

Clerks Report 7th November 2022

Information Request

Following on from the Full Council meeting that took place on Monday 3rd October. We have received a request from a resident for the papers relating to Agenda Item 126 relating to the draw down of the Public Works Loan. We have treated this as a FOI request, as it is data the council holds.

Request for Double Yellow Lines

A request for double yellow lines has been made to B&NES Highways/Road Markings and Signage, as follows:

Midsomer Norton Town Council request that double yellow lines are painted on the Chilcompton Road opposite the junction with Laburnum Grove. The vehicles parked opposite the junction are preventing drivers from turning safely at this junction, particularly as there are often no passing places for cars travelling along Chilcompton road. The junction is often congested and sight lines are particularly poor when turning right out of Laburnum Grove because of the vans and cars parked across the junction.





Midsomer Norton Town Hall Fencing Hoardings

Please see below for the latest version of the three heras fencing mesh banners, which have been ordered, to be put up at the Town Hall.

What's going on at the Town Hall?

Exciting news - the Town Hall is being transformed! Construction works to reinstate the original 1860s Market Hall have now begun.

Small rooms, corridors and offices are being opened up to provide space for the community, ready for more markets, carnivals, cinema screenings, weddings and more.

Our builders are also working hard to conserve, repair and improve this important Victorian building to ensure it is still here for Midsomer Norton in another 100 years.

Find out more: yourmidsomernorton.co.uk/project-updates

Speed Camera.

Below is a rota for the speed camera. All locations have been checked by B&NES.

Date camera to be situated	Location
Tuesday 18 th October 2022	Paulton Road
Tuesday 29 th November 2022	Withies Park
Tuesday 3 rd January 2022	Radstock Road
Tuesday 14 th February 2022	Thicket Road/ West Road
Tuesday 28 th March 2022	Northmead Road

At present there is no available post to attach the camera to on the High Street. B&NES officers will inform the Council if posts are being erected and will include one for the camera. The Town Warden has been informed by B&NES which type of post the camera is allowed and how to get the best from the camera. It may be that the camera cannot be placed in the speeding hotspots, but we will do our best to get as close as possible.

Garden of Friendship - Planting

The season for the bare root hedge planting is now approaching, so Andy King from New Leaf, is looking to order the plants due to be planted at the Garden of Friendship.

Back in August, Andy sent the plant list out for pricing to four nurseries (estimating a cost of about £600) and had prices back as follows:

Nursery	Location	Price (Excl VAT) & incl. delivery
Crowder's Nursery	Lincolnshire	£763.85
Middlecome Nursery	Congresbury	£495.65
Viridis	Nationwide	£548.65
Winrow Nursery	Nr. Wells	£1,344.72

Middelcombe are offering the best prices, but for two of the plants they were offering substitutions. However, plant availability varies from week to week or even day by day. At the time of ordering, Andy will discuss and fine tune the substitutions based on what they can obtain at that time, which may result in some slight variation to the final cost and precise plant details

Order Placed for Christmas Tree

Following the Town Council meeting on Monday 31st October, an order has been placed for a 20ft Christmas tree.

Damage to the Phone Box and Town Park

More antisocial behaviour to report at both the Town Park, and the Phone Box defibrillator at the Somer Centre. A young person has been caught on CCTV throwing stones and breaking the glass panes of the Phone Box defibrillator. Footage has been sent to the Police.

Vandals have again attempted to move the stones at the amphitheatre at the Town Park, and started a fire.

Benches and Bins

The picnic table and benches (for West Clewes) and bins (for various locations) have now been delivered. We have contacted the builder to arrange installation.

Remembrance Sunday - Letter to the Police

Further to our letter to the Police of the 1st November (circulated to all Councillors), regarding their presence at the Remembrance Sunday Parade, a response has been received by email from the BANES, South Glos and Weston Sea Front, Event Planning Officer for Avon and Somerset Police. A copy of which has also been distributed to all Councillors.

MSN Land at Wellow Brook & The Duchy

We wrote to the Duchy of Cornwall, on the 17th October regarding Wellow Brook which we lease from them.

We advised them of the current improvement works including: the creation of a new pathway, selective vegetation being cleared under ecological guidance to provide a view of the brook, a new seating and a picnic area, information signs and a map. We also took the opportunity to enquire as to whether His Royal Highness Prince William, the new Prince of Wales, and Duke of Cornwall, would be interested in coming along to open the site to the public.

We received a response from the Duchy advising that they were pleased to hear of the progress we are making with Wellow Brook Walk. They also thanked us for the kind invitation for his Royal Highness to “open” the Walk, advising that as this is a new and evolving environment in which they are working, it is too early to know how much time the 25th Duke will have for estate visits in the next couple of years (he will also be settling into his other new role as Prince of Wales). However, they will raise the proposal and revert back to us when they have an indication as to whether it might be a possibility.