



WELLS CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL SUMMONS

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MEETING OF WELLS CITY COUNCIL,
WHICH MEMBERS ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND, WILL BE HELD IN
WELLS TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 27TH JULY 2023 AT 7.00PM**

Please note this meeting will be recorded for the purpose of minute-taking.

Steve Luck
Town Clerk

Town Hall, Market Place
Wells,
BA5 2RB
01749 673091
e-mail: townclerk@wells.gov.uk

20th July 2023

AGENDA

Wells City Council has declared a climate emergency. Each agenda item must consider the impact on any policy and decision.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interests, made under the Council's Code of Conduct adopted 12th May 2022.
- 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 22ND JUNE 2023**
To be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.
- 4 MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
Public speaking time is normally restricted to 15 minutes in total, at the discretion of the Mayor.
- 5 POLICE REPORT**

6 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor's Diary

- i. 30th Jul – Ambassador gathering, Museum gardens
- ii. 4th Aug – Wells Art Contemporary Private View, Wells Cathedral
- iii. 6th Aug – Mid-Somerset Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament & Peace Group, Bishop's Palace
- iv. 7th Aug – Wells Chamber of Commerce social, location tba
- v. 28th Aug – City of Wells Lions Club Moat Race
- vi. 17th Sept – Battle of Britain Commemoration Service, St Cuthbert's Church

7 OUTSIDE SPACES & ESTATES COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2023 (attached)

8 STAFFING COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2023 (attached)

9 FINANCE & COUNCIL MATTERS COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2023 (attached)

10 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2023 (to follow)

11 REPORT FOLLOWING LAST COUNCILLORS SURGERY ON 17TH JULY

Councillors in attendance: Cllrs T Butt Philip and S Eden

12 CIVIC AWARDS

To receive an update from Cllr Welch

13 20MPH SPEED ZONE IN WELLS

To consider Somerset Council information (attached, page 3)

14 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS/TRUSTEES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- i. Report on Sustainable Wells, Cllr D Denis (attached, page 4)
- ii. Report on Somerset Bus Partnership, Cllr D Denis (attached, page 4)

15 TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

To follow, if any received.

16 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Wells City Council will be **Thursday 28th September 2023, 7pm**

EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence, it will be proposed by the Mayor that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended.

Circulation List:

Town Clerk/RFO	Somerset Councillors	Wells Journal & Wells Voice
Town Clerk Assistant	Serjeants-at-Mace	Wells Chamber of Commerce
Cemetery & Burial Officer	Mayor's Chaplain	The Bishop's Palace
Outside Spaces Officer	Town Crier	Wells Cathedral
Wells City Council members	Wells Civic Society	Avon & Somerset Police
	WCC Internal Auditor	

Agenda item 13: Community Funded 20mph Speed Limits

As you may have been made aware, Councillors were recently invited to attend a briefing outlining Somerset Councils position on 20mph speed limits, aligning to the manifesto commitment to 'work with communities to make 20mph speed limits the norm outside schools, in residential areas, our city, town and village centres'.

As an authority we want to support communities who wish to fund the design and implementation of a 20mph speed limit. It is estimated that the cost would be in the region of £15,000. You will be required to pay a £500 non-refundable application fee which will cover an initial assessment including up to 2 no week-long speed data readings. Note, at our discretion we may be required to collect data from more than 2no locations to determine the suitability. These will be charged at £200 per location and will be included in the final cost of the scheme.

For information, the Department for Transport guidance on the setting of local speed limits are clear in that speed limits should be evidence led, self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance and should be seen by drivers as a maximum rather than a target speed.

Research has shown that a change in speed limit signs alone has very little effect on actual vehicle speeds and that the speed of vehicles is moderated by the surrounding environment rather than the posted speed limit. Where motorists do not understand the reasoning behind the implementation of a speed limit, a high level of non-compliance is likely to occur, and indeed this may lead to disrespect of speed limits elsewhere.

The key factors that need to be considered when reviewing a speed limit is history of collisions; road geometry and engineering; road function; compositions of road users; existing traffic speeds; and road environment.

In specific reference to 20mph speed limits, the minimum length of speed limit is 600m (300m in exceptional circumstances) and **mean speeds must be below 24mph**. If mean speeds are higher than the intervention level, traffic calming measures will be required to reduce speeds to this level. Note, in larger communities it may be that only smaller areas are feasible, for example a housing estate or ward whereby it wouldn't impact on the strategic network.

It is also worth considering the environmental impact on the 'street scene', having the necessary highway signage, such as terminal and repeater signs, and road markings installed within the village.

We are currently welcoming expressions of interest so please complete the accompanying application form by the end of August 2023 and return to this email account along with confirmation that the application fee has been paid. We will then carry out the initial assessment and advise you as to whether you will to be added to the register for progression, with the expectation that these schemes will be delivered in 2024. If your community is not ready to submit an application this year we will look to open the window for expressions of interest again this time next year.

If in the meantime if you have any questions surrounding this, please do not hesitate in contacting me via the Traffic Management email address.

Kind Regards

Gary Warren

Service Manager - Traffic Engineering
Traffic Management, Road Safety and Parking

Somerset Council

trafficmanagement@somerset.gov.uk

Agenda item 14 (i): Sustainable Wells Report July 2023

Wells City Council has been well supported in its aims to reduce carbon footprint of householders and increase biodiversity in an area of Wells by linking with Sustainable Wells on a couple of initiatives above.

The organisation has good, clear lines of delegation for each project and ensures risk assessments and insurances are in place before an activity commences. I would like to thank the organisers for connecting with the community and increasing the interest and participation in initiatives which are setting the pace for improving environment and reducing carbon footprint.

(Newsletter circulated to Councillors by email.)

Cllr Denise Denis 15/7/23

Agenda item 14 (ii): Somerset Bus Partnership – Councillor Report for July 2023

Wells Bus User Group is currently undertaking an audit of state of the bus stops and timetables along the routes of buses serving Wells, as requested by SBP to feedback to Somerset County.

The Wells Bus User Group is also working on campaigns to highlight to Councils and bus companies the very confusing state of play of the £2 cap- which varies its rules according to which company or council is operating the service- and does not offer parity across county borders or from one service to another. For example, a child fare on the 376 is capped at £1 whereas on the Buses of Somerset a child fare is capped at £2 or £1.80 as a child fare.

The Wells Bus User Group is also to highlight the need for number 67 bus stops along Jocelyn Drive and at the top of Coronation Road to enable people from Charter Way Estate to access GP surgeries, school and Care Homes. Currently the stop on Portway is not available to the number 67, only the 126.

Cllr Denise Denis 17/7/23