

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 22nd JANUARY 2024**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.56 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ciaran Cronnelly (Town Mayor), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mike Bell, Gill Bute, Mark Canniford, John Carson, Annabelle Chard, James Clayton, Jemma Coles, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Catherine Gibbons, Simon Harrison-Morse, James Owen, Hugh Malyan, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Marcia Pepperall, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen, John Standfield, Timothy Taylor, Helen Thornton, Richard Tucker, Charlie Williams and Martin Williams.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee & Office Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Inspector Lee Kerslake (Avon & Somerset Police), Paul Borthwick (MOP), Alan Rice (MOP) and Daniel Aldridge (MOP).

Daniel Aldridge (Head of Policy and the British Computing Society) addressed the meeting by asking the council to enhance its role in championing mental health in tackling the online safety crisis, safeguarding children and young adults. Other councils had started to lead in regional launches across the country and the town council could lead the South West in this. It was noted that the 26th January was great mental health day.

The Mayor thanked Daniel and encouraged him to submit his request in writing to the council where it would be discussed by group leaders accordingly.

301 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lisa Pilgrim and Marc Aplin.

It was noted that Councillor Bambridge was absent from the meeting.

302 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none received.

303 To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Meeting on the 20th November 2023

The minutes had been previously circulated.

A member noted that Councillor Marc Aplin's own apologies had not been received and he was also not in attendance and asked if members' attendance was monitored?

The Town Clerk advised that members' attendance was monitored and the 6-month rule had not yet been breached.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Maria Pepperall

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting.

304

To receive announcements and communications from The Town Mayor

The Mayor's announcements and communications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Mayor gave apologies noting the numbers reported were not accurate.

There had been 59 engagements attended by the Mayor and 4 by the Deputy Mayor ; which was a total of 215 to date.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

14th November-Christmas Card Competition Closed

20th November -Trans Remembrance Day

23rd November-VANS Annual Conference

28th November- Diwali Festival of Light

2nd December Christmas Light Switch On

Thanks, were given to all for their support and their attendance at a very well attended event, collaborated with by Eat Festivals.

12th-17th December-Hildesheim Visit

An extremely worthwhile and proactive trip, visiting Foodbanks, Tourist Information's, Museums and forging business twinning relationships where gifts to the towns were exchanged.

16th December-Christmas Card entries exhibition

24th December-Somewhere to Go Christmas Visit

6th January- Multicultural Christmas Celebration

12th January RBL Great Winter Get Together

20th January-RNLI Burns Night Celebration

UPCOMING EVENTS

27th January-Annual Braille Chess Competition

3rd Feb-Axe District Scouts Gang Show

8th Feb-Notable Club Visit

16th February-Old Manor Inn reopening

2nd March-Mayor's Marathon

More information was to come on this.

10th March-RNLI Weston Freedom

The Mayor congratulated Becky Walsh for the completion and successful achievement of a Diploma with the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) which is a professional body in the United Kingdom for public relations practitioners. A certificate of this achievement was presented to her.

A formal vote of thanks to Malcolm Nicholson, the retiring Town Clerk, for his work for the town over the past 14 years was

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

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

The Town Clerk kindly accepted and thanked members for their kind words. He had enjoyed working for the Town Council over 14 years and wished it every success for the future.

It was then:

RESOLVED: That the Town Mayor's report be noted.

305 Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-Super-Mare

The Town Mayor welcomed and introduced Inspector Lee Kerslake, to address the meeting

Inspector Kerslake informed that he was Acting Inspector, whilst Graham Hall was unavailable. He had been in the post for over one month and has good knowledge of the area through his previous positions and hoped for a smooth transition.

He gave a picture of policing and statistics and reported on the following areas:

The significant anti-social behaviour (ASB) which people and businesses were very worried about was acknowledged. In the last 3 months this was 15% up on last years 2,401 incidents. This included proactively sought crimes which were associated with a particular offender who was in remand. The Police were working across multiagencies to target and support this such as NSC youth offending service. The feedback since the offender had been off the street, was that the severity of the issues had reduced resulting in a positive impact in this area.

Worle had reported a significant improvement since 'no2' on the Police's list had been arrested. 'No3' on the list was a prolific shoplifter and it was noted that shoplifting items under the value £50 are not always reported to the Police, as the Police could not attend. However, lots of low value items added up and can damage small businesses, so recording and reporting these thefts were important so the police could deal with issues and build cases to enable criminal behaviour orders to be raised.

The town centre ASB gang was being addressed with ASB orders. The Police were aware of ASB in Sand Bay at the commodore and travellers at West Wick causing problems with residents and schools.

Over the Christmas period, arrests were made in connection with cannabis supply, which was reported to the Police. Again, the importance of reporting was reiterated so that Police could tackle this.

Resourcing was fairly stable with the town centre team awaiting a vacancy to be filled. It remained a priority to preserve WsM's resources.

In response to questions from members, Inspector Kerslake informed that the travellers at West Wick were being actively targeted with Police powers as they were causing significant disruption to the members of the public.

He confirmed that drinking was associated with the ASB in the town centre, but also significant H&S issues with bikes and buses. The Police were working with children's social care and youth offending services to try and help. Operation Avatar was lost over Xmas due to budget cuts but this was being reinstated using officer overtime.

The Police were aware that some of the big chain stores in Bristol were introducing bag searches to try and take effective control of shoplifting. This was to give staff and security more powers but was controversial.

Of the 2401 crimes recorded, 448 of these were thefts of which 80 were proactively

	<p>investigated. If members wished for further statistics, he was happy to provide them.</p> <p>The message is to always report even small thefts.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked Chief Inspector Kerslake for his report and reiterated the importance of public reporting of crimes to the Police.</p> <p><i>Inspector Kerslake left at 7.42 pm.</i></p>
306	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held on the 14th November 2023</p> <p>It was highlighted that the notes of the October meeting had been previously circulated.</p> <p><i>Councillor Mark Canniford left the meeting at 7.42 pm and returned at 7.44 pm</i></p> <p><i>Councillor Hugh Malyan left the meeting at 7.44 pm</i></p> <p>A request was made to receive more up to date minutes of the Youth Council Meetings noting the one circulated appeared out of date. In response members were advised that none had yet been received for the meetings that had taken place in December and January.</p> <p>Members were advised that a recruitment drive had been undertaken and that there were now 8 active members on the Youth Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the latest notes of Youth Council Meetings taken place, be circulated to members.</p>
307	<p>To approve the Calendar of Meetings for the year 2024/2025</p> <p>The proposed Calendar of Meetings for the year 2024/2025 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>It was noted that the date of the Expenditure & Governance Working Party on the 17th July needed to be amended to the 18th July.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Gill Bute</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the Calendar of Meetings for the year 2024/2025 be approved and issued.</p>
308	<p>To approve the latest Contract Evaluation for 32 Waterloo Street</p> <p>The Minute Extract of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 18th December 2023 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the building work was on track and a meeting with the council's surveyor was scheduled for the following day.</p> <p>Members were requested to approve £38,260 from general reserves noting that £16,700 had already been approved within the total reported sum of £55,000.</p> <p>It was noted that the report be amended to read 'indicative' costs.</p>

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

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

RESOLVED: To approve the latest contract valuation at £55,000 and to fund £ 38,260 from general reserves.

309 To accept the Old Town Quarry – Community Ownership Fund Grant Award

The Minute Extract of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 11th January 2024 and report of the Deputy Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer had been previously circulated.

Councillor Hugh Malyan returned at HM – back at 7.48 pm

Councillor James Clayton left at 7.49 pm and returned at 7.51 pm

When questioned The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that North Somerset Council were working with the recent occupiers.

It was confirmed The Old Town Quarry project would report to the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee and that any subsequent 'Working groups' would be decided at this committee accordingly.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

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

RESOLVED: To approve the recommendations from the Policy and Finance Committee as follows:

1. To receive the grant application and adopt the Business Plan.
2. To recommend acceptance of the grant award to the Town Council.

To note resolutions made by the Policy and Finance Committee as follows:

1. To approve the timescale for Lease completion and procurement for the Quarry restoration and improvement in accordance with the Business Plan
2. To approve the provision of £20,000 recognised for professional fees to appoint an external project manager/ consultant with immediate effect to undertake the project works and evaluation for the COP grant. This would still sit under the supervision of the DTC whilst working alongside the Senior Development Officer to enable the grant to be completed within required timescales and provide the essential continuity to the project. The successful applicant would need to have demonstrable experience in grant project delivery of this kind and knowledge of council processes and procedures ideally.
3. That the suggestion to reinstat e the Climate Change Officer post be deferred pending investigation and options on staffing structure and costs.

310 Town Council Budget and Precept for the year 2024/2025

The Town Council Budget and Precept requirements for the year 2024/2025, the report of the Deputy Town Clerk including Policy and Finance Committee resolutions on the budget and the Band D figures from North Somerset Council had been previously circulated.

Total Budget requirement £3,135,840
Total Precept requirement £3,135,840
Band D Estimated numbers 26,670.10 Increased by (103.10 properties)
Band D cost £117.58 (6.39% on previous year)

It was therefore

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gill Bute

To approve:

1. The net revenue budget for the year 2024/2025 as reported at £3,135,840.
2. The Town Council precept value at £3,135,840 for submission to North Somerset Council.

Councillor Helen Thornton formally requested that her vote against the decision to decrease the climate change budget and remove the Climate Change Officer post be noted in light of the council decision pledge to become carbon neutral by 20230 and flood risks to Weston.

It was pointed out that the flooding maps produced by the Environment Agency assessed flood risk did not consider any sea defences.

The importance of Climate Change was echoed and should be considered in every aspect of the town council's our work.

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **UNANIMOUSLY** carried:

RESOLVED: To approve:

1. The net revenue budget for the year 2024/2025, as reported, at £3,135,840.
2. The Town Council precept requirement value at £3,135,840 for submission to North Somerset Council.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.56 pm.

Signed: Dated:

Town Mayor



REPORT TO WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL

18th March 2024

MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

22nd January 2024-18th March 2024

Town Mayor

Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

ENGAGEMENTS SUMMARY

Council Representative	Number of Engagements
TOWN MAYOR Cllr Ciaran Cronnelly	38
DEPUTY MAYOR Cllr John Crockford-Hawley	2
TOWN COUNCIL LEADER Cllr Alan Peak	0

TOTALS TO DATE

Council Representative	Number of Engagements
TOWN MAYOR Cllr Ciaran Cronnelly	229
DEPUTY MAYOR Cllr John Crockford-Hawley	25
TOWN COUNCIL LEADER Cllr Alan Peak	1
TOTAL	255

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

27th January-Annual Braille Chess Competition

3rd Feb-Axe District Scouts Gang Show

8th Feb-Notable Club Visit

16th February-Old Manor Inn reopening

2nd March-Mayor's Marathon

10th March-RNLI Weston Freedom

12th March MFA Lunch

16th March Hildesheim Exchange welcome dinner

17th March High Sherriff Legal Service @ Wells cathedral

UPCOMING EVENTS

19th March Ramadan Celebrations

21st March Legally Blonde Production @ Blakehay Theatre

24th March RNLI Charity Half Marathon

5th April WODS Oklahoma performance

21st April St George Parade

2nd May Impaired Vision Bowls Tournament

4th May Mayor's Volunteer thank you reception

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Weston-super-Mare Youth Council Meeting Notes

Written by Alli Waller, Youth & Community- Programmes Manager at YMCA Dulverton Group

A.	Date of meeting: 12 th December
B.	Meeting Start Time: 18.06pm
C.	Where is the meeting: Weston Youth Café, Bristol Road Lower
D.	Attendance – Kelly (KH) Gemma (GC) Chrissy (CL) Sammy (SG) Oliver (OM) Eleanor (EH) Alli W (AW), Becky Walsh (BW)
E	Apologies for Absence – Charlie (CM) Sam B (SB)
F	Welcome- We welcomed Becky Walsh who is the Town Councils communications and marketing officer.
1.	Check In – All members attending excited for the appointment of officer roles.
2.	Meeting notes accurate- All accurate and proposed by (CL) Second by (GC)
3.	Grants – No grants have been received. OM has been promoting the grants system and AW has had an enquiry on how to apply. Great news.
4,	Youth Council communications – AW invited BW to explain her role with the youth council. She explained about her background that was in theatre and that she was a wellbeing councillor. She told the youth council members how she had overcome personal struggles to do her job. She explained that she deals with different communications- Internal – promoting the Town council strategy. External – promoting the Town council through facebook films like the SEND playground. Keeping the public up to date with the progress. KH asked BW what she was working on. She explained about the upcoming Armed Forces Day in 2024. OM asked if BW published stories. BW explained that these were called press releases. She explained that lots of the public wanted to decorate graves for Christmas with tinsel etc. She used a press release to explain that while this was a lovely idea, it was harming the wildlife so asked if the public would use the memorial hall attached to the grave to pay their respects. This helped to turn a negative into a positive. BW said she was happy to help the new communications office to make short films to use on our social media and happy to offer help with their mental health and wellbeing event they are planning.
5,	Youth Strategy update – at the last working meeting. Members worked on amending the youth strategy for 2024. AW has made the amendments to the document and sent to all for approval. All that needs to be added is Councillor Charlie Morris's information and the new chairs paragraph (when appointed) AW will add when received. All members were asked if they approved of the amendment added. All agreed. Proposed – KH Second - EH

6,	<p>Appointment of Youth Council roles- At the last meeting members were asked if they wanted to apply for any of the roles below. At this meeting, members listened to each candidate's reason why they felt they would be suitable for the role and then voted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – candidate Eleanor Harp – received 5 votes out of 5 and therefore, becomes the new Chair of the Youth Council. • Vice Chair – Candidate Kelly Hughes – Received 5 votes out of 5 and therefore becomes the new vice chair of the Youth Council. • Finance office- Candidates Sammy Galbraith & Gemma Crampton. Sammy received 4 votes, Gemma 0. and therefore, SB becomes the new Finance officer. • Communications officer- Candidates – Oliver Masley – Received 5 votes out of 5 and therefore becomes the new communications officer. • Mental Health & wellbeing officer- Candidates - Chrissy Luciano- Received 4 votes out of 5 and therefore becomes the new MH&W officer. <p>Congratulations to all members on their new appointed roles.</p>
7,	<p>Town Council meeting update- six members of the youth council attended November's full meeting. AW asked members how they enjoyed the meeting. All members said that overall, they enjoyed the experience of attending. however, CL said she was amazed at the behaviour that some of the councillors expressed during the meeting. At times it was very immature.</p> <p>SG explained that some of the comments about young people felt targeted and intimidating.</p> <p>EH said she had attended others meeting but this one seemed more heated than the others.</p> <p>KH said that many did not convey their points in a professional manner. Not great role models.</p> <p>OM said that he noticed that the microphones installed seemed expensive after looking them up and asked were they necessary.</p> <p>BW explained that the council chambers are owned by North Somerset so the repairs did not come out of the Town councils' budget.</p>
6,	<p>Growing the Youth Council -AW updated the members about the progress of recruitment. Four young people have responded to our recruitment drive. OM was one of those young people and we are waiting for the others to complete the application form.</p> <p>AW asked the members how we can continue to promote the recruitment drive.</p> <p>Ideas –</p> <p>local paper- an article about the youth council</p> <p>Youth groups- ask CM to forward the list that was developed earlier in the year.</p> <p>Library - Posters to add to notice boards.</p> <p>Social media platforms – actively use these platforms.</p> <p>Town council notice boards- send poster to SB to distribute.</p> <p>BW – Town council communications officer to share with her contacts.</p> <p>Friends and family- talk with family to spread the word.</p>
6	AOB-

	<p>OM left the meeting at 19.19pm</p> <p>Work Experience - KH asked BW if it was possible to do work experience with the Town Council. BW said she would be happy to have a meeting to discuss the possibility of this going ahead.</p> <p>CL said Weston was not a great place for young people, and she remembered someone telling her about the broken window effect. She asked what they had meant. AW explained and said that there is a lot going on, however young people may not know how to find out about things or even access them.</p> <p>SG said young people have a bad reputation because of a small group of young people, so we need to change perceptions and highlight good things about young people to undo the bias.</p> <p>KH said that it would be good to have more in the town for young people. AW said that the Youth Council had the opportunity to look to see if they could find out more and promote opportunities for young people.</p>
9,	<p>Meeting dates for coming year- To be confirmed at the next meeting. 16th January 2024 13th February 2024 12th March 2024 16th April 2024 14th May 2024 11th June 2024 9th July 2024</p>
9	<p>Full Meeting ended – 19.35pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting – 16th January 2024</p>

Weston-super-Mare Youth Council Meeting Notes

Written by Alli Waller, Youth & Community- Programmes Manager at YMCA Dulverton Group

A.	Date of meeting: 16 th January
B.	Meeting Start Time: 18.07pm
C.	Where is the meeting: Weston Youth Café, Bristol Road Lower
D.	Attendance – Kelly (KH) Gemma (GC) Chrissy (CL) Sammy (SG) Oliver (OM) Eleanor (EH) Natalie (NM) Ian (IR) Mylee (MRD) Alli W (AW), Councillor Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz (CPM)
E	Apologies for Absence – Charlie (CM) Sam B (SB)
F	Welcome- EH welcomed the three new members to the meeting and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.
1.	Check In – All well and good to see new members
2.	Meeting notes accurate- All accurate and proposed by (KH) Second by (CL)
3.	Grants – No grants have been received.
4,	Youth Council communications – EH said it would be good to restart using our social media platforms. AW explained that at a previous meeting the members had agreed that they would use FB & Instagram as their preferred social media platforms. CL said she still thought Tic Toc would be a good platform. AW said maybe to start with the two platforms they already have and get them up and running. As we already had these set up. It would be a good idea for our new communications officer to contact Lauren Easterbrook (LH) as she had set up the platforms, so she would be able to set OM up as an admin. EH explained that it would be an idea to highlight one youth council member each month on the platforms as this would promote the work we do and encourage more members to join. AW said as EH had done a few paragraphs for the youth strategy paper it would make sense to start with her. All members agreed. OM to contact (LM)
5,	Youth Grants Process- EH told members that SP was delayed at another meeting and would be arriving around 6.30pm so we would move the Youth Grants process further down the agenda.
5,	Youth Strategy update – EH told the members that AW had added all the amendments as requested to the 2024 youth strategy. AW said all that had to be added was the photo of EH and the paper was ready. EH asked all members to take a few minutes to read through. EH then asked all members to approve the final draft. All approved Proposed – KH Second - CL

6,	<p>Youth Exchange – AW explained to the members that the Hildesheim youth exchange is taking place in March and YMCA will be hosting a welcome and farewell party for the exchange students as well as an activity session AW asked if the members would like to meet the students whilst they are here as they would be welcome to come along to the events.</p> <p>All members said they would like to get involved. CL said would there be an opportunity for them to visit Germany. GC said she would also be interested in the exchange. AW said she if the opportunity arises, she will let them know.</p> <p>The dates for the exchange events are- 16th March – activity session 2-5pm @Weston youth centre, BS23 3UP 19th March – Welcome party @Weston Youth Café, BS23 2PN 26th March – Farewell Party@ Weston Youth Café, BS23 2PN</p>
	<p>SP joined the meeting at 6.30pm</p>
7,	<p>Youth Grants Process- EH welcomed SP to the meeting to talk about the grants process.</p> <p>SP explained that she was the head of finance and deputy Town clerk for Weston Town Council. She explained that the Youth council had two pots of money. The first was a grant budget of £3,000. Youth groups could apply for a grant up to the value of £500. Applications go to the Town council, and they check the applications are filled out correctly. They are then sent to the youth council for consideration and it is then up to the members to decide whether they grant the money. SP said there hadn't been any applications for a few years so it would be great to see applications again and the youth council would be the best to promote this to any youth groups. The second pot of money is £500. This is for the youth council to spend on anything they feel is relevant, i.e., printing posters, hoodies, or a trip to parliament. AW said this was the pot of money they could use to help promote their mental health awareness day. EH then asked the members if there were any questions. EH asked what happens to the grant money if it is not spent. SP said the money goes back into the Town council's central fund. AW said that the youth council needed to spend the money, so they didn't lose it. SP said if they start using the money and find it is not enough, they can apply to raise the amount. She begins to prepare the budget for the following year in September so an application to raise the amount would be made then, if needed.</p> <p>EH thanks SP for coming and she was welcome to stay for the rest of the meeting. SP said she would like to stay.</p>
6	<p>AOB –</p> <p>Working meetings- AW explained that it would be good to get dates for the working meeting in the diary. AW said the option was either afterschool, a weekend or after a meeting. OM, GC & CL said afterschool wouldn't work for them EH said after the meeting was ok. SG said she struggled with concentrating for over two hours so would need a break in between. CL said she would appreciate a break so what about starting the main meeting at 6pm as usual, then when the meeting finished have a 15-minute break before starting the working meeting. OM said, let's try it out at the February meeting.</p> <p>All agreed.</p> <p>Proposed – GC Secoded- OM</p>

	<p>Work experience-</p> <p>AW told the members that she had been asked by the Town Council officers what young people would want from work experience with them as they wanted to offer a good positive experience.</p> <p>KH said he would want a deeper understanding of how the council works. Personally, he was interested in the social media side, what is allowed to be sent, like the behind the scenes.</p> <p>OM said find out about each role would be interesting.</p> <p>GC, said yes knowing how the Town council work.</p> <p>AW said she would feed this back to the officers.</p> <p>SP told members that if it was helpful, she would be happy to organise a day in the life of the Town Council for Youth council members during the holidays. OM said that would be interesting. KH agreed it would be good to see how they worked. All other members agreed. AW & SP to set a date in the holidays.</p>
9,	<p>Meeting dates for coming year-</p> <p>To be confirmed at the next meeting.</p> <p>16th January 2024</p> <p>13th February 2024</p> <p>12th March 2024</p> <p>16th April 2024</p> <p>14th May 2024</p> <p>11th June 2024</p> <p>9th July 2024</p>
9	<p>Meeting ended – 19.12pm</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting – 20th February 2024 to include a working meeting after.</p>

Weston-super-Mare Town Councillors Committee Membership & External Liaison Bodies
2023/2024 (For approval by Town Council on 18th March 2024)

(NB Political group column indicative only (based on method of calculation for principal councils) but can be changed by agreement of Town Council/Groups)

No of Members	Political Group	Town Councillor	Responsible for/to	Meeting Frequency
Policy & Finance Committee (Quorum 5)			Main policy making Committee of the Council, considers the broad social and economic needs of the Parish	Bi-monthly
1	LAB	Alan Peak ©		
2	LAB	Tim Taylor		
3	LAB	Helen Thornton		
4	LAB	Hugh Malyan		
5	CON	Gill Bute		
6	CON	Lisa Pilgrim		
7	CON	Martin Williams		
8	LIB DEM	Mark Canniford (VC)		
9	LIB DEM	John Crockford-Hawley		
10	LIB DEM	Robert Payne		
Community Services Committee (Quorum 5)			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.	Bi-monthly
1	LAB	James Clayton ©		
2	LAB	Robert Skeen		
3	LAB	Owen James		
4	LAB	John Carson		
5	CON	Roger Bailey		
6	CON	Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz		
7	CON	John Standfield		
8	LIB DEM	Ray Armstrong		
9	LIB DEM	Joe Bambridge (VC)		
10	LIB DEM	Caroline Reynolds		
Tourism and Leisure Committee (Quorum 5)			Deals with all aspects of tourism to the town together with the Town Council's parks, play areas (including the Water Park) and outdoor sports and leisure facilities.	Bi-monthly
1	LAB	Richard Tucker		
2	LAB	Catherine Gibbons		
3	LAB	Simon Harrison-Morse (VC)		
4	LAB	Annabelle Chard		
5	CON	Peter Crew ©		

6	CON	Roger Bailey				
7	CON	John Standfield				
8	LIB DEM	Joe Bambridge				
9	LIB DEM	Mike Bell				
10	LIB DEM	Caroline Reynolds				
Personnel Committee (Quorum 4)					The Personnel Committee considers all policy aspects of human resources and personnel including establishment, grading and conditions of service.	Quarterly
1	LAB	Tim Taylor ©				
2	LAB	Catherine Gibbons				
3	LAB	Charles Williams				
4	LAB	Annabelle Chard				
5	CON	Gill Bute				
6	CON	Martin Williams (VC)				
7	CON	Marcia Pepperall				
8	LIB DEM	Mark Canniford				
9	LIB DEM	Jemma Coles				
Planning Committee (Quorum 4)			Statutory Consultee for Planning Applications, Development Plans, Transport, Public Paths, Highways, Traffic Management, Vehicle Parking and Disabled Parking Bays	Every 4 weeks		
1	LAB	Alan Peak © 				
2	LAB	Tim Taylor				
3	LAB	Richard Tucker				
4	LAB	Simon Harrison-Morse				
5	CON	Marcia Pepperall				
6	CON	Peter Crew				
7	LIB DEM	Ray Armstrong (VC)				
8	LIB DEM	Caroline Reynolds				
Heritage Arts & Culture Committee (Quorum 3)			Deals with all heritage, arts and culture related issues, including but not limited to the Weston Museum, The Old Town Quarry and Blakehay Theatre.	Bi Monthly (excluding peak season)		
1	LAB	Helen Thornton				
2	LAB	Catherine Gibbons				
3	LAB	Charlie Williams				
4	CON	John Standfield				
5	CON	Peter Crew (VC)				
6	LIB DEM	John Crockford-Hawley ©				
7	LIB DEM	Jemma Coles				
& co-opted members						

Grants Sub Committee (Quorum 3)			To deal with all Grant Applications received by council including but not limited to Small and Voluntary applications, Community Events applications, Weston in Bloom applications and Youth Council applications (as required). In addition to oversee and monitor all Service Level Agreements.	Quarterly
1	LAB	VACANCY		
2	LAB	VACANCY		
3	LAB	VACANCY		
4	CON	VACANCY		
5	CON	VACANCY		
6	LIB DEM	VACANCY		
Expenditure & Governance Working Party (Quorum 4)			To review the efficiency, effectiveness and social value of all town council services, functions and policies and to make recommendations to the Policy & Finance Committee or other appropriate decision makers under the Council's Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation	Bi-monthly
1	LAB	Catherine Gibbons		
2	LAB	Alan Peak		
3	LAB	Richard Tucker		
4	LAB	Hugh Malyan		
5	CON	Peter Crew (VC)		
6	CON	Marcia Pepperall		
7	CON	Roger Bailey		
8	LIB DEM	Robert Payne ©		
9	LIB DEM	Jemma Coles		
Civic Consultation Group			Reporting to Policy & Finance Committee	As required
1	TBA	MAYOR (C)		
2	TBA	DEPUTY MAYOR (VC)		
4	LAB	GROUP LEADER OR DEPUTY		
3	CON	GROUP LEADER OR DEPUTY		
5	LIB DEM	GROUP LEADER OR DEPUTY		
Youth Council			Reporting to Policy and Finance Committee	Monthly
1	LAB	Charles Williams		
2	LAB	James Clayton		
3	CON	Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz		
4	LIB DEM	Joe Bambridge		
& Youth Cllrs			To work alongside the community under the direction of the Community Services Committee to promote the floral and visual enhancement of Weston-super-Mare as part of its 'In Bloom' Campaign, pursue sustainable development initiatives, improve	Currently reporting to Community Services Committee
Weston In Bloom Working Party (Quorum 3)				
1	LAB	Helen Thornton		
2	LAB	VACANCY		
3	LAB	VACANCY		
4	CON	Roger Bailey		

5	CON	Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz	areas of the Parish and make recommendations to the Council regarding participation in external competitions e.g. South West in Bloom.	
6	LIB DEM	Ray Armstrong		
& co-opted members				
Climate Change Working Party (Quorum 2)			To oversee and action the Council's Climate Change Commitment to become net carbon neutral by 2030 and the Road Map to Zero making recommendations to the Town Council	Currently Report to E&G
1	LAB	Catherine Gibbons		
2	LAB	Helen Thornton		
3	CON	Lisa Pilgrim		
4	LIB DEM	Robert Payne		
& co-opted members				
HQ Working Party (Quorum 3)			To give direction for the redevelopment of the new HQ building, reporting to the Policy and Finance Committee	Ad Hoc
1	LAB	Catherine Gibbons		
2	LAB	Charles Williams (VC)		
3	LAB	Alan Peak		
4	CON	Peter Crew		
5	CON	Martin Williams		
6	LIB DEM	Robert Payne		
7	LIB DEM	John Crockford-Hawley (C)		
& co-opted members				
Representatives on External Organisations				
Organisation			Representative(s)	
Armed Forces Champions			Alan Peak	
Allotments Champion			Roger Bailey	
Birnbek Regeneration Trust			John Crockford-Hawley Charles Williams	
Bristol Airport Consultative Committee			Catherine Gibbons	
Citizens Advice Bureau			Robert Payne	
Fair trade Weston Steering Group			VACANCY	
North Somerset Council standards sub committee			Tim Taylor	
Single and Street Homelessness Partnership			James Clayton	
Town Centre Partnership (3 representatives)			Robert Payne Martin Williams VACANCY	
Weston Placemaking			Jemma Coles	
Winter Gardens Community Board			VACANCY	
Wyndham Lecture Trust			Catherine Gibbons	

YMCA	VACANCY	
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Political Group 2023/24	Political Group Leader 2023/24	Dep Political Group Leader 2023/24
Labour	Alan Peak	James Clayton
Conservative	Gill Bute	Martin Williams
Liberal Democrat	John Crockford-Hawley	Robert Payne

Signed:

Leader of the Town Council:Alan Peak.....

Deputy Leader of the Town Council:John Crockford Hawley.....
(As resolved at Town Council on the 18th March 2024)

Town Council Meeting 18th March 2024

Committee Terms of Reference (Amendments for Approval)

Report from the Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

To update the councils Terms of Reference document to recognise increased Asset acquisitions, resolution from other committee's and reflection of current service / project management needs

Members Action Required: To consider and adopt the amended Term of Reference document at 18.03.24 for immediate implementation (Appendix1).

1.0 Background

1.1 Grants Subcommittee

The following was recommended by the Policy & Finance Committee (Minute extract-draft until approved) for inclusion in the councils Terms of Reference. Details of suggested Terms of reference have been produced and included within appendix 1 for members consideration.

P & F RECOMMENDED: To recommend the forming of a Grants Sub Committee, consisting of 6 members, to be filled at the discretion of group leaders, to Full Council for consideration

1.2 Old Town Quarry

The transfer of the lease to the Town Council is imminent and as such there is a requirement to include this Asset within the current Terms of Reference.

1.3 Other Amendments for consideration

- a) Following difficulties with member attendance, times of meetings and appointment of a Working Group Chair it is suggested the Climate Change Working Group duties to transfer to the Expenditure and Governance Working Party and are reflected in the Terms of Refence accordingly.
- b) Christmas Lights – the provision of Christmas lights does not currently sit with any committee, as such by default this has gone to Policy & Finance Committee in past years, however from a budgetary perspective its sits within the Community Services Budget. It is therefore recommended that the Christmas Lights (procurement and switch on event) reports to the Community Services Committee.

2.0 Options for Council

- a) Approve suggested changes included in appendix 1
- b) Make recommendation for any changes to appendix 1

3.0 Reason for Recommendation

With reference to;

3.1.1 Grants Sub Committee

Formal recommendation from Policy & Finance Committee 19.02.24 following review by Expenditure and Governance Working party 18.01.24

3.1.2 Old Town Quarry

Does not currently sit with any committee under the Council's current Terms of Reference

3.1.3 Other Amendments

There is no reflection of current practice with the current Terms of Reference with regard to the Climate Change Working Group

4.0 Expected Benefits

With reference to;

4.1.1 Grants Subcommittee

Objective: To maximise efficiency (staff and councillors time), reduce pressure on relevant committee's (Community Services / HAC), ensure a consistent approach to all grant applications received, have full awareness of all grant budgets and prior applications received / awarded, have a structured approach to approval in line with the council's strategy.

4.1.2 Old Town Quarry

Objective: To allocate delegated authority and reporting to relevant committee

4.1.3 Other Amendments

Objective: To ensure all relevant activities and projects are reviewed by and have a nominated place to report to as routine within the committee terms of reference document.

5.0 Implications

5.1 Legal

The council has a legal ability to delegate authority via its terms of reference (Standing order 25.1)

5.2 Risks

None

5.3 Financial Implications

None

5.4 Timescales

For implementation with immediate effect

5.5 Stakeholders

n/a

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

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference document (Draft @ 18.03.24)

Members are recommended to:

1. Consider and formally adopt the amended Terms of Reference for use with immediate effect.

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

- 1. Policy and Finance Committee**
- 2. Community Services Committee**
- 3. Tourism and Leisure Committee**
- 4. Personnel Committee**
- 5. Appeals Committee**
- 6. Planning Committee**
- 7. Heritage Arts and Culture Committee**
- 8. Expenditure and Governance Working Party**
- 9. Weston in Bloom Working Party**
- 10. HQ Working Party**
- 11. Climate Change Working Party**
- 12. Grants Sub Committee**
- 13. Delegations**

Committees may exercise delegated functions on behalf of the Town Council under the following terms of reference, subject to: The Town Council's approved Budget and Financial Regulations. Any previous minuted decision of the Town Council. Any matters reserved to the Town Council by law.

1. POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Policy and Finance Committee is the main policy making Committee of the Council and considers the broad social and economic needs of the Parish.

Membership: 10 **Quorum:** 5

Terms of Reference

1. To guide the Council in the formulation of its objectives.
2. To identify the need for new services and facilities.
3. To be responsible for allocating and controlling the financial and manpower resources of the Council.
4. To advise the Council on the distribution of functions between Committees and Sub Committees and any major policy changes in the Council's management or administrative procedures.
5. To consider the financial estimates of the Council and recommend the precept to be levied.
6. To be responsible for the Council's Revenue and Capital Budget and the works scheduled therein.
7. To be responsible for the collection of all revenue, the raising and renewal of loans and insurance.
8. To be responsible for the banking, financial and accounting methods adopted by the Council.
9. To authorise Members' attendance at conferences, courses and meetings.
10. To make appointments to outside bodies between Annual Meetings of the Council.

11. To respond to consultative documents from Government and other bodies other than those specifically allocated to other Committees or Sub-Committees.
12. To enter into legal proceedings on the Council's behalf.
13. To consider the delegation of appropriate services to the Town Council from other authorities.
14. Appointments and nominations to outside bodies which are required or fall vacant between Annual Meetings of the Council.
15. To respond to consultations from Government and other bodies that will not admit of delay.
16. To deal with applications for small and voluntary grants or assistance over £1,000.
17. To manage health and safety policy and issues.
18. To manage and maintain expenditure for maintenance and determine emergency
19. repairs, safety and upkeep of the Council's land, buildings and premises.
20. To deal with matters not normally dealt with or specifically referred to other Committees or Sub-Committees.

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

This Committee monitors the operation of The 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.~~
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

3. TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

The Tourism and Leisure Committee deals with all aspects of tourism to the town together with the Town Council's parks, play areas (including the Water Park) and outdoor sports and leisure facilities.

Membership: 10 Quorum: 5

Terms of Reference

1. To deal with the management, development and operation of sport and leisure facilities.
2. To manage all Town Council parks and open spaces.
3. To manage the Water Adventure Play Park, skateboard parks and all play areas.
4. To manage the Council's tourism and destination marketing initiatives.
5. To manage and monitor production and maintenance of the tourism website and brochure.
6. To manage advertising and revenue to secure maximum income.

4. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee considers all policy aspects of human resources and personnel including establishment, grading and conditions of service.

Membership: 9 Quorum: 4

Terms of Reference

1. To determine the Council's staffing structure and establishment.
2. To determine the Council's policy on deployment, welfare, superannuation, remuneration, recruitment, training, qualifications, health and safety aspects and other conditions of service of all employees.
3. To determine schemes for the employment of people under apprenticeship, job creation and youth training programmes.
4. To determine those discretionary provisions contained in the scheme of Service of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities for administrative and professional, technical and clerical staff and the South West Regional Employers for manual staff.
5. To determine and approve the establishment and grading of employees for the administration of the Council and such establishments or Council facilities not delegated to the Town Clerk.
6. The recruitment of Senior Council managers as necessary.
7. To determine the training and qualification policy of the Council.
8. To oversee the Council's pension policy and the criteria required for eligibility.
9. To determine the policy for the designation of staff as casual car users.

5. APPEALS COMMITTEE (Cross party where practicable)

Membership: 3 Quorum: 3

Terms of Reference

To hear and determine all matters of appeal.

6. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Membership: 8 Quorum: 4

Terms of Reference

1. To respond as consultee to any planning application or any consultation document relating to planning.
2. To consider all planning aspects of development within the Parish including representation and the use of external consultants or advisers.
3. To consider and monitor Development Plans and associated documents.
4. To deal with all matters relating to transport, public paths, highways, vehicle parking and traffic management, including disabled parking bay applications.

7. HERITAGE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

To deal with all heritage, arts and culture related issues, including but not limited to the Weston Museum, **The Old Town Quarry** and Blakehay Theatre.

Membership: 7 plus co-opted members **Quorum:** 3

Terms of Reference:

1. To be responsible for all aspects of management and operation of the Weston Museum.
2. To deal with all aspects of the management and operation of the Blakehay Theatre.
3. **To deal with all aspects of the management and operation of the Old Town Quarry.**
4. To plan and procure temporary exhibitions.
5. To oversee the Museum accreditation process including making application for, delivery and review of the accreditation.
6. To manage and deliver the Council's Blue Plaque Scheme including the selection of individuals and buildings worthy of commemoration through a blue plaque.
7. To consider and deal with any other heritage, arts or cultural issues in the town.
8. To plan, make and oversee further grant applications for the generation of further income for the Weston Museum or the Blakehay Theatre.
9. ~~To administer the budget for and award Community Events grants.~~

8. EXPENDITURE AND GOVERNANCE WORKING PARTY

To review the efficiency, effectiveness and social value of all town council services, functions and policies and to make recommendations to the Policy and Finance Committee or other appropriate decision makers under the Council's Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation.

To oversee and action the Council's Climate Change Commitment to become net carbon neutral by 2030 and the Road Map to Zero making recommendations to the Town Council or the appropriate decision makers under the Council's Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation

Membership: 9 **Quorum:** 5

9. WESTON IN BLOOM WORKING PARTY

To work alongside the community under the direction of the Community Services Committee to promote the floral and visual enhancement of Weston-super-Mare as part of its 'In Bloom' Campaign, pursue sustainable development initiatives, improve areas of the Parish and make recommendations to the Council regarding participation in external competitions e.g. South West in Bloom.

Membership: 6 plus up to 14 co-opted members **Quorum:** 3

As a community based group, the working party may adopt its own working terms of reference provided these do not contradict council decisions or policy.

10. HQ WORKING PARTY

To operate and give direction for the redevelopment of the new HQ building under the overall direction of the Policy and Finance Committee.

Membership: 7 plus co-opted members **Quorum:** 3

Terms of Reference:

1. To be responsible for all aspects of the management and physical transfer of services to the new HQ building. (32 Waterloo Street).
2. To provide direction regarding redevelopment building works
3. To contribute to and give direction on grant funding applications, and to act as the reporting structure for any successful grants.
4. To implement and consider community engagement in the development of the building
5. To engage with other organisations and individuals at the Working Party's discretion
6. To be mindful of operational considerations and the implications this may have on the redevelopment.
7. To consider the various teams which will operate from HQ: Central Services and
8. To be responsible for all procurement for HQ within the budget set by the Council, and
9. To provide recommendations which will be given to Policy and Finance Committee for amendment and resolution.

11. ~~CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY~~

~~To oversee and action the Council's Climate Change Commitment to become net carbon neutral by 2030 and the Road Map to Zero making recommendations to the Town Council or the appropriate decision makers under the Council's Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation~~

~~**Membership:** Ad hoc, minimum 2 **Quorum:** 2~~

12. GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

To deal with all Grant Applications **received** by council including but not limited to Small and Voluntary applications, Community Events applications, Weston in Bloom applications and

Youth Council applications (as required). In addition to oversee and monitor all Service Level Agreements.

Membership: 6 members

Quorum: 3

Terms of Reference:

1. The Grant subcommittee will meet quarterly in January, April, July and October annually to receive and make award for grant applications received.
2. The Grants subcommittee are able to approve applications received after considerations providing:
 - The application fully meets the grant criteria set for each grant area.
 - The award is made in line with the Councils' Financial Regulations.
 - The award is within the revenue budget provided annually (any additional considerations outside of budgetary amounts will need approval from Council).
3. The subcommittee decision on refusal of any application is final.
4. The subcommittee will review Grant Criteria and recommend any changes necessary to the Policy and Finance Committee for formal adoption.
5. The subcommittee will oversee all Service Level agreement held by the council to include:
 - receipt and monitoring of quarterly reports to ensure KPI's / Outcomes agreed within the SLA are being achieved in order to approve release of necessary payments (quarterly).
 - make recommendations for future budget provision / SLA inclusion (annually) to the Policy and Finance Committee (to include recommendations for a SLA to cease within the terms defined in the Agreement)

13. DELEGATIONS

(1) General

Where powers of duties have been delegated to a Committee it shall be competent for that Committee in turn to assign functions or delegate powers and duties to the Town Clerk or a Sub-Committee, provided that any action taken under delegated powers by the Town Clerk or a Sub Committee shall be reported to the next meeting of the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee (or Council) for information.

A committee may set up a working group to investigate, consider and report back with recommendations on any issue.

Any power or duty which is delegated under this scheme is subject to Town Council policy and the approved budget and may also be exercised by the Town Council or any Committee which has delegated or further delegated that power or duty.

(2) Chair's powers

- (a) The Town Clerk may, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of a Committee or Sub-Committee, on that Committee's or Sub-Committee's behalf deal with, decide or act on such matters within the Committee's or Sub-

Committee's terms of reference as will not admit of delay, subject to a report indicating such action being submitted to the next meeting of the appropriate Committee or Subcommittee.

- (b) That (a) above be taken to include the Mayor in the absence of either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

(3) Delegation to the Town Clerk

(a) Specific Delegations

The following list of delegations to the Town Clerk may, from time to time, be further delegated to the Council's officers at the discretion of the Town Clerk.

- (i) To be and carry out the functions of the Proper Officer under the Local Government Act 1972; to arrange and call meetings of the Town Council and its Committees and Sub-Committees; and to implement decisions thereof.
- (ii) The general management of the Council's services in accordance with the policies determined from time to time by the Council and its Committees, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) dealing with correspondence and handling complaints and requests for information.
- (iii) The management and letting of the Town Council's facilities.
- (iv) The initiation of new arrangements and revision of existing arrangements for the improved management of Council establishments providing the estimated cost has been included in the current revenue budget.
- (v) The determination of the use of existing office accommodation, the purchase of equipment and the authorisation of repairs and maintenance to all buildings and equipment within the financial limit of the current revenue budget.
- (vi) The determination of the level of charges for food and drink to be consumed by the public at the Council's establishments, providing such levels are set to produce an overall surplus to the Council.
- (vii) The implementation of non-discretionary adjustments to the Scheme of Conditions of Service of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities Administrative and Professional, Technical and Clerical (A.P.T and C) staff and South Eastern Provincial Council (S.E.P.C) for manual staff.
- (viii) The granting of casual user car allowance status to staff in accordance with approved policy determined by the Personnel Committee.
- (ix) The appointment, management, development, appraisal and discipline of employees within the Council's approved establishment.
- (x) The delegation of staff to attend courses, seminars etc. relevant to their position with the Council subject to annual report to the Personnel Committee.
- (xi) The exercise of virement within a Committee's budget, according to need.
- (xii) Any action necessary in an emergency to protect the Council's property or assets or minimise its liabilities, subject to consultation where practicable with the Leader or Deputy Leader and to report back to the next appropriate Council meeting.

(b) Further Delegations

The Council may from time to time further delegate action to the Town Clerk or to the Town Clerk in consultation with the appropriate Committee Chairman. Such delegation will be clearly minuted and revised accordingly.

(4) Delegations to the Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

To be and carry out the functions of the Responsible Financial Officer under the Local Government Act 1972, including the maintenance of the Council's accounts, arrangements for internal audit and the preparation of budget estimates for the forthcoming year.

- (i) To make arrangements to pay the salaries and wages of employees of the Council.
- (ii) To deputise for and exercise the delegated powers of the Town Clerk in his or her absence in cases of leave, sickness or if there is a vacancy.

Town Council Meeting 18th March 2024

Earmarked Reserves for the year 2024/ 2025

Report of the Town Clerk / RFO

Members will find attached a summary and description of the Earmarked Reserves estimates for the year 2024 / 2025. (2 x pages)

These estimates are based on known information at month 11 within the financial year 2023 / 2024.

Any other movements in month 12 will also need to be reflected in the final figures available at the year end point (31.03.24).

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the Earmarked reserve estimates for the year 2024 / 2025 at this point in time, approving further that any final adjustments to this figure can be approved by Policy and Finance committee at its first meeting in the new financial year (April 2024).

EMR for the year 2024 2025

Final EMR requirements

No	Description	Nominal Code	Balance @ 31.03.24	Added from Revenue Budget 2023 / 2024 Provision	Added from Received Income 2023 / 2024	Added from General Reserves 2023/ 2024	Returned to General Reserves	Virement approved/m oved in year 2023/2024	Movement needed to Capital reserves @ 31.03.24	Spend in year 2023 / 2024 @ Month 12	Estimated Balance / Requirement - EMR 2024/2025
1	Armed Forces Affiliation	8001	£ 9,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 8,404	£ 596
2	Election Costs	8003	£ 41,535	£ -	£ -	£ 15,000	£ -		£ -	£ 41,535	£ 15,000
3	Blakehay Live Shows	8004	£ 9,782	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 4,707	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 5,075
4	Milton Road Cemetery	8008	£ 2,016	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ 2,016
5	Buy A Block Fund raising campaign Phase 2	8009	£ 3,002	£ -	£ 448	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 1,798	£ 1,652
6	Blakehay Theatre Vols Fundraising	8011	£ 1,345	£ -	£ 32	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 1,300	£ 77
7	Museum Grants	8014	£ 5,452	£ -	£ -	£ 1,176	£ -		£ -	£ 5,000	£ 1,628
8	Grit Bins	8017	£ 3,735	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 3,735	£ -	£ -	£ -
9	Capital Projects	8018	£ 15,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -		£ 15,000
10	Old Mill Way Allotment (only)	8019	£ 20,818		£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 625	£ 20,193
11	PPM & EMRRP Works	8020	£ 51,102		£ -	£ -		£ 51,102	£ -	£ -	£ -
12	Civic Budget	8022	£ 1,700	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 1,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 700
13	CIL Receipts	8023	£ 217,585	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -		£ 217,585
14	Environmental Climate Change	8024	£ 8,810	£ 1,908	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 1,150	£ 9,568
15	Blakehay CRF Grant Award	8025	£ 2,587		£ -	£ -	£ 2,587		£ -	£ -	£ -
16	Com Res - Food Proj / Climate Grants	8026	£ 28,571	£ -	£ 2,717	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 12,681	£ 18,606
17	Cllrs Email / Tablet Provision	8027	£ 225	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ 225
18	Town Council Community Projects	8028	£ 10,000		£ -	£ -	£ 563	£ 7,200	£ -	£ 2,237	£ -
19	WIB	8030	£ 5,000		£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 5,000	£ -	£ -	£ -
20	Allotments - Rectors Way	8000	£ 3,500		£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ -	£ 3,500
21	HQ Equipment purchase	8032	£ -	£ 10,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 10,000
22	Mus Grant - Wild Escape	8033	£ 1,047		£ -	£ -	-£ 79		£ -	£ 1,126	£ -
23	Mus Understanding Heritage HAZ	8035	£ -		£ 4,600	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 2,575	£ 2,025
24	Com Res - Wellbeing Grants	8036	£ 5,489	£ -	£ 1,400	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 6,540	£ 349
25	Wellbeing Grant	8040	£ 38,270		£ -	£ -	£ -		£ -	£ 16,037	£ 22,233
			£ 485,571	£ 11,908	£ 9,197	£ 16,176	£ 8,778		£ -	£ 101,009	£ 346,028

x

Members are requested to

- 1 Approve the recognised Final Earmarked Reserve requirements for the year 2024 / 2025
Balance changes at the year end position have been updated and reflected in the above figures

Recognised estimates for Earmarked Reserves for the year Ending 31.03.24 & identified requirements for 2024/2025

Item 10.

No	Description	Nominal Code	Balance @ 31.03.24	Added from General Reserves / Budget / receipted Income 2023/2024	Movement in Year	Purpose / Description of EMR	EMR 2024/2025
1	Armed Forces Affiliation	8001	£ 9,000		-£ 8,404	Balance remaining for Affiliation purposes	£ 596
2	Election Costs	8003	£ 41,535	Increased from general reserves (due to election year)	-£ 26,535	Election costs provision	£ 15,000
3	Blakehay Live Shows	8004	£ 9,782	Increased from Revenue Provision 23/24 (balance of shows booked) = £5075	-£ 4,707	Live Show Committed expenditure at 31.03.24	£ 5,075
4	Milton Road Cemetery	8008	£ 2,016	No movement in Year @ Month 12 2022/23		£ -Remaining funds for childrens memorial area as donated -£16 £2000 for Childrens area memorial	£ 2,016
5	HLF Fundraising (Local / Buy a Block)	8009	£ 3,002	Increased from Revenue Sales £448 - Costs incurred £1798	-£1,350	Balance of monies raised in year for Phase 2 2023/2024	£ 1,652
6	Blakehay Theatre Vols Fundraising	8011	£ 1,345	Increased from Revenue Sales £32 - Costs incurred £1300	-£ 1,268	Spend for Equipmnt purchase as required / identified by Blakehay Theatre Staff	£ 77
7	Museum Grants	8014	£ 5,452	Remaining balance from Pinwheel installation £1176 less spend in year £5000	-3824	Pinwheel provision - £1176 HLF Activity plan remaining balance - £452	£ 1,628
8	Grit Bins	8017	£ 3,735	Virement approved for HQ Project	-£ 3,735		£ -
9	Capital Projects	8018	£ 15,000	No movement in Year @ Month 12 23/24		£ -Cemetery Wall 50%	£ 15,000
10	Old Mill Way Allotment (only)	8019	£ 20,818	Costs incurred £625	-£ 625	EMR for Old Mill Way Nature Reserve and Maintenance Prov	£ 20,193
11	PPM & EMRRP Works	8020	£ 51,102	Virement for HQ Project	-£ 51,102		£ -
12	Civic (Past Mayor Cllr Russe)	8022	£ 1,700	Provision from Mayors Civic Budget 22/23 (Resolution)	-£ 1,000	Clock for HQ =£700	£ 700
13	CIL Receipts	8023	£ 217,585			Allocation to Old Town Quarry (resolved) = £200,000, £17585 unallocated	£ 217,585
14	Environmental / Climate change	8024	£ 8,810	Increased from Revenue £1908 - Costs incurred £1150		£ 758 Misc Provision for Solar and other Enviromental works	£ 9,568
15	Blakehay CRF Grant Award	8025	£ 2,587	Underspent budget -£2587	-£ 2,587		£ -
16	Com Res - Food Proj - Climate	8026	£ 28,571	Grant Awards for Community Food Projects & Climate - movement in year	-£ 9,965	Comm Fridge £12612 Tree nursery project £99 Food works £755.41 Hub Zero £5904.03	£ 18,606
17	Cllrs Email / Tablet Provision	8027	£ 225	No movement in Year @ Month 12 23/24		£ - Balance of Cllrs Tablets provision for future use as required	£ 225
18	Town Council Community Projects	8028	£ 10,000	Virement to HQ project -£7200 returned to General reserves £563 Cost of showers £2237	-£ 10,000		£ -
19	WIB	8030	£ 5,000	Virement for HQ Project	-£ 5,000		£ -
20	Allotments - Rectors Way	8000	£ 3,500	No movement in Year @ Month 12 23/24		£ -Rhyne Clearance Rectors Way Due	£ 3,500
21	HQ Equipment purchase	8032	£ -	Increased from Revenue £10000	£ 10,000	Equipment for Council chamber plus IT	£ 10,000
22	Mus - Wild Escape Grant	8033	£ 1,047	Spend in the year -£1047	-£ 1,047	Wild Escape Grant	£ -
23	Mus - Understanding Heritate Grant	8035	£ -	Haz Grant payable in year = £4600- spend = £2575	£ 2,025	Haz Unmderstanding Heritage Grant	£ 2,025
24	Com Res - Wellbeing Grant	8036	£ 5,489	Naural England Grant monies Received = £1400- spend = £6540	-£ 5,140	Wellbeing projects grant funded	£ 349
25	Wellbeing Grant (NSC)	8040	£ 38,270	NSC Wellbeing Officer in year costs = £16037	-£ 16,037	NSC wellbeing officer provision (August 24)	£ 22,233
2023 /2024 Provision			£ 447,301		-£ 123,506	2024/2025 EMR Requirement	£ 346,028

Town Council Meeting 18th March 2024
Green Infrastructure Strategy
Report of the Town Clerk / Senior Development Officer

Aim

1.2 This Green Infrastructure Strategy concentrates on what we can do to enhance, restore and develop the natural networks in and around Weston-super-Mare. It is written to complement the North Somerset Council Green Infrastructure Strategy but is more specifically aimed at the actions that the Town Council can take to improve the ecosystem services that their land provide. It aims to promote increasing tree cover, improving connectivity, creating sustainable planting schemes for our flower beds and planters and where possible allow wilding to take place, to improve the benefits to the town, its residents and its visitors.

1.3 The key aspect of this strategy is the crucial role that the public will play in helping us achieve our aims, whether it is through participation in community groups and projects or helping to increase the town's biodiversity by choosing pollinator friendly trees, shrubs or plants in their gardens and locality.

1.4 The time to act is now, and the actions that we take in the next 8 years are critical to tackling the crisis. Not only will they help to improve our environment sooner but will affect the town for the next 100 years, or more. This is why we want to make this strategy not only a practical guide, but an action plan for the Town Council and all stakeholders to deliver on, so that it can be a true long-term investment in the town on all our parts.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy makes specific reference to how it links in with the Town Council's Ten-Year Strategy, specifically how it links with the 5 pillars, and from that creates guiding principles and objectives that meet the Council's aims and also those of other authorities and stakeholders where they overlap.

Many of the opportunities and initiatives identified within the Green Infrastructure Strategy are already being delivered:

- tree planting
- the collaboration with North Somerset to plant street trees
- working with Natural England on Ellenborough Park West
- the activities of the Tree and Plant group
- the support and creation of the community tree nursery

- development of green social prescribing.

The strategy gave the work already being carried out a defined purpose, and a target to aim for. By bringing all the Council's climate related efforts under one strategy, allows for a measured approach to tackling the climate and ecological crisis.

Background

The implementation of a green infrastructure strategy was first posed in November 2020 by the Town Council's Arboricultural Consultant Jack Pine. A Green infrastructure strategy was created by North Somerset Council, which covered the whole of the district. This was released for comment in November 2020.

Whilst the Town Council had an opportunity to respond to NSC's strategy, which several councillors did do as individuals, it was felt by our Consultant that the strategy focused too much on connectivity and ignored other important local considerations. A member suggested that the Town Council should have its own strategy, with our consultant was asked to support with (CCWG 06/05/2021). Other local green infrastructure strategies were used for inspiration, with more specific local issues explored (CCWG 28/07/2021). At this point it was explained that local consultation would be essential to the creation of the strategy. Our Consultant submitted a plan and quote for the creation of the strategy which was approved by the working group (22/09/2021).

A first draft document was circulated to members of the Climate Change Working Group, March 2023. Members were asked to reflect on the following:

Councillors:

I have tried to include everything that we have discussed over the last few years, but;

- Please check that you are happy that this strategy fits with what you wanted or anticipated.
- Please let me know if there are any areas that you want added or removed.
- I am also aware that there are a few suggestions that have not been included so far:
 1. Miyawaki Forests – I have kept my eye on this topic, and they are now developing better planting schemes for temperate environments, so I think these could be included if we can find some suitable land.
 2. Community Orchards – these will also be included in some way. Again, a suitable site will need to be found, but I am in the process of organising a fruit tree grafting day for next autumn, so this is moving

forward.

3. Trees for schools – this also needs some input on understanding how the Town council fits in North Somerset Schools, but we have started to make contact with home educators, and I am hoping that Fay will encourage the Youth Council to engage with us again this year.

- I will also be asking WSMTC councillors to contact NSC councillors about match funding for our tree planting collaboration.

Officers:

- It is likely that officer time will be required in the following ways:
- Management Team to check that the strategy fits with the Council 's policies and objectives.
- Officer time to assist in creating realistic SMART(ER) objectives and input to ensure the Action Plan is deliverable and fits with work streams.
- Officer time from the Grounds Manager for site assessment and delivery potential.
- Officer time from the CCDO and CMO to edit and create deliverable Green Infrastructure strategy document and related communications.

Contractor:

- Contractor time required for editing GIS document and additional research for Action Plan.

Since the circulation of the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy the Climate and Community Development Officer post has been removed. This should be taken into consideration in relation to ongoing officer support required.

Members were given until 31st May 2023 to provide feedback on the strategy circulated. No known feedback was provided.

Attached for members consideration:

The Draft green Infrastructure Strategy

Members are requested to:

Consider the adoption of the Green Infrastructure Strategy

Molly Maher
Senior Development Officer
06/03/2024

Weston-super-Mare Town Council

Green Infrastructure Strategy

2023- 2030



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Acknowledgements:

Weston-super-Mare Town Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy was written and produced by Steve Clark of Jack Pine Trees Ltd, with the guidance of Rosie Walker of The Woodland Trust who steered the project in an advisory capacity.

Foreword:

Welcome to Weston-super-Mare Town Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy – words by Cllr Helen Thornton, Chair WSMTC Climate Change Working Group.

Weston-super-Mare Town Council Wards and Green Infrastructure Map

animals all over the world. It can feel overwhelming and beyond our control, but there is hope. There are actions that we take as individuals, families, households, communities, businesses and organisations that can start to re-dress the balance in our natural systems. By acting locally, we really can influence our own environment and also help shift things on a global scale.

1.2 This Green Infrastructure Strategy concentrates on what we can do to enhance, restore and develop the natural networks in and around Weston-super-Mare. It is written to complement the North Somerset Council Green Infrastructure Strategy but is more specifically aimed at the actions that the Town Council can take to improve the ecosystem services that their land provide. It aims to promote increasing tree cover, improving connectivity, creating sustainable planting schemes for our flower beds and planters and where possible allow wilding to take place, to improve the benefits to the town, its residents and its visitors.

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1.4 The time to act is now, and the actions that we take in the next 8 years are critical to tackling the crisis. Not only will they help to improve our environment sooner but will affect the town for the next 100 years, or more. This is why we want to make this strategy not only a practical guide but an action plan for the Town Council and all stakeholders to deliver on, so that it can be a true long-term investment in the town on all our parts.

1.5 The format of the Green Infrastructure Strategy will be over three separate documents:

- Summary document.
- Action Plan.
- Full document.

**Consider and identify future climate scenarios.

Investing in our green infrastructure will help mitigate climate change and improve our environment and quality of life.

2.0 What is green infrastructure?

2.1 Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity. (National Planning Policy Framework, 2021)

2.2 In their Green Infrastructure Strategy, North Somerset Council used the following definition:

‘Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of benefits (known as ecosystem services) such as water purification, pollination, timber and crop production, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation. Ecosystems and the services they deliver underpin our very existence.’ (N Somerset GI Strategy).

However, ‘GBI (Green Blue Infrastructure) plays an important role in promoting healthy and safe communities, as well as helping to deliver net zero targets, adapting to climate change, and conserving and enhancing the natural environment.’ (Ref CIHT Green & Blue Infrastructure)

2.3 We would go further than that and say that GI is the network of natural and semi-natural environmental features in our green, blue and grey spaces that provide ecosystem services and contribute to multi-functional spaces and features throughout the town. That is to say that everywhere that we can add, improve or regenerate natural features in the town, we are contributing and enhancing the network of green infrastructure features that combine to improve our environment.

3.0 What do we need to do?

3.1 In understanding that we are in a climate and ecological crisis, the first thing we need to do is appreciate what we have. Our natural environment, the countryside, our parks and open spaces and our garden and all the trees, hedges, shrubs, plants, ponds, ditches and scrub all play a crucial role that is often overlooked and easily lost.

3.2 Trees, for example, provide us with so many benefits (known as ecosystem services) that one of the most important starting points is to keep the existing trees standing – this will naturally improve levels of biodiversity and canopy cover!! The same can be said for our hedges, shrubs, plants and weeds and all of the creatures they support. They are easily dismissed but in they play a valuable role that should be included in our strategy.

4.0 What are these ecosystem services?

4.1 Ecosystem services are the many and varied benefits provided to humans by the natural environment. For example, each year, this Silver Lime in Milton Road cemetery (plotted on Treezilla)



- Stores Co2 to the value of £105.
- Removes carbon to the value of £3.
- Intercepts rainwater to the value of £17.
- Improves air quality to the value of £12.
- Reduces run off to the value of £3.
- And, has the potential to store between 5,000 to 7,000 kg of carbon in its lifetime.

There are other ecosystem services that trees provide such as:

- Oxygen production.
- Flooding mitigation.
- Pollution particulate interception.
- Heat Island Effect mitigation – through shade.

4.2 There are many other benefits that trees provide for us that are often not considered as ecosystem services, but provide immense value to us as individuals and to society. These include health and wellbeing through nature connectedness and eliciting the relaxation response.

4.3 It's not just the trees that are valuable in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. If we allow wildflowers to grow, or if we plant our gardens and open spaces with pollinator friendly plants they too provide us with ecosystem services such as:



- Pollination and food production.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Improving biodiversity.

4.4 Understanding the value of private gardens and the contribution that they make to the green infrastructure within the town is a key feature of this strategy. Encouraging and enabling people to consider biodiversity gain when they plant up their window boxes, gardens and

allotments will be crucial to the success of the strategy and to mitigating climate change across the town.

5.0 Why do we need a strategy?

5.1 It seems obvious to say that if we plant more trees, hedges, shrubs, flowers and create more habitat, then things will improve so why do we need a strategy? Well, you can't manage things without a plan. You need to know what you have got and where you are now, where you are going and how you will get there. And because of the importance of trees and green infrastructure you need to adopt a strategy to achieve that.

5.2 The purpose of a strategy is to set overall goals and develop a plan to achieve them. It requires consideration of what you want to achieve and articulating where you are heading, by setting long-term goals, objectives and priorities for the future. The creation of a strategy is supported by recent legislation and best practice guidelines.

Green infrastructure delivers environmental, economic, health and well-being benefits for nature, climate, local communities and our prosperity.

6.0 Supporting Legislation and Guidance for the Green Infrastructure Strategy

6.1 The rationale behind adopting a strategy is supported by the introduction of recent environment related legislation and consultation documents which can be summarised as follows:

National Legislation and consultation documents:

- **1993 – Department of the Environment** – Trees in Towns.
- **1994 – Department of the Environment** – Urban Tree Strategies.
- **1999 – NFU** – Trees in Towns and Cities.
- **2009- Natural England** – produced their Green Infrastructure Guidance document.
- **2013** – Green Infrastructure and the Urban Environment – Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- **2014 – Trees and Design Action Group** – Trees in Hard Landscapes: A Guide for Delivery - published.

- **2016 - Woodland Trust** – recommended that all local authorities should have a Tree & Woodland Strategy in their Local Plan.
- **2018 - 25 Year Environment Plan** – ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’.
- **2020 Environment Bill** – trees are critical our national commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050, as one of the most cost-effective nature-based solutions to climate change. Trees and woodlands also have a critical role to play in recovering nature and promoting biodiversity.
- **2020 – Forestry Commission** – Responding to the climate emergency with new trees and woodlands. A guide to help local authorities achieve net zero.
- **2020 - Tree Council** – advocate that all councils should have a tree strategy.
- **2021 – Natural England** – Green Infrastructure Framework – launched.
- **2021 - England Trees Action Plan (2021 – 2024)** – which provides the long-term vision for the treescape the government wants to see by 2050.
- **2021 - COP26 climate summit** – concluded with a pledge to reduce CO2 levels, keep global temperatures below 1.5 degrees and end deforestation.
- **2022** – DEFRA created an outdoor valuation tool which gave a valuation of the nation’s green spaces of £25.6bn in ‘welfare value’.
- Forest Research – value of trees and woodland for people.

National Policy:

The Natural England Green Infrastructure Guidance draws on the distinction between planning for green infrastructure and open/green space strategies in the following terms:

- Green infrastructure goes beyond the site specific, considering also the ‘big picture’ – landscape context, hinterland and setting, as well as strategic links of sub regional scale and beyond;
- Green infrastructure considers private as well as public assets;
- Green infrastructure provides a multifunctional, connected network delivering ecosystem services;
- Sports and amenity green spaces are important constituents of a green infrastructure network.

The guidance highlights the policy support for green infrastructure, by stating that ‘As part of the approach to more sustainable living and climate change

adaptation, in addition to planning properly for community green space, green infrastructure is increasingly recognised not just as a *'nice to have, but also a must have'* (Ref: Coombs and Hesketh, in Landscape (November 2007) The Green Infrastructure Imperative, Landscape Institute/Wardour communications). This is reflected in various aspects of national planning policy.

- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) – ‘states that development should ensure an appropriate mix of uses, including the incorporation of green space.’ (Ref: NE Green Infrastructure Guidance)
- PPS1 Supplement: Planning and Climate Change (2007) – ‘states that spatial strategies and any development should help deliver, among other things, green infrastructure and biodiversity as part of a strategy to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.’ (Ref: NE Green Infrastructure Guidance)
- PPS12: Local Spatial Planning (2008) – requires local planning authorities to assess green infrastructure requirements. It notes in para 4.8 that:
‘... core strategies should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided. The core strategy should draw on and in parallel influence any strategies and investment plans of the local authority and other organisations.’
- PPS12 also notes that:
‘Good infrastructure planning considers the infrastructure required to support development, costs, sources of funding, timescales for delivery and gaps in funding The infrastructure planning process should identify, as far as possible: infrastructure needs and costs; phasing of development; funding sources; and responsibilities for delivery’.
- Other relevant national planning policy includes: PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas - which has an emphasis on landscape character conservation and enhancement; PPS9: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation, PPS17: Planning for Open Space; Sport and Recreation; PPS20 Coastal Planning; and PPS25: Planning and Flood Risk.

National Planning Policy Framework

- Chapter 8, para 92, section c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure ...
- Chapter 11, para 120 Planning policies and decisions should: a) – encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or

improve public access to the countryside; and b) recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production.

- Chapter 12, para 131 – Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible. Applicants and local planning authorities should work with highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places, and solutions are found that are compatible with highways standards and the needs of different users.
- Chapter 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Habitats and biodiversity – para 179 To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and steppingstones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation, and
 - b) Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Sub National and Regional:

- Southwest Regional Spatial Strategy -
- [West of England Combined Authority Green Infrastructure Strategy –
https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Joint-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-%E2%80%93-June-2020..pdf](https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Joint-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-%E2%80%93-June-2020..pdf)

Local:

North Somerset Local Plan 2038:

- Strategic Policy SP11: Green Infrastructure and historic environment.
- Development Management Policies – DP31 – DP41

- <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/30907%20Local%20Plan%20Acc.pdf>

North Somerset Core Strategy:

- **CS1** – Addressing Climate Change and Carbon Reduction – commitment to reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change including:
 - 5) a network of multi-functional green infrastructure will be planned for and delivered through new development.
 - 6) protecting and enhancing biodiversity across North Somerset including species and habitats that are characteristic of the area, in order to support adaptation to climate change.
 - 9) opportunities for local food production and farming will be encouraged to reduce the district's food miles, and
 - 10) areas will be enhanced to be resilient to the impacts of climate change including flood defence and public realm enhancements.
- **CS4** – Nature Conservation – aims to meet local, regional and National Biodiversity Action Plan targets, including:
 - 4) Promoting the enhancement of existing and provision of new green infrastructure of value to wildlife, notably through the implementation of the North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy.
 - 5) Promoting tree planting and encouraging retention of trees, with a view to enhancing biodiversity, having regard to the Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document.
- **CS9** – Green Infrastructure – safeguarding, improving and enhancing the existing green infrastructure to ensure that it is multi-functional, accessible and promotes healthy lifestyles, maintains and improves biodiversity and landscape character and contributes to climate change objectives, including:
 - 1) The protection and enhancement of the formal parks and gardens from the Victorian era.
 - 2) The protection of trees in woodlands and urban areas for public amenity and climate change mitigation.
 - 3) The promotion of the north slopes of the Mendip Hills AONB as sub-regional corridors for biodiversity ...
 - 7) The continued development of green spaces, water bodies, paths and cycleways in and around urban areas.
 - 9) The provision of strategically significant green spaces in association with all areas of development.
- **CS28** – Weston-super-Mare –

5) Reflect and enhance the characteristic built historic elements of W-s-M such as its stone buildings, **formal parks and conservations areas**.

6) **Enhance its green infrastructure and biodiversity**, particularly the ridges to the north and south, the woodland areas, the rhyes network and the seafront.

7) Address issues of deprivation and inequality particularly in South Ward and Central Ward.

9) Retain and enhance the boulevard effect of the main approaches into the town.

North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment – September 2018.

- Type A – Moors: A4: Locking and Banwell Moors.
- Type B – River Floodplain –
- Type C – Settled Coastal edge – C1: Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge.
- Type E – Limestone Ridges: E2: Worlebury Ridges and Combes.
- Type L – Inter-Tidal Bays: L1: Weston Bay.

North Somerset Council Green Infrastructure Strategy.

The North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy ‘draws support from the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (JGIS) (2020-2030) and feeds into the North Somerset Local Plan (2023 -2038).’

The strategy includes an action plan to achieve the eight main objectives as shown below:



Following public consultation, the strategy was adopted in 2021.

- <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-01/30249%20Green%20Infrastructure%20Summary%20WEB.pdf>
- <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-06/green%20infrastructure%20strategy.pdf>

The introduction of a green infrastructure strategy is supported by national, regional and local policies.

7.0 Weston-super-Mare Town Council's Declared Climate Emergency

7.1 Weston-super-Mare Town Council recognises the climate emergency as the defining issue of our times. We understand that a local change can make a global difference and are committed to reducing the Town Council's net carbon emissions to zero by 2030.

7.2 The Town Council are paying attention to global warming, wildlife extinction and pollution. We plan to plant at least 10,000 trees by 2030, adopt the Tree Charter and create bee-friendly areas in all neighbourhoods. We will investigate and challenge inaction by those in power and will inform and educate our community based on scientific facts.

7.3 In 2020, the Town Council agreed:

1. To review and update the Council's 2005 Environment Policy
2. To undertake 'rewilding' where appropriate on its land to support biodiversity
3. To commission a professional Carbon Audit of all the Town Council's services and activities.
4. To commission a step by step 'Road Map' of how the council will move to net-zero by 2030
5. To organise a public meeting led by Chris Sperring, naturalist and broadcaster.

7.4 These were the first steps taken in response to the climate crisis and led to the formation of the Climate Crisis Working Group.

8.0 Climate Crisis Working Group

8.1 The Climate Crisis Working Group (CCWG) meets on a bimonthly basis to discuss and organise projects and activities that support the achievement of the Town Council's climate emergency declaration and the road map to net zero. In the last two years they have:

- Carried out a carbon footprint audit on their building and activities - they have started to reduce their carbon footprint through installing insulation and solar power initiatives.
- Introduced a cycle to work scheme and part funded an electric bike scheme.
- Increased the option for employees to work from home.
- Reviewed working practices and started to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing paper and electricity usage.
- Introduced a Climate Champion scheme to include and encourage members of staff to facilitate the ongoing commitment to carbon footprint

reduction.

- Reviewed their vehicle fleet and introduced more efficient vehicles.
- Created a community fridge that provides the community with free food and makes carbon savings by reducing food waste and food miles.
- Adopted Ellenborough Park West and established it as a well-being park.
- Supported the formation of the Weston Tree Group.
- Commissioned the GI Strategy.

8.2 The CCWG recognise that initiating swift and practical actions enables rapid progress in achieving their Roadmap to Net Zero, which increases the reduction in the council's carbon footprint and meets the aims of the declared Climate and Ecological Emergency more quickly. They aim to demonstrate financial and social value for their projects, supporting local economies and community engagement initiatives.

8.3 To achieve this the strategy will use the Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework principles to discuss why, what and how good green infrastructure is provided. It will demonstrate how it compliments and enhances the West of England and North Somerset Council GI Strategies and then will assess where we are now and identify the aims and visions for where we want to be.

8.4 The strategy will then break down the aims and visions into goals and will incorporate measurable aspects for the goals by providing SMARTER objectives and performance indicators with timescales to create an action plan. This will allow an assessment of how successfully the strategy is being implemented and provide a basis on which to review and revise the strategy.

8.5 The strategy will then identify how to engage the public, businesses and other stakeholders in the 'greening' of Weston-super-Mare and the improvement of green infrastructure across the town and into the local environs.

8.6 It is anticipated that the strategy will be a living document that is reviewed on an annual basis and will be updated with up-to-date information and results as it progresses.

9.0 Where We Are Now

9.1 When considering nature recovery, it should be remembered that England is the least forested country in Europe (13%) and our environment is degraded. It is not something that is easily recognisable to us, because the current landscape is what we are used to seeing. But when you compare our tree cover or levels of biodiversity with other European countries it is clear that we are starting from a low base.

9.2 In 2014 NSC carried out an iTree Eco survey which gave an average canopy cover of 8.2% for W-s-M. These results were refined by the recent Forest Research Canopy Cover Assessment project, which assessed the canopy cover in this country on a ward by ward basis. Weston-super-Mare provided the following results:

- Wick St Lawrence – 3.2%
- Milton – 5%
- W-s-M South – 6.0%
- Worle – 7.6%
- Winterstoke – 8%
- Kewstoke – 9.6%
- Uphill – 13.8%
- Hutton & Locking – 15.4%
- Hillside – 35.5%

9.3 If we consider that Uphill and Hillside wards both have large woodlands in them, then overall we can conclude that these studies point to a low starting point for our tree planting and green infrastructure aims. Furthermore, because there are low levels of tree cover and green infrastructure then there will also be low levels of biodiversity, which give us significant issues to address, but also considerable opportunities for improvement.

9.4 Recent studies have suggested that for optimum canopy cover and green infrastructure benefits, we aim to achieve the 3:30:300 rule – 3 trees visible from every home, 30 per cent tree canopy cover and 300m to the nearest park or green space. <https://iucnurbanalliance.org/promoting-health-and-wellbeing-through-urban-forests-introducing-the-3-30-300-rule/>. So how do we get there?

10.0 Nature Recovery Networks

10.1 Weston-super-Mare is a unique maritime habitat which is part of a porous ecosystem connecting with the surrounding countryside, moors and the Mendip Hills. It is also on an international migration route.

10.2 By using Somerset County Council's Ecological Network features it is possible to start to map the green infrastructure that already exists and identify where new schemes and features can promote these features in and around the town.

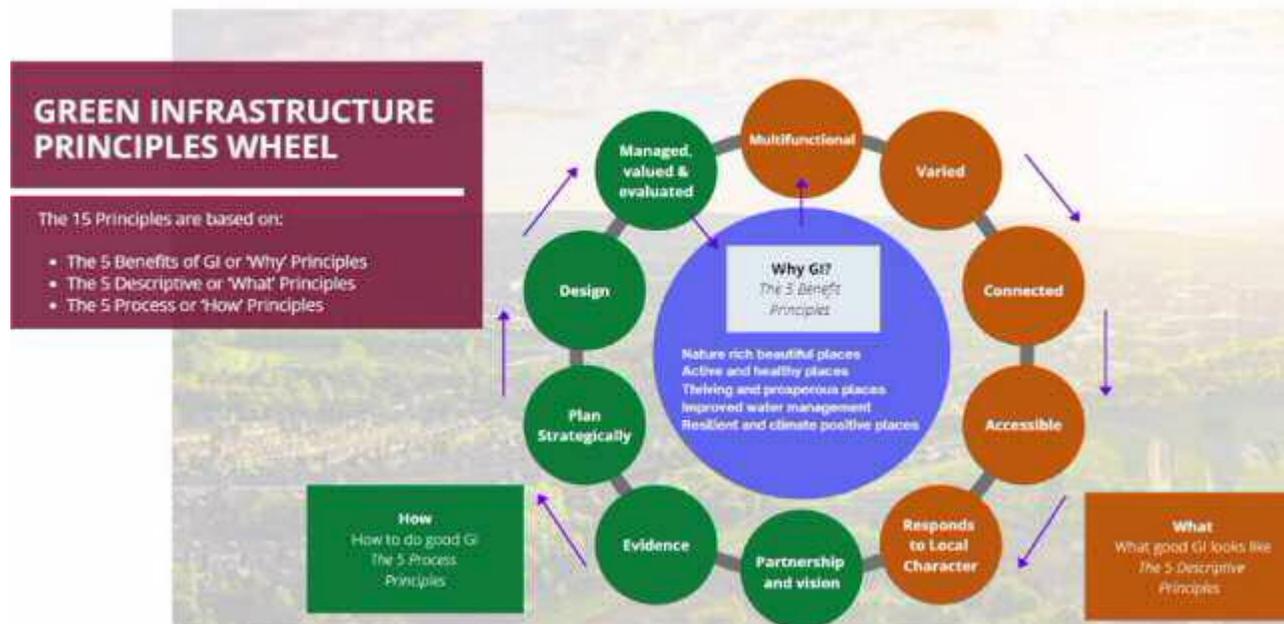
Author: Stephen Clark BSc (Hons) MICFor, MArborA
Green Infrastructure Strategy

Weston-super-Mare Town Council

- **Core areas:** these are areas of habitat that meet the 'Minimum Viable Area' i.e. they are large enough to support viable populations of focal species for that habitat. These areas can act as a source of species that can move out into the landscape.
- **Steppingstones:** these areas of species rich habitat that are smaller than the 'Minimum Viable Area' but are near enough to core areas to be vulnerable to the species therein. They may form corridors of species rich habitat or they may be discrete patches or 'stepping stones' that enable species to jump from patch to patch across the landscape.
- **Dispersal zones:** these areas are not the habitat being modelled (although they may include other species rich habitats) but they are sufficiently permeable that species can use them to move between areas of species rich habitat. Habitat patches that share dispersal zones are part of the same ecological network, and those that do not share a dispersal zone are isolated from each other.
- **Connectivity:** refers to the degree to which the landscape facilitates movement between different habitat patches. There are two types of connectivity - structural and functional
- **Structural connectivity:** refers to the physical connections in the landscape between habitat patches. Often structural connections are referred to as corridors, but these connections do not necessarily have to be linear features, they can be discrete patches of habitat.
- **Functional connectivity:** refers to how much a landscape helps or hinders the movement of species and often relates to the vegetation structure or the intensity of management. Functional connectivity is species specific as it depends on the mobility of the species and the habitat types present in the landscape. For example, a grassland species may find woodland physically difficult to move through or a woodland species would be unlikely to cross an intensively managed silage field (Eyecott *et al*, 2011).
- **Restoration areas:**

10.3 Natural England have developed a Green Infrastructure Framework that provides guiding principles to cover the Why, What and How to do good green infrastructure.

11.0 Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework



11.1 The 5 Benefit principles: 'Why' Green Infrastructure is needed:

1. **Nature rich beautiful places:** GI supports nature to recover and thrive everywhere, in towns, cities and countryside, conserving and enhancing natural beauty, wildlife and habitats, geology and soils, and our cultural connection with nature.
2. **Active and healthy places:** Green neighbourhoods, green/blue spaces and green routes support active lifestyles, community cohesion and nature

connections that benefit physical and mental health and wellbeing and quality of life. GI also helps to mitigate health risks such as urban heat stress, noise pollution, flooding and poor air quality.

3. **Thriving and prosperous places:** GI helps to create prosperous communities that benefit everyone and adds value by creating high quality environments which are attractive to businesses and investors, create green jobs, support retail and high streets, and help to drive economic growth and regeneration.
4. **Improved water management:** GI reduces flood risk and improves water quality by maintaining the natural water cycle and sustainable drainage at local and catchment scales; and bringing amenity and biodiversity benefits.
5. **Resilient and climate positive places:** GI makes places more resilient and adaptive to climate change and helps meet zero carbon and air quality targets. GI itself should be designed to adapt to climate change.

11.2 The 5 Descriptive Principles: 'What' good green infrastructure looks like:

1. **Multifunctional:** GI should deliver a range of functions and benefits for people, nature and places, to meet their needs. Multifunctionality (delivering multiple functions from the same area of GI) is especially important in areas where provision is limited and scarce.
2. **Varied:** GI should comprise a variety of types and sizes of green and blue spaces, green routes and environmental features (as part of a network) that can provide a range of different functions, benefits and nature-based solutions to address specific issues and needs.
3. **Connected:** GI should function and connect as a living network at all scales (e.g. within sites; and across regions/at national scale). It should enhance ecological networks and support ecosystem services, connecting provision of GI with those who need its benefits.
4. **Accessible:** GI should create green liveable places that enable people to experience and connect with nature, and that offer everyone, wherever they live, access to good quality parks, greenspaces and recreational walking and cycling routes that are inclusive, safe welcoming, well-managed and accessible for all.
5. **Responds to local character:** GI should respond to an area's character so that it contributes to the conservation, enhancement and/or restoration of landscapes; or, in degraded areas, creates new high-quality landscapes to which people feel connected.

11.3 The 5 Process Principles: 'How' To do good Green Infrastructure:

1. **Partnership and Vision:** Work in partnership, and collaborate with stakeholders from the outset to co-plan, develop and deliver a vision for GI in the area. Engage with a diverse and inclusive range of people and organisations including citizens, local authorities, developers, communities, green space managers, environmental, health, climate, transport and business representatives.

2. **Evidence:** Use scientific evidence, and good land use practices when planning and enhancing green and blue infrastructure. Understand the evidence for the benefits of current GI asset; and data on environment, social and economic challenges and needs in the area.
3. **Plan strategically:** Plan strategically and secure GI as a key asset in local strategy and policy, at all scales. Integrate and mainstream GI into environment, social, health and economic policy. This should help to create and maintain sustainable places for current and future populations and address inequalities in GI provision and its benefits.
4. **Design:** Use an understanding of an area's landscape/townscape and historic character to create well-designed, beautiful and distinctive places.
5. **Managed, values and evaluated:** Plan good governance, funding, management, monitoring, and evaluation of green infrastructure as a key asset from the outset and secure it for the long-term. Make the business case for GI. Engage communities in stewardship where appropriate. Celebrate success and raise awareness of GI benefits.

8.4 How does this strategy fit in with the West of England Combined Authority and the North Somerset strategies?

These principles have informed the GI strategies of the West of England Combined Authority and North Somerset Council.

12.0 West of England Combined Authority and North Somerset Council Green Infrastructure Strategy Principles:

12.1 The WECA and NSC GI strategies are based on 8 nature-based outcomes:

1. **Improved and better-connected ecological networks:** protect, enhance and expand coherent, thriving and resilient ecological networks that deliver net gains in biodiversity and ecosystem services, including the creation of bigger, better, more and joined up woodland, grassland and wetland habitats to achieve the ambitions of the West of England Nature Recovery Network. (and Somerset Nature Recovery Network)
2. **Greater resilience to climate change:** Provide natural solutions to build resilience against the impacts of climate change including the use of well-designed Green Infrastructure to stabilise slopes and attenuate flood water, absorb carbon, and increase the use of trees to reduce urban heating.
3. **Sustainable water management:** Optimise and improve the use of Green Infrastructure to deliver an improved water environment by working with natural processes to help reduce flood risk, manage drought, improve water quality and improving connectivity to reduce the loss and quality of aquatic habitats and wildlife.
4. **Health and wellbeing for all:** Improve the network of active travel routes and accessibility to green spaces to support healthy lifestyles and mental wellbeing and provide more opportunities for people to connect with landscape and nature and addressing inequalities provision.
5. **Create and maintain sustainable places:** New development which maximises the multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure in delivering resilient,

healthy and environmentally friendly places and a net gain in natural capital by investing in Green Infrastructure for the long term.

6. **Create and maintain valued healthy landscape:** Design and deliver high quality Green Infrastructure that improves local sense of place and protects and enhances landscape character and the natural, cultural and heritage services that they provide.
7. **Support sustainable and local food production:** Increase opportunities for local food production in urban and rural areas and increase food sovereignty by, for example, protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land and enhancing our pollinator network.
8. **Build a resilient economy:** Create attractive areas for investment and job creation and support the environmental resilience of economic sites by enhancing Green Infrastructure relating to housing, businesses and other associated infrastructure.

12.2 To deliver these objectives and their action plan North Somerset strategy has adopted the WoE JGIS principles which are as follows:

1. **Educate:** Ensure that the multi-functional benefits of Green Infrastructure including contribution to human health and well-being are better understood and clearly recognised by authorities, agencies and other partners. Resulting in, increased allocation of funding for GI and a Green Infrastructure focus integrated into the planning and development process, through using the tools and metrics required by national legislation.
2. **Embed:** Apply a natural capital approach in accordance with national legislation and guidance to seek to ensure that new development delivers a net gain in natural capital whilst protecting irreplaceable habitats, and support the maintenance and enhancement of the strategic Green Infrastructure network.
3. **Collaborate:** The authorities, agencies and other partners in their delivery of Green Infrastructure across the West of England will ensure early, continuous and effective engagement with each other.
4. **Evidence:** Monitor and keep an up-to-date West of England shared Green Infrastructure and biodiversity evidence base.
5. **Invest:** Secure investment in Green Infrastructure through the planning process and other delivery and funding mechanisms to deliver strategic Green Infrastructure priorities and its long-term stewardship.
6. **Communicate:** Promote wider public understanding of GI and natural capital, the benefits it provides and opportunities to enhance Green Infrastructure in the West of England.

N.B. These objectives should also feed into the North Somerset Weston-super-Mare Place Making Strategy – WSMTC should be linked into this – however, NSC do not list WSMTC as a partner in any of the projects in their Place Making Strategy – even though we are doing some of the work Why?

These outcomes overlap the principles of the Tree Charter that WSMTC recently signed up to:

13.0 Woodland Trust Tree Charter Principles



13.1 The WECA and NSC nature-based outcomes also tie into the Woodland Trust Tree Charter Principles that the town council signed up to in 2021.

13.2 These are as follows:

1. Sustain landscapes rich in wildlife – links to outcome 1. *Improved and better-connected ecological networks.*
2. Plant for the future – links to 6. *Create and maintain a valued healthy landscape.*
3. Celebrate the power of trees to inspire – links to delivery objective 1. *Educate.*
4. Grow forests of opportunity and innovation – links to outcome 8. *Build a resilient economy.*
5. Protect irreplaceable trees and woods -
6. Plan greener local landscapes – links to outcome 5. *Create and maintain sustainable places.*
7. Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees
8. Make trees accessible to all - links to 6. *Create and maintain a valued healthy landscape.*
9. Combat the threats to our habitats - links to outcome 1. *Improved and better-connected ecological networks.*
10. Strengthen the landscape with trees - links to outcome 1. *Improved and better-connected ecological networks.*



13.3 The Tree Charter Toolkit is available here: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/50957/tree-charter-toolkit.pdf>

14.0 The Forest of Avon Plan Priorities for Weston

14.1 The Forest of Avon Plan priorities for Weston-super-Mare and environs, in particular b, d, e, f & g also inform the development of green infrastructure, in and around the town.

- b) Establish native trees and shrubs within green spaces across Weston-super-Mare through the rewilding project, working with residents to deliver this.
- d) Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.

- e) Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- f) Establish individual and small groups of trees in/adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- g) Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff. Include a focus on the A370 corridor between the A371 junction and the town centre.
- Ensuring that planting isn't the end of the story.
- Identify how to engage businesses and other stakeholders in 'greening W-s-M'.
- Identify how the W-s-M GI Strategy integrates with the NSC tree strategy and local planning process including the retention of trees in new development.

15.0 WSMTC Guiding Principles and Priorities

15.1 Priorities (Woodland Trust & WSMTC):

- Support WsM to become Carbon Net Zero and to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Continue to ensure that existing woodlands and important trees are promoted, protected and well-managed.(Glos)
- Enable the establishment of 10,000 trees by 2030.
- Support the provision of local provenance tree stock through a community tree nursery.
- Champion the recovery of the town's nature and wildlife, aiming for at least 20% canopy cover by 2030.
- Ensure increased tree cover is monitored. (SCC)
- Establish the right tree in the right place for the right reason, through active planting and natural regeneration, as appropriate.(Glos)
- Be open minded about species origin and provenance. (SCC)
- Identify areas/wards with low canopy cover and identify planting opportunities within those areas.

- Improve a create linear features and pathways to improve connectivity and allow the movement of biodiversity.(SCC) – hedges, railway, river etc.
- Encourage increasing diversity on a landscape scale. (SCC) – identify the catchments and watersheds.
- Identify areas where more radical carbon planting may take place e.g. (SCC)
- Identify landmark features/entrances e.g. Beach Lawns, radial road etc.and support planting opportunities on these sites.
- Identify how to encourage the public to plant in their own gardens.
- Increase engagement with public open spaces.
- Identify unmanaged land and encourage owners to support the GIS.
- Engage communities. (SCC)
- Nurture lifelong connections between trees and people, recognising health and wellbeing benefits.(Glos)
- Engage with young people. (SCC)
- Engage FE and HE colleges and apprenticeship opportunities. (SCC)
- Engage with the home educator network.
- Bring people in the profession together regularly. (SCC)
- Ensuring that planting isn't the end of the story. (FoA)
- Consider alternatives to tree planting and woodland creation in carbon sequestration.
- Become a centre of excellence for urban blue-green infrastructure.
- Identify how to engage businesses and other stakeholders in 'greening W-s-M'.
- Be flexible and responsive to emerging opportunities – using this strategy as a basis for funding bids.(SCC)
- Recognise the need for the GIS to be a living document – review it regularly to prevent stagnation.(Full review after 5 years.)
- Governance – identify who will be responsible for taking the strategy forward.

- Identify how the W-s-M GI Strategy integrates with the NSC tree strategy and local planning process including the retention of trees in new development.
- Increase the understanding of the opportunities and issues of treescapes in developments beyond just the aesthetics. (SCC)

16.0 How the GIS principles support the Weston-super-Mare Town Council Strategy April 2020 – March 2030

16.1 The town council strategy 5 Pillars are also supported by the GIS in the following ways:

1. **Weston View** – measures to promote and better present the town.

The GIS will help achieve this through:

- Raising the town's profile through its projects to mitigate the climate and ecological crisis.
- Raise the town's profile by increased social media presence.

2. **Cleaner and Greener** – measures to improve the local environment.

The GIS will help achieve this through:

- Developing improved green infrastructure in our parks and open spaces.
- Enabling the planting of more street trees through the town.
- Encouraging and enabling organisations to plant more trees in the town.
- Creating sustainable and pollinator friendly flower beds and planters through the town.
- Exploring green roofs for bus stops.
- Encouraging and enabling residents to plant and develop their gardens for wildlife and to be a part of the town's green infrastructure.

3. **Healthier and happier** – measures to promote health and wellbeing of local residents.

The GIS will help achieve this through:

- The health and wellbeing of local residents will be improved by the planting of more trees in streets and open spaces.
- The promotion of awareness and nature connectedness will further add to residents' sense of health and wellbeing.
- Promotion of and involvement in the town's Green Social Prescribing network will directly promote wellbeing among the town's residents.
- Health outcomes:
 - Air quality is improved by trees that absorb nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone.
 - Urban trees also filter pollutants and fine particulates further improving air quality.

Trees illicit the relaxation response in our bodies, reducing heart rate, blood pressure and altering brain waves.
Nature connectedness reduces stress, anger and feelings of depression.
Fewer anti-depressants are prescribed in streets that are lined with trees.
Recovery rates are improved where patients have a view of trees and nature.
The shade provided by trees reduces exposure to harmful ultra-violet radiation.

4. A Bright Future – Measures to enhance the local economy.

The GIS will help achieve this through:

- People stay longer and shop more in shopping areas that have trees.
- Trees create attractive environments for business investment and development, creating spaces that we all want to visit.
- One study showed that landscaping improvements in Tameside and Cheshire yielded respectively over 16% and 13% net growth in employment.
- Urban trees elevate house prices – increasing values by up to 18%.

5. Heritage, Arts & Culture – measures to ensure WsM thrives as a vibrant place for art & culture.

The GIS will help achieve this through:

- Raising awareness of the historic treescape in Weston.
- Creating a civic arboretum.
- Engagement with Culture Weston.

17.0 How the GIS supports WSMTC's Community Engagement and Social Value Policy.

17.1 The town council's Community Engagement and Social Value policies are also met through the GIS in the following ways:

1. Community – support the broadest possible community and aim to be fully inclusive. The entire community is 80,000.

- Geography -
- Shared interests –
-

2. Community Partners and Stakeholders

- Residents – are being engaged through the Tree Forum, Love the Outdoors, tree walks, community tree planting events.
- Tourist Population – we are exploring engaging more with the tourist population by providing 'Green Tourism' in association with the 'Love the Outdoors' volunteers.

- Local businesses – are being encouraged to engage by sponsoring and supporting tree planting and Weston in Bloom projects through the ‘Room for Trees’ scheme and the sponsorship of flower beds and planters around the town.
- Voluntary and Community groups are being engaged through community planting events.
- Education services – are being engaged through interaction with Weston College via the Tree Forum and local home educators through tree walks and planting events.
- Public service providers – are being engaged through ...
-

3. Community engagement through the 5 Pillars – see section 13.

4. Social Value – the GIS will contribute to the council’s social value measurement outcomes through:

Increase in social media engagement -

- Milton Road Cemetery Tree Walk. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65iWKCqvauk&t=31s>
- Collaboration with North Somerset Council to choose locations for street tree planting.
- Tree Planting projects – Weston High Street, Baildon Crescent, St Ives Road, Rectors Way allotment.
- Radio interviews.
- Ellenborough Park West Tree Walk.
- Posting on Weston trees Facebook page.
- Creating a website for the Weston Tree & Plant Group – www.wsmtrees.co.uk

Increased visitor numbers -

- More visitors will be attracted to Weston for the sustainable planting in their flower beds and planters.
- More visitors will be attracted to Weston by the increased canopy cover and biodiverse open spaces.
- More visitors will come to Weston to participate in green tourism projects.

Increased community pride -

- Trees provide us with a sense of place.
- Trees and open spaces provide a community focal point – they are landmarks and encourage civic pride.
- Trees provide continuity and history in the landscape.
- Trees provide amenity value and beauty for families and communities.

Increased number of community partners supported involved:

- The Tree Forum has engaged with Weston College, Weston Hospital, North Somerset Council, NSC’s Master Composters, Weston’s U3A group, Osprey Outdoors and the home educator’s network.

Increased sense of safety:

- Planting more street trees helps reduce the speed of traffic – we drive more slowly down tree lined streets.
- Housing and flats associated with trees have fewer crimes and people feel safer.
- Trees and landscaping also help reduce levels of fear.

Reduction in crime:

- Trees help reduce violence – neighbourhoods with trees and green landscapes have fewer incidences of violence.

7. Social Value and Climate Change - The GIS will assist the town council in reaching its goal of mitigating climate change and achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, by:

- Increased canopy cover will reduce the ‘Urban Heat Island Effect’ through providing shade for the town’s streets, open spaces and parks.

18.0 Engagement with the private landowner is a key differentiator for this strategy.

What you can do – GI in private gardens -

19.0

19.1 If we bring together these principles and objectives to create an action plan, we can create a bespoke green infrastructure strategy for the Town Council, the stake holders and private residents of Weston-super-Mare.

19.2 You need to create a list of principles and objectives that combine the GI and Tree Charter principles, but also include the WSMTC approach to social value.

19.3 Visions/Aims delivered by (Rosie):

- Strategy will deliver more trees for W-s-M delivering benefits for health, nature, climate change and biodiversity for the town.
- All groups involved in tree planting, maintenance, aftercare and assessment follow the WSMTC Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Developing a diverse and resilient treescape for W-s-M.
- Building meaningful relationships between trees and the residents and visitors to W-s-M.

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- Working collaboratively with communities, sectors, neighbours and organisations to increase canopy cover across the town.
- Remain cognisant of tree initiatives which can support the ambitions of the strategy.
- Using evidence and seeking advice to support the strategy, to inform species selection and planting decisions.

19.4 Goals (Rosie):

- W-s-M will have planted and/or supported the planting and establishment of 10,000 trees by 2030.
- W-s-M will have increased its canopy cover to 20% by 2030.
- Uses an ecological approach, supporting a mosaic of habitats, including ponds, dead wood, wildflowers and employing tools to support wildlife.
- Minimise the impact of alien species such as Holm Oak, allowing specimens to flourish where appropriate, but removing regeneration where this becomes a threat to biodiversity.
- ‘Right Tree, Right Place’, with native species the selection of choice, as these have the greatest benefits for biodiversity, but allowing for other species where this is appropriate, noting the maritime climatic, soil and hydrological conditions in the town.
- A community involved in the care and management of trees in the town supporting the ambitions of the strategy.

19.5 What do we want from the Tree Forum? (Rosie)

- Site selection
- Tree surveys
- Watering and small-scale aftercare.
- Tree planting
- Being the council’s eyes and ears on the ground for tree issues. (Support creation of Tree Warden Scheme)

20.0 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis

20.1 Strengths:

- Valued tree stock
- Existing green infrastructure/rewilding practices.

20.2 Weaknesses:

- Mature tree stock
- Low canopy cover
- Lack of species diversity
- Poor connectivity

20.3 Opportunities:

- Collaboration with NSC to plant street trees.
- Collaboration with the Woodland Trust and the Forest of Avon.
- Stakeholder involvement through the Tree forum.

20.4 Threats:

- Climate change
- Funding

21.0 SMART(ER) Objectives

21.1

- **Specific** and stretching -
- **Measurable** – what gets measured gets done -
- **Achievable** and Agreed -
- **Relevant** and Realistic -

- Timely and Time Bound -
- Evaluated -
- Reviewed –

21.2 Climate Crisis objectives

- Maximising ecosystem services around Weston -
- Carbon sequestration –
- Urban Heat Island Effect mitigation –street trees, tree planting in public open spaces
- Pollution interception – tree species versus pollutant mitigation, London Planes.
- Rainwater interception – Trees, SuDS, Rainwater Harvesting, Downpipe to Water butts, Rain Gardens, Storm Water planters removing/reducing impermeable surfaces.

21.3 Green Infrastructure objectives:

- To create a green infrastructure plan for W-s-M by 2025
- To create an inventory of green infrastructure features in W-s-M by 2025

21.4 Canopy Cover objectives:

- Increase canopy cover in W-s-M to 16% by establishing 20 heavy standard trees per year for 10 years. Confirm establishment within 3 years of planting and re-evaluate planting target in 2027.
- Allow existing tree stock to achieve their potential crown size -

21.5 Tree stock resilience objectives:

- Increase the resilience of the tree population to climate change by increasing the planting palette by 10 new species with known tolerances to be identified by September 2022.

21.4 Tree establishment objectives:

- Identify planting locations -
- Establish 100 trees per year in the urban environment for the next ten years. Establishment must be confirmed within 3 years of planting.

21.7 Connectivity objectives:

- Trees
- Hedges
- Gardens
- Rhines
- Green corridors -

21.8 Biodiversity gain objectives:

- Planting native trees, shrubs and plants wherever possible.
- Planting drought tolerant pollinator species in flower beds and planters.
- Creating bee lines across Weston
- Bug hotels and wood piles

21.9 Community engagement objectives:

- Tree Forum –
- WSMTC Volunteer network – Love the Outdoors
- Engagement with youth groups and Town Council Youth Representatives –
- Engagement with local businesses –

21.10 Stakeholder engagement objectives:

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- Schools & Colleges –
- Churches –
- Hospitals –
- Golf Courses –
- Sports pitches –
- Parks and Open Spaces –
- Woodland –
- Farmland –
- Private gardens
- Privately owned land –

21.11 Private garden objectives:

- Private gardens represent 70% of potential land area and the biggest opportunity for green infrastructure and biodiversity gain.
- Publicity, comms, engagement ...

21.12 Social value objectives:

21.13 Funding objectives:

- Woodland Trust –
- Forest of Avon Trust –
- Forestry Commission – Urban Tree Challenge <https://forestrycommission.blog.gov.uk/2022/01/27/tree-mendous-news-local-authority-treescapescapes-fund-and-urban-tree-challenge-fund-to-launch-again/>
- Forestry Commission – Local Authority Treescapescapes Fund – a grant scheme for LAs to increase non-woodland planting across our landscapes. Strong focus on community engagement:

- WSMTC gifting trees to households
- Coupons for local garden centres/tree nurseries.
- Room for Trees – get local hotels to add a £1 donation to their room cost (may need to set up a separate charity/fund to receive donations).

21.14 Value for money objectives:

21.15 Governance objectives:

15 Performance Indicators (and auditing)

- PIs are a key set of quantifiable measurements used to gauge progress toward an intended result.
- They measure an organisations success against a set of targets/objectives.
- ‘What gets measured gets done’.

15.0 Action Plan

15.1 For each aim provide a how in the action plan –

- Divide into main sections connected to SMARTER objectives.
- Sequence of/the steps or activities that ‘must be undertaken and performed well, for the strategy to succeed.
- Include the specifics of each task.

Connectivity:

- Clevedon, Portishead, Nailsea,
- Parish Councils –
- Beyond North Somerset and Weston – Burnham, Mendips,
- International migration route.

Biodiversity Gain:

-

How do we deliver it?

- Identify what is there – site survey
- Understand that you are looking at a depleted landscape.
- Identify how we can improve the site
- Develop an Action Plan:

Tree Planting:

Appendix 1

Action Plan

Objective	How	Who	When
Green Infrastructure objectives			
To maximise opportunities to deliver a multi-functional GI network			
Protect and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity and green space.			
Canopy cover objectives			
Tree stock resilience objectives			
Biodiversity Gain objectives			

Health & Wellbeing			
Develop open spaces to promote health and well-being.			
Green Social Prescribing			
Community Engagement			
Create a tree forum to engage and encourage stakeholders and residents to become engaged in tree planting and other GI initiatives			
Stakeholder Engagement			
Social Value			
Funding			
Value for money			

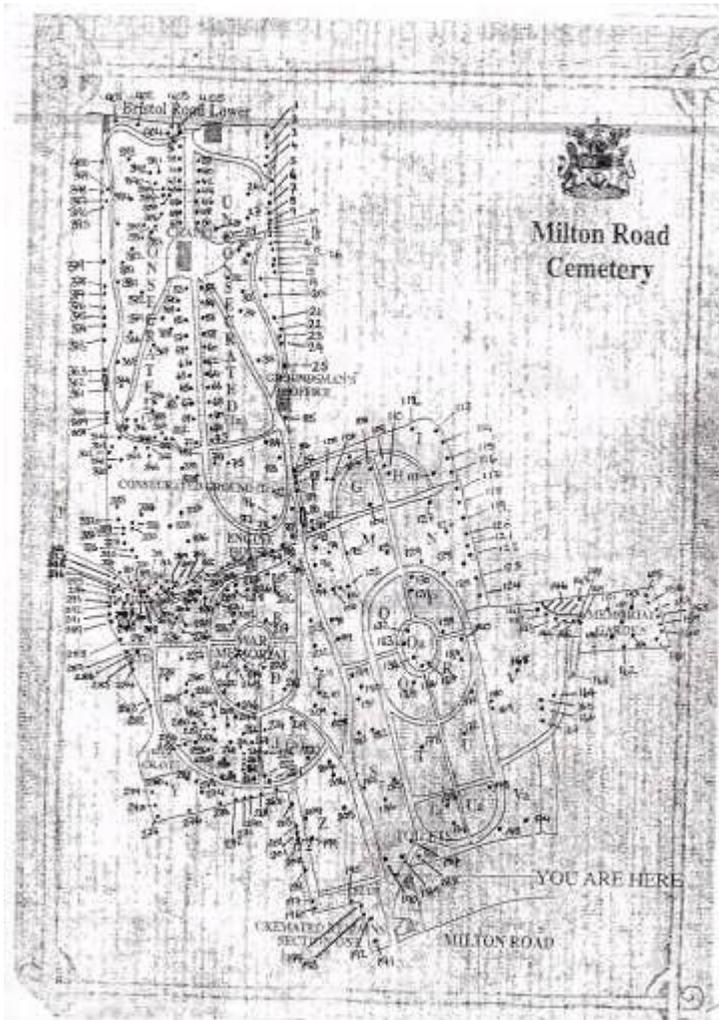
Appendix 2
Performance Indicators

Indicator	Description	Outcome	Date

Appendix 3

WSMTC Sites:

Milton Road Cemetery



Canopy Cover – T1 – 405

Other Assets: Additional tree planting, hedges, shrubs, bulbs, ground flora, succulents, mosses and lichens.

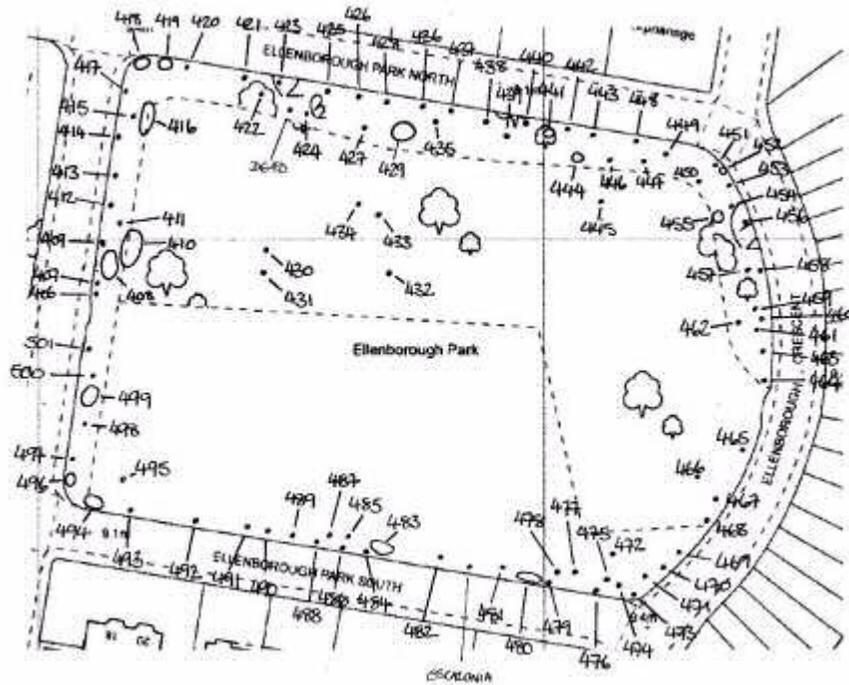
Fauna: Fox, badgers, deer, domestic cats, Pipestrelle bats, Green Woodpecker, Pigeons, Magpies etc.

Management considerations: It's a cemetery.

Connectivity: Neighbouring gardens, Worlebury Hill, Ashcombe Park.

GI Opportunity: Planting of specimen trees, creating bug hotel, dead wood habitat, replacing bat & bird boxes, shrub and herb planting schemes for pollinators.

Ellenborough Park East



Canopy Cover – T406 – T501

Other Assets: Shrubs and bulbs

Fauna

Management considerations: Sight lines into park for play area security and prevention of anti-social behaviour.

Connectivity: Ellenborough Park West

GI Opportunity; Scallop edges of existing planting with specimen trees and group planting of shrubs etc. Replace bat & bird boxes.

Ellenborough Park West



Tree cover: T715 – T888

Other Assets: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Rare plants

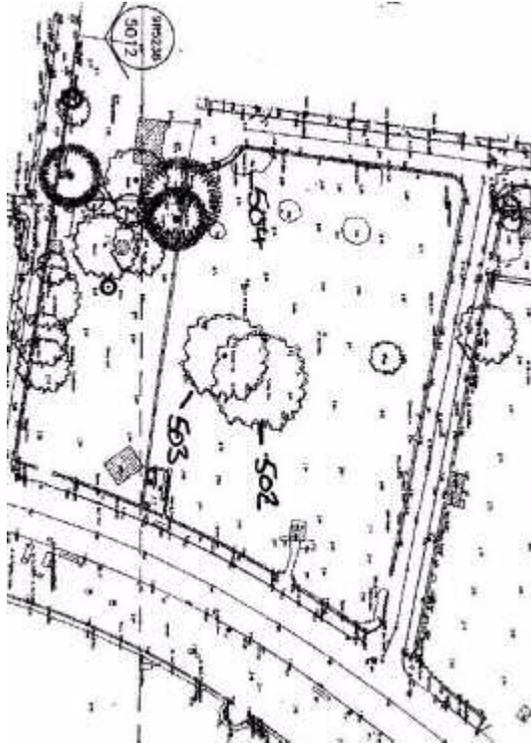
Fauna: Badgers

Management considerations: It is a SSSI and a wellbeing park.

Connectivity: Sea front, Ellenborough Park East, Clarence Park, neighbouring gardens.

GI Opportunity: Plant deep hedge around badger set at east end, plant area to restrict access around badger set at west end, scallop edges of existing planting with specimen trees and shrub/tree groups. Install bat & bird boxes.

Water Park



Canopy Cover – T502 – 504

Other Assets

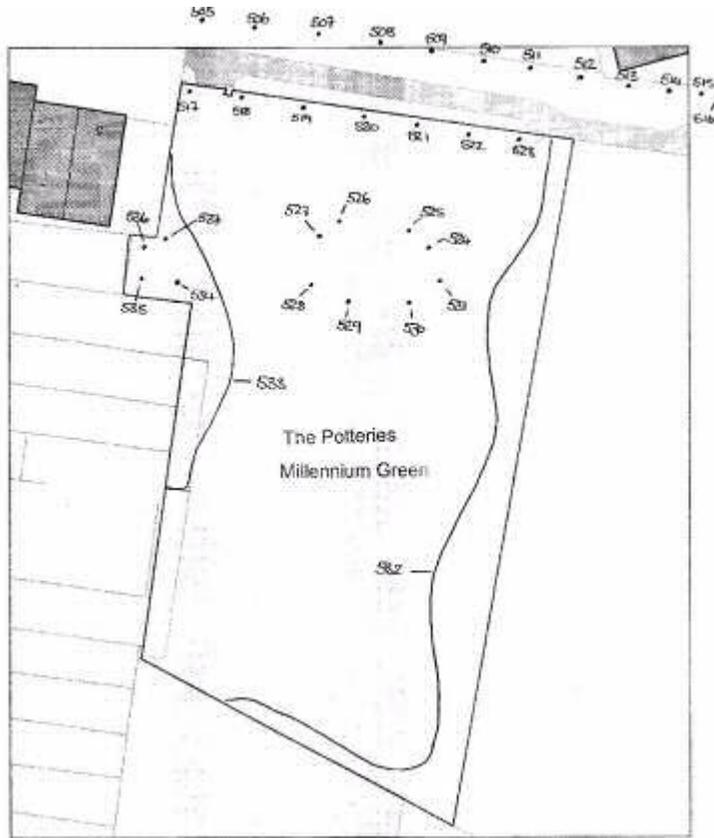
Fauna

Management considerations: Chlorine from splash pad, flooding from culvert, compaction from density of foot fall, security of site at night.

Connectivity: Sea front, adjacent car park, neighbouring gardens.

GI Opportunity: Shade trees – 3 x Stone Pine and 2 x Turkey oak, palms, shrubs/grasses for retention pond areas.

Millennium Green



Canopy Cover – T505 – 537

Other Assets:

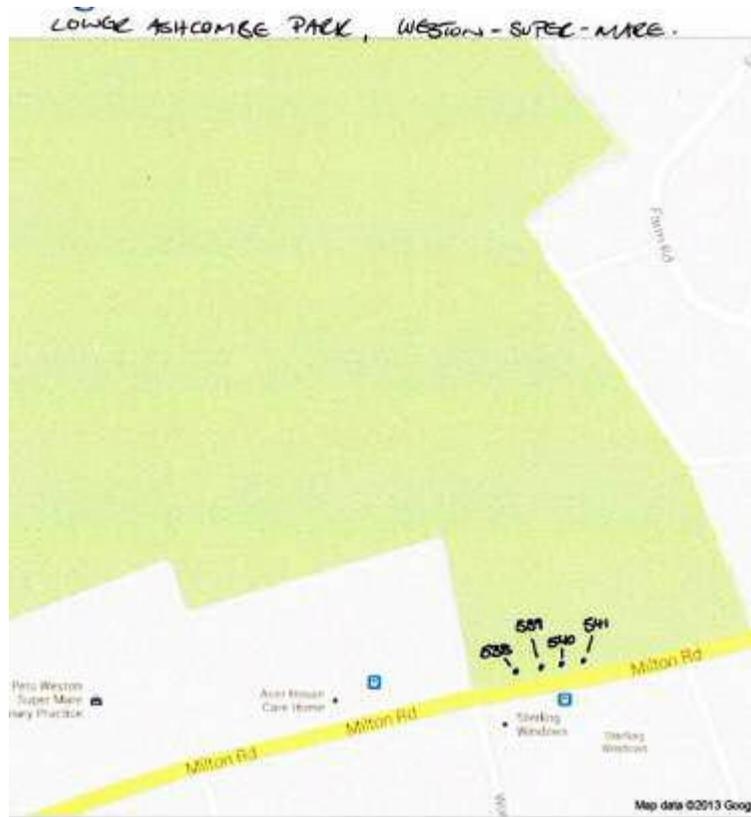
Fauna/flora:

Management considerations: Anti-social behaviour, tree damage, neighbouring properties.

Connectivity:

GI Opportunity: Replanting lost trees, coppicing regime in shelter belt.

Lower Ashcombe Park



Canopy Cover – T538 – 541

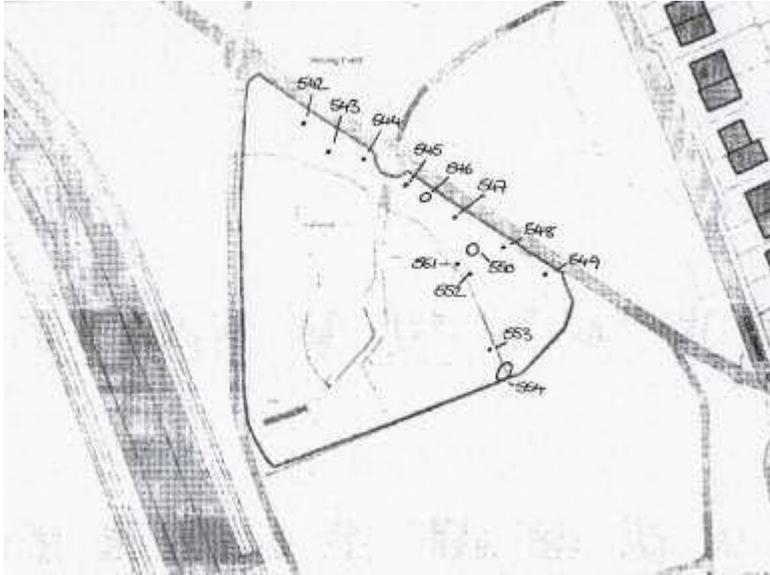
Other Assets – none.

Fauna/flora - grass

Connectivity – Ashcombe Park, neighbouring properties.

GI Opportunity – plant a shade tree for the play area, plant replacement trees for existing Horse Chestnuts.

Jubilee Park



Canopy Cover – T542 – 554

Other Assets

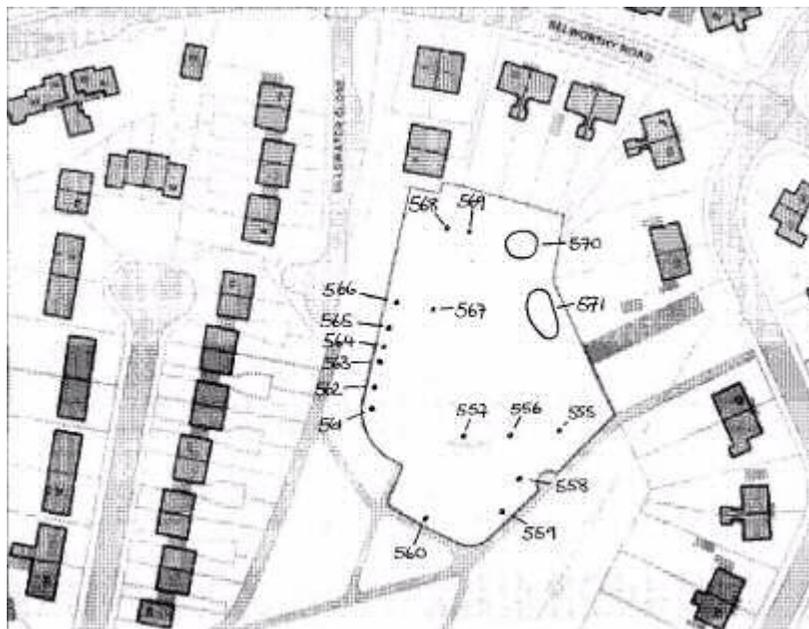
Fauna

Management considerations: Sight lines into park for anti-social behaviour/skate park/play area.

Connectivity: Surrounded by extended Jubilee Park.

GI Opportunity: Shade trees and shrubs.

Byron Rec



Canopy Cover – T555 – 571

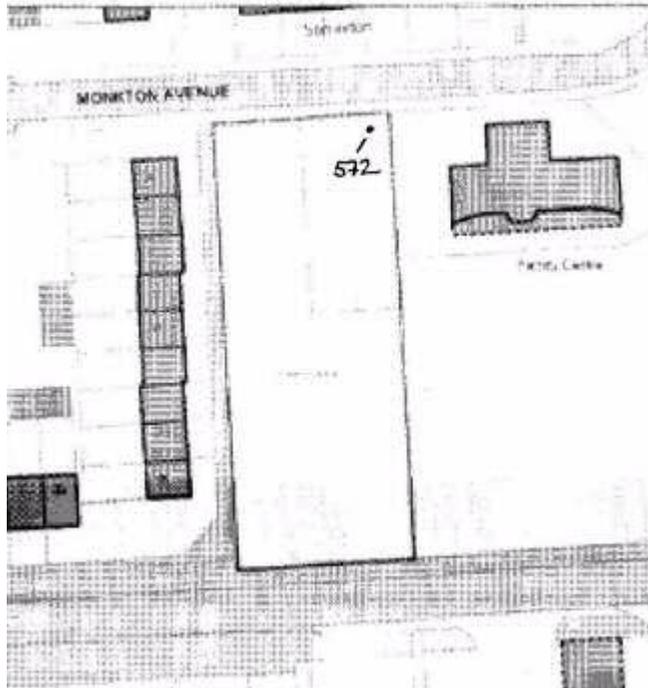
Other Assets: Managed grass.

Fauna:

Connectivity: Adjacent North Somerset public open space, adjacent gardens and roadside verges.

GI Opportunity: Planting and re-planting specimen trees, managed boundary hedge.

Broadway Play Area



Canopy Cover – T572

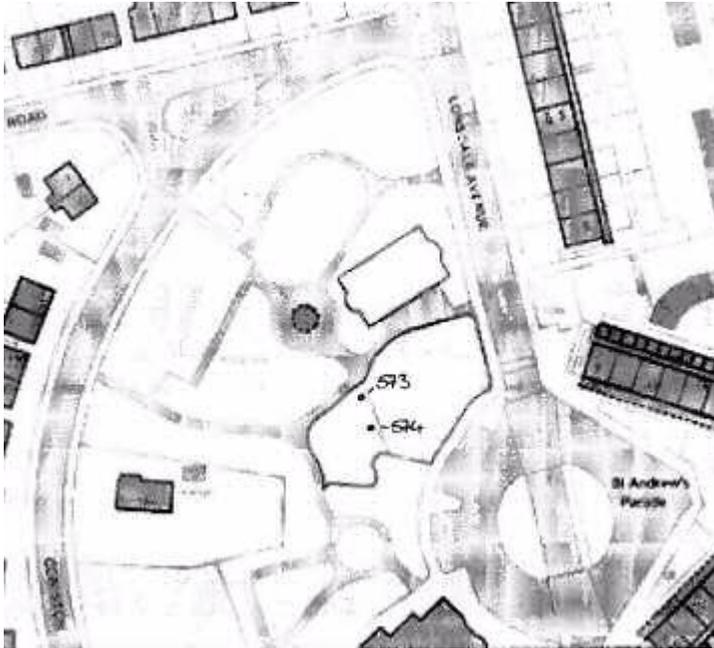
Other Assets: Managed grass.

Fauna:

Connectivity: Adjacent public open space and roadside verges.

GI Opportunity: Shade trees.

Coniston Green



Canopy Cover – T573 – 574

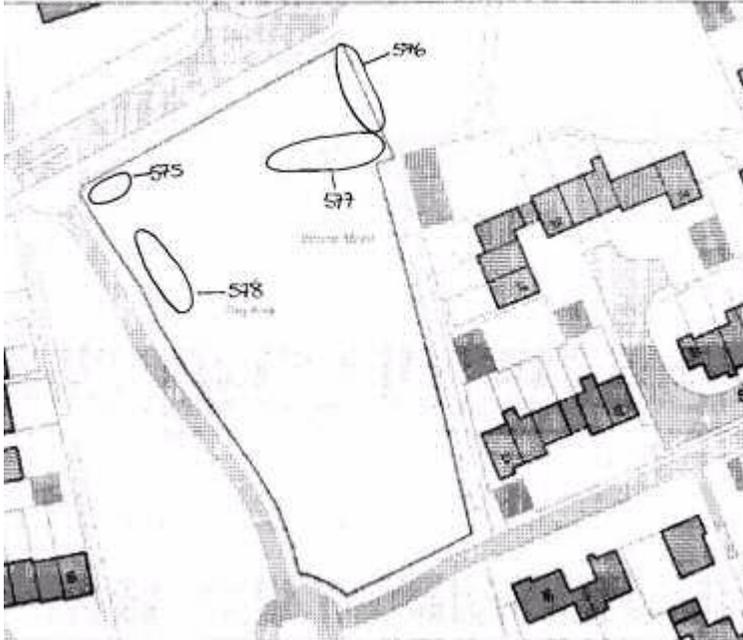
Other Assets

Fauna

Connectivity

GI Opportunity

Locking Castle (Maltlands)



Canopy Cover – T575 – 578

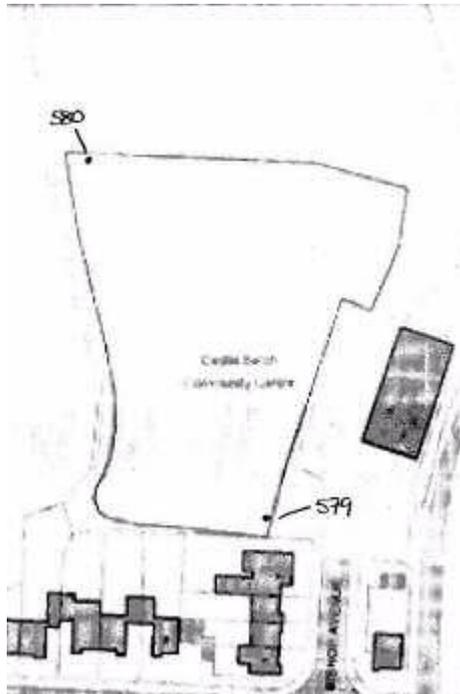
Other Assets: Linear features on and adjacent to site. Shade trees on adjacent public open space.

Fauna:

Connectivity: With adjacent North Somerset Open Space, neighbouring gardens and We See Trees Community Tree Nursery.

GI Opportunity: Shade trees, boundary hedge.

Castle Batch



Canopy Cover – T579 – 580

Other Assets:

Fauna:

Connectivity: Adjacent trees and hedge, new tree planting on North Somerset Public Open Space.

GI Opportunity: New planting scheme for SEN play area



The Old Town Quarry



Canopy Cover

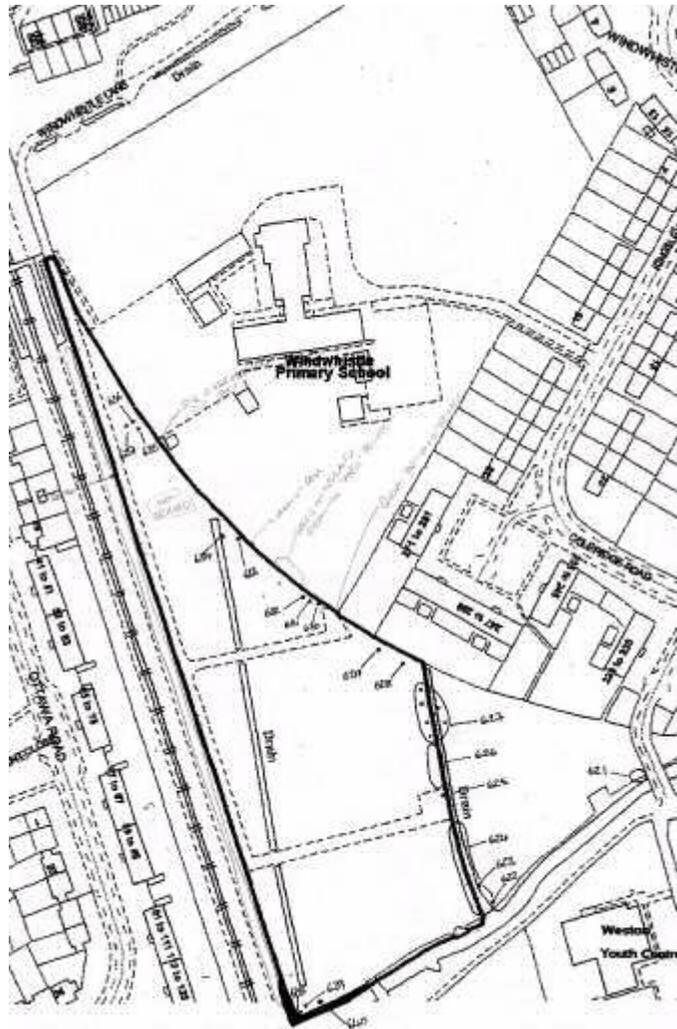
Other Assets

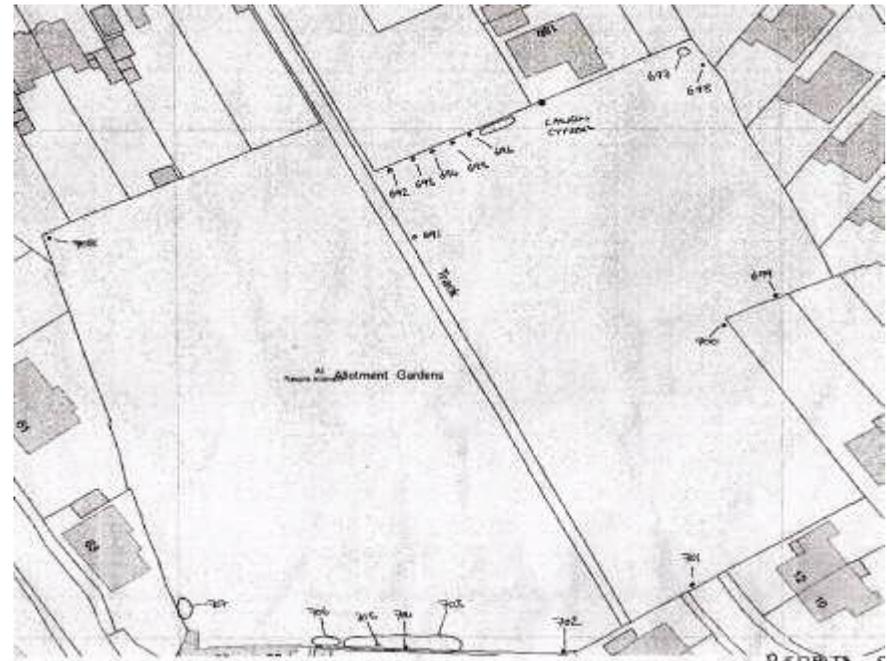
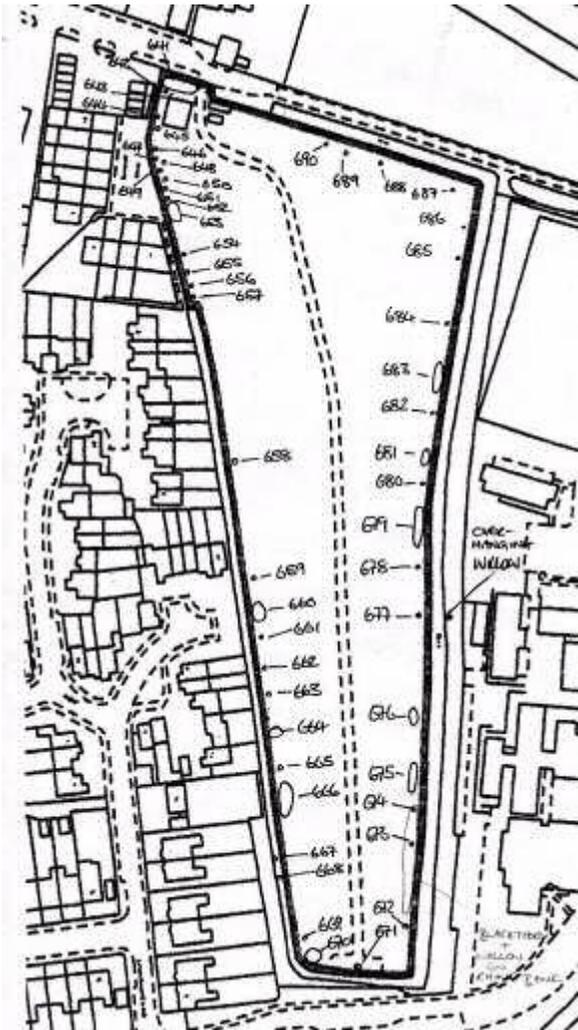
Fauna: Peregrine Falcons, Fox, Bats, Badgers

Connectivity: Worlebury Hill Fort and adjacent private gardens.

GI Opportunity: Development and management of nature reserve area.

Allotments:





Appendix 5

Tree Planting Palette for Maritime Habitat & Climate Change Resilience

Native Tree Species (Maritime)		
Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Biodiversity, climate	
Hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Biodiversity, climate	
Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>		
Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>		
Aspen <i>Populus tremula</i>		
Cherry <i>prunus avium</i>		
Common pear <i>Pyrus communis</i>		
English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	Biodiversity, climate	
Small-leaved Lime <i>Tilia cordata</i>		
Whitebeam <i>Sorbus aria</i>		
Swedish Whitebeam <i>Sorbus intermedia</i>		
European Lime <i>Tilia x europaea</i>		
Elms <i>Ulmus</i> sp.		
Naturalised Tree Species (Maritime)		
Sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Biodiversity, climate	
Sweet Chestnut <i>Castanea sativa</i>	Biodiversity, climate	
Non-native Shrubs (Maritime)		
Portugal laurel <i>Prunus lusitanica</i>		

Non-native Tree Species (Maritime)		
White Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>		
Strawberry Tree <i>Arbutus unedo</i>		
Eucalyptus		
Black Tupelo <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>		
Austrian Pine <i>Pinus nigra</i> var.		
Japanese White Pine <i>Pinus parviflora</i> 'Glauca'		
Maritime Pine <i>Pinus pinaster</i>		
Monterey Pine <i>Pinus radiata</i>		
White poplar <i>Populus alba</i>		
Hybrid poplar <i>Populus x canadensis</i>		
Black Poplar <i>Populus nigra</i>		
Eurasian aspen <i>Populus tremula</i>		
Callery pear <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>		
Willow-leaved pear <i>Pyrus salicifolia</i>		
Holm Oak <i>Quercus ilex</i>		
Turkey Oak <i>Quercus cerris</i>		
Coastal redwood <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>		
French tamarisk <i>Tamarix gallica</i>		
Salt cedar <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>		
Four-stamen tamarisk <i>Tamarix tetrandra</i>		
Caucasian lime <i>Tilia x euchlora</i>		
Silver lime <i>Tilia tomentosa</i>		

Future Trees (Fonthill)		
Norway maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Climate resilience	
Italian maple <i>Acer opalus</i>	Climate resilience	
Red alder <i>Alnus rubra</i>	Climate resilience	
Caucasian alder <i>Alnus subcordata</i>	Climate resilience	
Oriental beech <i>Fagus orientalis</i>	Climate resilience	
Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	Climate resilience	
Tulip Tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Climate resilience	
Wingnut <i>Pterocarya macroptera</i> var. <i>insignis</i>	Climate resilience	
Californian Live oak <i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Climate resilience	
Algerian oak <i>Quercus canariensis</i>	Climate resilience	
Chestnut leaved oak <i>Quercus castaneifolia</i>	Climate resilience	
Scarlet oak <i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Climate resilience	
Hungarian oak <i>Quercus frainetto</i>	Climate resilience	
Pin oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	Climate resilience	
Red oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	Climate resilience	

Appendix 6

Planting for Pollinators in your garden – use to create a planting matrix

Pollinator friendly plants for every season: (Gardener's World website);

Your garden is likely to attract around 20 species of bees:

- Red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*)
- Southern cuckoo bumblebee (*Bombus vestalis*)
- White-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*)
- Early bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum*)
- Garden bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*)
- Common carder bumblebee (*Bombus pascuorum*)
- Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*)
- Leafcutter bees (...) like native dog roses.
- Buff-tailed bumblebee – nest in autumn

Grow plants with nectar and pollen ...

Spring: Flowering cherry, Crab apples, Hawthorn, bugle, daffodils, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Sweet violet *Viola odorata*, Winter aconite *Eranthis hyemalis*, Lungwort *Pulmonaria officinalis*, thrift, alliums, Grape hyacinth *Muscari armeniacum* *Aubretia* spp., Clematis montana, Plum trees, Currents *Ribes* spp., English Bluebell *Hyacinthoides nonscripta*,

Summer: Lavender *Lavendula angustifolia*, Agastache, perennial wallflower *Erysimum* 'Bowles' Mauve', scabious, comfrey, foxgloves, cardoon, echinops, golden rod ... native Honeysuckle, salvias, *Rosa canina*, Evening primrose (moths), currants, primrose, Pulmonaria Campanula, Delphinium, Geranium, Honesty, Hollyhock, Potentilla, Snapdragon, Stachys (Grasses) Teasel, Thyme, Verbascum ... Marjoram, Oregano ... Moths like night flowering plants like

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Nicotiana and Evening primroses (*Oenothera sp.*) Common jasmine *Jasminum officinale*, Sweet Rocket, Night-scented Stock,

Autumn: sedums, single-flower dahlias, *Verbea bodnariensis*, Japanese anemones, autumn asters, *Actaea simplex* Cornflower, Eryngium, Penstemon, Coneflower *Echinacea spp.*, French Marigold *Tagetes patula*,

Winter: snowdrops, winter aconites, ivy crocuses, winter honeysuckle, hellebores, mahonia, *Clematis cirrhosa* Winter clematis

Other nectar rich plants – allium, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, bergamot (*Monarda didyma*), Buddleia, comfrey, coneflower (Echinacea), *Gaura lindheimeri*, poppy (annual and oriental), Sunflowers, thyme, verbena, ... Rosemary,

Think about food plants for caterpillars and bees ...

Trees and shrubs

- Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* - Moths - Centre barred sawfly, Coronet. Butterflies -
- Apple *Malus domestica* – Moths - Eyed Hawkmoth. Butterflies –
- Hickory – moths
- Plum – moths
- Maple – moths
- Persimmon – moths
- Birch – moths
- Sumac – moths
- Walnut – moths
- Oak – moths
- Peach – moths
- Pine – moths

- Sweetgum – moths
- Cherry – moths

Shrubs:

- Butterfly Bush *Buddleia sp.* –
- Dowood – moths
- Sweet Bay – moths
- Viburnum – moths
- Pussy Willow – moths
- Caryopteris – moths
- Weigela – moths
- Bush Honeysuckle – moths
- Rose – moths
- Raspberry – moths
- *Mahonia sp.* –

Herbaceous plants:

- Heliotrope – moths
- Four o'clocks - moths
- Flowering tobacco - moths
- Petunia - moths
- Gentian - moths

- Dames Rocket – moths
- Monarda – moths
- Salvia – moths
- Bluestem grass – moths
- Honeysuckle vine – moths
- Moonflower – moths

Low laying plants

- Dandelions, buttercups, daisies ...

Food plants:

Bedstraws and Cleavers – Moths – Humming-bird Hawk-moth, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Barred Straw. Butterflies –

Cultivated clematis and Traveller’s Joy *Clematis vitalba* – Moths – Small Emerald, Haworth’s Pug. Butterflies -

Build bee hotels ... install bird and bat boxes ... Swift bricks ... appropriate bird feeders ... plant to encourage Bee Lines and connectivity.

Leaves piles of wood and pruning ... Relax on weeding ...

Create a pond ...

Grow woolly plants (for Wool carder bees – one of the UK’s largest solitary bees) – Lambs’ ears (*Stachys*) and mullein (*Verbascum*) species

Appendix 7

Public Engagement

Tree Forum

World Economic Forum –

The world urgently needs to take collective action to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement by 2030.

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In a resource-constrained world grappling with a major global development setback in COVID-19 and looming interconnected climate, nature and health crises, learning which solutions work, demonstrating greater impact and enabling others to adopt and scale these solutions are crucial elements in optimizing limited resources to benefit people and planet.

This Power of Partnerships Report provides valuable insights into how grant-funded multistakeholder partnerships – collaborations of diverse stakeholders with a shared ambition during an agreed timeframe to deliver specific mission-driven outcomes – are making progress.

The 13 Forum hosted grant-funded multistakeholder platforms featured are collectively mobilizing climate action to reduce carbon emissions and strive for net-zero outcomes, strengthening nature-based solutions, improving water and ocean systems, developing and scaling digital innovations, and unlocking trade and investment opportunities, catalyzing systems change and creating impact at scale.

Lessons learned:

- *Topics have acted as door openers to more difficult conversations*
- *Building platforms takes time*
- *Multistakeholder collaboration is not easy*
- *Open and trusted dialogue is essential*
- *Platforms must invest in continuous learning systems*
- *The value of partnerships lies in their dynamic nature*
- *The platform's role in tackling complex problems is highly valued*

Upgrade your ambition level of what can be done – Develop a positive narrative around the climate crisis and the road to net zero –mission possible.



Karen Blake: Reimagining Weston as a Green Utopia

- Creative consultation and community growing
 - Find new and different ways to consult and engage with people in the best way that we can.
 - Do it again and keep talking.
 - Create a place of conversation and making connections.
 - Develop a creative practice alongside growing initiatives.
-
- Let people know about your achievements:
 - **Make information available to everyone - website**

Glossary of Terms

Advective cooling – Loss of heat from an area by mixing and dispersal. (TDAG)

Albedo – How reflective a surface is. White has a high albedo. (TDAG)

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Biodiversity –
Biodiversity Gain –
Blue infrastructure –
Canopy cover –
Carbon net zero –
Climate change –
Climate crisis –
Ecosystem Services –
Ecological Corridors –
Evapotranspiration –
Green infrastructure –
Green Social prescribing –
Mitigation –
Pollinator –
Radiative cooling –
Thermal comfort –
Urban Cool Island –
Urban heat island –

References:

Canopy Cover

The Forest of Avon Plan - <https://forestofavontrust.org/admin/resources/documents/5-2-weston-super-mare-and-environs.pdf>

3:30:300 rule – 3 trees visible from every home, 30 per cent tree canopy cover and 300m to the nearest park or green space.

<https://iucnurbanalliance.org/promoting-health-and-wellbeing-through-urban-forests-introducing-the-3-30-300-rule/>

Ecological Networks

Somerset Environmental Records Centre - Ecological Networks – <http://www.somerc.com/products-services/ecological-networks/#:~:text=Somerset's%20Ecological%20Network%20maps%20are,both%20physical%20and%20genetic%20isolation>

Strategies:

The Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England (2021) <https://forestofavontrust.org/forest-of-avon-plan/>

(Weston-super-Mare and Environs - <https://forestofavontrust.org/admin/resources/documents/5-2-weston-super-mare-and-environs.pdf>)

Gloucestershire Tree Strategy

North Somerset Green Infrastructure Strategy -

Somerset Tree Strategy

Trees and Woodland Strategy Toolkit - <https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Tree-Council-Trees-and-Woodland-Strategy-Toolkit-2022.pdf>

West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Green Infrastructure Strategy –

Tree Planting:

Mendip Hills AONB Tree Planting Guide - <https://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MHAONB-Tree-Planting-Guide-A4-260620-FINAL.pdf>

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