WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2020

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm **Meeting Concluded:** 8.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors James Clayton (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Gill Bute, Gillian Carpenter, Sarah Codling, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons (S), Peter McAleer and Roz Willis.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Grounds Manager), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Alli Waller (YMCA Senior Lead Youth Worker), May Barnett (YMCA Youth Worker) and Roger Brown (Parishioner).

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman invited Roger Brown to address the committee. Roger, a local parishioner in Worle, addressed the council in respect of the overgrown vegetation of pathways/cycle ways that were not being maintained by North Somerset Council. He claimed that 15 years ago this was 'seen to' three times per year by North Somerset, this had reduced to once per year and now did not seem to be addressed at all. Nailsea and Portishead Town Councils had systems in place and he asked if the Town Council could look at implementing some measures or at least look at supplementing North Somerset Council to address these problems.

The Chairman thanked Roger for his address and advised that the Town Council were aware of the problems which were down to North Somerset Council budget cuts. In recognition of this, the Town Council had recently budgeted to implement a scheme which was being developed by the Grounds Manager.

The Grounds Manager explained that it was a huge task to tackle and that she had a meeting with North Somerset Council to discuss the areas of concern. A scheme was hoped to be in place for the summer.

Discussion ensued amongst members regarding reporting lines and how the committee should be able to have an input on the scheme. There were concerns regarding the public reporting directly to members and achieving ward parity.

The Grounds Manager advised that there would be a schedule of works and parameters available.

The Town Clerk explained that the scheme was in its early stages and that the committee would be kept up to date with developments.

The Chairman thanked Roger for his address and informed that he could also address North Somerset Council with his concerns.

Roger Brown left the meeting at 7.29 pm

The Chairman advised that there would be an additional meeting of the Committee scheduled for 4th May 2020 to allow community grants to be considered.

Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Helen Thornton who was substituted by Councillor Catherine Gibbons and Councillor Marc Aplin with no

381 To receive Declarations of Interest

substitution.

No declarations were received.

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 13th January 2020

The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Ciaran Connelly

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

383 References from other Committees

383.1 Minutes of Weston in Bloom Working Party held on 14th January 2020

The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.

It was highlighted that the spring seminar was taking place in Beer and not Seaton.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.

383.2 Minutes of the Allotment Management Sub Committee held on 14th January 2020

The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.

384 Management Reports:

384.1 Youth Services

The report of the Operations Manager – YMCA had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Alli Waller and May Barnett were in attendance to answer any questions. Alli informed that the heating at the YMCA was now working.

The Chairman reported that he had been very moved and interested by the 'Transend' skate project. It was a great initiative created to bring positivity to local skate parks and decrease anti-social behavior associated with them.

Alli added that it was a great initiative designed to bring together the community.

In response to a question, Alli reported that a noticeable rise in risk taking behavior involving drugs and alcohol had been seen, especially in the south ward estates. The YMCA was working with them to help combat this as much as possible. The same behaviours were being seen all over the district. Alli confirmed that options for a permanent location for youth work at Uphill were still being pursued.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Operations Manager - YMCA be noted.

Alli and May left the meeting at 7.45 pm

384.2 Grounds

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.

It was clarified that 25 memorials had been 'staked' and banded.

The Grounds Manager advised the role of the Amenities Officer was unchanged from its predecessor and explained how specific and time consuming the role was.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Grounds Manager be noted.

385 Toilet Update Report

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda which outlined four recommendations from the toilet working party for consideration.

The Chairman informed how well the working group had worked and commended the proposals within the report.

The Grounds Manager advised that businesses had already started to show interest in joining a community toilet scheme. A sticker to display in the business window was appended to the report.

To aid discussion regarding antisocial behaviour, the Chairman advised that CCTV at the toilets was not monitored in real time due to lack of resources.

The Grounds Manager reported that most of the antisocial behaviour was committed by homeless people which had no fixed abode and therefore it was very difficult for Police to progress a case to court.

Debate ensued. Members said how pleased they were that the scheme had been progressed.

The Chairman felt that the businesses involved needed to be acknowledged and recognised and suggested that the Town Mayor could arrange something.

In response question about toilet opening/closing times, the Chairman confirmed that these would be continuously reviewed. A Green light would indicate open and red for closed. Getting the balance right had been a hard task.

The working party had been a good forum to address the short-term problems the toilets were experiencing, however it was hoped that a long-term approach could also be considered.

A member asked to explore the possibility of turning off the underfloor heating to discourage rough sleeping.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey **SECONDED BY:** Councillor Peter McAleer

A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried

RESOLVED: That

- 1. Grove Park Toilets be open from Monday 6th April and closed from Monday 2nd November with opening and closing times of 9am 5pm.
- 2. All other toilet sites remain open continuously, following the current agreed times of:
 - Winter opening hours (November April) 9am 5pm
 - Summer opening hours (April October) 9am 8pm.
- 3. The Community Toilet Scheme be launched, with initially no financial incentive to businesses.
- 4. Officers investigate the possibility of -
 - Motion detection air fresheners for public toilets.
 - Signs pointing people in the direction of the nearest toilets should ours be closed.
 - Extractor fans in cubicles
 - Turning off under floor heating

386 | Crime Prevention Budget Allocation

The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The Town Council had set aside £50,000 in its budget for 2020/2021 for community safety and crime prevention initiatives. The report outlined options asking for member instruction on what they would like discussions to focus upon, for future exploration and report back to committee.

The Town Clerk shared members previous fear of a PCSO disappearing into police resources, however he aired caution that employing the council's own staff would create the need for a lot of administrative support and require health and safety training as well as compliance with GDPR. He therefore recommended outsourcing to another organization, such as NSC or the BID/TCP, who already employed staff in similar roles.

The Chairman informed that a decision was not required immediately and that a working party could be formed to undertake further discussions to focus upon, for future exploration and report back to committee.

A member expressed her grave disappointment with the lack of leadership shown to officers on how to spend the money. The decision was poorly executed by members and there were timing issues to be considered before the setting of the next annual budget.

Discussion ensued. Members were not in favor of PCSO'S and felt that there were security companies that could provide a service for less that the £50,000 budgeted.

A member informed that she had spoken with Leanne Pook, Chief Superintendent, who was positive about the initiative, however confirmed that PCSO's could not be completely ring fenced for Town Council business.

It was suggested to outsource the work for 12 months to enable a review and acquire a better directive. This would alleviate administrative and training resources.

In answer to a question, the Grounds Manager confirmed that the BID would be able to operate street wardens outside of the town centre.

The Chairman recommended forming a working party and that officers looked into out sourcing options in the meantime. The Town Clerk suggested a day time working party meeting.

A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried

RESOLVED:

- 1. That a Working Party be formed consisting of the following interested Councillors: James Clayton, Gill Bute, Ciaran Cronnelly, Sarah Codling and Peter Fox to explore the best use of the £50,000 set aside for community safety and crime prevention initiatives and report back to committee in May.
- 2. That in the meantime officers explore the possibility of outsourcing the work for discussion.

387 Street Naming

The Planning Application 19/P/0413/FUL Westacres Caravan Park (site map attached) had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The Town clerk advised that North Somerset Council had suggested the name 'Oterhampton Gardens' which had been taken from the Town Council's preapproved list of street names reflecting former rectors of Weston-super-Mare.

RESOLVED: That 'Oterhampton Gardens' be approved for the street name of the Planning Application 19/P/0413/FUL Westacres Caravan Park and that North Somerset Council planning officers be informed accordingly.

There being no further business	, the Chairman closed	the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Signed:	Dated:
Councillor James Clayton	

Chairman of the Community Services Committee

WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL WESTON IN BLOOM WORKING PARTY HELD ON TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2020 AT GROVE HOUSE

Meeting commenced: 11.00 am **Meeting concluded:** 11.40 pm

PRESENT/IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Roger Bailey, Dave Dash, Jill Bute and Raymond Armstrong.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Kareen Williams, Roger Brown, Philip Dinham, Sue Thomas, Sandra Sellars, Jim Sellars, Jenny Gosden, Bev Tucker, Kareen Williams and Maureen Jackson.

ADVISORS: Fay Powell (Grounds Manager) and Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Officer).

Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies were received from Councillor Willis, Councillor Thornton and the Town Clerk. Declarations of Interest There were none received.

3. To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 14th January 2020

PROPOSED: Councillor Dave Dash

SECONDED: Jenny Gosden

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Monthly Finance Report

The Community and Grounds Officer explained the Weston in Bloom budget was nearly fully spent.

The Chairman had some items he wished to discuss before continuing with the agenda. It was thought 2 boats on the Queensway could benefit from a central focal point which was wind resistant. It was agreed to make this a future agenda item.

Sue Thomas had been researching species of Buddleias which would be suitable for planting along the seafront. A meeting will be arranged with the manager of Blue Diamond garden centre to see if a suitable discount could be achieved. The Community and Grounds Officer wanted to confirm with the working party that permission would need to be sought for any planting on or around the seafront from North Somerset Council and Bistro Pierre. Sue was going to gather a list together of the potential plants which could be used.

WIB Minutes.25.02.2020

5. Spider Lane – Raised Bed

A meeting had taken place with the college and an agreement would be drawn up.

The Grounds Manager confirmed the Grounds Team can help clear the raised bed however they had other time sensitive tasks on at the moment which were taking priority. A grant had been applied for through the Royal Horticultural Society for £500 to contribute towards the cost of the project.

The Donkey and Cart was looking really good. Bev Tucker asked if photos could be taken for the portfolio.

Uphill Village Society had asked the chairman if WIB could purchase compost for them. The Community and Grounds Officer explained this would have to come out of the next finical year's budget if the working party wanted to recommend it.

Friends of Grove Park wanted to take over one of the round beds opposite the bio diversity garden. This was agreed.

6. Britain in Bloom Entry 2020

The Community and Grounds Officer announced the South West in Bloom Awards are being held at the Winter Gardens this year. She was waiting to hear back from Terry Porter to see what involvement WIB could have.

There being no further business, the C	Chairman closed the meeting at: 11.40 pr	
Signed:	Dated:	





Weston-Super-Mare YMCA and Town Council Partnership

Report for Community Services prepared by May Barnett and Alli Waller.

1. Purpose of report

This report covers services and work delivered and supported from the beginning of June 2020 to the end of August 2020 in the Weston-super-Mare area. This includes the development and progress of the programme and services for young people and the community at YMCA W-s-M, 2 Bristol Road Lower and Weston Youth and Community Centre, Coleridge Road.

2. Work with young people - Youth & Community café

a) Open access:

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

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

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

The YMCA Youth and Community café has been closed since March. It was used to provide support to the homeless team. A place where the most vulnerable homeless people could take a shower and wash their clothes. The café is now handed back to the Youth and Community team and is in the process of being refreshed.

Sports Hall- We are currently looking to put together a grant application to the department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to refurbish the sports hall behind the café. This will be a welcomed, community space for all young people of Weston-Super-Mare.

b) Targeted work:

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





- ➤ Young Carers Junior & Senior sessions 2nd Wednesday of each month
- ➤ Home Education Network youth project every Friday
- ➤ Young people with disabilities Weston College brings over an average of 15 young people on a Tuesday in the day time to encourage them to use the social space and feel more confident about attending open sessions.
- Ups & Downs South West Youth Project Tuesday evenings fortnightly
- > Adult young carers- Once a month on a Thursday evening
- > Care Leavers- Every Monday afternoon
- ➤ Groups tackling isolation for young people We works in partnership with Weston College, with young people not in education, employment or training Wednesday mornings weekly

We have continued to follow the guidance for community venues and will look at reopening on October 1st for closed groups.

3. Work with young people - satellites & outreach

This week sees the Youth & Community team begin to return to face to face delivery.

Due to Covid 19 Guidelines we will be splitting the young people into two year groups, 11-13 & 14-17. This will help us to work within the recommended group size whilst offering more targeted work like drug awareness, healthy relationships and anti-social behaviour. We have also devised a new registration system using a QR code, making our delivery paper free.

Weston Youth centre

The Friday open access sessions will commence on 11th September as an outdoor group to begin with and will continue to offer support to young people from Bournville, Oldmixon and Coronation.

We have continued to engage with professionals all over North Somerset in a bid to make sure services and support for young people continue to be accessible. Youth workers are in regular contact with PCSOs to understand what we are offering and signposting some young people that may benefit from working with us or accessing our provision. We have been able to help police with two young people that went missing during lockdown. Both returned home safely.

South West Activity Network (SWAN) held a very successful summer Picnic challenge. I was involved with some of the planning and identifying families that would benefit from the project.

YMCA DULVERTON GROUP



We are continuing to keep in contact with our partners on a regular basis too, sending monthly updates on our work within each area.

Our work with Big Worle continues. Boredom packs for all the young people that attend Youth Club were distributed. This will give us a safe opportunity to check in with all the families and young people that we have yet to reach. Thanks to our links with the Town Council, we have also received 200 activity packs in the last week from the Museum, to be distributed to young people in the town.

Our offer of an online support service through our social media platforms (Facebook & Instagram) grew throughout Lockdown.

We have a total of 61 followers and 52 likes on our Facebook page (YMCA Youth Clubs). On Instagram, we have over 140 members following our page (ymcawestonsupermare). All of our activities were seen over 700 times on Instagram and over 600 times on Facebook. We also had over 150 people engaged in posts on Facebook and over 200 people visit our Instagram a week.

We continue to use these platforms to offer information, advice and guidance to all young people as well as activities and challenges they can do themselves or with family members. However, in July we noticed a fall in numbers. This coincided with the school reopening for some year groups. YMCA England and Wales also documented this in their latest report.

We have continued to talk to several young people through these messaging platforms.

We have continued to support those vulnerable young people who known to us, making sure they feel supported. We are also preparing to support many more who are beginning to show signs of mental health issues as fears grow about returning to school. Below are some examples of this in practice:

- CA Has been struggling with her mother's recent cancer diagnosis. We have helped her to talk about how she is coping and how she has been helping her siblings while her mother is ill. We have signposted her to Young carers and she is now being supported by the group.
- PL Has suffered with depression, suicidal thoughts and also self- harms.
 Youth workers are in weekly contact with her. Due to PL's brother's anxiety,
 mum has been unable to attend PL's CAMHS appointments. I have been
 able to support the family by taking PL to the appointments.
 Youth workers have also been working with PL's mum and helping with
 providing distraction techniques for PM to use.
- In July we were able to offer small face to face meetings with some of our vulnerable young people. One small group of young people were heavily involved with anti-social behaviour. Youth workers met with them to discuss

YMCA DULVERTON GROUP



the impact they were having on the Town. The work we are doing with this group is on-going.

• EN - Home life is very Chaotic and she does not get much support from mum. She has struggled to make positive decisions about her future. The team have offered her continuing support and referred her to a mentoring scheme.

4. Youth Council

Youth council Zoom meetings continued throughout Lockdown. Despite the drop in numbers, the remaining young people worked hard to get the enewsletter ready for publishing (copy attached) this also coincided with the Youth council's recruitment drive. We have four new members starting this September. A great boost for the Youth Council.

5. Work with community

The team have continued to work within local communities. We worked with a local young girl, who wanted to give help to others, she collected donations from friends and family, which were then turned into meals and food donation pack. These were given to young people that were either struggling financially or unable to shop for themselves.

In July our time with The Stable Café, delivering lunches to families that found this time tough and who did not qualify for free school meals, came to an end. We delivered over 10,000 lunches. Many of the families were then signposted to the summer Picnic challenge in South Ward. This gave the team an opportunity to check in safely with young people and families that might be of concern and signpost the accordingly.

6. Training

The youth & Community team will be attending Child Sexual Exploitation training this month. This will equip the team with the tools to understand the experiences and practice issues that relate to children and young people who are at risk of exploitation. Being able to identify risk indicators that a child is being/or is at risk of being exploited have considered which vulnerabilities contribute to a child being at risk of exploitation

We are also in the process of offering two Youth Work apprenticeships to local young people. An opportunity to grow new youth workers within the organisation.

7. Volunteering

We currently have the network participation officer from South West Activity Network, Kally Critchley, volunteering with us every Friday. We have continued to keep in contact through lockdown as this partnership has proved to be very valuable enabling us to share





information regarding some of our young people within the South ward area.

8. Links to Town Council Strategy

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





Grounds Service Management Report – written by Fay Powell Grounds Manager

Public Toilets

During the early start of Lockdown, the public toilets were closed following Government Guidelines. On the weekend of 23rd May 2020.

We have experienced issues with Grove Park and Ashcombe Park caused by blockages in the pipelines, Clarence Park and Uphill both with electrical mechanism issues, which have been fixed.

No issues reported at our Maltings site in Worle.

The toilets continue to be cleaned under strict COVID Guidelines by our contractor Weston Support Services.

The Grounds Team have removed all signage from the Locking Road toilet block and all responsibilities for the site have been handed back to North Somerset Council.

Cemetery

Throughout the Lockdown period the Grounds Team have continued to operate the Cemetery site, only closing for one hour either side of COVID burials.

The number of burials has increased and as Lockdown has eased the interment of ashes which almost stopped in the early weeks is increasing.

The Grounds Manager has attached a document to this report, that gives an overview of where we are with the Cemetery, the space left for burials and ashes and the process that takes place.

Allotments

In the past 4 months the Grounds Team particularly the Grounds Manager has had regular communication with the Allotment Chairman. Sharing Government Guidelines and talking through ways to deal with particular issues which have arisen during this difficult time. Since Lockdown the Allotment club have had over 250 requests by residents to be added to the waiting list which is growing daily. The figure for last year was 52.

Dog Bins

We continue to carry out this service in house, we have contracts with the following parishes/ organisations:

- Kewstoke Parish Council
- Alliance Homes
- Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council
- Churchill Parish Council
- St Georges Parish Council dog bins (Grounds Manager to give verbal update)

The Grounds Team has been approached by other Parish and Town Councils for our services, which is being taken into consideration and capacity reviewed as part of the recruitment of future Grounds Staff.

Recommendation

That the report be noted Grounds Manager September 2020









Crime and Prevention Budget Allocation – written by Fay Powell Grounds Manager

On Monday 9th March 2020 the following was Resolved:

- 1. That a Working Party be formed consisting of the following interested Councilors: James Clayton, Gill Bute, Ciaran Cronnelly, Sarah Codling and Peter Fox to explore the best use of the £50,000 set aside for community safety and crime prevention initiatives and report back to committee in May.
- 2. That in the meantime officers explore the possibility of outsourcing the work for discussion.

The following three possibilities for fulfilling this role have been explored and discussed between the Town Clerk and the Grounds Manager.

- 1) WSM TC employs their own 'Crime and Prevention Officer'
- 2) Fund additional Weston Town Centre Partnership BID Wardens
- 3) Fund additional North Somerset Council Community Response Officer

Option 1

WSM TC provides their own Crime and Prevention Officer. They would work across Town Council sites tackling anti-social behaviour.

The person/ persons would either deal with ASB with the following approach: Low level response to ASB, move people on, report incidents to the police, provide a physical presence in problem areas.

<u>Consideration:</u> The staff would need protective clothing including a body worn camera to gather evidence and provide additional Health & Safety for loan working. Training to include conflict resolution. Secure email to share information about individuals with other agencies.

If the TC wanted the officer/s to be warranted with delegated powers from North Somerset Council, this would have a cost implication. A vehicle would also be required and there would likely be additional cost implications to evening and weekend working which would need to be managed.

Cost per annum: Awaiting latest costs from Finance due to annual salary amendment. Figures to be given at Community Services Committee Meeting.

Option 2

Weston Town Centre Partnership to provide x 2 BID Wardens to patrol beyond their Weston –super – Mare Town Centre remit.

2) Wardens to have a visible presence across the Town to include other shopping parades and areas of concern in Worle, Milton, Bournville, Uphill, Whitecross Road, Heywood Village.

Currently the BID Wardens do not hold any enforcement powers but are accredited with the Security Industry Accreditation (SIA) they do not have any power to deal with Environmental issues such as littering and god fouling.

Consideration:

These staff would need to be tasked daily and a patrol plan designed to ensure maximum coverage across the town. Currently the BID Wardens patrol a prescribed area which they do not deviate from, their work flow is dictated by North Somerset Council's CCTV Room, the businesses within the Town Centre and any ad hoc incidents that happen when they are out on patrol. A lot of the BID Wardens work is reactive with proactive patrols. At the Town Council we are aware of issues we have with our own assets and sites, but not always aware of the concerns the residents in the areas outlined above are experiencing. These issues would predominantly be reported to Community Safety at North Somerset Council or the Police. This information would be filtered down to the BID Team to act on within their work parameters.

Cost per annum:

Item	Cost
Training (SIA, First Aid & Chapter 8)	£1000.00
Digital Radios (GPS) x 2	£1000.00
Mobile phone	£400.00
Uniform x 2 (all weather)	£500.00
Body Cameras x 2 – purchase.	£1000.00
Mileage allowance c. 25 miles per day @ 0.45p	£4106.00
TOTAL	£8006.00

Staff Costs	Cost
Warden Hourly Rate	£11.00
Hours – 10:00 to 18:00	
Days Worked – 7 days Monday to Sunday	
Hours per year 2,912 or 56 per week	
Cost at £13.20 per hour	£38,438
Central Support Cost – TCM & CRM	£3500.00
Total	£49,44.00

Option 3

Fund one North Somerset Council Community Response Officer, to provide a visible frontline presence. To work across a prescribed area and respond to anti-social behaviour and environmental and street scene issues that are impacting residents and businesses. North Somerset Council Community Response Officers hold statutory Environmental Powers and additional Anti-Social Behaviour Tools and Powers working in partnership with Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

The Community Response officer wears a body worn camera and is tasked to areas where there are issues raised by the community either reported to the Police or through the weekly Multi-Agency ASB Tasking Meeting.

North Somerset Council have given two possible options for the management of this member of staff.

Option 3a

Costs (based on 2020/21 figures)

Full time management of Community Response Officer carried out by North Somerset Council.

1 x Full-Time Community Response Officer	Basic Salary - £25,540 Employers NI Contribution - £2,340 Employers Pension Contribution - £6,310 Total salary costs - £34,190 + 25% overheads charge - £8,550
Total	£42,740

Option 3b

Cost based on joint management of the Community Response Officer between WSMTC Grounds Manager and NSC Community Safety Manager. The officer would work across both NSC and WSMTC locations. The officer would use a Grounds Team 'pool vehicle' and would make use of an electric bike to travel across the town.

The Community Response Officer would receive daily 'tasking' from the Grounds Manager to address WSMTC priorities and would also receive tasking from the weekly ASB Multi Agency Steering Group.

The Community Response Officer role would provide a pro-active approach and work for towards long term resolution of issues.

-	Basic Salary - £25,540
	Employers NI Contribution - £2,340
1 x Full-Time Community Response Officer	Employers Pension Contribution - £6,310
	Total salary costs - £34,190
	+ 10% overheads charge - £3, 420
Total	£37,610

Consideration

Option 3a NSC would manage the day to day of the Community Repose Officer with input from WSMTC Grounds Team. The Officer would be located in the Town Hall.

Option 3b would allow for the Officer to work across WSMTC and NSC sites with direct line management from the Grounds Manager ensuring WSMTC priorities were met. Interviewing for the role would be jointly carried out to ensure both parties were happy with the successful candidate.

Conclusion

During the Lockdown period the Operational Grounds Team have been working across the town, looking maintaining and carry out our services. During this time, we have seen an increase in graffiti, anti-social behaviour including drinking and drug taking in our Cemetery along with vandalism of our play equipment. There have been times when we have not had the resources to deal with the issues and have spent large amounts of time reporting incidents to the necessary authorities.

The Grounds Manager and the team believe there is a need for assistance in looking after our assets to ensure they are safe and pleasant facilities for our community.

Recommendation

To consider the options and practicalities of each offer and make a decision based on the information provided and the verbal examples given by the Grounds Manager at the meeting.

Grounds Manager Septembers 2020



WESTON LITERARY FESTIVAL 3 YEAR CATCH UP

Produced by the Community and Grounds Officer

1. Summary

This document has been compiled as an information tool for councillors.

The Town Council has hosted 3 Literary Festivals so far, all taking place in February and spanning over the course of a week. This document will re-cap over Weston Lit Fest 2018 and 2019 as previously reported whilst also reviewing Weston Lit Fest Feb 2020.

1.1. Weston Literary Festival 2018

The councils first literary festival held at the Blakehay and Museum in February 2018 showed great potential. We had encouraging responses from local authors via our press releases in the Mercury and Facebook posts. Also when authors were contacted directly they were excited about seeing a Literary Festival introduced to the town.

The use of the Blakehay Theatre ticketing system worked well allowing us to track ticket sales and keep an eye on venue capacity. The event also showcased the new studio renovations as well as the recently refurbished Weston Museum. Some days throughout the festival had 2 if not 3 events running across the sites.

Waterstones attended our events as the official bookseller. This made offering a book signing/sale after an author talk simple and fuss free, not only for us but the authors too. They were fantastic to work with and supported the event entirely.

Marketing for the festival was carried out across the following platforms:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Leaflets (drops to schools, town council facilities, town centre shops and the YMCA groups)
- Radio (BBC Radio Bristol, The Breeze)

Within the first week of tickets going on sale (30th November – 7th December) "An Evening with Jeffery Archer" had secured an attendance of 46 out of 80 tickets available and Damien Boyd also secured an attendance of 32 out of 50. Both events had sold out their first batch of tickets by the 15th December where we then released more. The events had fully sold out by 12th January 2018.

Members decided to keep all tickets free of charge.

1.2. Weston Literary Festival 2019

The second Literary Festival was well received by those who attended. Events took place at the Museum and The Blakehay Theatre and as agreed by members at Expenditure and Governance on the 14th May 2018 a ticket charge was implemented. This resulted in a lower attendance in comparison to 2018 when tickets were free however whilst in 2018 many events sold out but then attendance was low on the day.

The charge was £5 per ticket for events held at Weston Museum and £12 per ticket for events held at The Blakehay Theatre. The Blakehay Theatre ticketing system was used once again allowing us to track ticket sales and keep an eye on venue capacity.

The festivals social media platform continued to grow and become more active. The page now has a total of 451 people following it. Some of our events, such as Helen Pankhurst, attracted good social media attention with 114 people registering their interest and the event reaching a total of 5.3k people.

Marketing for the festival was carried out across the following platforms:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Leaflets (drops to schools, town council facilities, town centre shops and the YMCA groups)
- Radio (BBC Radio Bristol, The Breeze)

Waterstones once again attended our events as the official bookseller, allowing us to offer a book signing/sale after an author talk.

The first week of tickets going on sale (10th November – 17th November) showed Helen Pankhurst as our most popular event however no events sold out this year.

1.3 Weston Literary Festival 2020

The third Literary Festival took place between Saturday 26th February – Friday 6th March with events taking place solely at the Museum. The charge for tickets varied between £5 - £15. The Ticket Source system was used once again allowing us to track ticket sales and keep an eye on venue capacity.

Despite contacting numerous "well known" authors to try and secure a good opening night talk we were unsuccessful. An example of some of the authors contacted were:

- Lucy Siegel To expensive with a fee starting at £3000
- Julia Donaldson Declined
- Nadia Hussain No response
- Emily and Michael Eavis Declined
- David Walliams Declined
- Simon Sebag Montefiore No response

- Mrs Sophie Hinch No Response
- Trevor McDonald To expensive with a fee starting at £12,000
- Hallie Rubenhold Declined

This year proved challenging to secure a line up which would attract a large audience. We had many local authors interested however this sometimes only attracts a niche audience.

Waterstones once again attended our events as the official bookseller, allowing us to offer a book signing/sale after an author talk.

Marketing for the festival was carried out across the following platforms:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Leaflets (drops to schools, town council facilities, town centre shops and the YMCA groups)
- Radio (BBC Radio Bristol)

2. Impact of COVID

Planning for the next festival in February 2021 has been unable to commence due to COVID restrictions and uncertainty on the future of gatherings and social distancing.

Members are requested to:

1. Consider the Literary festival within the budget setting process for 2021/2022 providing direction on aspirations for this particular event going forward which can therefore be included.

