

Winterstoke news

LOCKING CASTLE, WESTON & HAYWOOD VILLAGE

COUNCIL BEGINS TO DREDGE MARINE LAKE



Exciting plans to rejuvenate Weston-super-Mare's Marine Lake have taken an important step forward.

Marine Lake has been unsuitable for swimming for years due to the build up of mud and silt having been ignored by previous politicians running the council, but finally it's getting a £300k clean!

This won't be an easy job as there's an estimated 35,000 tonnes of silt in the lake which is several feet deep.

If you've been into town you may have already noticed that the work has already begun. The approach being used will be a mixture of naturally flushing out the silt and then using

mechanical means to remove the remaining silt. It is hoped that using both methods may reduce the cost allowing more money to be spent on improvements for the area.

It's hoped that within the next few months we'll see swimmers returning to Marine Lake and it will become a popular place with residents and tourists again.

There's always a risk of delays so keep an eye on the news to learn when Marine Lake will reopen.

It won't be long until Marine Lake is reopened to swimmers again after the council's £300k investment!

KEEP IN TOUCH



CIARAN CRONNELLY

Councillor for Winterstoke Ward

I'm always happy to help if you have any problems or feedback about the area. I live in the ward so if you see me around feel free to stop me to have a chat.

If you wanted to you can write to me at c/o Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ

Or, if you prefer, you can contact me using the details below.

- Facebook: CllrCiaran
- ciaran.cronnelly@n-somerset.gov.uk
- 07564 593 494

Dealing with fly tipping

I was horrified to learn about the fly tipping behind Food Works SW and as soon as I became aware I visited to see if there was any evidence that would help find the culprits.



Massive fly tipping of household furniture on land behind the Food Works SW

Remarkably after searching the area I found the address of the property that hired the fly tippers which I handed straight to the council. Since then witness statements have been received. The investigation continues.

Fingers crossed we find the culprits.

Steps to tackle speeding



Temporary vehicle activated speed sign installed at the Maltlands earlier this year

I'm looking at other areas to put the temporary speed sign and if you have ideas please get in touch.

For some time I've been trying to secure a permanent vehicle activated speed sign to remind drivers of the speed limit and recently I've had some success, as the council agreed to loan me a sign for 1 month, which I placed at the Maltlands.

Although it was only for a short time it was effective in reducing speed. I would prefer a more permanent solution but in the interim the council has agreed I will be able to use the sign again and I'm looking at other areas it could be placed.

Elected health chairman

In January I was delighted to be elected the chair of North Somerset's Health Scrutiny Panel.

My priority for the first few months has centred around our hospital following a challenging report from the regulator. I've met with the CEO of the hospital to discuss this and I've been clear to them that following the merger with Bristol positive changes need to happen quicker.

I'm also looking into the access

concerns for the proposed new health centre, and reviewing our Children's Mental Health services to ensure that Weston gets its fair share of funding compared to our neighbours.

In July I'll be chairing a public meeting where we'll be reviewing the progress of the Healthy Weston programme, particularly focusing on the overnight A&E changes.

If you're interested please do come along. Equally feel free to get in touch.



A picture of me at a 2019 'Save Weston A&E' protest.

Biffa contract brought into local control by North Somerset Council

Due to the frequency of complaints I received about missed collections when I first became a councillor it was clear to me we needed a longer term solution to improve the service for residents. That's why in August 2019 I called on the council to consider bringing the service in-house.

This lobbying paid off and in 2020 the council confirmed they would end their agreement with Biffa and bring the service under a council controlled company.

Since the council launched their waste company in April 2021 I've seen the complaints I receive reduce and it's been easier to get problems resolved. The early signs are good but there's still a lot to do.

It's also important to acknowledge the staff who have been working really hard during COVID whilst also transferring from Biffa to the council company.



You can report missed collections online via:

<https://forms.n-somerset.gov.uk/Waste/MissedCollection>

MY RECORD



One of my pledges is to claim no expenses and since being elected I can confirm I have claimed £0.

My council and committee attendance record in the last 6 months is 93%.



Warnings for parking that blocks waste trucks or emergency vehicles



There have been a few occasions over the last 24 months where inconsiderate parking has blocked access to an emergency vehicle and I've recorded over 60 occasions where recycling and waste hasn't been collected in the ward due to the trucks being unable to gain access. If the recycling truck can't get passed neither will an ambulance.

The council have recently been consulting on Public Space Protection Orders and following this they'll begin to pilot a new approach within the next few months where they'll issue an initial warning where a truck can't get passed a parked vehicle in the hope this will improve the situation, including for emergency vehicles.



New patrols to crackdown on littering and dog fouling

North Somerset Council has entered into a 12-month contract with Local Authority Support to provide patrols that will issue £75 fixed penalty notices for anyone seen littering or not picking up after their dog.

You would have seen in previous newsletters that I've spent some of my time litter picking in the ward so I'm pleased that the council have listened and are taking stronger action.

Local residents agree as well and a recent 'Your Neighbourhood' consultation showed that 90% of respondents said they wanted to see more action on dog fouling and 77% wanted on-the-spot fines for littering.

The council will be starting off in known hot spots and I've asked them to consider patrols in this area. If you identify problem areas please get in touch and I'll liaise with the council.



UPDATE ON ROAD REPAIR PETITION

In the last newsletter I shared a petition calling on North Somerset Council to repair the roads around Weston Village and Locking Castle. Thank you to the 80 of you that signed this. I presented this to the council but sadly action is still proving slow. The council has estimated the cost of repairs at £150,000 but currently funding for this has yet to be committed due to other roads taking priority.

I'm pushing for the funding to be found but this looks like it may be a long fight.

Securing additional resource to tackle anti-social behaviour

I'm pleased to say that finally after I proposed it a year ago Weston now has an additional Community Response Officer whose role it is to tackle anti-social behaviour.

I've led this from the start having put forward a proposal to secure £50k from Weston Town Council's budget and then taking it through the committees to get approval to use the money for an additional Community Response Officer solely dedicated to Weston.

This has not been without its difficulties because throughout this process I've had local Tories trying to stop it and at one stage they almost succeeded as they tied a key vote by voting against.

It's been a long process but the Community Response Officer is now in post and has already made a difference dealing with ASB at Grove Park and dealing with the illegal dirt track in this ward, amongst many other things.

You can report ASB online:

<https://saferstrongerns.co.uk/contact-us-report-it/report/>

