

ILMINSTER DIVISION COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT MAY 2019

SCC FULL COUNCIL

I continue to be appointed to the Devon & Somerset Fire Authority, in addition to SCC's Health & Wellbeing Board. In addition, at SCC's annual meeting the following key appointments were made:

Chairman of the Council – Nigel Taylor

Vice-Chair – Mark Keating

CABINET

The following members were appointed to Cabinet by way of a Leader's decision.

- Leader/Cabinet Member for Strategy, Customers & Communities – David Fothergill
- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources – Mandy Chilcott
- Member for Economic Development, Planning, Community Infrastructure – David Hall
- Member for Adult Social Care – David Huxtable
- Member for Children and Families – Frances Nicholson
- Member for Education and Council Transformation – Faye Purbrick
- Highways and Transport – John Woodman
- Public Health and Wellbeing – Christine Lawrence

REGULATION COMMITTEE

Chair: John Parham

Vice-Chair: Nigel Hewitt-Cooper

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES AND PLACE COMMITTEE

Chair: Anna Groskop

Vice-Chair: Ann Bown

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, ADULTS AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chair: Hazel Prior-Sankey

Vice-Chair: Mark Healey

SCRUTINY FOR POLICIES, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Chair: Leigh Redman

Vice-Chair: Rod Williams

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair: Clare Aparicio-Paul

Vice-Chair: Mike Lewis

SOMERSET HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Christine Lawrence (Chair)

Frances Nicholson (Vice-Chair)

IMPROVING LIVES FUND - HEALTH & WELLBEING GRANTS

The decision was made to re-instate these grants, with £2,000 allocated to each elected member. Grants must have a clear H&WB outcome and can only be given to organisations, not individuals.

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

A grant of £25k is to be made available to fund activities.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

There has generally been a positive local response as a result of this week's documentary on the provision of the service in Somerset, where funding shortfalls were highlighted. I have been unable to contact Julia Ingram this month to arrange a meeting to discuss ongoing cases.

YOUNG CARERS

£248,000 has been allocated from the budget to commission support for young carers who have more complex challenges. Part of this funding is to be used to run locality-based support groups and develop a “community alliance” to increase community resources, skills and knowledge to access additional funding and resources from other sources.

FIRE SERVICE

DSFRS covers the largest geographical area in the country and is the largest employer of on-call firefighters in the UK, resulting in significant challenges in recruiting and retaining staff. The HMICFRS inspection is currently under way, focusing on effectiveness, efficiency and people in relation to risk, prevention, protection and response. A home safety visit app. has been developed and targeted home safety visits (for over 65s and/or with a disability) carried out by specially trained people.

SPECIAL SCHOOL PLACES

SCC currently forecast a shortage of special school places in the South Somerset area; the aim is to expand both Fiveways School, Fairmead School in Yeovil to create 70 – 80 additional places. The aim is also to create 40 - 50 additional places at Sky College for those with additional needs.

ILMINSTER/CREWKERNE SCHOOLS

Early in June, I will be attending a meeting with SCC officers, school heads and Chairs of governors to consider the findings of the recent review.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Following representations from the group Extinction Rebellion (XR) at both SCC and SSDC full council meetings, both authorities have declared a climate emergency and have agreed that by Oct. plans and funding to mitigate the situation will be in place. In the meantime, XR has decided to capitalise on the government’s tree planting initiative and would like to meet with local landowners, in addition to seeking school and community group involvement.

HIGHWAYS

SMALL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

An additional £1.4m. is to be made available to enable up to 60 schemes to be delivered.

ROAD CLOSURES

Parishes of Chillington, Dinnington, Donyatt, Dowlish Wake, Ilminster, Knowle St Giles, To enable Gigaclear to carry out reinstatement works in this road.

The order became effective on 20th Dec. 2018 remaining in force for 18 months.

Visit www.roadworks.org for further info. alternative routes or Telent Infrastructure Services on 0800 078 9200.

A303 ILMINSTER TO A30/A303 JCT. RESURFACING

Highways England will shortly be carrying out essential resurfacing works on the A303. Sections of the road surface on the A303 between between Horton Cross roundabout and the junction with the A30 at Newcott have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Whilst the work is carried out they will also take the opportunity to carry out other general maintenance and litter picks.

Dates: 20:00 17 June to 06:00 26 June 2019 Mon-Fri.

A signed diversion route will be in place via the A30 and the A358.

HORTON TO ILMINSTER SHUTTLE BUS

I have received a number of enquiries this month relating to revised timetabling and have been assured that amendments are now published and available.

HIGHWAYS AND PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The current contract for parking enforcement and related services has been extended by 3 years

SPEEDING

In response to concerns in several local communities I am in contact with Highways and meeting on site with parish representatives. Much depends on the criteria used for different roads. Be aware that for the Police to support a change of speed, evidence of the amount of calls and accidents is required. It is possible to arrange for a Speed Enforcement officer to visit and test for speeding. For those wanting to consider starting a Speed Watch, trained Road Policing Officers will support and train volunteers.

Highways have said 'We get many requests from rural locations for speed limits. The reality is that most of the time speeds are far lower than assumed/perceived. In addition, we and Police Traffic Management have to be content that a speed limit is appropriate.

In order to introduce a speed limit a statutory consultation process to change the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has to be carried out, justifying proposed changes and demonstrating their likely effectiveness. This can be a lengthy and costly exercise.

The guidance states that speed limits should be evidence led, self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel, whilst encouraging self-compliance.

Research shows that changing speed limit signs alone has little effect on actual vehicle speeds; the speed of vehicles is moderated by the surrounding environment. Where motorists do not understand the reasoning behind implementing a speed limit, a high level of non-compliance is likely to occur.

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

Another consideration is aesthetics; there is a mandatory requirement for signage at set intervals, which could equate to 20 steel posts and associated signage.

One final point is funding. Based on the lack of evidence, speed limits would need to be part funded by the Parish, with costs at least £5000.'

ILMINSTER FLOODING

In response to an enquiry from local residents in relation to the increased flood risk of Somerset's recent builds, I received the following response from SCC -

'The outcome of the review is a summary document and a detailed report of nearly 800 pages. Generally, we are promoting the summary because the detailed report contains a lot of site-specific information and is also very long for most people's needs. This is available from the SRA's website: <https://www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Somerset-Rivers-Authority-SuDS-review-summary.pdf>.

For further information go to - flooding@somerset.gov.uk

HORLICKS SITE

In response to concerns relating to SCC's agreement to accept the possibility of increased flood risk as a result of development on this site I received the following from SCC – 'I have knowledge of the site and as you are aware SCC are not party to the application but our land surrounds it. As a landowner we seek to maximise our opportunities, I have worked with colleagues here to see if we can get a cycleway over the proposed development which will require a link over SCC land to tie in with the old railway line. If I recall correctly, the developers were potentially seeking some of our land to mitigate etc.'

SSDC WEBSITE LINK

I have received a number of complaints relating to problems in accessing information using the new website, especially in relation to planning applications, and have made SSDC aware.

SSDC PLANNING

The weekly weekly planning email list service has now ceased. SSDC have advised the following:- Up to date information can be found at <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk> Notes on how to register, search, view applications and save searches for selected criteria (Parish/Ward/Area etc.) are available. If you have any issues contact weeklylist@southsomerset.gov.uk Currently, the 'contacts' tab in 'Search for a Planning Application' lists the Ward Councillor as a contact – which is incorrect and is being resolved.

SSDC PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

The delivery of Play Area Inspections have been reviewed following recent changes at SSDC. Weekly and quarterly inspections on behalf of Parish and Town Councils will continue but SSDC can no longer offer an Annual Inspection and Risk Assessment Service. There are several organisations that can carry out these inspections for a similar cost, including: Play Inspection Company – info@playinspections.co.uk Tel 01202 590 675 RoSPA Play Area Annual Inspections – info@rospaplaysafety.co.uk Tel 01793 317470

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Your parish needs you! A number of local parishes still have vacancies for councillors. This is a great opportunity to use your skills and knowledge to make a valuable contribution to ensure that our rural communities continue to thrive.

FRIENDS OF ILMINSTER LIBRARY

Activity continues to support the library, with a number of events planned for this summer. More volunteers are always needed for a variety of roles, including gardening.

ILMINSTER LITERARY FESTIVAL

Events continue at various venues throughout the town, until Thurs. 6th June.

HORTON PLAYING FIELD PROJECT

Big breakfast Sun. 2nd June, 9am Horton Village Hall.

The project has applied for grant funding from Calor, and is currently second highest in the Somerset applications, and would like your help by voting for them.

<https://www.calor.co.uk/shop/communityfund/the-orton-playing-field-project>

DONYATT VILLAGE HALL

Breakfast in aid of Gemini Carnival Club 9am Sun. 9th June.

ILMINSTER FAIRTRADE

The charity quiz held this month, held courtesy of Ilminster Bowling Club, raised £150.

ILMINSTER MIDSUMMER EXPERIENCE

This year from Thurs. 6th June to Sun. 9th..... Events and activities every day.

ELECTION RESULTS

In the wake of the recent local elections, whilst I am privileged to have been re-elected as the District Councillor for Neroche ward, for a fifth term of office, there have been some significant changes to the elected membership of SSDC. The key appointments of which follow:

SSDC KEY APPOINTMENTS 2019/20

Paul Maxwell – Chairman

Jenny Kenton – Vice-Chair

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Val Keitch	Lib Dem	Leader: Strategy & Housing
Peter Seib	Lib Dem	Deputy Leader: Finance, Legal & Democratic Services
Mike Best	Lib Dem	Health & Well-Being
John Clark	Lib Dem	Economic Development including Commercial Strategy
Sarah Dyke	Lib Dem	Environment
Tony Lock	Lib Dem	Protecting Core Services
Opposition Leader	Conservative	Linda Vijeh

Area West Committee

Jason Baker	Lib Dem	Chair
Mike Best	Lib Dem	
Martin Carnell	Lib Dem	
Brian Hamilton	Lib Dem	
Ben Hodgson	Lib Dem	
Val Keitch	Lib Dem	
Jenny Kenton	Lib Dem	
Paul Maxwell	Lib Dem	
Tricia O'Brien	Lib Dem	
Robin Pailthorpe	Lib Dem	Vice Chair
Garry Shortland	Lib Dem	
Anthony Vaughan	Lib Dem	
Dave Bulmer	Independent	
Sue Osborne	Conservative	
Linda Vijeh	Conservative	
Martin Wale	Conservative	

Scrutiny Committee 14 members (political balance)

Crispin Raikes	Lib Dem	Chair
Gerard Tucker	Independent	Vice-Chair
Sue Osborne	Conservative	Vice-Chair

Audit Committee 10 members (political balance)

Martin Carnell	Lib Dem	Chair
Mike Hewitson	Lib Dem	Vice-Chair

Regulation Committee 14 members (political balance)

Peter Gubbins	Lib Dem	Chair
Neil Bloomfield	Lib Dem	Vice-Chair

Licensing Committee 15 members (exempt from political balance)

David Recardo	Lib Dem	Chair
Wes Read	Lib Dem	Vice-Chair
Linda Vijeh	Conservative	

Appointments Committee 8 members (political balance)

Val Keitch	Lib Dem	Chair
Peter Seib	Lib Dem	Vice-Chair
Linda Vijeh	Conservative	

Standards Committee 6 members (political balance)

Peter Gubbins	Lib Dem	Chair
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Panel or Partnership	Councillors appointed	Party
Appeals Panel (political balance)	Jason Baker Sarah Dyke Peter Gubbins Crispin Raikes Peter Seib Tony Capozzoli Hayward Burt Martin Wale Linda Vijeh	Lib Dem Lib Dem Lib Dem Lib Dem Lib Dem Ind Cons Cons Cons
Strategic Development Board	To be appointed at future meeting	
Chard Regeneration Programme Board	(Area Chairmen)	
Yeovil Regeneration Programme Board	Jason Baker Peter Gubbins Henry Hobhouse	Lib Dem Lib Dem Lib Dem
Wincanton Regeneration Programme Board	Adam Dance	Lib Dem
Strategic Alliance with Sedgemoor	Val Keitch Peter Seib Dave Bulmer Linda Vijeh	Lib Dem Lib Dem Ind Cons
Income Generation Board	To be confirmed	
Local Strategic Partnership	Val Keitch (+ Area Chairs)	Lib Dem
South West Internal Audit Partnership Ltd	To be confirmed	
Housing and Exceptions Appeals Panel	Louise Clark Anthony Vaughan	Lib Dem Lib Dem
Somerset Waste Board	Sarah Dyke Tim Kerley	Lib Dem Lib Dem
(Parking & Traffic Regs. Outside London) Joint Committee	Tony Lock	Lib Dem
Somerset Growth Board	John Clark	Lib Dem

Organisation	Councillor appointed for 2019/20
Board of Governors for Yeovil District Hospital NHS FT	David Recardo
LGA General Assembly	Val Keitch
District Councils Network	Val Keitch
South West Provincial Employers	To be confirmed
South West Councils	Val Keitch
Somerset Rivers Authority	Mike Stanton To be confirmed (Sub)
Parrett Drainage Board	Mike Stanton Mike Lewis Gerard Tucker
Somerset Water Management Partnership	Sarah Dyke
Health & Well-Being Board	Jeny Snell
Safer Somerset Partnership	Tony Lock
Police and Crime Panel	Neil Bloomfield
Somerset Building Preservation Trust	Tim Kerley
Armed Forces Community Covenant	Andy Kendall
Somerset Local Access Forum	Paul Maxwell

ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS

2/5	Fairtrade meeting
4/5	Kingstone Church Fair
4/5	Horton fund raising tea
6/5	Ashill coffee morning
7/5	Broadway PC annual meeting
8/5	Winsham PC meeting
13/5	Donyatt PC annual meeting
13/5	Ashill PC meeting
14/5	DSFRA – Chief Fire Officer appraisal
14/5	Ilminster TC
15/5	SCC full council
16/5	SSDC – planning training
17/5	SCC – Children & Families Scrutiny
18/5	Chard Museum open day
18/5	Jemima Layzell Trust Ball
19/5	Horton Rogation Service
19/5	Somerset Visually Impaired Cricket Team match
20/5	Friends of Ilminster Library meeting
20/5	Horton PC annual meeting
20/5	Neroche School governors meeting
20/5	Donyatt PC meeting
21/5	SSDC full council
23/5	Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group meeting
24/5	DSFRS meeting
24/5	Chard Museum
25/5	Broadway Church fund raising event
25/5	Ilminster Library FoIL coffee morning
27/5	Chaffcombe Flower festival
28/5	SCC Children Looked After cake sale
28/5 to 6/6	Ilminster Lit. Fest wine tasting and other events
31/5	Purple Field Productions book sale