

Helpful information relating to Portishead Town Council and North Somerset Council for those contributing to public participation

It is fully understandable that many people are unaware of the differing responsibilities of the Portishead Town Council (PTC) and North Somerset Council (NSC) in Weston-super-Mare.

NSC covers both the North Somerset and Weston-super-Mare parliamentary constituencies and is responsible for 98% of the local government expenditure. It deals with highways, education, social care, housing, planning, waste and recycling and many other functions.

PTC and other town and parish councils together spend only about 2% of the budget and are concerned with their local areas. PTC is responsible for the management of certain local assets, such as the Folk Hall, North Weston Hall, Redcliffe Hall, Gertie Gales and North Weston Allotments, various play areas, Wyndham Way public toilets, bus shelters, benches, litter and dog bins, and other matters relating to the town. These are discussed in the Recreation and Works Committee where recommendations are prepared for approval by the full Council. Local residents are invited to attend to present their views during public participation.

The PTC has a Planning Committee which reviews local planning applications, but has powers only to send comments to the NSC Planning Committee, which makes the decision. Public participation here is usually from those who wish to support or object to a particular planning application. It can be a good first step, but it is important to understand that it is not addressed to those who will make the final decision – that is done by NSC.

There are a number of ways in which to make your views known:

by contacting the relevant ward district councillor individually if it is a North Somerset Council matter;

by contacting the relevant ward town councillor individually if it is a Portishead Town Council matter;

in either case their contact details are published on the relevant web sites;

by contacting either council office in person or by phone, email or letter;

by attending public participation at either North Somerset or Portishead Town Council meetings.

The Town Council office is always happy to advise and can be contacted in the following ways:

1. In person at the office on the first floor of the Folk Hall from 10 – 12.30 Monday – Friday
2. By telephone – 01275 847078
3. By email – office@portishead.gov.uk
4. In writing to – Town Clerk, Portishead Town Council, The Folk Hall, 95 High Street, Portishead, BS20 6R.