November 2015

Welcome to the November edition of Streetscene.

Natural Environment

New steps at Abbots Pool Woodland

New steps have been installed to improve access into Abbots Pool Woodland, Abbots Leigh and a joint effort was required to complete the work in time to meet the Forestry Commission grant funding deadline.

The 60 plus wooden steps were built by a local contractor and the 25 tonnes of stone needed to fill the step frames was carried by hand up the steep slope into the woodland by volunteers.

Abbots Pool Woodland volunteers were assisted by local residents and there was a huge effort by young offenders from the Community Payback team overseen and assisted by colleagues from the council’s social enterprise contract.

The council’s officer in charge was Jason Cox.
Clevedon Marine Lake
Newly restored Marine Lake continues to be popular with the dedicated open water swimmers despite the falling temperatures and windy conditions.

Contractors Dyer and Butler left the site at the end of November and their compound area on Salthouse Fields is due to be restored by landscape architects shortly.

The project now enters a new phase where we will monitor for snags and assess performance.

The volunteer technical team are getting to grips with the new lake and have carried out litter and debris clearances during a recent lake drain and have a plan in place to manage the silt build-up over the winter.

To get involved, or for more information, contact Lake Ranger Jo Tasker on joanna.tasker@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Visit MARLENS to learn more about the Clevedon Marine Lake
Years of neglect along a rural footpath adjacent to the busy A38 prompted some action by our Area Officer, Nick Raymond.

Due to the complexity of the location, Nick had to liaise with colleagues in street lighting to arrange for traffic lights at a busy junction to be switched off so our contractors (Balfour Beatty) could erect their own temporary set of lights.

This enabled them to work safely and efficiently using mechanical methods, whilst minimising disruption to traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian.

The footpath has now been restored to its full width making it much safer to use.
Hundreds of local people attended Weston’s Remembrance Sunday ceremony held in Grove Park on Sunday 8 November.

Members of the Armed Services, cadets and scouts paraded along the High Street to take part in the service at the war memorial in Grove Park.

Wreaths were laid by dignitaries and local organisations, and the Silver Bugles from the Somerset Army Cadets sounded the Last Post.

The Seafront and Events team liaised with the Town Council and Royal British Legion around arrangements for use of the park, as well as loaning equipment such as barriers and cordonning the Town Square for the use of the scouts.

**Wine tasting**

The Bay Café in the Tropicana building held its first wine-tasting event on the evening of Wednesday 25 November organised by the Seafront and Events team.

Kelli from the Wine Shop in Winscombe brought a selection of wines from around the world, and participants were able to learn to taste wine like the professionals whilst enjoying a selection of canapés and light bites to complement the wines.

Following the success of this event the café hopes to organise more of these types of event in the New Year.

**The Big Bay Quiz**

The first quiz event at The Bay was organised by the Seafront and Events team on the afternoon of Friday 27 November.

With categories including general knowledge and music through the ages, the quiz was well received. Those attending also took advantage of the special offers available at the café, including a fish and chips meal which proved very popular.

Evening quiz events with prizes will be coming to The Bay from December!
The Grand Pier held its biggest and best firework display to date on the evening of Saturday 21 November. Both the pier and promenade were filled with spectators, as people flocked to see the spectacular display.

Locking Castle Church held their fireworks event on the grassed area behind The Campus on Thursday 5 November and Clevedon Lions held their annual fireworks display at the Cricket Club on Saturday 7 November. Both events attracted large crowds.

The Seafront and Events team worked with Firestorm Fireworks to set up a fall-out exclusion zone and firing area on the beach, and ensured all health and safety requirements were met for all the events.

Weston Carnival
The annual carnival came to town on Friday 13 November with a procession of 140 floats and walking entrants taking part.

The weather wasn’t kind this year with high winds and heavy rain showers, and even hailstones!

Despite the weather a good number of people braved the elements to watch the parade and contribute to the charity collections taking place on the route, and the event took place without any incidents.

The Seafront and Events team worked with the carnival organisers to put in place road closures, barriers and signage, marshalling, medical cover, recovery vehicles and an Emergency Liaison team.
Newsreader Alex Lovell was the star attraction at the Christmas lights switch-on event in the Italian Gardens and Town Square on Saturday 14 November when she appeared on stage to turn on the lights.

The event also featured Father Christmas who dropped in to meet the children and pose for photo opportunities, and Titan the Robot performed in the Sovereign Centre.

Local performers took to the stage in the Italian Gardens, including Sarah Eden-Winn, The Lipinski Brothers duo, Waves of Harmony Choir, Ashbrooke House School, Youthful Spirit Gospel Choir and Lyra.

Families also took part in the Elf Trail around local businesses to collect all the items needed to become a Christmas Elf.

The Seafront and Events team worked with Weston BID on the site aspects of the event and arranged the road closures and marshalling for the firework display. Unfortunately the firework finale had to be cancelled due to the strong winds on the evening.
As part of the council’s flood alleviation works in Wrington, 300m of watercourse adjacent to Garstons Orchard has been cleared of vegetation.

The work conducted by Glendale Services (supervised by Freddie Holland) was completed on time over a very wet week. The stream is now less likely to block with debris and will allow water to flow away from residential properties efficiently.

This will bolster upstream flood alleviation schemes put in place by the council’s Flood Risk Team over the last year.

**Broadoak Hill, Dundry – construction of a retaining wall**

After last-minute ecology checks and dealing with the discovery of pieces of Chrysotile asbestos sheet, works to repair the damaged road were completed by Drayton Construction Ltd on 19 November, ahead of schedule and within original tendered price.

The 3.5m deep gabion basket wall was built in horizontal bays, and the wall was topped with a concrete hard-standing.

A length of adjacent carriageway was resurfaced at the same time.
The scheme featured in a BBC radio article, and feedback has been positive from residents and users of the route.

The council’s engineer was David Murphy.

Looking smart

The North Somerset Public Transport team were down at Weston Carnival on Friday 13 November promoting #smartcards with Crosville Motor Services Ltd.

It was extremely wet and windy but the atmosphere was very lively regardless. It was good to be out representing the council and promoting public transport at such an important community event in the county’s calendar.

Smartcards can be used to purchase all tickets on all Crosville services in Weston-super-Mare, but can be used across all operators to buy Avon and Weston Rider day tickets.

For more information on smartcards and how to obtain one please visit: http://travelwest.info/smartcards.
Much-needed works have recently been completed to construct a new zebra crossing along a section of Brinsea Road to improve road safety.

The crossing allows for a safer route, predominantly serving pupils of St Andrew's School as they are encouraged to use The Causeway when walking to and from school. It will also benefit the residents of two sheltered housing communities divided by Brinsea Road.

The crossing has been implemented following a local petition from residents and funding made available from a S106 contribution from the nearby development site in Mill Lane.

New LED lanterns have been used which offer a more efficient and environmentally friendly white light source.

The works were carried out over the October half-term between 9.30am and 3.30pm when traffic and pedestrian movements are considerably lower.

The scheme, which cost in the region of £19,000, was organised and supervised by our engineer James Dawson and carried out by SSE and contractor Balfour Beatty Living Places.

‘Thank yous’

Backwell
Sarah Henderson wrote to thank Penny Price and the Public Rights of Way team for clearing an overgrown footpath in Pit Lane:

“Dear Penny
We have been using this path and I wanted to say thank you to you, Elaine and Andy and his team for getting it cleared. All of the residents in the area are delighted as they have not been able to use the path for a long time and it means that we can avoid using the busy A370 with dogs and children.”

Weston-super-Mare – Condor Close
Heather Dixon emailed to thank Rich Smith and the team for the resurfacing of Condor Close:

“Didn’t want your efforts to go unnoticed and the residents very much appreciate it.”
**Weston-super-Mare – Kewstoke**
Terry Bettesworth emailed Rich Smith to thank him and the team for work on Harwood Green:

“Just to thank you for getting the road resurfaced before winter sets in…..the team of workmen did a very good job and worked diligently.”

**Dundry**
Dave Nevitt thanked Liam Abercrombie and his colleagues for the finger post signage repairs:

“I have just driven past the last finger post in Dundry that required painting, and I am pleased to report that it has now been completed. That means that all our finger posts are now gleaming and a credit to our village.

Liam, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your help in completing this for us. As you know, this has been on the Dundry "to do" list for many years - ever since the Parish Plan was written some years ago - and I am very grateful that my discussions with you and Phil Bush in March managed to secure the budget to do this job. Please can you also pass on my thanks to the contractors, who appear to have done a great job on both the repairs and the painting.

I would also like to thank Holger for surveying and photographing the posts and Judith for helping keep this moving throughout.”

**Locking**
Mary French emailed to thank the team for the work on signage at Locking:

“Hi Liam,
Really excited! Thanks so very much for your kind call this morning regarding the signs at Locking.

Have been to see them in situ and must say, they do indeed look splendid.

A sincere thanks once more for all your hard work and efficiency on our behalf and it goes without saying that the whole community will benefit greatly from these new directions.”

**Locking - Fairacre Close**
Mrs Berry rang to say the recycling crew are wonderful - she is 91 and all her neighbours are over 80 - they are a very helpful crew and she would like to pass on her thanks to them all.

**Walton-in-Gordano**
Donald Hill, Clerk to Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council, emailed to thank Cllr Nigel Ashton and Liam Abercrombie for the restoration of the finger post at Crosstree on the B3124:

“Liam, Nigel, huge thank-yous to both of you!!
I can’t wait to get over and see it, but it looks superb from the photo.”
Nailsea
Mrs Payne, of Broom Farm Close, called to thank Ed McKay and the contractors who came to cut her hedge yesterday. They were very courteous and caring.

Portishead - Brampton Way
Michael Stagg emailed in to thank the collection team who happily and successfully handled a food waste bin full of old flour from a pantry clear-out!

Portishead - Denny View
Mrs McMillan rang to pass on her thanks to the refuse crews – “lovely people always very helpful.”

Long Ashton
Jane Strophair, of Glebe Road, was very impressed by the recycling team:

“Whilst walking to the school today to collect my daughter, one of your recycling lorries went past me onto Yanley Lane and as it did, glass containers fell from it and smashed on the road.

On the way back from the school, they passed me going back to Glebe Road as I was looking at the smashed glass. They stopped, of their own accord, and came out with a brush and cleared it up!

I am so impressed I felt I had to flag it to you, they should be rewarded for such conscientious behaviour!”

Councillor Elfan Ap Rees
Deputy Leader of the Council, Executive Member for Planning, Highways, Transport, Economic Development, Housing

Councillor Felicity Baker
Executive Member for Community, Tourism and Leisure, Corporate Communications, Electoral Services, Libraries, Licensing

Councillor Peter Bryant
Executive Member for Waste, Streets and Open Spaces

If you would like to know more about Streetscene or our work, contact:
Mark MacGregor, Head of Streets and Open Spaces, email: mark.macgregor@n-somerset.gov.uk or Colin Medus, Head of Highways and Transport, email: colin.medus@n-somerset.gov.uk

November 2015