

ILMINSTER DIVISION COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT NOVEMBER 2019

In view of the impending general election on 12th Dec., a number of activities this month have been cancelled or postponed due to purdah, in order to avoid any decisions that may have been made influencing the voting behaviour of local residents.

SCC - SAFEGUARDING AUDIT REPORT

The report for 2018/19, covering 132 areas of activity, indicated that there are 4 key areas requiring attention:

- Ensuring the voice of those subject to a Safeguarding enquiry is heard and listened to
- Improving confidence levels by ensuring that recommendations for necessary changes are carried out and embedded, taking into account any lessons learned
- The frequency and quality of the supervisory process during Safeguarding adult reviews needs to focus on addressing failures to implement and adhere to policies, making changes as necessary
- Shortcomings were identified in the understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act

SEND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The DfE have announced a SEND review is to take place as it is felt that SCC are struggling to meet requirements, particularly in relation to inclusion. 7 key areas have been given priority.

SCC – IMPROVING LIVES FUND

In response to requests for suggestions as to how the £2,000 allocated to me might be best spent to support local communities, I have received four applications for £500 each.

- Ilminster Town Team – to supply equipment to set up the venture
- Horton Playing Field Project – for play equipment
- Ashill PC – for tree planting
- Green Ilminster – for tree planting

The announcement of the decisions in respect of these applications have been postponed due to the election, and the results will now be released around mid-Dec.

BROADBAND

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS): A public consultation has been launched by CDS prior to undertaking a fresh procurement to find contractors to provide superfast broadband. CDS, which is responsible for rolling out broadband across the two counties, is establishing the remaining area where there are no current or credible future plans to deliver Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure capable of download speeds of at least 30Mbps.

Comments on their proposals need to be submitted by Tuesday 10 Dec. to

enquiries@connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk

AVON & SOMERSET POLICE – Independent Advisory Group

Recent focus has been on Hate Crime, where the Police are working closely with a range of partner organisations. The intention is to encourage the public to report incidents and to and raise public confidence in how the Police handle this.

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

At my request, I met with Glenn Askew, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, and firefighters at Ilminster station to provide the opportunity for any concerns relating to proposed service changes to be raised. Across the service, there has been an improvement in absence and sickness rates compared to last year; a range of support mechanisms are now in place to assist firefighters who may be experiencing difficulties.

GYPSY/TRAVELLERS

I have made significant progress in this area, gaining a greater understanding of the issues surrounding the health and wellbeing of these communities, by face-to-face and site meetings.

MUCHELNEY HOUSE

At my meeting with officers and Yarlington it was agreed that where in recent months the focus has been on de-commissioning, for the time being this will halt while a full review is undertaken as part of establishing a formal Accommodation Strategy for Somerset (by Spring 2020); based on current and future need to ensure the right type of accommodation is available in the right locations, with the right level of Extra Care provided, whether for the elderly, those with disabilities or learning difficulties. Residents will be included in these conversations. For Mulcheney, many of the 34 residents require relatively low levels of care, with little preventative action being required. Currently, Yarlington does not have the right specialisation for some groups and, going forward, has agreed to be more supportive of their diverse requirements.

WINSHAM SMALL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

A meeting has been arranged with SCC officers and PC representatives to confirm the scope of the scheme and understand the expectations of the community, before this scheme is allocated to an Engineer to plan out.

RIGHTS OF WAY – LONG DROVE BRIDLE APPLICATION

Correspondence has been continuing as this issue remains unresolved but is expected to come before SCC's Regulation Committee in the very near future.

SIDs

Last year SCC ceased providing the Speed Indicator Device (SID) programme due to a lack of take-up to fund it. SCC are however offering help to local parishes in the use of their own devices. There are legal responsibilities, and a duty of care, so the arrangement needs to be a formal one, by way of a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure a consistent approach to the use of SIDs across the county, to reduce driver confusion.

Those parishes that already have a SID in place, but no agreement, should initially make contact with the local traffic engineer.

For any queries contact Traffic Management - email trafficmanagement@somerset.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

Gary Warren has recently been appointed Senior Traffic Engineer for the Traffic Management team. As a result, his responsibilities in relation to South Somerset have been reduced and will no longer include Ilminster division.

His replacement is Rebecca Vaughan (RHVaughan@somerset.gov.uk).

Sea - Speeding: In response to complaints from local residents with regard to speeding vehicles through Sea I understand that Highways have arranged to take speed readings to enable them to consider possible options to address this long-standing problem.

Winter gritting: All is in place ready for winter – 23 gritters are on standby and 7,000 tonnes of salt available when temperatures drop. This winter SCC are investing an extra £200,000 to grit over 900 miles of road.

You can check which roads are included at www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting

ILMINSTER TC – OPEN SPACES

Consideration is being given in relation to the possibility of SCC releasing an area of land adjacent to Herne Hill to form a new wooded area.

CHRISTMAS WASTE COLLECTIONS

All parishes should have received details of revised collection days over the Christmas/New Year period from the SWP.

Individual recycling site opening days vary, but are open every day except Christmas, Boxing and New Year Day. All sites will be open 9am - 4pm, Sat. and Sun. 21-22 & 28-29 Dec., and 4-5 Jan.

Missed collections - if an entire street is missed, there is no need to report this as a return collection will take place – usually from 7am the next day, or within two working days.

For a single missed home, missed materials or other small-scale issues, contact SSDC customer services on 01935 462462.

For all reports/complaints include name, full address, email and phone of the person affected.

Residents are encouraged to:

Have all waste out by 7am

Sort materials without plastic bags

Rinse all containers

Squash all but glass and aerosols

Flatten all card

Stack recycling boxes with the locked brown food waste bin on top

New recycling vehicles designed for the expanded Recycle More collections in Somerset are being built. These will have the technology to ensure more reliable collections, and will collect additional items:

Household and food plastic pots, tubs and trays

Tetra Paks and other beverage cartons

Household batteries

Small electrical items

This additional recycling will leave rubbish bins emptier, so these will be collected every three weeks. The Recycle More collections will roll out in phases across Somerset over 18 months.

ALLOWENSHAY WATER SUPPLY

I am still awaiting confirmation of a meeting with local residents and SSDC officers to resolve this situation.

SSDC TRANSFORMATION

At the time of writing I have no further progress to report

SSDC [(BESS) Battery Energy Storage Site

Several local residents have shown concern at the lack of information in relation to the 'switch on' date for this enterprise. As a result, I have requested details of the reasons that this remains out of operation so far and am awaiting a reply.

PLANNING

This continues to be an area where local parishes are raising concerns on a regular basis.

Particular concern has been raised where an understanding in relation to a planning application may have been agreed with the planning officer and where due a change of personnel a different view may be forthcoming. I have raised this with the CEO.

SSDC - FIVE YEAR LAND SUPPLY

At a recent meeting of SSDC's Area West Committee the position was clarified, whereby any OUTLINE planning permission is in place, but where the development has NOT yet progressed to the stage of agreeing reserved matters, or where it has not commenced, does NOT count towards the 5-year land supply.

DILLINGTON HOUSE

I met this month with the manager in connection with their intention to operate the property more on the lines of hotel accommodation in future. Courses and other functions will continue but it is now possible to visit Dillington for ad hoc meals, tea, coffee etc., and also to book accommodation, though their online system.

RED CROSS FIRST AID TRAINING

One local resident benefitted from recent training funded by my SCC member allocation (from several years ago!), actively helping to save someone's life after they suffered a heart attack.

GEMINI CARNIVAL CLUB

Their next fund-raising breakfast will be at Donyatt VH on Sun. 8th Dec.

FRIENDS OF ILMINSTER LIBRARY

The purchase of several items of equipment has been well received.

The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 28th Dec. 10am-12noon.

Concern has been raised that the initial flurry of enthusiasm from local residents, when the library was under threat of closure, has diminished. If we do not keep up our activity in support of the library, it will once again be at risk.

A fund raising event has been planned at the Swan Theatre, Yeovil, 16th Mar. - a performance of "NIGHT MUST FALL", a thriller. FoIL has 64 tickets available for purchase from Brenda Lake at £12 each. brenda.lake@hotmail.com

A coach has been organised to go from The Market House, Ilminster departing at 6.30. The coach will cost £5.00 payable in advance by cash.

VE DAY 75 CELEBRATIONS 8TH - 10TH MAY 2020

Mayors, Leaders and Chairman of town and parish councils are to take the lead in local celebrations marking the 75th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.

The VE Day 75 weekend of 8th - 10th May 2020, will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions at home and abroad who played such a vital part in achieving it. SSAFA the Armed Forces charity is the charity partner for this series of commemorative events.

Go to the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org to see the complete overview.

From a central location of their choice, leaders are invited to pay 'tribute' to those from their local communities by undertaking the proposed ceremony at 3pm on Friday 8th May, including the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2.'

At 7pm churches are encouraged your local church to ring their bells as part of the nationwide 'Ringing out for Peace'.

The complete short ceremony will also be taking place simultaneously on the top of the four highest Peaks throughout the UK.

Those town and parish councils who wish to take part are asked to register their involvement on the VE day 75 website – www.veday75.org

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

This will be my final monthly report before Christmas. At the time of writing the future for the UK remains far from certain, but, onwards and upwards!

In view of the election I have had to postpone my usual invitation for mince pies and mulled wine, so this will now take place on **SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2019 12-4PM**

All local residents are welcome to attend, no need to respond, but please bring along one item suitable for the Food Bank.

Address as below.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2020, whatever it brings.

ACTIVITIES/MEETINGS

3/11	BHMC – Shoebox service
4/11	Ashill PC
5/11	DSFRS – HR Committee
5/11	Donyatt fireworks
5/11	Broadway PC
6/11	SSDC – Streetscene meeting
6/11	Chard Museum Trustee meeting
6/11	Winsham PC
7/11	Greenfylde School reading support
7/11	Meeting re: Organ for Organs
8/11	DSFRS forum meeting
8/11	Donyatt VH fund raising quiz
8/11	Ilminster CC annual dinner
9/11	Warehouse Theatre performance
10/11	Isle Valley Remembrance Service
10/11	Ilminster Remembrance Service
11/11	Ilminster Lit. Fest. meeting
11/11	Dowlish Wake PC
11/11	Donyatt PC
14/11	SCC – Heath & Wellbeing Board
14/11	Horton VH AGM
16/11	Yeovil – gypsy/traveller encampment Bunford
16/11	Whitelackington Xmas Fair
16/11	Winsham PC surgery
17/11	Resident planning meeting
1/11	Shrubbery Hotel Craft Fair
17/11	Horton Stir Up Sunday service
18/11	SCC – gypsy/traveller meeting
18/11	SSDC – meeting re: Ilminster transport
18/11	Chard Museum meeting
18/11	Ilminster Lit. Fest. meeting
18/11	Horton PC
18/11	DSFRS – Ilminster Fire Station
18/11	Chaffcombe PC
19/11	Radio Nine Springs
19/11	SSDC Regulation
20/11	SSDC Area West
22/11	Rights of Way meeting Dowlish Wake
22/11	Ilminster Market House school carols
22/11	Dillington meeting
22/11	Wadham School Technology Tournament
22/11	Ilminster Victorian Evening
22/11	Business rates meeting
23/11	CRY Chaffcombe fund raising event
23/11	Cudworth coffee morning
23/11	Broadway VH tabletop sale
23/11	Monk's Yard Craft Fair
23/11	Horton VH fund raising tea
25/11	Neroche Head Teacher meeting
25/11	Neroche Governor meeting
28/11	Queens College Theatre performance
29/11	Meeting re: Extra Care provision at Mulcheney House
30/11	Self-Harm Awareness training
30/11	'Organs for Organs' fund-raising concert – The Minster