

Clerks Report 9th May 2022

Midsomer Norton Youth Work Catch Up - 09.03.22

Discussion points from the MSN Youth Work meeting – 09.03.22

What's going well with current Youth Work delivery:

- YCSW staff gave an update on the sessions and discussed how the attendance numbers are high in most sessions and engagement is going well
- The 4 sessions have service users who have a variety of different needs. Street wise young people involved in ASB and substance misuse access sessions around the outside of the container and engage in street based detached sessions. The games groups have highly successful for reaching out to particular groups of young people who are usually isolated at home and may struggle with engaging in youth club provision
- Overall, the 4 sessions provide an inclusive service for all young people living in MSN and surrounding areas. Plans are in place to start building a handrail outside the container and finishing off key H&S parts like the fire exit door. Container should be available to use at the start of April

What are the challenges with current Youth Work delivery - Not being able to go into the container due to H&S reasons which has meant sessions have taken place around the outside of the container during the winter.

Feedback from MSN Town Council and MSN Community Trust:

- Both MSN Town Council and MSN Community Trust are really pleased with the current support and noticed sessions being popular with positive engagement
- Alex said he will ensure continual room access for the Indoor games group whilst renovation takes place at MSN Town Hall
- Donna shared concerns around ASB in MSN and how the Town Council should manage the challenging behaviour. Carrie and Harry suggested ways to work with individuals through potentially doing targeted work with the young people or simply providing support during the container or detached sessions
- Donna shared an idea about using big installing outdoor chess boards around MSN. YCSW staff felt this may be an opportunity for young people to vandalise and instead, the MSN Town Council should invest in equipment that can be carried around and stored safely

Upcoming events in MSN:

- MSN community Trust and MSN Town Council shared key upcoming events such as; Easter Event, the Queen Jubilee event and a Summer Fayre. YCSW staff are keen to offer sessions at most or all events
- MSN Town Council to send YCSW the upcoming event dates. YCSW will explore staff capacity and staff availability for the upcoming events
- Mark has funding to do a session at the container with YCSW. YCSW staff suggested to hold out until the container can be used inside
- YCSW staff and Donna discussed ideas of using Skate Campus for the Easter events or hiring out a Graffiti artist

Future funding for MSN YCSW delivery:

- Donna said MSN Town Council have budgeted to fund 2 sessions for 13 months. MSN Town Council are keen to look at a 2-year contract in the next financial year of 2023
- Alex and Donna said they will look to use a sponsorship grant to fund the other 2 remaining sessions

Actions:

- MSN Town Council to send YCSW the upcoming event dates. YCSW will explore staff capacity and staff availability for the upcoming events
- The container work to take place end of the March and be ready for beginning of April. The container session will be in available indoor for early April time
- MSN Youth Work team will look to commit to working at upcoming MSN events to develop and promote Youth Work provision in MSN alongside providing community support

Speed Camera

The Deputy Clerk has met with Stephan Chivers from B&NES Highways regarding the relocation of the speed camera. As the camera is being moved to a location on Silver Street with a pavement, it can be moved by the Town Warden. Stephan has given permission for the camera to be installed at this new location.

The battery has been charged, and camera now moved and installed.

The Town Warden has now completed a course in Signing, Lighting and Guarding, which means he can now take the camera down and relocate the device.

Wellow Brook

Following heavy rainfall in March, please see the following photographs of the temporary “bridge” installed by the Town Warden at Wellow Brook. Batons have been fixed to the underside to ensure it does not move. Warning signs were also put in place.





The High Street

We have recently received the following lovely comments from a resident regarding the River in the High Street. We have passed these on to Stonebarn.

I just felt that I wanted to get in touch about the stream in the High Street.

I have had a truly horrible day and walking back along the High Street from the bus and seeing how colourful and lovely the plants around the water looked and the amazing general condition of the stream really lifted my spirits more than I can say.

Whoever has been maintaining it has done a really good job and I hope that they hear that often.

Complaint Against the Police

We have now heard from the Professional Standards Department at Avon and Somerset Constabulary in response to our concerns raised (email dated 28/04/22). They have stated the following:

I write further to my below email. As mentioned, your concerns were forwarded to Inspector Gawler to review.

She has now confirmed that since then PS Lee Humphreys has been able to meet with you to discuss the issue of police participation in these events. I believe he is arranging for PCSOs from the neighbourhood team to attend

some of the jubilee events and that some officers will be changing their shifts to allow this to happen. I understand that he has explained that the PCSOs will be attending for community engagement and that the Avon and Somerset Constabulary cannot take responsibility for the over-all safety of the events which will be the organiser's responsibility. I also believe that you have PS Humphrey's contact details and will be in a position to contact him directly in future to liaise over police input to similar events, and other issues of concern.

I would like to reiterate that your expression of dissatisfaction has been dealt with as quickly and effectively as possible without the lengthy process of carrying out a formal complaint investigation, in accordance with the requirements of the Police Reform Act 2002.

In view of the above, this matter will now be closed by the Professional Standards Department. However, if you are unhappy with the explanation, please let me know and your complaint will be formally recorded under Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002, an assessment will be made as to how matters will be progressed and you will receive further correspondence advising you of that fact.

For reference the previous email (dated 07/04/22) as referred to above read as follows:

I write to acknowledge receipt of your attached letter of complaint. Firstly I would like to apologise on behalf of Avon and Somerset Constabulary that your recent contact with the Police has resulted in you raising concerns where in summary you state ' that the Midsomer Norton Town Council are dissatisfied with the level of neighbourhood police patrols in Midsomer Norton. Specifically, they have requested a police presence at a number of events in April and June 2022 and have been told that there will not be any police cover for events that fall on bank holidays and weekends.'

My role as a Police Complaints Officer is to receive reports of dissatisfaction and where appropriate, seek to make early contact with you to resolve the issues to your satisfaction. Having reviewed the details of your complaint I anticipate that I will be able to resolve matters for you as quickly and effectively as possible without the lengthy process of carrying out a formal complaint investigation, in accordance with the requirements of the Police Reform Act 2002.

As I have been unable to contact you by phone, I will carry on with the actions explained below, as I want to resolve this matter as quickly as possible for you. However, if you are unhappy for your concerns to be dealt with through this process, please let me know. I would like to confirm that your complaint has been logged and allocated the reference number shown above.

In order for me to deal with your complaint, I will contact the senior officer responsible for neighbourhood policing in your area, Chief Inspector Kendall. I will send him a copy of your letter and ask that he reviews this decision. If the decision is not changed I will ask for an explanation and I will then update you when I get a reply.

I hope you feel that this is a satisfactory way forward. If at any point during the process you decide you wish for your complaint to be formally recorded, or at the end of the process you feel your complaint has not been resolved to your satisfaction, your complaint will be formally recorded under Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act 2002, an assessment will be made as to how matters will be progressed and you will receive further correspondence advising you of that fact. If you do have any further questions or concerns then please contact me.

Councillor Vacancy

Councillor Sue Graham has resigned from her position as a Midsomer Norton Town Councillor. A casual vacancy has, therefore, arisen in the Office of Councillor for Midsomer Norton Town Council, Midsomer Norton Redfield Ward. Details of the vacancy and how it can be filled, can be found on the website.

New Website

The new website is now up and running. We would like to thank Councillor Gordon Mackay for all his work on this. All staff have commented on what a great improvement the new website is, compared to what we had previously. We have already received positive feedback from the public.

To celebrate the new website, Councillor Gordon Mackay has advertised a free prize raffle to encourage as many people as possible to visit our new site being launched. When more than 1000 people have entered the raffle, a random lucky winner (with a Midsomer Norton address) will be chosen to receive a £100 Amazon voucher. There are also five pairs of Community Cinema tickets to give away as runner up prizes.

Annual Meeting of Town

The public Annual Town meeting took place on Tuesday 19th April 2022. Representatives from the Town Trust and Community Trust were in attendance, along with Councillor Shaun Hughes, Edward Heritage, Nicola Dyer, Sean Redmond, PC Mark Graham, PCSO Paul Thatcher and six members of the electorate. We would like to thank them all for coming and thank those who gave presentations. Council staff would also like to thank the Councillors for their very kind gifts. They were much appreciated.

MUGA

The trees that needed to be felled at West Clewes have now been removed from site. The MUGA works are due to start shortly, and a pre-start meeting with Wicksteed, to discuss the project took place earlier today (09/05/22).

Graffiti - 2-4 Silver St

We have now tracked down the new owner of the site where the hoarding has been subjected to graffiti. The Town Warden met with the owner on site on the 28th April 2022, and the owner has confirmed that he will arrange for the graffiti to be painted over.

Easter Event

Good Friday saw the first Town Council event to be held in the Town Park. We were very fortunate to have glorious weather for an event that was attended and enjoyed by many. We have received the following positive feedback by email:

I'm sorry it's a bit late but I just wanted to say how much my family enjoyed the recent Easter Event at the Town Park. It was well organised and whilst my grandchildren were hunting for discs to exchange for an Easter egg, I really enjoyed sitting in the Amphitheatre listening to the Orchard Band, who I thought were brilliant.

Thank you for a great event.

We would like to thank all those who attended and helped to make the event a success. The left over Easter Eggs were donated to the Community Food Network.

Civic Awards

After a two year absence due to the COVID pandemic, the Civic Awards will make a return on Sunday 19th June 2022 at 6pm in St Johns Church. The 6th May deadline for nominations has now passed. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Garden of Friendship Works

The improvement works at the Garden of Friendship are well underway. The hedge between the Garden and Sainsburys car park has been removed to make way for the new gated entrance. Works are ongoing at the time of writing (29/04/22).