Chair invited members of the public to address the committee.

<b>361</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz and Joe Bambridge with no substitutes.
<b>362</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest received.
<b>363</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>  The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated at the meeting.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Caroline Reynolds <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Owen James  A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b> .  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.
<b>364</b>	<b>References from other Committees:</b>  There were none received.
<b>365</b>	<b>North Somerset Council CCTV Reports</b>  Regular CCTV reports had been previously circulated.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> That CCTV the reports be noted.

<p><b>366</b></p>	<p><b>To receive of the report from the Community Response Officers</b></p> <p>The report of the Community Response Officers had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Chair queried the figures reported for the Bournville to which Chrissie advised that figures had been received from the beat teams for both the Bourneville and Worle areas and the Chair suggested it would be beneficial to compare figures from previous years to show trends.</p> <p>Wayne informed that he had changed the format of the report, to utilise NSC CCTV statistics, as this was more representative than Police reports alone.</p> <p>It was noted that the Water Park had suffered a break and entry the previous night.</p> <p>Wayne reported that residents had suggested if the gate on north side of Ellenborough Park West could be locked at night, as this may help tackle the tents pitching up and associated ASB issues experienced in Elleborough Park West.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk advised that practically this could not be achieved due to staff resource, however work on hedge cutting to improve the line of sight was scheduled which may help the situation. It was confirmed that yellow parking lines were also planned.</p> <p>In response to a question regarding off road motorbikes late at night, Wayne advised reporting this through 101 and explained the difficulties for the Police in tackling this issue.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Wayne and Chrissie for their report and asked them what impact did Somewhere To Go have on the town center and their roles. Wayne informed that the town would not function as well without the facility and gave the street community a base with provision of hot food a safe place.</p> <p><i>The Community Response Officers left at 7.24 pm</i></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<p><b>367</b></p>	<p><b>Service Area reports:</b></p> <p><b>.1 Youth Services</b></p> <p>The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Operations Manager summarised that they had had a brilliant start and success to the year and elaborated on the different areas of work undertaken.</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job roles for Youth Workers had been redefined which had attracted candidates for interviews.</li> <li>• The service was trying to combat the increases in vape use with understanding the effects on bodies.</li> <li>• There was an ever increase in Mental Health issues.</li> </ul>

- Introduction of carpentry and welding workshops – making elements of the Glow Festival – film to be viewed on the link within the report.
- Older youths cooking meals for younger youths
- Youth Council – 12 members, very enthusiastic, videos made and funding the Youth exchange meals agreed.

The Chair asked if the service had seen evidence of bullying via social media, specifically snap chat, as he had been notified of some extremely bad cases of this. The Operations Manager informed that she was aware of 3 particularly bad cases which were reported to the Police and that the service encouraged young people to keep messages as evidence. Openness was the tool to combat this and SWAN helped with the awareness of this.

The Operations Manager confirmed that the youth café was open 2 nights per week with a view to extend, once staff were in place.

Members offered words of appreciation and gratitude for the invaluable service provided by the YMCA staff.

It was noted that the meeting date for the YMCA working group, to review the SLA was scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March, 11am @ Weston Museum. Councillors James Clayton, Owen James and John Standfield confirmed their attendance.

*The Operations Manager left at 7.44 pm*

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### **.2 Grounds Management Report**

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated.

It was noted that Allotments would be discussed by the Expenditure & Governance Working Party later in the month.

A member highlighted during the Glow event that the steps in Grove Park were not visible in the dark and therefore difficult to navigate. The Assistant Town Clerk informed that this had been picked up through other feedback on the event and that she would report this to Super Culture for future event planning.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### **.3 Community Events**

Nothing to report.

### **.4 Community Resilience Update**

Nothing to report.

<p><b>368</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Lights Switch on Date and Procurement Timetable</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk’s report had been previously circulated with the agenda which requested members consideration and action with regard to the forthcoming procurement and the need to appoint a contractor for early summer to coincide with the Community Services committee meeting dates.</p> <p>The Senior Development Officer as per the report’s recommendations encouraged members attendance in the tender opening and interview process and informed that the tender specifications, would be written by the council’s consultant. This would take into consideration members queries regarding the provision of a Christmas Tree and Social Value.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Caroline Reynolds</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Councillors Owen James, Roger Bailey and Caroline Reynolds be appointed for the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Tender opening submission on the 14.06.24 as detailed in 2.1 of the report</li> <li>b) Contractor Interviews w/c 17.06.24 as detailed in 2.2 of the report</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. To agree the date of 23<sup>rd</sup> November for the Christmas lights switch on 2024 (noting this will form part of the tender specification which contractors must be able to adhere to).</li> </ol>
<p><b>369</b></p>	<p><b>To Note Street Naming</b></p> <p>For NN4981 Allocation of Addresses to 36 New Dwellings at Part 1 of Phase H16 at the Former Weston-super-Mare Airfield as previously circulated.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Noted.</p>
<p><b>370</b></p>	<p><b>Somewhere To Go</b></p> <p>The covering report of the Town Clerk and Quarterly Interim Report had been previously circulated.</p> <p>A further report detailing key performance indicators was previously circulated to members.</p> <p>The Chair informed that he and the Town Clerk had been in communications with the Chair of STG and a meeting would be set up to review and formalise the SLA.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the council’s SLA’s seemed to have rolled and adapted due to the effects of COVID.</p> <p>Members agreed that the information before them was substantial enough to approve the release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of funding.</p> <p>The Chair stressed the need for the council to effectively manage it’s SLA’s to avoid disruptions to services.</p>

	<p>Members were reminded of the recommendation to Town Council to form a Grants Sub Committee which would oversee the council's SLA's.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Caroline Reynolds</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To receive the Interim report from Somewhere To Go and to approve the release of the final payment of £25,000 for the year 2023/2024.</p>
<p><b>371</b></p>	<p><b>Cleaner Streets</b>  Item at the request of a member</p> <p>Councillor Robert Skeen presented a proposal of a bicycle litter picker on for use by community groups/volunteers already in operation, to utilise the £10,000 allocated to tackle cleaner streets.</p> <p>Discussion ensued. Members were in favor of the concept and wanted to see some recycling options included. However, concern was raised regarding insurance implications that the discussions would be better had by the community groups/volunteers themselves, for them to recommend practical options. It was noted that this would be a be great opportunity for the council to recognise the work of these people.</p> <p>It was advised that whatever plans were agreed, needed to be coordinated correctly with the council's grounds team in terms of waste disposal and it was noted that the council had experience with bike/vehicle insurance.</p> <p>It was suggested that these groups could be contacted via the council's Comms team and invited to discuss the concept further, noting this was an opportunity for fresh air, good for health and wellbeing and to form friendships.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Owen James</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To explore the use of the Cleaner Streets budget (£10,000) via community engagement, noting that this would be from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024/25 budget. For a progress report to be submitted at the next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.</p>
<p><b>372</b></p>	<p><b>Grant applications</b></p> <p>The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The annual budget for small and voluntary grants is £12,500 with £4,500 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£8,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p>The annual budget for Community Event Grants is £60,000 with £54,000 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£6,000 balance remaining</b>.</p> <p>The annual budget for Youth Grants is £3,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a <b>£3,000 balance remaining</b></p>

**.1 White Shades Media CIC**  
**Grant Applied for £800.00**  
**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

White Shades Media CIC were seeking financial assistance of £800 to help with the set-up costs of the Podcast "Straight Out of Weston" as well as some marketing material to help promote this. The aim of the podcast was to connect residents and visitors with the local scene of Weston-super-Mare and to help highlight and promote local businesses.

Discussion ensued and members agreed that grant applications that did not meet the grant criteria should not be considered and that Officers were to advise applicants to that effect.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor James Clayton

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor John Standfield

A vote was taken and was **carried:** with one abstention recorded.

**RESOLVED:** That grant applications that did not meet the grant criteria should not be considered and that Officers were to advise applicants to that effect.

It was therefore further

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor John Standfield

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Robert Skeen

**RESOLVED:** That the application be rejected on the grounds that it did not meet the council's grant criteria.

A point was raised regarding the formality of meetings and in particular , the address of external reports and meeting layout.

These points were noted and would be given further consideration by Officers.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33 pm.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

**Chair of the Community Services Committee**

## **WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS**

Committees may exercise delegated functions on behalf of the Town Council under the following terms of reference, subject to:

- (a) The Town Council's approved Budget and Financial Regulations.
- (b) Any previous minuted decision of the Town Council.
- (c) Any matters reserved to the Town Council by law.

### **2. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

This Committee monitors the operation of Town Council, ensuring a high standard of provision. It considers their further development and the development of other facilities. The Committee is responsible for the Council's Community Programme.

**Membership: 10 Quorum: 5**

#### **Terms of Reference**

1. To manage and monitor the activities undertaken within the Council's Community Events Programme.
2. To manage the provision of allotments.
3. To act as consultee in relation to leisure facilities provided by others.
4. To consider the provision of markets within the Parish.  
**To award grants or assistance to local small and voluntary organisations and bodies up to £1,000.- for one cycle only (May 24) until set up of Grant Sub Committee**
5. **To deal with all matters in relation to) the Christmas Lights provision and switch on ceremony as required**
6. To deal with the oversight of the café at the YMCA and youth services.
7. To make recommendations regarding street naming within the Parish.
8. To deal with all matters affecting all street furniture.
9. To manage the provision of Cemeteries within the Parish.
10. To oversee Weston-in-Bloom and floral provision in the town.
11. To monitor CCTV provision and crime and disorder in the town.
12. To manage the provision of public toilets

## **Community Response Report May 2024**

Written by Wayne Hughes and Christine Simpson for community response.

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Please see below some data from March up until today (13/05/2024):

### Service requests & Incidents

26 service requests have been recorded by you and Wayne:

1x Street Drinking

1x aggression and verbal abuse to staff

1x Bag & tag scheme

1x Criminal Damage

8x General ASB

1x Drunk & Disorderly in a public place

2x General Community Response Patrol

10x Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour

1x Rough Sleeper

### Enforcement

5x alcohol seizures

6 x PSPO breaches Bourneville and surrounding estates.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> the environmental department held a very successful day at the healthy living center, that was well attended by the local beat team, alliance homes and community response. There was lots of positive engagement with the community and one van was stopped and identified as being unlicensed for waste disposal.

I continue to visit the HLC weekly and meet with Councillor Parker to discuss any issues he may have, luckily there haven't been any major issues to report.

I did a joint patrol on the Bourneville estate with the local beat team paying particular attention to St Johns park as there were some reports of motorbikes riding on the football pitch training ground, we didn't come across anything suspicious.

A CCTV camera has been approved for the area and will be put up soon.

There was an incident on Aller Parade last month with a potential armed robbery, CCTV assisted the police with their enquiries, and I have upped my patrols.

The old Mixon estate continues to be relatively quiet with no issues being reported.



### Castle Batch.

I have been patrolling castle batch and haven't seen or had issues of asb reported to me, the play park continues to be used daily and is a very popular area

### The Campus Locking castle.

The campus has been troubled free, and only had minor disturbances with youths that they have been able to manage.

I attended a 3-day enhanced first aid course there and am now fully qualified in the use of the defibrillator and have been trained to use the new trauma kit for bleeds and I have a bleed control kit that I carry with me in my van

### Queensway estate.

There has been a large amount of ASB youth disorder at the Queensway estate and priory school, including an incident where 2 pcsos were assaulted, the youths involved were dealt with by the police and there is an ongoing enquiry into this. Wayne and I did a patrol of the Queensway estate a couple of weeks ago and came across the youths involved and had positive engagement with them, we liaised with the teachers at Priory school who advised us of a conversation they had heard by the youths, so we advised them to make the police aware.

I am holding an engagement day at the end of the month at Sainsburys, and the local beat team and local councilor are attending.

Sainsburys has had a lot of shoplifting by known youths and street community and have got their regional manager visiting due to this and hopefully will be looking at upgrading their own CCTV equipment.

I will be joining the local beat team monthly at their beat surgery and be able to answer questions that may come up.

There have been a few rough sleepers in the Worle area that the beat team and outreach are aware of, although we haven't had any complaints regarding them. Dartmouth Close Play Area/big Worle

There haven't been any complaints from Dartmouth close, the park has been tidied up some play equipment has been replaced.

The hub at Worle will be having their CCTV cameras fitted this week.

There has been some ASB in the preanes green area around the hub by youths, the local beat team have been made aware and hopefully the new cameras will act as a deterrent.

### Italian Gardens Weston Super Mare

Since March 2024, The High Street and Italian Gardens have had 152 incidents recorded by the CCTV control room. These range from first aid situations to theft and disorder. A large proportion of these reports are dealt by Street wardens or community response officers. Those involving threats of violence and actual violence should be reported directly to the police.

With the hope of the weather improving, it is inevitable that we will have the street community drinking in the vicinity. Where there is likely to be, or there has been anti-social behavior being caused community response officers have the power to request the handover

of consumed alcohol. If persons do not comply. Officers report for breach of a public space protection order.

Waterloo Street/ Boulevard Weston Super Mare

Since March 2024, there have been 44 incidents reported via the CCTV control room. These range from calls for help from the public to requests for police assistance for criminal offences. The streets are patrolled regularly with visits made to the majority of retail premises. This has built a good working relationship with Street Wardens/community response officers and the retailers.

Waterpark, Knight stone Road, Weston Super Mare.

No reported incidents.

Prince Consort Gardens

There haven't been any issues with prince consort gardens, it is looking lovely with the spring flowers and being used by lots of people in a positive way.

Grove Park

Since March 2024 there have been 5 reported incidents recorded by the CCTV control room. These range from drinking in the park to the report of a missing person.

Several tents have been removed from the park during this period. The occupants of these tents have been offered support and pointed in the direction of Somewhere to Go day center for the homeless.

The CCTV cameras covering Jill's Garden are working well at present.

Ellenborough Park

Since March 2024 there have been two recorded incidents about the park. Both reporting abandoned tents

The tents were searched and found to be abandoned. They were removed by Town Council ground staff. We continue to patrol the parks along Walliscote Road. New tents and their occupants are treated fairly. With the request to move being made verbally, followed by an official notice to move the tent. The majority of occupants choosing to move before enforcement.

## **Weston-Super-Mare YMCA and Town Council Partnership**

Report for Community Services - written by Alli Waller, Youth & Community- Programmes Manager at YMCA Dulverton Group

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### **1. Purpose of report**

This report covers services and work delivered and supported by YMCA in the Weston-super-Mare areas, from the beginning of March 2024 to the end of April 2024. This includes the development and progress of programmes and services for young people and the community at YMCA Weston-super-Mare, 2 Bristol Road Lower and Weston Youth and Community Centre, Coleridge Road.

### **2. Work with Young People – Youth & Community Café**

#### **a) Open Access:**

The Youth & Community Cafe provides a youth focused, free, well-appointed space for young people after school with additional opening during school holidays.

Through this service we aim to ensure that every young person should:

- Feel safe and welcome.
- Have someone they can talk to and access to support.
- Have the opportunity to make friends, socialise and be active.
- Feel more connected with their community.
- Have the chance to achieve and challenge themselves to reach their full potential.
- Have fun.

The Youth drop-in sessions have begun at the youth hub (Café) and although a little slow to have young people attend. The team have been out doing some detached work in Italian gardens & Grove Park to engage with young people to signpost them to the new sessions. We have begun to use the Wednesday session as a back up NEET group where young people can come and have help completing forms, CV's, and other documents that they are struggling with. We have noticed from our Seniors session at the Bournville that young people do want to work but struggle with completing the paperwork and often do not continue with the application because of embarrassment. By supporting them in this exercise, the young people are continuing with the employment route and one of our young people started her first job on Saturday.

#### **b) Targeted Work:**

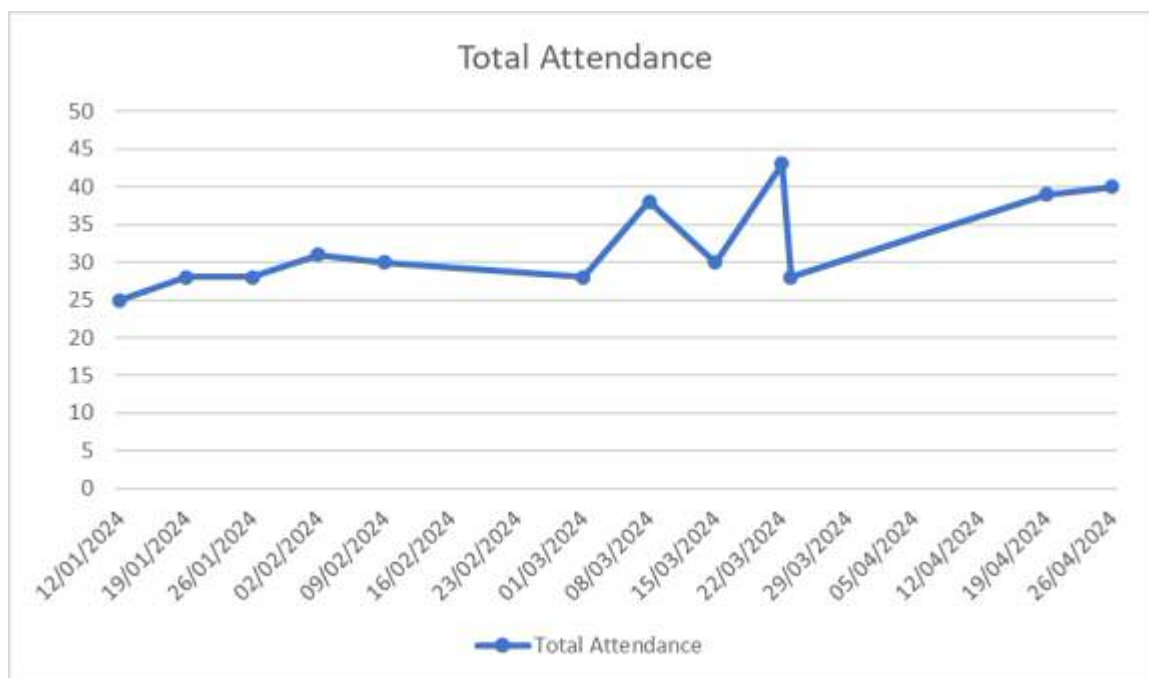
We recognise that for some individuals or groups what we consistently offer may not be easily accessible to them. So, we look at targeted work to support people to access our facilities and services who might not otherwise be able to. This work is predominantly carried out in partnership, and we currently work with:

- Home Education Network - youth project, Every Friday.
- Young people with disabilities – Meet once every term.
- Ups & Downs Southwest Youth Project- Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month
- Mental health support group for young men – Every Monday.
- College Neet support group – Every Wednesday
- Church Community coffee morning – Every Friday
- YMCA Residents engagement sessions- Every Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday afternoon

### 3. Work with Young People – Satellites and Outreach.

#### South Ward

#### **Bournville youth club**



We have seen a steady increase in young people attending the open access sessions on a Friday, over the last few months. As a team we found, towards the end of last year that whilst the young people accessing the building was lower and subject to quite significant fluctuation, there was a consistent number of young people hanging around the building (involved in risk taking behaviour) who refused to engage directly with us. In response to this, the youth team spent time during the week focusing specifically on engaging with these groups of young people. As a result, we have seen them become much more willing to engage with us as youth workers, but also with the programme of activities we put on for our service users.

This term has seen sessions reach numbers as high as 46, with an average of around 35, however it is important to note that this is the number of young people in the building, there is always roughly another 10 young people with a partial level of engagement that do not wish to engage outside. This is a positive continuation of the progress we noted in a previous reports provided. We are seeing a consolidation of our current attendance and the evidence that our footprint is growing in the community as we are welcoming new young people each week.

We are continuing with our effort to engage consistently with those individuals who hang around outside, focused as a team on building strong relationships with the young people with the intention of encouraging them to engage more directly with our provision and access the sessions in the building. Therefore, reducing the anti-social behaviour within the town.

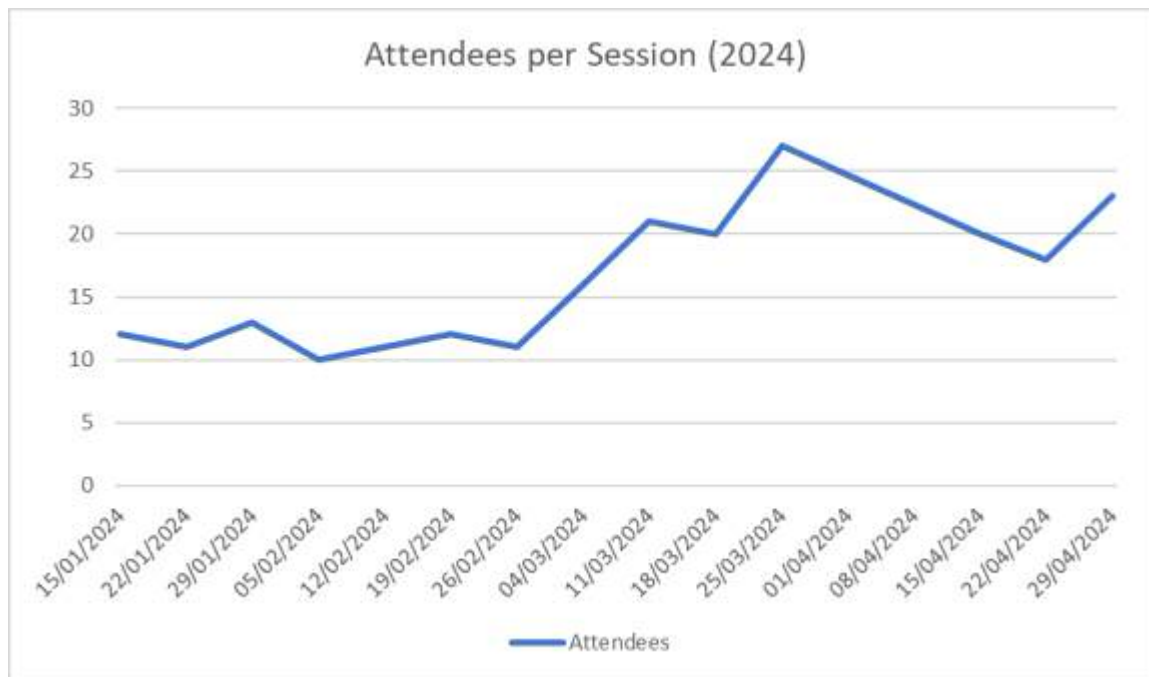
We are seeing a consistently high level of pastoral support needs, centring around health, wellbeing and relationships. As a result, and as a direct response to feedback in a recent survey of our service users, we have taken steps to make sure that we are covering these important topics and providing the young people with the support (and sign posting to other organisations) they need to see the issues improve. A specific example of this can be seen in our new partnership with the 'Grace Period Project', a local charity that provide bags with a free month's supply of period products that we can hand out to the girls at our groups. This came on the back of young people disclosing to us that they could not afford to buy these products due to the cost-of-living crisis. We have also taken further steps to provide more specific support to growing numbers of young

## Wsm YMCA Community Services Report – Last amended 07/05/2024

people experiencing mental health issues. This has come in the form of multiple sessions run by the local mental health charity 'Off the Record", the response from the young people to this session was excellent and we have been able to identify individuals who may benefit from more focused engagement with the charity, going forward.

In addition to these more specific sessions, we have also had a consistent programme of activities that encourage the development of life skills, such as cooking, job and college applications and physical fitness.

### Bournville Senior group



This group was adopted from an idea of supporting those young people that had aged out of our current provisions, but still needed some additional support to making that transition into adulthood. For many the only option was anti-social behaviour, crime or substance and alcohol misuse. By piloting this group for 16-21 year olds it has become evident there is a definite need for post sixteen youth support as numbers show.

The violent reduction partnership funded the first six months of the project which ended at the end of March. We spoke with the young people that had accessed the pilot sessions to see if they thought they should continue. The response was unanimous and from the impact assessment survey the team compiled, the results can be seen (Please see the impact result survey attached)

### Home Education

Numbers to the Home education sessions have reduced. This could be as some of the young people that have attended have moved back to mainstream or further education. We have just advertised our sessions but as the Home education forum is a closed group, the team rely on existing families to support the groups.

### Community Partnership work

Over the last few months, our partnership work has strengthened. We are now proud to be working with the Grace project in order to support young girls into accessing free period products.

We have worked with the Foodbank to offer some of our seniors group an opportunity to learn cooking skills with their chef Amy. This has resulted in one of our young people being offered occasional work.

Our links with the Risk outside the Home team (ROTH) is now in place and we will continue to work with their team to ensure young people feel safe.

We continue to expand our work with partners such as Graham house, and Weston Foyer so we can work together to offer residents a way of meeting peers experiencing similar barriers, so they have an opportunity to engage with peers in a positive and safe environment.

The Community response team have been calling at our sessions in order for the team to be familiar with them and build a positive partnership so up to date information can be shared on groups that frequent the town.

### Youth Council

The youth council are continuing to work on their projects for health & wellbeing, however they have been also busy attending events across the town. They attended the Ramadan celebration at the Winter Gardens where they hosted the welcome evening for the Hildesheim German exchange students. Some have even kept in touch with a few of the student via social media since returning to Germany.

They hosted a Farewell evening at the YMCA Youth hub during March. The food was provided by Poppadoms Indian restaurant. 60 people attending along with the Mayor.

Some of the members also took part in the Reset Youth Awards Judging panel, where they heard about all the positive stories that young people are involved in around the Town.

The youth council was also present for the Town council annual meeting held at the Blakehay theatre. The members enjoyed hearing about all the different groups that work along side the Town council.

### Links to Town Council Strategy

The work being undertaken always strives to meet the presented needs of the community, whilst building the quality of provision for young people, and developing the scope of the work that the Town Council supports with young people. We are always keen to look at addressing the needs of young people across the area and are happy to look at establishing any new work, or work in new areas, that there is an identifiable need for.

## Bournville Seniors – Impact Update Report

### Introduction

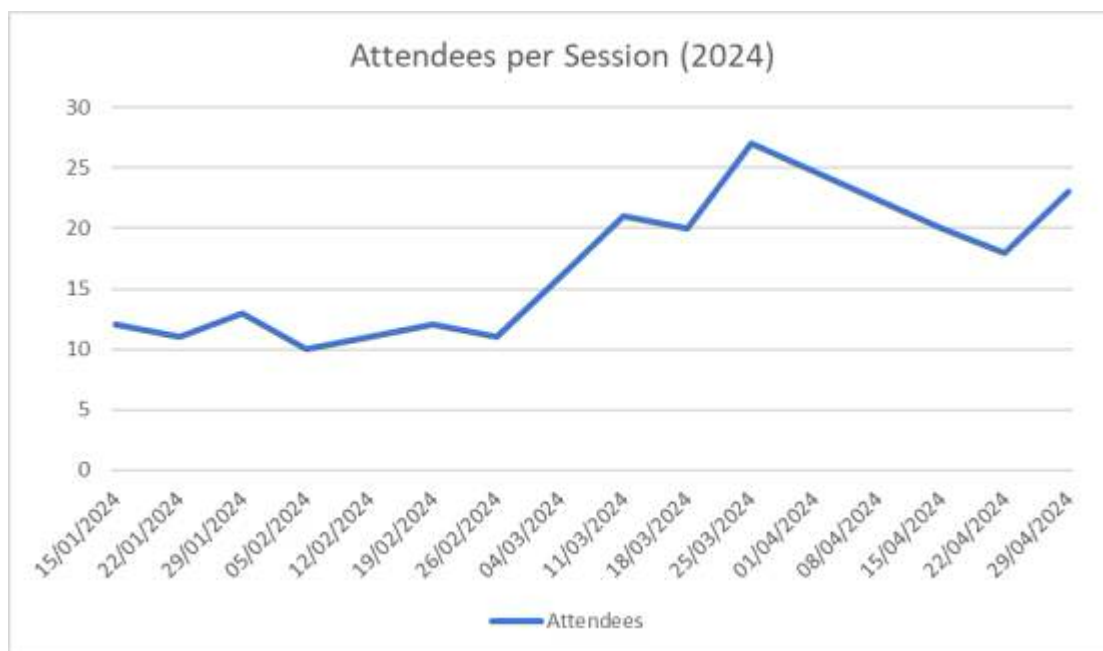
The need for this new group had been identified through consistent work over a number of years with a group of young people that attended our Friday youth session at Weston Youth centre. We noticed that there is still a high level of need in the community for 16–21-year-olds that were not engaging in education, employment or training, and they had aged out current youth provision within the town.

In order to maintain consistent contact with positive role models, we believed this project enabled us to continue to provide the necessary support for this group of young people as they become adults. We wanted to equip and encourage young people to develop a robust foundation of life skills that will help them to establish themselves as successful independent adults. The project aims to assist young people aged 16 – 21 years in identifying opportunities for further education and employment to reduce the likelihood of them falling into anti-social behaviour, county lines involvement and criminal/violent activity. Through this work we have begun to develop relationships with other local stake holders to continue to best serve our young people and increase the impact the YMCA Dulverton group is able to have on the communities we are committed to serving.

The project has been running for six months-

- 30 young people have signed up for the group.
- 2 were in education.
- 5 had left further education after just a few months.
- 16 admitted to being involved with risk taking behaviour, through drug taking, crime and alcohol intake.

### Attendance 2024:



### **Impact Assessment Survey Feedback:**

For us to gain a more in depth understanding of how this provision is having an impact on our service users, we designed a survey to address 3 key areas of interest. The aim of this is to highlight areas of our provision we can celebrate, how we can expand our reach and what we can adapt to provide more effective support for our service users.

### **Questions:**

- 1.) Please explain what it is that makes you regularly attend this group? Please give examples of what you enjoy about the sessions and how you have benefitted from them.
- 2.) If you were not attending this session, please describe what you may be doing instead?
- 3.) Please describe any future dreams and aspirations that you to achieve, and how we can help you achieve them? (Eg. Education, Employment, Apprenticeship and Personal Goals.)

**Survey Responses:** *(All quotes given are an accurate representation of the views of our service users, however some may have been adapted for the purposes of clarity and brevity)*

**Question 1** - has given us the opportunity to have a deeper understanding of why the service users are regularly attending and what benefit it is having on their lives. The overwhelming answer given to this question was centred around meeting new people and combating loneliness experienced as a result of a lack of regular social interaction. 80% of the service users who responded to this survey cited loneliness and the need for social interaction as a draw for the sessions.

Another key area that our service users have raised is the positive impact that the sessions are having on their mental health, confidence and levels of anxiety and general physical and emotional wellbeing.

Young person's feedback-

- "The joy of seeing mates and playing sports which, I don't normally do. My overall fitness and has also improved and my confidence has gone up." PM
- "I come here as much as possible as I don't get out much and my mental health gets bad. It gives me time to talk to other people away from home. I enjoy socialising and the other activities we do." CA

We have done our best to put a programme together that is fun and encourages them to socialise, but also gives them opportunity to discover new skills.

**Question two** - was focused on establishing where our service users would be if they were not attending our sessions and the behaviours, they may be avoiding by engaging with our provision. As mentioned previously the overwhelming majority of our service users are experiencing severe loneliness and boredom and that they would be at home or just wandering around and doing



nothing. In addition to this however, several responses noted that they would most likely be engaging in risk-taking behaviours, anti-social behaviour and alcohol and substance misuse.

Young person’s feedback-

- “I’d be engaging in risk taking behaviour, if it wasn’t for this session I would be in my flat drinking and vaping or wandering around in town. I would probably end up in hospital because of my thoughts of self-harm.” PL
- “If I was not attending this group I would be smoking weed, not socialising, getting in trouble with the police and not wanting to leave my house.” PM

Over the past 6 months we have been able to foster a community through this provision in which our service users feel safe, socially stimulated, and challenged to reduce risk taking and harmful behaviours. The young people are proudly feeding back to us that they have intentionally reduced their intake of illegal substances and alcohol, as a result of attending our provision.

**Question 3-** was framed to give a wider perspective on what our young people are aiming for and how we can shape the programme to best suit their goals and ambitions. 75% of our young people have either applied for or, gained a place on a further education course of apprenticeship or have been able to try new things that have inspired them really think about their future goals.

Young person feedback-

- Currently studying for a level 2 qualification in hospitality management and stated the following, “I would like to do a level 3 restaurant management course at a good restaurant and then hopefully get a job in management and possibly set up my own catering and events company. JR
- “I want to be a chef in the navy, so the cooking sessions we do are good experience. JN

The purpose of asking this question was to assess how well our programme had been received to date, and how we could adapt and improve it going forward to best support our service users discovering their passions and to empower them into further education and employment.

### Service User Journey Snapshot

Service User Initials	Age	Impact Journey
PL	19	Employed - Family and community work apprenticeship. Attending Youth sessions for 10 years, regularly accesses our services and always contributes actively to local projects hosted in the community. Currently studying for an apprenticeship in play-work at Weston College.
CA	19	Not currently in employment as result of ongoing health issues, however has been regularly accessing YMCA provision for over 10 years and is consistently involved in local community projects and is available to support those around them experiencing personal difficulties. Pastorally minded and mature in their contribution to the group in their support of the younger service users.



		Has attended all available sessions consistently for several years, and we have seen extremely positive personal growth. wants to do a dance course.
SF	16	Recently returned to mainstream education after long absence, really grown in confidence. Interested in pursuing future educational opportunities in the areas of photography and drama.

## Conclusion

The above shows a snapshot of some of our young people that attend our Seniors session. All have been involved in anti-social behaviour in some form. Although we cannot take all the credit for their positive journey, the team feel that by giving the young people that attend a positive role model to support them through their struggles, be it anxiety, self-worth or even academically, they have successfully given each young people an opportunity to succeed at their pace. The young people are able to use the group to actively get involved and learn new skills that they can confidently use to gain employment or education in the future. We are now adapting our delivery from the feedback given by the young people to support more young people in future sessions.

## Community Service Committee 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Adoption of North Somerset Council Noticeboards

#### Report of the Assistant Town Clerk

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North Somerset Council (NSC) have approached Weston-super-Mare Town Council offering to hand over the majority of NSC's noticeboards across the town. The locations of these boards would be:

- Royal Sands
- Rear of Pay and Display machines
- Jarred Shelter
- Atlantic Toilets/ Old Beach Office
- Victorian Café
- Grand Pier
- Clarence Park
- Ashcombe Park
- Hutton Moore Leisure Centre
- Melrose Car Park
- Bristol Road Lower
- Ashcombe Park Bottom
- Ashcombe Park Top

In discussions with NSC the Assistant Town Clerk has requested a condition survey which has been received and they appear to be in good order ready to take over.

A business plan is being drawn up by the Assistant Town Clerk with the help of the Information and Visitor Services Manager, as it is felt the marketing and day to day management of these Noticeboards would be best placed with this team.

The Assistant Town Clerk will discuss in detail plans for the boards during the Community Services meeting.

**Recommendation:** Councillors are requested to agree in principle to the adoption of the above noticeboards from North Somerset Council for marketing and advertising purposes across Weston.

Fay Powell  
Assistant Town Clerk  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Community Service Committee 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Ellenborough Park West

#### **Report of the Assistant Town Clerk**

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In 2020 the council resolved to take on a three-year lease with the South West's Catholic Diocese in Clifton. The Council is now out of the three-year lease and on a rolling agreement.

In April 2024 the diocese's Head of Property approached Weston-super-Mare Town Council (WSMTC) stating they would like to give us the park for a nominal fee of £1 and dispose of the asset to us.

The diocese believe the Council are best placed to manage the park and secure its future for generations to come.

The park is low maintenance and has a clear management plan developed by the Assistant Town Clerk, Steve Clark the councils arboriculturalist and Natural England. Natural England who recognise this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) have awarded grants for maintenance works, free yoga sessions along with professional advice and expertise at no cost to the council.

#### **Recommendation:**

- Councillors are recommended to agree exploring the proposal from Clifton Diocese that WSMTC take on the long-term management of Ellenborough Park West, to be included in the council's asset portfolio.

**Members are requested to note the report.**

Fay Powell  
Assistant Town Clerk  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## Community Service Committee 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### 13. Cleaner Streets

#### Report of the Assistant Town Clerk

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At the Community Services Committee held on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 it was resolved that the Assistant Town Clerk would:

*explore the use of the Cleaner Streets budget (£10,000) via community engagement, noting that this would be from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024/25 budget. For a progress report to be submitted at the next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.*

The Assistant Town Clerk working with the town council's Communication Officer and Cllr Skeen, have arranged an informal meeting for groups/individuals who volunteer across Weston-super-Mare to litter pick their local areas and improve the overall appearance of the town.

It was agreed that Weston Museum would be the venue for this meeting which will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 18:00.

An invite has gone out across the town council's already established community networks, inviting those involved to share the projects they are working on, what they would like to see improved in the town and what resources they need as groups. This will enable the town council to understand the need and utilise the budget allocated to 'Cleaner Streets' for 2024/2025.

An update will be sent out to the Community Services Committee with the outcomes from the meeting.

**Councillors are requested to note the date of the meeting.**

Fay Powell  
Assistant Town Clerk  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2024