

Community Service Committee

Item 6

Grounds Management Report

Report of the Grounds Manager

1. Public Toilets

At the time of writing this report all of our public toilets are open.

We did experience high levels of vandalism at Ashcombe Park with wiring and lighting pulled out from the ceiling. This has now been fixed and the toilets are fully functioning again.

We have been working with the café Sprout in Grove Park, to make sure the public toilets are accessible for the popular bandstand events hosted throughout the summer.

2. Cemetery

The team has been extremely busy in the Cemetery, keeping on top of the grass cutting, preparing areas for interments and ensuring families can visit graves safely.

The Cemetery Office also continues to be very busy with numerous deed transfers, plots being purchased, interment arrangements, memorial permits and family history requests.

3. Allotments

Following the site visit for Old Mill Way to look at conservation and remedial works required, the team spent a solid 4 days at the site carrying out the works, which have transformed the area, exposed the pond once again and made it a useable space where wildlife and conservation can thrive. Thanks were passed onto the team from George Raines, chairman of the Allotment Club *“Could you do me a favour and pass on our thanks the crew for the work that they completed at Old Mill way and Kewstoke. Wonderful job at both sites and a really great bunch of workers”*

Members are requested to note the report.

Sharon Miles

Grounds Manager

Monday 26th June 2023

Community Service Committee

Item 7

Community Response Update

Report of Chrissie Simpson and Wayne Hughes for Community Services Committee

South Ward Estates

PC Jack Roth from Avon and Somerset Constabulary has been contacted to provide an overview of the ASB issues happening on the estates. The main one that stands out is the attack by youths on service buses conveying members of the public. Youths have been throwing objects at moving buses. Here is a full list of the ASB reports.

ASB AN011 Bournville last 6 months

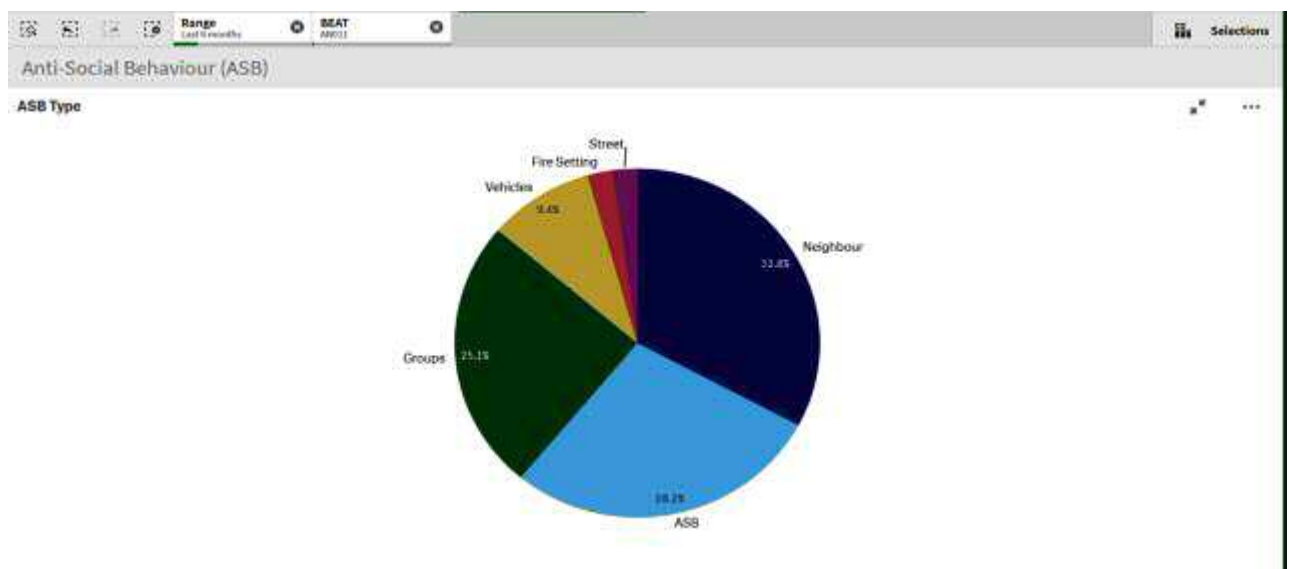
Summary:

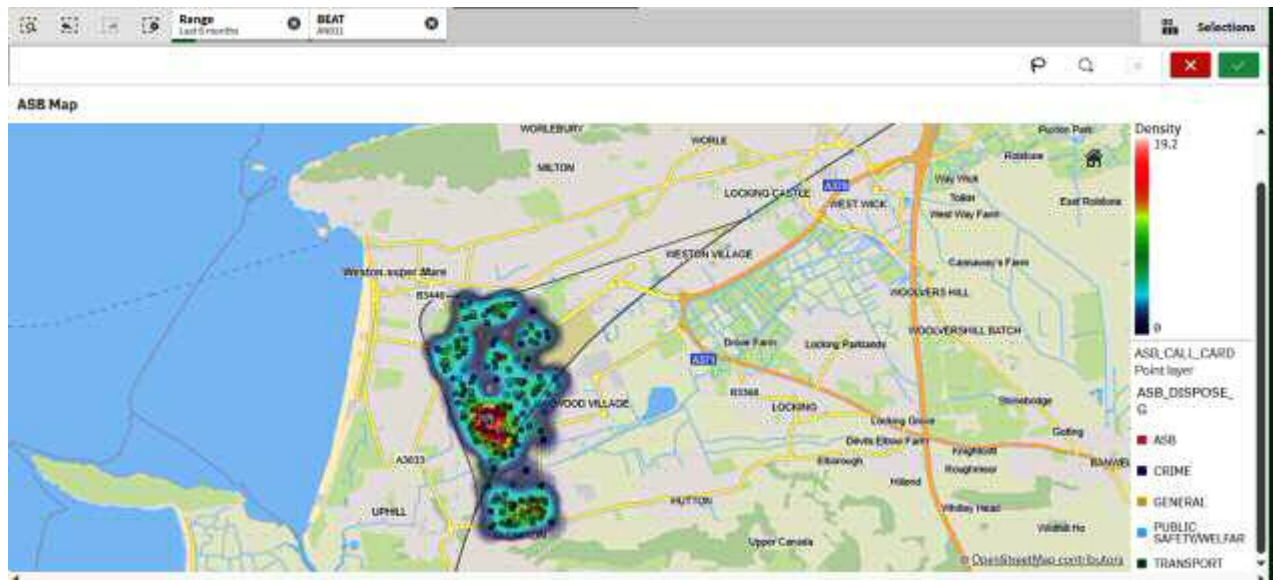
540 reported incidents of ASB.

ASB nuisance - predominantly relating to the riding of off-road bikes around the estate. PSP in place.

- Reports of targeting by groups of youths of retail units March fields Way causing general nuisance within the stores – although reported numbers are down on previous month.
- Targeting of bus drivers (objects thrown at buses or youths pressing emergency stop buttons) resulting in service stoppage on occasion on the estate.
- General stone, bottle and brick throwing at windows of properties.
- Fire setting (bins).

ASB personal – predominantly reports of neighbour disputes, shouting, swearing, goading and harassment.





I have been doing regular patrols with the Bourneville team, including erecting signs up at uphill quarry where there had been reports of large gatherings, and going on joint patrols around the estates and dealing with issues that arise, including the ongoing motor bikes that have been plaguing the estates. I attend the healthy living Centre on a weekly basis and have built up a good rapport some of the community. I went along to the recent whizzy wheels refurbishment and helped clear graffiti off the doors and signs and weed and dig over the planted area.

Castle Batch

Since the opening of the new SEND play park we have had only a few reports of youths misusing the equipment and riding bikes over the play equipment etc. We patrol the park regularly and communicate effectively with people using the park. We have asked if getting the gate closed again in the evenings as we feel this will help prevent residents that are using the car park for parking there vehicles overnight and discourage any anti-social driving that may occur in the car park also.

Queensway – Worle

Since the school holidays the anti-social behaviour in the area has significantly decreased, this has confirmed our thoughts that the main culprits of the anti-social behaviour are school children on their way home from school. As we come to the end of the school holidays, we anticipate there will again be a rise in this behavior, we are engaging early on with local schools to address the issue and deal with individuals identified.

Dartmouth Close Play Area

Alliance homes transferred the ownership of Dartmouth close play area in March of this year over to Weston town council. We have had reports of groups of youths congregating in the play area after school and have been littering and defacing the equipment. We visited Priory school and spoke to the vice principal Kirsty Aaron who was able to identify some of the youths, we are working closely with Priory School to try and tackle the issue and will be going into the school in September and holding some assemblies on the impact of ASB.

We also visited the area on a street safe tour on a Friday evening, and came across a lot of litter and graffiti, we have had the graffiti removed twice now and hope this will discourage any further vandalism. We had a meeting with Sharon Miles and discussed possibly using

some Anti Vandal paint to use on the garages as youths have been climbing on to the roofs.

Locking Campus-Worle

Locking campus has had a couple reports of youths misbehaving around the skate park area, including using trolleys to get in and push each other around. There was an incident of a motorbike belonging to a member of staff being taken and pushed over and discarded, this was reported to the police. The Venue occasionally employ a private security guard for the evening hours, and we have done high visible patrols and leave the community response van at the front entrance to show a visible presence.

Italian Gardens Weston Super Mare

The Italian Gardens still has issues with the gathering of members of the street community coming together to drink in groups. Community Protection Warnings have been used on the main perpetrators. Alcohol seizures and a number of PSPO's have been issued to offenders causing anti-social behavior. Of late there has been a migration of street drinkers from the Italian Gardens to the grassed area on Alexander Parade. North Somerset CCTV is used daily to monitor the individuals and gather evidence. Where offences have or are being committed, we patrol the area and deal with offences appropriately.

Waterloo Street/ Boulevard Weston Super Mare

Since the end of 2022 we have worked tirelessly with the businesses within this area, in order to gain their respect, which has improved the passage of information. Stephen and Co on Waterloo Street have been particularly helpful in this area. The Summer arrived and in the main the Boulevard and Waterloo Street has remained quiet from an ASB perspective. However Tesco Express continue to be the victim's of high value thefts. Again working with Street wardens and the police, we encourage reporting of the thefts to the police and carry out high visibility patrols when we can.

Waterpark, Knightstone Road, Weston Super Mare

The waterpark remains quiet, with no issues reported since late Spring.

Prince Consort Gardens

About a month ago there were reports of males congregating in the park for what can be described importuning. High Visibility patrols took place. Nothing was seen and no further offences were reported.

Grove Park

During the summer month the park has been busy with members of the public. The anti-social behavior has been minimal. Most days has seen community response patrolling the area. Several people have been approached and had their alcohol confiscated. There has been no rough sleeping in the shelter at the top of the park this month. The tenant of the café within the park has occasionally reported anti-social behavior. Re-assurance visits to her premises have taken place regularly. This appears to have worked well. The new CCTV camera has now been installed in Jill's Garden. This will prove invaluable in the prevention and detection of offences. Of late there has been groups gathering outside The Mayor's parlor. These persons have been spoken to and moved on.

Ellenborough Park

During August we saw 4 tents situated in the park. They were reported by YMCA outreach team. Multi agency visits were made with the police. Notices were placed on two of the tents. Within 24 hours one of the tents had been removed by its owner. The Town Council grounds team have cleared a number of tents from within the park, having been asked to do so by myself.

Of late we have had two reports during the evening of a group of upto 6 males who have been drinking in Ellenborough Park East. They have been abusive and threatening to dog walkers. These offences have occurred during the late evening. Advice has been given to the complainant to contact the police in the first instance.

Community Service Committee

Item 8

Review of the Council's Service Level Agreement for Community Response

Report of the Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services

Summary

In 2021 Weston-super-Mare Town Council (WSMTC) entered into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with North Somerset Council (NSC) to fund a Community Response Officer (CRO) to respond and deal with anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Weston town council managed and owned sites and the wider town.

Parish and Town Councils do not hold any enforcement powers that allow parish and town council staff to respond to and resolve ASB. It was recognised that there was an increase in vandalism to WSMTC play areas, parks and the illegal encampment of tents on WSMTC land. With no powers to deal with these types of issues the town council were reliant on stretched police teams to respond and the small resource NSC Community Response currently had in place.

It is highly recommended the SLA should continue for a period time, due to the overwhelming successful relationship built and cost savings made. This work is in line with WSMTC Strategy pillar 1. *Weston View – Improving the image, identity and pride in the town to make it attractive for visitors and businesses. Strategies include better promoting the town, supporting local businesses, providing events and activities, and addressing issues like homelessness and crime.*

Please find below a full evaluation.

Purpose of Community Response

The Community Response Team is part of North Somerset Council's Safer & Stronger Communities service. The Community Response team provides a highly visible frontline service, with an objective of working with communities to prevent and resolve anti-social behaviour, environmental and street scene issues which are impacting residents and businesses.

As part of the Safer & Stronger Communities Service, the Community Response Team is fully integrated with the Community Safety Team and the CCTV Control Room who provide Community Response with weekly core taskings on anti-social behaviour and Community Safety issues affecting the community - in addition to anti-social behaviour reports received by the public.

Community Response Officers have their own area in North Somerset. Officers have an aim of spending 90% of their time out and about in their areas, providing a point of contact for local communities and working with the police and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) in our neighbourhoods. Our Community Response Officers must be:

Visible and accessible to the community by:

- Making themselves known to key local stakeholders such as Town & Parish council's, local police beat teams, local businesses and Street Wardens
- Ensuring they are accessible, and residents/councillors/partners/businesses know how to get in touch even if they don't see them every week
- Identifying opportunities to maximise time spent out in the communities by using the provided mobile technology, starting/finishing out in areas, using locations other than the Town Hall for administration

Proactively communicating with the community:

- Using social media to promote Community Response activities including use of ASB Tools & Powers interventions (where appropriate) and good news to/partnership working
- Feeding into newsletters such as Town and Parish Council Newsletters
- Providing updates for Councillor briefings
- Attending community meetings

Targeting key local concerns

- Using all and every method of making sure that they are informed of what those concerns are – data/engagement/consultation
- Using enforcement powers where appropriate to address ASB in local communities and recording all interventions both reactive and proactive.
- Working to resolve issues themselves or in partnership getting support as necessary from colleagues/other agencies where appropriate.

Community Response work by resolving issues themselves or with partners including Avon & Somerset Police and Housing associations. This may include the use of their range of anti-social behaviour tools and powers.

Community Response and WSMTC SLA to date

The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) has worked closely with the Safer Communities Service Manager at NSC and the Community Response Team throughout the SLA. WSMTC have had active input into the management of this resource and have taken part in the interview process of staff, ongoing staff reviews and prioritising work areas for the dedicated resource.

Throughout the time of this SLA the working relationship between the two organisations has been strong and priority areas town council teams have identified have always been a priority of the dedicated resource and the wider team.

One of the many benefits of the CRO has been to find a solution to ongoing issues, be that at our buildings, open spaces or assets we own. CRO's actively patrol our sites which gives a reassuring presence to staff and the public. The team is flexible

and by its very name responsive so can respond quickly to 'live' issues.

The training the team receives is vast which allows them to deal with all types of issues and their professional approach is important as they are not only representing NSC but also WSMTC. In August alone, the team have successfully removed 4 unauthorised encampments from Ellenborough Park West a protected site. If WSMTC did not have the Community Response resource to deal with these encampments the cost to the council would be in the region of £10,000 to privately remove through bailiffs and the court system.

Community Response enforcement actions so far this year:

This work has been carried out in the parish of Weston-super-Mare and includes town council sites.

15x Community Protection Warnings – Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) are the first stage of the Community Protection Notice (CPN) process under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They can be issued to anyone over the age of 16 and can be used to deal with a wide range of ongoing anti-social behaviour issues or nuisances which are having a detrimental effect on the community's quality of life by targeting those responsible.

The CPW is a written warning which outlines what action an offender is required to take or stop within a set time period. This is an opportunity to modify behaviour without any formal sanctions being taken.

More information about the CPW/CPN process can be found on website:

<https://saferstrongerns.co.uk/information-advice/anti-social-behaviour/tackling-anti-social-behaviour/tools-powers/community-protection-notices>

7x alcohol seizures - At the start of the summer period, the team launched 'Operation Dry Street', which is an enforcement initiative aimed at tackling street drinking in the town centre. Op Dry Street aims to disrupt street drinkers by using the PSPOs robustly to confiscate alcohol in hotspot areas. Repeat offenders are targeted by using higher level tools and powers such as CPWs and CPNs.

Community Response have also supported:

3x Community Protection Notices – If a CPW is breached, a Community Protection Notice will be served. This will normally contain the same conditions as the CPW, but failure to comply with a Community Protection Notice is a criminal offence

1x Criminal Behaviour Order – Evidence provided by Community Response Team supported the council's ASB Team to obtain the council's first Criminal Behaviour Order. The CBO can be issued by the court following an individual's conviction for a criminal offence to tackle the most persistently anti-social individuals who are also engaged in criminal activity. Breaching a CBO is a criminal offence and can result in a prison sentence.

Key Case Studies

Person L – At the start of August 2023, a male known as ‘Person L’ was raised at our weekly briefing and tasking meeting due to rough sleeping and ASB in the town centre such as street drinking and urinating in the street. Person L was known to the team prior to being placed into temporary accommodation. CRO Wayne Hughes made enquiries with the council’s housing team where it was revealed that Person L was at risk of losing his tenancy because he was not using it.

Due to Person L’s ASB, CRO Wayne Hughes made the decision to issue Person L with a Community Protection Warning. The CPW had the desired effect and Person L immediately stopped his behaviour and returned to his property. To date, Person L has not come to notice since being issued with CPW and local support services have reported that he is doing well.

Grove Park Encampment – In January 2023, a large rough sleeper encampment appeared in the Victorian Shelter at the top of Grove Park. The encampment consisted over several tents and up to 6 individuals who were engaging in anti-social behaviour including lighting fires, street drinking, urinating/defecating in a public place, drug use with reports of drug paraphernalia/needles being found in the area. There were aggravating factors to this encampment due to it being within a listed building and next to the town council’s play area.

In response, the Community Response Team acted quickly by using their enforcement tools and powers against the individuals causing ASB. They also worked with departments in the council to quickly clear the encampment and erect temporary fencing to prevent individuals returning to the area.

New Community Response Officer – CRO Chrissie Simpson started with the team back in May and has been a fantastic addition to the team. Chrissie’s patch covers Weston Town Council’s area apart from the town centre which includes the Bournville, Uphill, Milton and Worle.

Chrissie has prioritised building relationships with key stakeholders within the council, police, WTC and community groups such as Big Worle. Despite being in the role for a short period of time, she has already cleared several unauthorised encampments on WTC land, attended a number of community events, notably the Castle Batch re-opening (see <https://youtu.be/PPDIZkH800A?si=mMrOQqjicwXb6zUt>). She also regularly conducts evening patrols with the Bournville and Worle Police Neighbourhood teams to provide a visible presence and respond to ASB calls.

Conclusion

WSMTC could not respond to ASB against their buildings, parks, street furniture or staff alone. With no power the town council would be reliant on reporting issues through general channels. Paying for a resource enables this to happen in real time, with long-term outcomes and resolution. The time taken to problem solve cannot be underestimated and the long-term money savings are vast. To date since 2021 the saving to the council for the removal of unauthorised encampments alone at Ellenborough Park West is in the region of £100,00 (based on bailiff cost for one single occupant and tent removed at Ellenborough Park East in 2021 – the cost with inflation could be greater now in 2023)

This SLA not only helps to protect our assets, it allows us a voice to a wider audience when tackling crime and disorder across the town. The partnership working through this agreement has created trusted relationships with Avon and Somerset Police the wider Community Safety team at NSC and other partner organisations.

Members are requested to:

Agree the continuation of the Service Level Agreement with North Somerset Council for a further 3 years (recognising employment of personnel) with an annual performance review and subject to budget confirmation January 2024.

Fay Powell

Assistant Town Clerk

Monday 4th September 2023

Weston-Super-Mare YMCA and Town Council Partnership

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

1. Purpose of report

This report covers services and work delivered and supported by YMCA in the Weston-super-Mare areas, from the beginning of July 2022 to the end of August 2022. This includes the development and progress of programmes and services for young people and the community at YMCA Weston-super-Mare, 2 Bristol Road Lower and Weston Youth and Community Centre, Coleridge Road.

2. Work with Young People – Youth & Community Café

a) Open Access:

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

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

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

The Youth & Community Café is continuing to support community groups within the town. In July we ran the final sessions for our youth groups before the summer break.

The community coffee morning continued throughout July & August. This is a vital lifeline for the members that rely on having a place to meet and support each other away from the church. Members value the space as it helps them to have a friendship group as many have lost their significant others.

b) Targeted Work:

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

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

3. Work with Young People – Satellites and Outreach.

July saw a busy month for the youth team, we attended the mock interviews at both Worle and Priory schools. This is an annual event for the team as it gives them a chance to go out and meet young people in the school settings and promote our youth sessions as well as offering some great feedback during the interview process.

Exams are always in the fore front of some of our older members and the team have continued to support those that are worried about their results and what they want to do next year.

South Ward

Bourneville youth club has seen a steady increase in attendance with the core group of regularly attending young people often exceeding 30-35. This is in addition to other young people who come semi regularly and those who have been brought along by friends.

We have been able to engage more directly with some of our vulnerable young people for those we may have concerns about, this has allowed us to offer support and signpost to other organisations if needed.

In the last session we had a picnic/party and were able to offer all the young people a great range of food so we could celebrate with them before the summer. We were then able to signpost all our young people to the weekly community lunches and picnics being hosted by our partners at SWAN.

In July at our last session, we said goodbye to our 18-year-olds, all 4 have been attending our sessions regularly since they were 8 years old. In order to continue to support these young people (as there is a need) we are working to start up a group in September for 18 – 21 year olds. This group will offer the young people help with gaining life skills such as CV writing, taster sessions of trades, first aid and training and hopefully in return they will help as volunteers at the Friday youth session. We trialled this earlier in the year and it was a great success with two of our young people securing summer jobs.

Our aim is to support these individuals, so they gain skills to go on and get paid jobs. All 4 have struggled with attending college for different reasons so by giving them opportunities to volunteer they will gain those skills needed to succeed in a paid job.

Worle

The youth club based in Worle had made some extremely positive progress in terms of new comers and regular attendance with the group regularly exceeding 30. Whilst this is positive regarding the reach of our provision and service to the community, it has highlighted some issues and restrictions in the current venue as first feared. As a result, of the boom in attendance and the lack of space in the venue the decision was taken to suspend the group for the last two weeks on health and safety grounds. A meeting was held with the 'Big Worle' representatives and we are currently in negotiation with North Somerset council for the use of Castle batch community centre. We are hoping to resume delivery from Mid-September.

Home Education

The home education group continues to thrive, membership has grown and the young people continue to enjoy activities such as sports, crafts and cooking. Towards the end of the term, some of the young people talked about returning to education via the college and how they felt about returning after a long break. The team were able to signpost them to the college welfare and liaison team for extra support.

Community Partnership work

Our partnership with Swan continues. The team have again supported the summer lunch delivery by attending the community picnics at Clarence and uphill park, uphill woods and Coleridge road allotments.

They also supported the Sanctuary dinner clubs every Friday which offered a community dinner to the young residents that live there. This was to encourage them to build friendships and support networks with each other.

The team have also supported some welding workshops where young people and families were able to book workshops in order to create pieces of artwork from metal. It was great to see the

young people getting hands on with a medium that usually isn't accessible to them. Two of our young people were inspired by the fact the welder was a woman, which broke the stereotypical ideals that women cannot do the same jobs as men. A real positive outcome.

Youth Council

The youth council have been a little quiet due to exams and the summer holidays, however there are plans to continue to expand the group via a recruitment drive through September.

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.

Community Services Committee – 11th September 2023
Item 9.2 Community Events Update - Weston Literary Festival
Report of the Grounds Coordinator, Zoe Scott

1. The Literary Festival programme has now been published in the “Weston Presents, What’s On late summer edition”
2. 1,000 copies have been distributed in Bristol and North Somerset (1,000 to each) with a further 4,000 copies distributed by Super Culture team and volunteers to supplementary venues in Weston and wider North Somerset. The Whirligig weekend which brings in a lot of footfall, including Bristol audiences, will also have copies distributed.
3. The lead seller at the moment is Raynor Winn with 82 tickets sold. After the Whirligig event the focus on Literary Festival marketing across socials and press campaigns will be increased.
4. Tickets can be purchased from www.superculture.org.uk/whats-on/
5. On the 5th October at 12pm, the Shrine on Weston High Street will be hosting a free launch event. *“Town poets cry out their wares amidst the hustle and bustle of the high street to launch the 2023 Literature Festival around the town. Pause for a minute to listen to their words and inspiration. Then go on to enjoy a poetry installation from young people from Off the Record at Unit 27 of The Sovereign.”*

Recommendation:

1. Note the report.

Community Services Committee 11th September 2023
Community Resilience Update
Report of the Senior Development Officer

We are pleased to report the successful recruitment of a new Community Wellbeing Development Officer, who will assume responsibilities previously held by Amy Bond, and will work collaboratively with various community stakeholders to achieve our shared goals and further community wellbeing initiatives.

Weston-super-Mare Town Council follows six principle community outcomes, adopted by the committee in March 2021. These community outcomes are shared throughout the community and have been adopted by other organisations such as North Somerset Council and the For All Healthy Centre to name a few. These 6 outcomes form the basic aims for the Wellbeing initiatives carried out and supported by the Town Council. These outcomes are:

- **Connectivity** reflects the patterns (density and extent) as well as the quality of informal relationships, contacts and formal links between individuals, groups and organisations within the neighbourhoods. It is also about the networks of connections that cross the social and geographic boundaries between local residents and agencies based outside the area.
- **Collaboration** refers to the willingness and opportunities within the communities to work together on joint projects or in ways that provide complementary services and activities. It reflects improved co-operation and better co-ordination, and a decrease in unhelpful competition and unresolved conflicts.
- **Resilience** describes the ability or resourcefulness of communities to respond positively to change and disruption. It is about recovery and creativity, requiring flexibility and persistence rather than rigidity. It shows that communities are able to adapt and evolve new ways of operating by adjusting activities, modifying expectations or changing course to set alternative goals and strategies for reaching them.
- **Community capability** is about the combined knowledge, skills, energy and shared resources that are available within the neighbourhoods' populations so that members of the community can independently establish and maintain projects, activities and locally-run organisations. It includes the level of people's willingness to volunteer to help run and manage small-scale initiatives, as well as those able to take on leadership positions, such as representing residents on wider forums or steering campaigns.
- **Collective efficacy** is based on a shared belief that the community or group is able to influence decisions that affect what happens in the area and to make things happen through its own efforts. It is about the confidence and loyalty that community members have in themselves and each other, and in their trust that local organisations will act in the interests or on behalf on the whole community.
- **Community Cohesion** refers to the values of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. It is about taking positive action to form and maintain a culture which recognises

differences between people and ensuring equality of opportunity whilst recognising diverse needs. It is also about understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.

Some of the work carried out under the role to date includes:

- Summer long programme of wellbeing events at Ellenborough Park West
- Supporting the development of the Anti-Racism Working Group
- Coordination of the Food projects throughout the town which in itself has included:
 - Linking with allotments to redistribute surplus fruit and veg
 - Successful grant applications
 - Work with the Feeding Britain Network
 - Food club set up support
- General community wellbeing support including supporting to write grant applications and signposting.

We are delighted to welcome Jenna Berry as the newest member of the Development Team. Jenna brings experience and a deep commitment to promoting wellbeing within the community. This appointment reflects the Town Council's desire and commitment to continue towards a "Happier and Healthier" Community.

Molly Maher
Senior Development Officer
Drafted 21st August 2023

Community Services Committee 11th September 2023
Shaping Places for Healthier Lives funding programme
Report of the Senior Development Officer and Climate and Community
Development Officer

1. Purpose of report

This report covers the successful application to North Somerset Council for the Shaping Places for Healthier Lives project.

2. Shaping Places for Healthier Lives (SPHL)

Shaping Places for Healthier Lives is a national project exploring how local action can improve health. It is funded by the Health Foundation and managed by the Local Government Association.

The project will run until October 2024 across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Nationally, the project is also being run with Doncaster Council, London Borough of Newham, Northumberland Council and Shropshire Council.

In North Somerset, the focus is on the root causes of food insecurity in local communities, specifically Weston Central and South Ward.

The idea of the project is to look for sustainable ideas to improve long term resident access to good quality, affordable food in their local area, as opposed to focusing on crisis food support.

3. The proposed role of Town Council as Community Anchor Organisation

In June 2023, the Climate and Community Development Officer submitted an expression of interest for Town Council to act as the Community Anchor Organisation, this was confirmed as successful on Wednesday 12th July 2023.

The anchor organisation will take a lead in moving the SPHL project forward in the Weston Central and South Ward areas.

Requirements are that the anchor organisation should already be working within the two areas, have a good understanding of the local community and its residents and have inclusive and trusted relationships with other organisations.

It also requires an availability of approximately one day per week for the project to develop a project plan for the use of funding, working closely with the Community Health Development Officer for North Somerset Council, Laura Flanagan.

4. Details of initial grant and further follow-on funding

An initial award of £9,000 is available to cover time spent on the project from July 2023 – October 2024. This will be paid in three instalments throughout the period.

During this period, the Town Council, as anchor organisation, is required to carry out

the following:

- Champion and actively involve residents in the project
- Engage local groups and residents in conversation about food insecurity and its root causes
 - Set up and coordinate a local project team of relevant partners and residents that will meet regularly , or link in with existing project networks
- Co-produce an area action plan for improving long term food security, building on current work and based on local need
- Engage with a range of organisations and local businesses that can have an impact on food security
- Explore approaches as a network to address the action plan and develop a robust system for the use of further project funding
- Contribute towards evaluation activities to support the national programme and regular reporting on the action plan to North Somerset Council

Throughout the period ahead (July 2023 – October 2024) , there would be ongoing support from SPHL project workers, the Policy and Partnership team at North Somerset Council (as appropriate) and networking opportunities with other target areas across Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

There is potential for further funding totalling £17,500 available for resident engagement, venue hire and communications, where needed throughout the period. This will be decided upon and provided by North Somerset Council on a case-by-case basis.

Following this period of planning, a further £20,000 of funding is available to be spent on carrying out initiatives and ideas identified through the action plan. These will be focused on providing long term and sustainable changes in access to good, affordable food for residents of Weston Central and South Ward.

5. Town Council suitability for carrying out the role

It is proposed that the responsibilities of the project are taken on by the Wellbeing and Community Development Officer as part of their role.

Upon researching the funding stream, Officers within the Development team explored best place organisations to take on the anchor role . Following this, it was decided that, ultimately, Town Council were best placed to carry out the responsibility and its requirements.

It is proposed that the £9,000 funding is placed within the Town Council salary budget with the Wellbeing and Community Development Officer committing one day per week on the project.

Recommendation:

That members agree for Town Council accepts the initial grant award of £9,000 , to act as Anchor Organisation for Shaping Places for Healthier Lives funding grant and for Wellbeing and Community Development Officer to carry out the project work.

Andy Chappel
Climate and Community Development Officer
Drafted 17th August 2023



**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON
MONDAY 3RD JULY 2023**

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8:45 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Joe Bambridge, James Clayton, John Crockford-Hawley (S), Owen James, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Alan Peak, Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee & Office Manager) and Graham Meikle (Volunteer Supervisor).

59	<p>Election of Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Chairman were requested.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor Owen James</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor James Clayton be elected Chairman for the year 2023 – 2024.</p> <p>Councillor James Clayton took his place as Chairman of the meeting.</p>
60	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</p> <p>Councillor Alan Peak was in attendance and gave a apologies for absence for Councillor John Carson. Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Caroline Reynolds who was substituted by Councillor John Crockford-Hawley.</p>
61	<p>Election of Vice Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Vice Chairman were requested.</p> <p>Two nominations were received</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong</p> <p>That Councillor Joe Bambridge be elected Vice Chairman and</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Justyna Pecak - Michalowcz SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield</p> <p>That Councillor Roger Bailey be elected Vice Chairman.</p> <p>For the benefit of new members, introductions by all members were made.</p>

	<p>A vote was then taken and accordingly it was carried (5/3).</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Joe Bambridge be elected Vice Chairman for the year 2023 – 2024.</p>
62	<p>To receive Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none received.</p>
63	<p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 13th March 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated and were also available at the meeting.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p>
64	<p>To note the Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Committee Terms of Reference had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Community Services Committee Terms of Reference be noted.</p>
65	<p>References from other Committees:</p> <p>There were none received.</p>
66	<p>To receive the North Somerset Council CCTV Reports</p> <p>The CCTV reports for the period of February/March & April 2023 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Reference was made to the previous minutes and the committee's request that future reports could show trends and patterns, as the current paperwork was too vast.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk informed that during the procurement for the CCTV it was the intention that snapshot reports would be generated, however it transpires that the reports were being pulled manually. She had a meeting with NSC the following day where she would reconfirm the council's requirements for snapshot reports showing trends and the software's ability to do so.</p>

	<p>For the benefit of new members, background into the council's £81,000 investment in CCTV was given and discussion regarding trends ensued.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the CCTV reports for February/March & April 2023 be received and that the Deputy Town Clerk pursue the refining of these reports with NSC in time for the next meeting.</p>
<p>67</p>	<p>Grounds Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>On behalf of the Grounds Manager, the Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services responded to questions raised:</p> <p><u>Toilets</u> Since the writing of the report, the vandalism at Ashcombe Park toilets had ceased and a skylight was being replaced. NSC had undertaken a drain survey and tree roots were causing blockages, quotes for work were being received. All other toilet sites were currently running.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u> The Council had consulted with other parishes on the of keeping quails on allotment sites and some good guidance had been received surrounding animal welfare. The council would support the Allotment Club’s decision on the situation and it was noted that a general review of the management of Allotments would be undertaken at some point by the Expenditure & Governance Working Party.</p> <p><u>Cemetery</u> The council were currently experiencing complaints about the grass cutting in the Cemetery and the Grounds team were doing everything they could to get on top of this. The delay was due to 2x key members of staff out with long term sickness. Signs were now up apologising for the delay and it was the team’s main priority.</p> <p>There were still sections in the cemetery used for rewilding and the maintenance of this was also running behind. It was noted how much wildlife this had attracted into the cemetery and what a lovely place it was to visit.</p> <p>Engaging with the public about this was key and the signage had tailed off the complaints.</p> <p>It was noted that the Soroptimist memorial in Grove Park had been damaged and that the Assistant Town Clerk was in communication with NSC about relocation within the park.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
<p>68</p>	<p>To receive the report from the Community Response Officers</p> <p>It was noted that a report had not been received and there were no Community Response (CR) Officers in attendance.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the breaking and entering of unauthorised encampments on</p>

the beach lawns. The magistrates order had lapsed at 5pm that day and it was now a Police issue. The response from the Police was felt to be lacking and it was proposed that a vote of insufficient confidence in the Police be communicated to the Chief Constable.

The Chairman was mindful that this subject was not a specific agenda item. However, as this was an area of Community Safety it was felt that the Town Clerk could be instructed to write to the Chief Constable to this effect. To his knowledge, a report of a break in was made and Police responded but did not prevent the unlawful encampment taking place. There was a meeting between NSC and the Police on unauthorised encampments due to take place.

Members reported their ward constituents' frustrations with the situation.

For the benefit of new members, the Assistant Town Clerk gave background on the Community Response SLA with NSC for the funding of a CRO to tackle antisocial behavior. The Council does not have the powers to enforce so this was a way to tackle without going privately, which would cost the council money. Examples of antisocial behavior and activity experienced, were at tents in Ellenborough Park West / anti-social behavior at the Waterpark and Dartmouth Close. CR had also been involved in the Castle Batch opening and one of the officers would be based at the Community Centre to help with presence.

Other recent activity where CR was being utilised was anti-social behavior in Grove Park where a rock was thrown through the window of the Mayors Parlour. The council was working with them and the Police to tackle.

The SLA would come under review this year by E&G for next year's budget, but could come back through this committee in September for input.

Members would like to see consistent reporting and attendance by officers at future meetings.

The Assistant Town Clerk would write a report in conjunction with CR, pulling NSC statistics to support and show cost savings, for consideration at the next meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Clerk write to the Police Chief Constable communicating the Town Councils vote of insufficient confidence in the Police in respect of the breaking and entering of unauthorised encampments on the beach lawns.
2. That a review of Community Response be considered at the next meeting – September 2023.

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Service Area reports:

.1 Youth Services

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

An updated report had also been circulated and was available at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the be noted.

.2 Community Events

The report of the Community & Grounds Coordinator had been previously circulated which outlined recommendations for members consideration.

Members were pleased to see the return of and the proposals for the Literary. However, would like to be able to understand the breakdown of costs to establish whether the event was value for money.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed that Culture Weston had done a lot of evaluation work on recognising if it was an accessible event and had rolled out this approach with other events which had worked successfully.

A post event analysis from Culture Weston on the event was requested to justify expenditure showing the demographics of people attending and how it was reaching out to gain audience.

The Assistant Town Clerk suggested this could be done via postcodes.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

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

RESOLVED:

1. That subject to the requirement to provide analysis and evaluation back to the committee following the event to be able to measure success, members were happy to approve the attached Appendix 1 Programme of Events on the understanding this was a working document and changes/adjustments may need to be made.
2. To note that any income that may be achieved (subject to ability to do so) from the festival will be payable to Culture Weston to contribute towards the running costs of the event as event organiser – it was not expected that the event will make any profit.
3. To approve release of the £2,500 from the council's event budget 23/24 to Culture Weston, as agreed and resolved on the 7th March 2022.

.3 Weston in Bloom

The Community & Grounds Coordinator was not in attendance.

A member raised concern over the lack of planting at the Railway station, Sparky the donkey and roundabouts as a tourist town.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the roundabouts and Sparky the donkey had recently been planted all with sustainable planting and soil and advised that the plants would come out soon. The flower beds in Grove Park were an example of what they would look like. The railways station was still left to do and the planters would also be jazzed up before the summer holidays. The weather had been a huge factor in the growth and the heatwave had resulted in the council reinstating its watering contract. It was further confirmed that a contractor had been appointed to help with watering due to the extreme weather conditions in order to ensure all new planting was being cared for as much as possible.

The report of the Town Clerk and Quarterly Report from Somewhere to Go had been previously circulated.

The Chairman declared an interest as a board member of Somewhere to Go and handed over to the Vice Chairman.

The statistical report was queried and questions had been raised regarding this and the inconsistency of reporting, hence the review by Expenditure and Governance Working Party (E&G) as per the Town Clerk's recommendation.

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that the committee needed to approve the release of the 1st instalment of funds for this year. In addition, the Town Clerk's recommendation to review this via E&G. It would also be useful to know what the council wanted from the charity to release the payments for future reference.

Members suggested that a representative from the charity should be invited to attend meetings, to report and justify the £50,000 expenditure as it was felt it could not be released on the current information provided. Approval of the written report was accepted but the statistical report needed to be more comprehensive, to include a breakdown of costs. It was felt that due to timings and to speed up the process, delegation should be given to E & G (13th July 2023) to receive further information whom, if deemed as satisfactory could authorise the release of the first instalment of 23/24 budget provisions on this occasion.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the report and statistics from StG be noted and referred to the Expenditure and Governance Working Party for consideration before the Council prepares its budget for 2024/25.
2. That subject to the receipt of a satisfactory more detailed statistical reporting to include key KPI's, and a breakdown of what the last years £50,000 had been spent on. The Community Services Committee were happy to recommend that the Expenditure and Governance Working Party release the 1st instalment of funds to StG.

71 Community Resilience Update

A report of the Anti-racism working group (ARWG) consultation evening update was

	<p>circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that managing Anti-racism meetings had been challenging with balancing and managing the expectations of the many communities. The last interaction with the ARWG was in form of a consultation evening, which was very well received, it was reinforced that the council was there as an ally and enabler and as a result, a list of suggestions were reported (as detailed within the report) for members consideration of area that it was felt the council could consider facilitation. Feedback was awaited at the next ARWG mtg.</p> <p>One of the suggestions was for a community screen in the Silica, displaying information about initiatives taking place locally.</p> <p>The Chairman was mindful of any cost implications associated with this.</p> <p>It was advised that a screen would be provided by NSC as part of the Silica exploration approved by the Tourism & Leisure Committee (T&L) to maintain. The detail of which would come back through T&L for approval. Members agreed that the council needed editorial control of the content and would need to be managed in conjunction with tourism.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Ray Armstrong</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the anti-racism working group's request for a community screen in Silica be considered in conjunction with the Tourism & Leisure Committee's exploration with NSC and that subject to ability, the council had editorial control of the content, managed in conjunction with its tourism function.</p>
72	<p>Street Art Trail 2021 'Weston Walls'</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk verbally reported that the project was now complete, consisting of over 40 walls and all were looking really good. Published maps of the project had been created and the project was under the remit of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee to manage going forward.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
73	<p>Grant applications</p> <p>The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for small and voluntary grants was £12,500 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a £12,500 balance remaining.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Community Event Grants was £60,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a £60,000 balance remaining.</p> <p>The Council's annual budget for Youth Grants was £3,000 with £0 already being approved in 23/24 with a £3,000 balance remaining.</p> <p>Members noted and questioned the absence of submitted accounts and necessary information for both applications.</p>

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the information / accounts had not been received and that due to the timings associated with the grants, they were for members consideration.

.1 Elmtree Learning Partnership

Grant Applied for £1,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Elmtree Learning Partnership was an alternative provision for children who struggled in mainstream education and were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help run their summer project which enabled the children to re-engage in education and socialisation.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Standfield

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

RESOLVED: That due to insufficient information submitted, the applications did not meet the criteria and could not be considered at this time.

.2 Humans of Weston CIC

Grant Applied for £1,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The organisation Humans of Weston CIC provided communities with various different engaging activities. They had been invited to host an exhibit at Weston Museum from July through to October and were seeking financial assistance of £1000 to help cover the costs of four workshops and materials that may be needed for the display.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Standfield

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and was **carried:**

RESOLVED: That due to insufficient information submitted, the applications did not meet the criteria and could not be considered at this time.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Signed: Dated:

Chairman of the Community Services Committee