

## October 2016

*Welcome to the October edition of Streetscene.*

### Natural Environment

#### Refurbishment of Merlin Park play area, Portishead

A jointly funded scheme between North Somerset Council and Portishead Town Council to refurbish the play space for younger children at Merlin Park has been completed.

The original proposal just to replace the safety surface was halted when the town council kindly offered to fund some new equipment.

North Somerset Council presented a range of equipment from four companies and the Wicksteed Playgrounds scheme (pictured) was selected and installed by them.

The existing swing frame (not pictured) was painted and the safety surface from Matta Products overlaid the old surface to give a neat and above all safe surface, with minimal disruption.



Thanks must also go to Larry Walker Groundworks for removing the old equipment and fencing the site for the duration of the works.

Our officer in charge was Kevin Carlton, s106 Project Officer.

# Waste

Recycling, Waste and Fleet Services have been working on the livery designs for our new kerbside recycling vehicles – coming to a street near you from 1 March 2017!



Throughout October and November the Recycling and Waste Team, in partnership with local charity Changing Lives, are running furniture reuse and electrical waste amnesties across the district. Our first event in Winscombe and Sandford was a great success.



## Future events:

### Hutton

Saturday 12 November, 9am-noon

Hutton Village Hall, Main Road, Hutton BS24 9SR

### Congresbury

Wednesday 16 November, 4pm-6.30pm

The Old School Rooms, Station Road, Congresbury BS49 5DX

### Long Ashton

Tuesday 22 November, 4pm-6.30pm

The Village Hall, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton BS41 9DP

## Area Officers and Community Response

Community Response Officer Carol Pike has been very busy removing illegal signs from the highway in and around the Clevedon area this week. Whilst removing some in the rain, a couple of passing motorists voiced their approval to Carol for tidying up the area.

The picture shows just a morning's work from her.



Unauthorised signage on the highway can not only be a distraction for motorists but can impede visibility for highway users.

### Our officers will seek to:

- remove any sign which does not comply with the traffic sign regulations, without notice
- store the signs we remove for three months
- charge for the return of signs to their owners
- work with the local community to keep our roads safe by removing unauthorised signs.

## Warren Close

A footpath that had gradually subsided over the past few months came to the attention of Area Officer Nick Raymond. He swiftly assessed the situation and raised a minor repair order using our SMART crews through Skanska.

### Before



### After

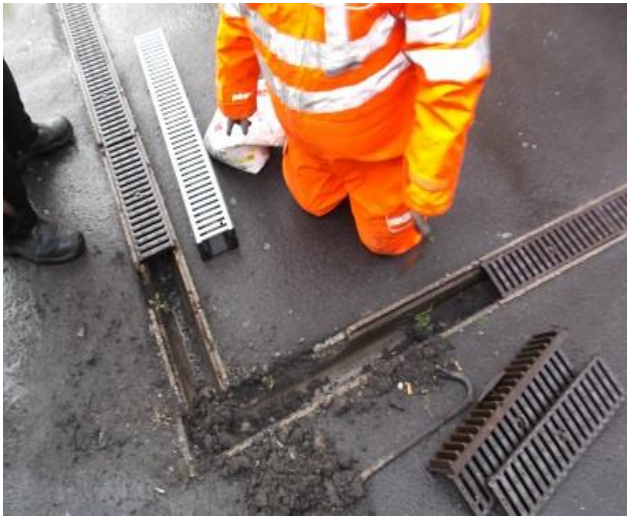


The pictures highlight how well and quickly a minor repair can make all the difference.



## Salisbury Terrace

Using the services of our Essential Maintenance team, through our cleansing contractors Glendale, Area Officer Bev Tucker swiftly arranged the repair of an old drain cover that had been damaged by a vehicle over running the footway in Salisbury Terrace, Weston. The works had to be carried out urgently and an early start was required to minimise disruption. The crew reconstructed the damaged sides and installed a new drain cover. Bev added 'good as new' in her comments.



## Seafront and Events Team The HydroGarden Beach Race



The annual Weston Beach Race returned for its 34<sup>th</sup> year over the weekend of 7 to 9 October. The event attracted a combination of the world's top riders and the country's motocross enthusiasts, competing side by side for major honours, or to raise money for charity. The main daily attraction was a three-hour endurance race, quad bikes and side-cars competed on the Saturday and solos on the Sunday. Before the daily main race there were two junior races, as well as extreme stunt shows, providing a full day's entertainment.

This year's event attracted almost 100,000 people over the weekend and was a huge success. Gareth Hockey, the Director of RHL Activities, said: "It's been one of the best Weston Beach races we've done I'd say. Everything worked well, the weather of course has helped and we had a massive, massive crowd. I've really enjoyed it, and we've had some excellent racing, which has been great to watch."

The event has a big impact on Weston seafront. The course takes a week to build with 200,000 tons of sand being moved and shaped. Following the event the sand has to be moved back and the beach is re-profiled.

For health and safety purposes the seafront is closed for the duration of the build, and knockdown, allowing the organisers to erect hospitality/trade marquees and heavy plant to operate on the beach without compromising public safety.

The event is the largest off-road motorsport event in the UK and generates around £3m for the local economy.

The Seafront and Events team ensured as little inconvenience as possible was caused to residents and seafront visitors during the 17 days of build, event and knockdown. The team also worked with the Corporate Safety, Licensing, Trading Standards and Environmental Protection teams making sure the organisers fulfilled their requirements prior to and during the event. Over the weekend the team also managed the pit and spectator parking areas. The team catered for over 1,500 competitor and crew vans, and over 2,000 spectator vehicles over the weekend.

### **Gerry Cottle's Wow Circus**



Gerry Cottle's Wow Circus visited Weston-super-Mare for the first time over the school holidays. The circus performed seven shows during its three-day visit which took place on the Beach Lawns between 28 and 30 October.

The Seafront and Events team facilitated the event making sure event applications, safety information and insurances were all in place prior to occupation. The team also liaised with Safety Advisory Group agencies to make sure they were happy with the events arrangements.

### **Night of 1,100 Lights**

St Paul's Church held its annual community celebration of light in Clarence Park on the evening of Saturday 29 October. The event included live musical performances, stalls and entertainment for all the family and concluded with a spectacular firework display.

The Seafront and Events team worked with the event organisers making sure they had all safety documentation in place to satisfy the Safety Advisory Group. They also worked with the Licensing team to ensure organisers had applied for and met requirements to be granted premises and street collection licenses.

## Business Improvement District (BID) Halloween activities

A variety of entertainment took place in Weston town centre over the school holidays. Entertainment took place daily in the High Street, Italian Gardens, Big Lamp Corner or Princess Royal Square and included:

- An animal petting farm
- Action pussycat
- The Wacky Wonder Wheelers
- Circus Whiz
- Uncle Doom and his Organ of Gloom
- Makendoo workshops
- The Cats Choir.



Events and activities were organised and staffed by the Seafront and Events team on behalf of Weston BID. The team made sure that each performer had safety information and insurances in place, and facilitated entertainment on the day.

## Grand Pier fireworks



On Saturday 22 October the Grand Pier put on a spectacular firework display. Both the pier and promenade were filled with spectators for the 15-minute seafront display.

The event was facilitated by the Seafront and Events team who worked with the Food and Safety team to ensure insurances and safety documents from the firing company were in place and implemented for the display.

During October the Seafront and Events team also facilitated the Portishead Multi-Terrain 10k, B-fit Bootcamps, Friends of Watchhouse Hill Apple Day, Weston-super-Mare Motor Club Autotest and a charity unicycle fundraiser making sure applications, risk assessments, insurances and arrangements were in place before activities took place.



# Highways and Transport

## Micro asphalt 2016

This year's £440,000 micro asphalt programme has been completed to schedule.

The council kept residents informed of progress by using Twitter and Facebook updates to tell people where the crew were, and approximate timings of when works would take place.

Micro asphalt is undertaken by North Somerset Council as a major part of its on-going, low-cost annual maintenance programme and this year covered around 43,000 sq. metres of North Somerset's roads. Micro asphalt is a widely used process that provides a simple but cost effective form of maintenance. Micro asphalt maximises the use of limited highway maintenance funding (costing only around one-quarter of conventional resurfacing).

Following the works, manhole covers and drains are adjusted to suit the new road level which will be about 15mm higher than the old road due to the thickness of the micro asphalt. This work will be happening over the next couple of weeks.

It is normal for there to be loose stones on the surface of the road for several weeks after the micro asphalt is laid as stones naturally loosen from the surface of the new material.

The road will usually be swept a few times during this period and the white lines will be replaced after the last sweep. This will usually be a few weeks after the treatment.

Rectory Road, Easton-in-Gordano

### **Before**



### **After**



Duncan King supervised the carriageway patching works that were completed by LGP surfacing prior to the micro asphalt being laid. The micro asphalt scheme was organised and supervised by George Daly, with the works carried out by Kiely's on behalf of Skanska.

## Flood risk management – Upper Bristol Road, Weston

130 metres of Beany Blocks have been installed at Upper Bristol Road. Historically water would flow down Milton Hill onto Upper Bristol Road, jumping the kerb and flooding neighbouring properties internally and externally. The Beany Blocks will capture water on the highway, reducing the risk of flooding to properties and also improve highway safety.

The project faced many challenges including coming across uncharted gas lines and an uncharted abandoned concrete service. The ground consisted of hard material including limestone and more concrete.



Strategic Partnership working with Wessex Water enabled them to future proof their sewer main which was installed a number of years ago. This enabled us to connect into their pipe while not compromising capacity. The scheme came within budget and cost £60,000 and was managed by Jason Reading.



## Grit bins

With the winter months fast approaching, our main salt stocks have been fully replenished. Due to the mild winters over the last couple of years, generally most of the salt stocks in the existing bins remain at a high level and therefore need no replenishment. We will, therefore, only initially be replenishing any grit bins that are identified as in need of refilling. This saves us having to send resources to visit every bin regardless of stock levels.





If the town and parish councils, or snow wardens where applicable, can advise us of bin levels we can direct resources in a more productive and cost efficient way.

Please send any requests for grit bin top-ups to [streetsandopenspaces@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:streetsandopenspaces@n-somerset.gov.uk) or tel: Council Connect on 01934 888 802. Alternatively, please contact your Area Officer who will arrange refilling.

If you have any further technical questions please contact Area Manager Paul Smart.

## **‘Thank yous’**

### **Weston-super-Mare – Ellenborough Park South**

Kate and James Jones wrote in to thank Area Officer Pepe Sanjurjo for arranging a contractor to clear the gutters along Ellenborough Park South:

“On behalf of our immediate neighbours at this end of our road, please accept our sincere appreciation for arranging another clean-up of road-sweeping and gutter cleaning. Please convey our thanks to your employee who did the work early on Monday morning, he did a really good job to ensure the rubbish was picked up by his small vehicle and the edges along the park railings were also cleared. It must often seem an endless task to keep our streets cleaned, but we are immensely grateful to be included in your busy schedules; we walked the seafront at the weekend and it was amazing to see how clean the gutters were. Such a credit to your team and Weston-super-Mare seafront really looked like Weston SUPER Mare!”

### **Pill**

Michael Nixon of Rudleigh Avenue wrote in to thank John Carson for sorting out a number of missed waste collections with Kier directly.

### **Yatton**

David Christie wrote in to thank the recycling collectors for waiting for him put out his waste, after he got home late from a hospital appointment on the morning of 18 October.



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:  
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**October 2016**