

Amenities Committee Meeting 23 September 2026

Agenda Item 26/27/163

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to request formal permission to organise a community-led **yarn bombing project in Sturminster Newton**, for a short period in the summer of 2027, inspired by the successful and warmly-received installation created by the town of Cosby. Their project demonstrated how temporary textile art can bring colour, joy, and a renewed sense of community pride to public spaces without causing damage or disruption. I believe Sturminster Newton is perfectly placed to benefit from a similar initiative.

Purpose and Community Value

The aim of this project is to create a vibrant, inclusive display of handcrafted textile art throughout selected areas of the town. Yarn bombing has been shown to:

- Encourage community participation across all ages and abilities
- Support local crafting groups and social wellbeing
- Enhance the visual appeal of public spaces
- Focus on celebrating the History of Stur, specifically the Anniversaries of the closure of the Cattle Market and the opening of our fantastic Exchange facility
- Attract visitors and increase footfall for local businesses
- Promote Sturminster Newton as a creative, community-driven town

Cosby's project demonstrated measurable positive outcomes, including increased visitor engagement, strengthened community cohesion, and positive media attention. Their experience provides a clear precedent for how such an initiative can be carried out responsibly and successfully.

Scope of Installation

The proposed yarn bombing would focus on **non-intrusive, removable textile decorations** placed on approved public fixtures such as bollards, benches, and trees in the Railway Gardens. All installations would be:

- Fully removable without tools
- Designed to avoid obstructing signage, pathways, or accessibility features
- Weather-safe and securely attached
- Installed and removed within an agreed timeframe

I would be happy to provide a detailed map of proposed locations and examples of the types of decorations planned.

Safety, Maintenance, and Responsibility

I will ensure that all materials used are safe, durable, and appropriate for outdoor display. A small volunteer group will be responsible for installation, monitoring, and timely removal. No adhesives, paints, or permanent fixings will be used. The project will comply with all council guidance and any additional conditions you may require.

Community Engagement

Local crafting groups, schools, and residents will be invited to participate, making this a collaborative celebration of creativity. Workshops can be organised to encourage involvement and ensure the project reflects the spirit of Sturminster Newton.

Request

I respectfully request permission from the Council to proceed with planning and installation of this yarn bombing project. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with the appropriate representatives to discuss locations, timelines, and any requirements needed to ensure full compliance.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I believe this project has the potential to bring colour, connection, and joy to our town, and I hope you will look favourably upon it.

Yours sincerely,

Petrina Hooper

Sturminster Newton Resident and Business Owner

Beads With a Twist/Crafty Stur