January/February 2016

Welcome to the January/February edition of Streetscene.

Natural Environment

Barrow Tanks footpath network

The Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Team have recently concluded a major project to improve the long neglected footpath network around Barrow Tanks.

The works involved removal of obstructions, vegetation clearance, the replacement of 19 stiles with easy access gates and the fitting of 4 new field gates providing a 2.5km fully gated, easy access route around the reservoirs linking to the villages of Barrow Gurney, Winford and Dundry.

Such extensive works would not have been possible without considerable funding support from Barrow Gurney Parish Council, Bristol Water and Winford Parish Council, coordinated by Adrian Woolacott, Rights of Way Officer.
Waste

Christmas Waste Catch Up
Even being challenged with very wet and windy weather and exceptional waste tonnage, the refuse and recycling crews ensured that all the waste was picked up on the scheduled days over the Christmas period.

On some days from the week before Christmas to the second week of January the crews were picking up an extra 70% volume of waste but carried out this valuable service without a fuss and even received many compliments from residents.

Throughout the local area, North Somerset were the only authority to keep to the collection timescales. A big thank you to all at KIER and Waste Management for a very impressive Christmas catch up collection.
Area Officers and Community Response Officers

Action Day

NSC and Avon and Somerset police held an action day on the 15th January.

Community Response Officers and Area Officers worked on a joint action day tackling antisocial behaviour, parking issues around schools, cycling on the pavement and speeding motorists in Nailsea, Wraxall & Backwell.

The day was a great example of joined-up working across Government agencies.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Mark Raby said: “Working with the Community Response and Area officers is really useful for the team.

We’re working together to tackle community issues and anti-social behaviour, making the best use of our differing powers. We’ve had positive feedback from the public today. I’d urge anyone with any concerns to come and let us know.”
Seafront and Events Team

The Hangover 10k
Weston Athletic Club held its annual Hangover 10k run on New Year’s Day with around 250 runners taking on the course around Kewstoke and Sand Bay.

The winner, from Bristol and West AC, set a new course record of 30 minutes and 50 seconds, beating the previous record set five years ago by 14 seconds.

The Seafront and Events Team worked with the organisers to ensure health and safety requirements were met and adequate traffic management measures were in place.

Theatre @ The Bay

A Christmas Carol

The ever-popular festive tale ‘A Christmas Carol’ came to The Bay Theatre on 5 and 6 January.

Bristol-based duo Living Spit performed their version of the story, with one of the actors playing the part of Ebenezer Scrooge and his acting partner playing all the other parts!

Audiences enjoyed the comic characters and original songs as well as the many crazy costume changes.
**Instant Wit**

Comedy troupe Instant Wit brought their quick-fire improvisation show to The Bay on 8 and 14 January.

Each show features different performers and is completely improvised, so the experience is different every time.

Packed with sketches, gags, songs, and flying packets of ‘Instant Whip’, the show was a big hit with audiences, with many who came to the first show also coming along to the second!

**Fireside Tales with Granddad**

Children and grown-ups alike were enthralled by this charming puppet show, as Granddad regaled them with tales of greedy goblins, grumpy trolls, sneaky princes, a giant pair of underpants, and a daring escape from a hungry shark.

Pickled Image brought the show to The Bay on the afternoons of 9 and 10 January to packed family audiences, and sparked lots of interaction with the children as they became engrossed in the tale.

**Coulrophobia**

Pickled Image returned to The Bay for their second show on 16 and 18 January, bringing something completely different and definitely aimed at an adult audience with their show ‘Coulrophobia’.

The performance features two clowns trapped in a cardboard world, and the audience joins them on a ridiculous, anarchic, often hysterical and sometimes terrifying quest for freedom.
The programme of theatre performances was organised by the Seafront and Events Team in partnership with the North Somerset arts company Theatre Orchard.

The Theatre @ The Bay has now closed temporarily for refurbishment works, and the venue will reopen later in the year with an exciting new programme of events.

**Highways and Transport**

**Flood Risk Management promote sustainable drainage at NSC Extension Convention**

Members of the Flood Risk Management team brought their stand to the recent NSC Extension Convention at the Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.

The convention was held to give homeowners an opportunity to speak directly with a range of council departments such as planning and building control and to gain advice on how to go about planning and building a successful home extension.

Robert Hanson, Sue Munns and Freddie Holland from Flood Risk were there to answer questions from the public about surface water drainage and flood risk issues.

![Sue Munns Flood Risk Officer](image)

The main focus for the team was a drive to promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and water reuse in small scale development through options such as soakaways, permeable paving, green roofs and rain gardens.

Members of the public were also able to look at a number of GIS layers on a laptop in order to check their existing flood risk from surface water, rivers and the sea.

The stall included contributions from colleagues in other flood risk management authorities with flood resilience advice provided by the Environment Agency and sewer connection advice provided by Wessex Water.

The free open event was considered to be a great success with the Flood Risk stand being busy throughout the entire convention.
St Anne’s School at Hewish has a dedicated parent, visitor and staff car park to alleviate issues with pupils arriving and departing safely by car and minibus.

Due to long term issues associated with their car park’s surface condition the school agreed to part fund a scheme to provide a harder wearing surface but to allow for surface water drainage and dispersal.

As part of a school travel plan and in collaboration with the Sustainable Travel and Road Safety (STARS) team the school was also eager to provide bay markers to ensure efficient use of spaces at the Hewish site. Proper management of car parking at the school following a recent increase in the roll has been a long term objective for the school.

Aware of the site’s engineering construction constraints the improvement scheme used a Bodpave grid cell product necessitating a sub-base layer sand foundation with angular aggregate infill.

Following planning consent including a flood risk assessment the scheme was completed during the October half term followed by two monthly assessments to ensure settlement, drainage and surface condition was properly maintained.

The engineer was Mike Herbert who scheduled the works with Oakus contractors.
Yanley Lane Festival Way Long Ashton - crossing improvement scheme

The safety of the Festival Way shared use cycle path crossing on Yanley Lane had become of increasing concern for local families and particularly parents at nearby Northleaze Primary School.

Commuter cyclists as well as children and parents regularly use the path which borders the school field and specifically where the Festival Way crosses Yanley Lane with a staggered crossing point on the highway.

Although a scheme had been envisaged some years ago the existing removable bollard had been originally installed to allow maintenance vehicles access along the path to the brook.

In addition to this necessity this path also follows the line of a public right of way to which the LA must maintain access, not obstruct or place a physical barrier across the path.

Aware of these challenging circumstances and working with our PRoW officers the engineer developed a scheme after undertaking a travel survey and count at the site.

After local consultation it was agreed to install a length of pedestrian guard railing which can be removed in accordance with the access requirements.

Northleaze School has also been provided with keys to remove and replace railings and the bollard and thus assist in maintaining safety on this part of the Festival Way.

Working with the STARS team the engineer was Vikki Horvath and the scheme was contracted to Paul Green of Safety Green.
A38 Bristol Airport
When Highway Operations followed up on an enquiry from a member of the public regarding a void that had formed on the A38 near Bristol Airport, we soon realised we had a problem.

An inspection was carried out, which revealed a void approximately 2.2m deep extending into the Bristol-bound lane.

Traffic lights were installed and manually controlled during busy times to ensure vehicles were no longer running over the affected area, and the Highway Operations team swiftly went to work ensuring our contractor had the information they needed to commence works the next day.

Following the identification and locating of any underground apparatus, the crew continued to excavate around the area of collapse, digging back to ensure we had found some solid ground. When completed, the excavation measured approximately 2.4m deep by 3.1m wide and 3.8m long.

The area was reinstated with approximately 18 tons of concrete, and once sufficiently cured was then reinstated with tarmac.

In total, the works took three days to complete, with the traffic lights removed on the final day of the works before the evening rush hour.

Our contractor, Balfour Beatty, with guidance from NSC undertook the works in a safe and responsive way, and thanks have been received for our prompt response to the issue and the way in which we communicated the works, via press releases, social media and a dialogue between NSC and Bristol Airport.

The works were carried out by Balfour Beatty Living Places and were organised and supervised by the Highway Operations team, with Vikkie Page from our Communications team responsible for the proactive communication.
Orchard Place, Weston-super-Mare

Despite the cold weather, works to improve the road surface along Orchard Place between Meadow Street and Alexandra Parade took place in early January.

30m of kerbs and channels were also replaced and the drainage system cleansed.

Due to the narrow road width and one-way system a road closure had to be put in place during working hours whilst the repair works were carried out.

The works were completed over 4 and half days.

The scheme was organised and supervised by our engineer James Dawson, with the works undertaken by Balfour Beatty and their sub-contractors Oakus and LGP Surfacing.
**A38 Barrow Gurney Traffic Lights**
Works to improve the road surface at Barrow Gurney Traffic lights, as well as two other locations on the A38 near Bristol Airport were completed in late January.

They took place overnight between 8pm and 6am in order to minimise disruption and took four nights to complete.

Works were carried out under temporary traffic lights, which were removed during the day.

We also took the opportunity to carry out some routine maintenance on the traffic signals, which were organised by Mark Cogan from our Highways Electrical & ITS team.

Peter King organised and supervised the works which were undertaken by LGP Surfacing and WJ Road markings on behalf of Balfour Beatty.

‘Thank yous’

**Worle**
Denise Rawlins wrote to thank Kevin Speakman, Transport Planning Officer:

“Just wanted to thank you for your letter to me regarding my enquiry about the surface of the railway path by Finch Close, Worle.

I very much appreciate the gravel that has been laid down, it is a lot better to walk on and me and my dog don't get covered in mud now. I had to wash my shoes one day as it was that bad.”

**Yatton**
A resident from Macquarie Farm Close wrote as follows:

“On 5th/6th Jan high winds meant that neighbours recycling had been blown about Macquarie Farm Close.

My wife went out to collect it back up just as the recycling lorry arrived. Not only did the recycling operatives help with the clear up they seemed happy to do so.

Thank you and well done.”
Portishead – High St
Mrs Bayliss called to pass on her thanks on to the recycling crew for putting all her boxes back this morning.

Wick St Lawrence
Ben Main wrote in praise of the road sweeping team:

“Today I noticed that the council were using road sweepers to clean the foot/cycle paths around Wick St Lawrence.

Mainly the paths that the children use to get to and from Castle Batch community school. These paths are in constant use by children and dog walkers. As such the paths often get fouled by dogs.

Hopefully this can be repeated on a regular basis. What a good idea, well done”

Weston super Mare – Church Road
Tom Berry was also delighted with the service:

“Hi, just a big thank you for everyone in your team and workers who organised and performed the mechanical roadsweeper next to our property, you have done an excellent job and me and my wife are extremely pleased.

Big ‘well done’ and thanks again!”

Weston super Mare – Cliff Road
A local resident wrote in:

“I would like to express my appreciation of the excellent job, currently undertaken by the refuse and recycling teams.

The teams arrive as per schedule, collect all garbage and recycling (without making a mess) and return the containers to the property, with care.

A very professional service and long may it continue as is currently provided.”

Weston super Mare – Shrubbery Terrace
Bridie Collier wrote to thank Ed Mckay, Grounds Maintenance Contract Officer and the Glendale team as follows:

“Would you please pass on to Glendale our compliments on an excellent job tidying up the area at the top of Shrubbery Terrace. We really appreciate it.”
Backwell – Station Road
A satisfied resident wrote in to thank the recycling crew:

“Waste collection on 5th January 2016. We forgot to put out our waste boxes and the collections from neighbouring houses had already been completed by the time we noticed.

However we saw and spoke with two of your operatives working further down Station Road as we were going off to do shopping. Despite being very busy, they said that they would stop at our house on their way back up the road.

They did as they said they would, so very many thanks!”

Winford
Jim Webster of Winford Parish Council provided Elaine Bowman, Senior Access Officer with the following extract from the December meeting:

“Footpaths - It was reiterated how much good progress had been made with improving the footpath infrastructure in the Parish. Confirmation had been received of the diversion of part of the footpath between Mead Lane Farm Lane and Littleton Lane, it was noted that communication with the Parish Council regarding this had been very good.”

The officers concerned were Penny Price and Adrian Woolacott in the Public Rights of Way Team.

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

January/February 2016