

Portishead and North Weston Town Council News Update – November 2009

Town Council Open Day

The Town Council would like to invite residents to come along to an **Open Day on Saturday 31 October from 10am to noon** in the Somerset Hall. In the past the Council has been criticised for not listening to its residents. Currently the Town Council has 6 wards, with three Councillors per ward making a total of 18 members. The Open Day will be an opportunity for you to meet informally with your local Councillors and the Town Clerk and put forward your points of view or discuss current topics.

Tea and coffee will be available throughout the morning. So if you are not sure which ward you live in or what your local Councillors 'do' please come along, have a coffee and meet your Council – we want to hear from you.

Cabstand Alterations

On the 14 September the Cabstand traffic lights were turned off as part of a trial to see if traffic would flow more freely through the area without the formal traffic control. This has been tested in other areas of the country where it has proved a success. Council Highway Officers will monitor the trial on site where a temporary 20mph speed limit has been introduced. Signage has also been installed to advise drivers to give priority to pedestrians. Following the trial a detailed analysis will be carried out by North Somerset Council to determine if any changes to the layout should be made.

Portishead Open Air Pool

The Pool was opened in May of this year following an extreme makeover by television presenter Ty Pennington and his programme the Great British Adventure. Despite appalling weather a large band of local volunteers re-vamped the Open Air Pool which was opened on time. A pool party then took place as a thank you for everyone's efforts. Since its opening the pool has been a huge success and the numbers of residents and visitors using the facility has increased to over 30,000. It is also hoped that events will take place during the winter in an effort to boost the finances of the Portishead Pool Community Trust.

Bus Shelters

Work continues on updating all bus shelters in the Town as part of the Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN) Project. Pavements are being modified with raised platforms at all bus stops to make access easier. The older Town Council shelters are being removed and replaced with new shelters and the more recent shelters revamped with a coat of paint and new panels. Some additional shelters will also be installed at sites where previously there were none. At the same time a handful of shelters will have digital real-time information installed and all shelters will have timetable cases.

New Buildings

The new Harbourside Health Centre is now up and running. It should be noted that the site of the temporary health centre and car park is earmarked for the railway station and car park.

The development behind the petrol station will soon be completed with the arrival of new retailers whom we believe to be Dreams, Pets at Home, New Look and Peacocks. As a result, the area adjacent to Wyndham Way and Old Mill Road has been considerably improved and achieves a more pleasing entrance to the town. Whilst the Town Council welcomes these additional retailers to the Town, members are concerned at the vacant office space in Portishead. Therefore the Town Council has approached North Somerset Council to ascertain their strategy for attracting additional new business ventures to the town. North Somerset Council officers will be attending a meeting with the Town Council in November.

Streets and Open Spaces Surgery

Residents are once again reminded that the Portishead Area Officer for North Somerset Council is available on the last Thursday of the month between 10am and 11am. The meetings take place in the Fedden Room on the ground floor of the Folk Hall.

Also in the Fedden Room, residents may address the police with issues over which the police have control, and their surgery takes place every Thursday between 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

North Weston Cemetery Car Park

Planning permission has now been received for the car park at the cemetery and the project will be completed as soon as possible. It was agreed that a partnership agreement be entered into with North Somerset District Council for shared joint and equal use of the car park and any future maintenance. This car park is for users of the cemetery and the village hall.

Victorian Fayre

This year the Victorian Fayre will take place on Friday 11 December starting around 6.30pm. It is hoped that the Fayre will be well supported by both traders and the public alike and the Committee are keen that the Victorian theme together with Victorian costumes will be much in evidence.

Water's Edge Safety at Portishead Marina

Some while ago, fears were expressed at the lack of railings along the edge of the Marina. North Somerset District Council have indicated to Crest Nicholson that changes need to be made and have suggested the fitting of two horizontal "Kee Clamp" pipes between a) ground and middle rail and b) between middle and top rail. It is hoped that the design and implementation will follow as soon as possible

Protecting the Heritage of Portishead

The Town Council has set up a working party to locate and identify buildings and landmarks of historic value to the Town. The aim is to catalogue all places that reflect part of the town's heritage and if necessary to request English Heritage to list and grade these properties in order to protect the valuable assets from being lost.

As one of the UK's fastest growing towns, Portishead has already lost some of its original historic buildings due to the rapid development programme. There are many splendid places, yet to be protected and we must move fast if we are to avoid developers from demolishing cherished buildings to make way for building even more new houses and losing our vitally important green and open spaces.