

## Clerks Report 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### MUGA

A pre-start meeting between contractors, Wicksteed, the Town Clerk and a representative from Welton Rovers, took place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May. It was confirmed that construction of the MUGA at West Clewes, would begin on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### West Clewes

Following on from the pre-start meeting at West Clewes for the MUGA, the Town Clerk spoke to the contractor regarding the spoil that will be removed due to the ground works being completed. The Town Clerk has arranged that the spoil will be used to level up the slope around the MUGA rather than removing the spoil from site. The Town Warden will then use the grass that is taken up before the spoil is added and re-grass the area.

The Town Clerk also discussed the running track that needs removing due to the issues with the surface and condition of it. The contractors have agreed that they will remove the track as a side job, for the Recreation Trust and dispose of it, and backfill the area with some of the spoil that will be available. They have agreed that they will do this with two payment options available to us:

1. The Recreation Trust pays for the removal and disposal, please note the disposal costs are approx. £100 per tonne, there is a lot to dispose of.
2. An advertising board is put up around the football pitch with 1 years advertising fees included (the Town Warden has advised that the football club would waive the charges to have the board up, and the Recreation Trust would need to pay £150 for the manufacture of the board).

Given the two options and the need to remove the track (especially if a fence goes round the football ground which has been agreed in principle) the Town Clerk recommends that we accept option two. This would mean that the track is removed in the most cost effective way while we have contractors on site, as we would need to remove it on a separate job eventually, with costs that would be a lot higher than proposed at the moment.

Option two has been agreed by the Recreation Trust management group and has been confirmed with the contractor.

### Graffiti

After establishing the identity of, and getting in touch with, the owner of the land next to TSB Bank, the graffiti has now been painted over.



### **Jubilee Events**

At the time of the meeting, all of the Jubilee events will have taken place. However, at the time of distribution of this agenda, the events are upcoming, and a brief reminder of what, where and when follows. Further information can be found on the new website.

Thursday 2nd June 2022	Lighting of the Beacon - Rugby Club
Friday 3rd June 2022	Music Festival - Town Park
Saturday 4th June 2022	Farmers Market and Duck Race – High Street Street Party – Silver Street Station
Sunday 5th June 2022	Family Day – Cricket Club  Afternoon Tea and Church Service – Methodist Church

### **Civic Event**

Plans for the Civic Ceremony are well underway, details as follows:

6pm - Sunday 19th June 2022	Civic Awards – St Johns Church
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Please note, as per the calendar of meetings approved at the last meeting, the Civic Award Ceremony will take place next year on Monday 24th April 2023 as part of the Public Annual Town Meeting.

### **Street Marshals**

The new Street Marshals - Midas, will shortly take over from RS Security – with a start date of Friday 17th June.

### **White City Football Pitch**

We have chased B&NES Parks Projects and their Property Team for an update on this matter. They previously advised us on the 21<sup>st</sup> March that the lease isn't scheduled to expire for some time, so they were looking at ending it prematurely. They were also investigating the dilapidations responsibilities they would have to meet before surrendering the licence.

### **Inaccessible Path**

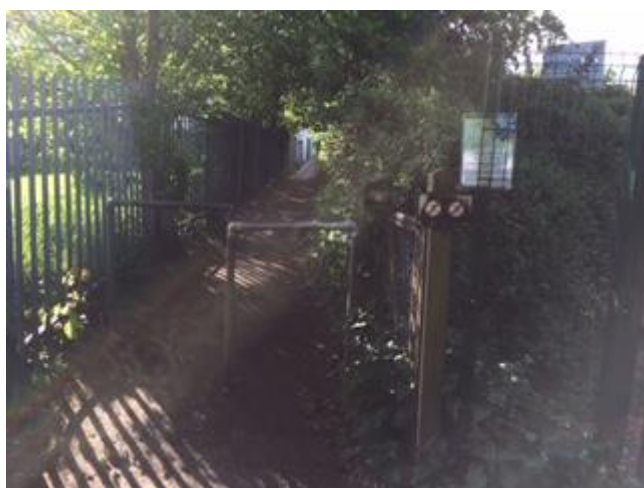
We recently received the following email from a resident:

Dear Town Council

The picture attached shows the path which leads behind Parkway and comes past Somervale 'top field'.

The bars at the bottom of the path are not spaced widely enough to allow a wheelchair to be manoeuvred around which prevented taking a friend who is wheelchair bound from her house in Parkway via this route into town. Is it possible for the bars to either be removed or repositioned to allow wheelchair access please?

Thank you



Councillor Steve Plumley has kindly been in touch with B&NES officers to rectify this matter. B&NES have now accepted a quote from contractors so that the work may go ahead.

## **Temporary Closure of Public Footpath CL24/18, Wellow Brook Walk, Midsomer Norton**

B&NES Council has introduced a temporary path closure on Public Footpath CL24/18, Wellow Brook Walk, Midsomer Norton. The closure is to allow Western Power Distribution to carry out high voltage cable excavation and laying works. The closure will commence on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 and will last for up to 16 weeks.

Western Power Distribution (WPD) have a closure on the FW from 24th May to enable the drilling works etc to take place. They will be there for approx. 5 weeks and then WPD will have another 4 weeks or so to carry out the trenching. We will then be able to start works once this is completed. We have pencilled the works in to start 25th July but obviously will review nearer the time.

## **Police Patrol Levels**

Further to our correspondence to the Police regarding our concerns with Police patrol levels in the Town, we have now heard from Mark Shelford, Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Commissioner has noted our concerns and is grateful to us for bringing them to his attention. The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is to be the voice of local people in policing and to hold the Chief Constable to account. The aim of all PCC's is to ensure the delivery of an effective and efficient police service within their force area. PCC's are responsible for the 'totality of policing' (all of policing, not just some parts of it) but it is important that they enable the police service and Chief Constable to operate independently. The role does not include operational policing matters, such as Police Officer deployment, the investigation of criminal activity and other law enforcement functions, which are under the independent direction and control of the Chief Constable. The PCC provides the Chief Constable with the annual budget and it is for the Chief Constable to allocate it effectively to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

PCC's will ensure that community needs are met by the police effectively. They work in partnership with a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime. Mark Shelford is not directly responsible for operational policing and is therefore unable to involve himself in operational policing matters.

The Commissioner asked his Staff Officer to make contact with the local Neighbourhood Beat Sergeant, PS Lee Humphreys, and has been advised that he has been in contact with us since this letter, and has updated us accordingly. The Police and Crime Commissioner hopes this response met with our satisfaction, and that there is now an open door of communication between the council and the NPT.

It is extremely important that the local Police are kept informed of issues so they may address and tackle them effectively and proactively, and ensure that all relevant partner agencies are working together, thus ensuring the best service for the public, which is what we are all striving to achieve. It is always important to report incidents to allow the police to collate and review data, and formulate a problem solving plan, for example by the deployment of extra resources in a hot spot area for visible reassurance and positive action.

## **Councillor Vacancy**

We have now heard from B&NES to confirm that they have not received any requests for an election, and that the Town Council can now go ahead with the co-option procedure. Details of the application process for the Councillor vacancy have been sent out to a number of people who have expressed an interest.

## **Garden of Friendship**

The new gate at the Garden of Friendship has been installed. Along with the new flowerbeds, steps and pathways. The new hedge alongside Sainsburys car park, will be planted in the autumn.

