

Midsomer Norton Town Council Mayor's announcements February 2025

February has been another month of largely damp and grey weather, but this hasn't stopped people enjoying many events in the town, or hindered the improvements and developments to our town. It has been a pleasure to attend a variety of events over the month, and to engage with residents and businesses recognising and helping promote their efforts.

High Street Regeneration

The Island Development and Bus Stop upgrade

Work was completed on The Island development towards the end of January, in time for the first event on the site, the annual Wassail celebration, on Saturday 1st February. The Market Square is an adaptable space that can be used in a variety of ways, to accommodate different types of events and activities. It is intended that this space is used by community groups and for community events, and will eventually work alongside the refurbished Town Hall.

On this occasion it hosted a large marquee used for workshops and information, with plenty of outside space for music, performances and people to gather ahead of the procession to the Town Park.

On Thursday 13th February I met with BANES Councillors Paul Roper and Sarah Warren, to look at the work that had taken place and talk about how these spaces are intended to be used. We are grateful to BANES, WECA, Historic England, UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the funding and support with these and ongoing improvements to our town's infrastructure.

Find out more <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/midsomer-norton-high-street-regeneration-programme>



The Town Hall

Work has restarted on the refurbishment of the Town Hall, and we are optimistic of a Springtime completion to the works. Subcontractors are currently working on internal fixtures and fittings, such as electrical and plumbing services, and heating and joinery items.

Events, attractions and activities

We held another wonderful Wassail Celebration on Saturday 1st February. Many local residents and visitors enjoyed creative activities in the large tent, and performances by musicians and performers, on the new Market Square, before parading the length of the high street to the Town Park. At the Park, the traditional ceremonies took place and there was more music and performances from the Morris Men, Langport Mummers and Frome Street Bandits, as well as food and drink.

The Wassail was even recognised by the New York Times, in an article on the Wassail tradition in this country, which is available on their website.



Somerset Farmers Market

The monthly Somerset Farmers Market returned on Saturday 1st February, on the Hollies Garden. It is always great to see local producers, makers and businesses selling their wares. It will return on Saturday 1st March.

The Willson Grant and The Active Way

I was very pleased to attend an event at The Old Printing Works, Radstock, held by The Active Way, on Tuesday 11th February. The aim was to see and hear presentations from recipients of the Willson Grant, which has supported 10 individuals, community groups, micro-businesses, freelancers and organisations to launch or offer free active travel, creative, sustainable and cultural projects across the Somer Valley including Timsbury, Clandown, Paulton, Farmborough, Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Westfield.

Find out more here <https://theactivewaybathnes.co.uk/willson-grant-funds-ten-community-projects/>

New businesses

A new café, Muse coffee shop, officially opened on Friday 14th February, in the Unit 14 building. I was pleased to officially open the café, and to look around the facilities and services offered. As well as the food and drink options they will be offering an extensive range of evening activities for residents throughout the week.



I am looking forward to the opening of other new businesses in the town next month.

Annual Town Meeting and Civic Awards Ceremony

There is still time to make your nominations for the Midsomer Norton Civic Awards 2025.

This event will be held on Tuesday 29th April at the Somer Centre. Information about categories and making nominations for the awards is available on the Council website, and has been shared online and in other forms.