

ILMINSTER DIVISION COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT JUNE 2017

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Along with other recently elected councillors this month, I have been attending a number of training events designed to get us up to speed.

BROADBAND ROLLOUT

SCC has agreed the grant agreements with SoS for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) for Ultrafast funding (for Lot 1), and the terms of the finalised contract for BDUK; the preferred supplier for the supply of Broadband infrastructure for Lot 1 is due to be appointed.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES – SCHOOL PLACES

The Early Years and School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan for 2017 has been updated and will be published this coming week; it will be updated annually. It provides data and analysis on the current school provision across the county to assist with the planning of school places.

Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to commission a sufficient supply of good quality school places (Education Act 1996).

The increase in the birth rate and the significant number of large housing developments being built are putting pressure on the availability of school places in the county.

In relation to Ilminster specifically, whilst there is an aspiration to build a new school for the town, this is not a requirement at present. Further development will be dependent upon the impact of any future new housing builds, where the position at present is unclear.

School investment includes developer contributions (S106 funding agreements and/or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)) and DfE capital grants for basic demographic need.

Whilst developers may ask to renegotiate Section 106 contributions at any time there is not yet any agreement/formal process in place by which the LA can request CIL contributions from District Councils. Whilst every effort is made to negotiate adequate funding from developers, and to submit bids to the EFA for new free schools, where 3rd party funding fails to materialise, SCC will have to underwrite the full costs of provision.

Revenue running costs of new buildings are met from individual schools' delegated budget. There are potential revenue costs associated with school re-organisation e.g. transport costs, which will need to be met by LA budgets.

SALE OF COUNTY FARMS – OXENFORD

Agreement has been reached with the current tenant in relation to terminating the tenancy. The land (113 acres) is likely to be sold, most likely by auction, in early October.

FROGMARY FARM

SCC this month launched a new Health and Wellbeing 'hub' to take healthy eating from the field to the classroom. This new classroom facility, called The SHED, is the first of its kind in Somerset. Those interested in accessing this facility should contact

The SHED @Frogmary Green Farm, West Street, South Petherton, Somerset, TA13 5DJ

SSDC - UNIVERSAL CREDIT

This is now in place across Somerset for all former recipients of any of the six benefits. Payment is monthly, with the intention of getting people ready for the workplace, where payments are usually received monthly. Yarlington Housing Group have provided a useful link for anyone wanting to find out more.

www.yhg.co.uk/resident-zone/WelfareBenefitChanges/UniversalCredit.aspx

For more info. contact Lucy Martin 01749 313209 Lucy.Martin@dwp.qsi.gov.uk

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING EVENTS

As part of the 2016 Budget, a £60m. fund was announced to support community-led housing developments in areas “where the impact of second homes is particularly acute.” Approx. 1/3 of the fund has been earmarked for the SW, intended to enable local community groups to deliver affordable housing units of mixed tenure on sites “likely to be of little interest to mainstream housebuilders”. It is also intended to help build collaboration, skills and supply chains “at a local level” to promote community led housebuilding schemes. This is likely to be through Community Land Trusts (CLTs) but it could be Almshouses or other community led organisations/groups. The fund covers capital investment, technical support and revenue to make schemes viable, significantly increasing current delivery pipelines. Locally, an event is being held for parish councils and interested parties: 20th July 1.30pm Horton Village Hall, Hanning Road, Ilminster TA19 9QH
Contact - leisa.kelly@southsomerset.gov.uk

SSDC AREA WEST COMMUNITY GRANTS

At last month’s meeting, an update on key projects and programmes was received. During the year community groups have received help to access funding providers for grants and help with parish plans. Achievements have included funding support for the Outdoor Gym at Ashill in addition to practical and financial support for a large number of projects in the Ilminster area.

An update on the Arts & Entertainment Service showed that support has been provided for the Arts Centre at the Meeting House, Ilminster Literary Festival, IMEx and MaKe Theatre. Interested groups who would like to be considered for an Area West Community Grant should contact Team Leader, Zoe Harris.

SSDC STREETSCENE REPORT - 2016/17

- All work schedules were delivered on time and the ‘spring rush’ is now full on.
- 27 complaints were received in the last 12 months > customer service training has taken place.
- The team are currently recruiting apprentices and have been working with charity Key4life.
- The Parish Ranger Scheme continues to flourish.
- The Christmas Tree Shredding Service was a great success with 3,500 shredded.
- Fly tipping incidents continue to be a problem – Ashill (9); Broadway (2); Chaffcombe (7); Chillington (3); Cricket St. Thomas (12); Cudworth (1); Donyatt (3); Dowlish Wake (4); Horton (2); Ilminster (25); Kingstone (4); Knowle St. Giles (5); Whitelackington (3); Winsham (9).

PLANNING

CRICKET ST THOMAS GOLF CLUB

Application for the importation of inert subsoil to raise the area of holes 8,9 and 10

Members of Chaffcombe parish council met this month to consider their formal parish response to this application. Key areas of concern relate to traffic movements in the area whilst work is in progress should the application be approved.

HIGHWAYS

A user guide allowing interested parties to find out information on planned roadworks, utility works and developments can be found at <http://roadworks.org/>.

GRASS CUTTING

A & B roads (incl. visibility splays) – began 9th May, and will re-commence mid-late August

C & unclassified roads – began mid-June

Environmentally protected sites – end of the growing season

HIGHWAYS ANNUAL REPORT – SCHEMES COMPLETED

Ilminster, Ditton Street – resurfacing

Ilminster, Station Road – footway

Horton, Hanning Road – drainage

Knowle St. Giles, Church Road – drainage

SCHEMES PROPOSED FOR 2017/18

Chaffcombe - Kingston Well Lane - Drainage improvement. Temp. road closure 15-19 Jan.

Cudworth - Cudworth Street & Knights Lane - Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure. 14-15 Feb. 2 days

Whitelackington, Park Lane – Boxstone Cross to Kingstone Main

Winsham, Crewkerne Hill – A30 to Winsham

Horton, St. Peter's Close – footways

Cudworth, Cudworth Street – drainage

HORTON SIS SCHEME

Within the last year a traffic claiming scheme has been put in place in Horton. At this month's meeting, the local PCSO mentioned that a number of complaints had been received in relation to parking in the vicinity of the Five Dials crossroads and concern over possible obstruction. Options for dealing with this are being considered, including increased enforcement where highways regulations are being breached.

DONYATT SIS FEASIBILITY STUDY

Along with the vice Chair of Donyatt PC, I met with officers in relation to this. Locally there has been disappointment in relation to the proposal put forward to resolve the ongoing traffic issues through the village, and the length of time it has taken to get to the design stage. Broad agreement has been reached to re-visit this before reaching the stage of local consultation. The estimated cost of the current proposal is in the region of £45k.

FUTURE SIS SCHEMES

The window to submit applications for future schemes is due to be re-opened this October. As your elected member, I am able to submit a maximum of two schemes per year for consideration. Due to the pressure on the funding, any requests have to be prioritised, which is carried out via a point scoring system.

A358/A303 UPGRADE

I attended a meeting with highway officers this month, prior to discussion of SCC's formal response at this month's Scrutiny Committee. SCC is a consultee on the HE scheme to dual the A358 between the Ilminster roundabout and the M5.

SCC's response calls for more information from Highways England (HE), and details of the route, before any firm conclusions can be reached on its preferred option.

Although supportive of the need to improve the route, SCC's response says "there are a number of important issues which will require resolution. SCC strongly reiterates its support for improvements to the A358/A303/A30 corridor which will bring important economic benefits for Somerset and the SW, but the scheme has to be right."

SCC has called on HE to ensure that the concerns of local residents around the creation of a new junction on the M5 are addressed in the detailed design and that more consideration should be given to the idea of a link road between the proposed new 'expressway' and the planned employment site adjacent to junction 25.

SCC has also stated that it would have preferred to have seen consultation on all four of short-listed options; more information is needed to reach firm conclusions about the approach and detailed design features, and have requested further traffic and flood modelling to inform the next round of consultation.

HE are urged to provide more information about anticipated road layouts for the planned Junction 25A so local residents and others can fully understand potential impacts, particularly around noise and traffic. HE are asked to keep an open mind about the precise location of a new Junction 25A and to decide this only after discussions that include the local community and are based on fully understood impacts.

I am unable to attend the HE consultation on 30th June, having had 4 days notice of the event. However, a public information point has been set up at the Meeting House, Ilminster where consultation materials can be viewed until 16 July.

RIGHTS OF WAY – ASHILL

At SCC's Regulation Committee this month, the Schedule 14 application to add a restricted byway, or a byway open to all traffic between points A - B at Copse Lane, Ashill (application 510M). was refused. An order has been made to add to the Definitive Map a public footpath between points A - B [Schedule 14 applications 510M and 511M, Ashill - Appendix 1, item 6.](#) PDF 204 KB

If there are no unwithdrawn objections, such an order will be confirmed. If objections are maintained, it will be submitted to the SofS for DEFRA for confirmation

The Schedule 14 application to upgrade footpath CH1/23 to a restricted byway (application 511M), Ashill between points C - F shown on Appendix 1 was also refused.

DONYATT A358

In response to a local resident's query relating to the pathway at Stonegallows, and risks posed by lack of visibility on this corner, Highways say it is a hardened verge area due to kerbing, not classed as a footway. Due to budgetary constraints no further action proposed.

HEALTH – FEDERATION OF PRACTICES UPDATE

Home medication reviews are being offered, with a link to with local pharmacies to provide a similar service. Funding is in place to improve links with village agents for referrals; this will enable each of the 4 towns to provide a weekly service, targeting house bound residents to improve social access. Recruitment remains a problem and to address this, practice workers are widening their team skills. As part of the Vanguard project, surgeries are participating in an improved access pilot scheme (24/7 - 8am – 8pm) for non-urgent/weekend appointments. Local residents are urged to return unused medicines.

SSDC LICENSING

STREET TRADING POLICY

After a 9-week consultation period, a total of 15 responses were received.

Of interest locally, carnivals are to be dealt with as a special case, with a fee of approx. £50 to be charged for exemption for the period of the carnival.

Mobile sandwich delivery and ice cream sellers are no longer classified as street traders.

TAXIS - Enforcement activity has been busy, with a number of complaints re: dirty taxis, drivers smoking etc. Almost 20% of taxis (61) currently licensed have either been fined or taken off the road recently.

SSDC TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

A member workshop focused on SSDC's 4 key ambitions:

Great place to work; Excellent to work with; Leading the way; Delivering to communities

Whilst finance is a key driver, it is felt that this is also an opportunity to be a more effective organisation, and to remain customer focused.

All LAs face bigger challenges and different types of challenges than in the past, requiring increased levels of reliance and adaptability.

Staff consultation begins 26th June, with new roles to be in place by Sept.

COMMUNITY BOOK PLEDGE

Winsham Primary School have been offered the chance to increase their school reading resources through a partnership between residents of Winsham, other community organisations and Usborne Books at Home and School.

Residents are invited to make a small donation to buy a book or books for the school, to increase its library stock of Science and Geography books.

They are aiming to collect £250 in donations for the school; Usborne will then donate additional free books on top of this. This may be of interest to other schools in the division.

PACT (Partners and Communities Together)

Along with other community representatives, I attended a meeting this month where there is growing concern by residents and local businesses over the increase in anti-social behaviour in the area. This is also borne out by updates received from the police.

Traditionally warmer weather brings with it an increase in petty crime; residents are asked to be particularly vigilant by not leaving belongings in cars and being sure to lock sheds and outbuildings.

Also of concern, is the increase in social media activity and the sharing of photographs which may be of an embarrassing nature sufficient to cause distress.

IT SKILLS FOR YARLINGTON RESIDENTS

'Get Online in 2017' sessions are being run in sessions are being run in Chard. Current courses are fully booked but I understand that those interested in attending, with the possibility of a free laptop received at the end of the course, are welcome to register on the waiting list. Call or email Ellie at 01935 404077 or communities@yhq.co.uk

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES ATTENDED

1/6 – 8/6	Ilminster Literary Festival – 16 events attended.
8/6 – 11/6	IMEx – several events attended, including community lunch
3/6	PFP book sale
6/6	Chaffcombe PC re: Cricket St Thomas planning
6/6	Meeting with Matt Day re: Housing needs survey
7/6	SCC – Highways training
7/6	SCC – Decision making training
8/6	Route 1 Advocacy meeting
10/6	Whitelackington Art Group Exhibition
11/6	Donyatt VH breakfast
11/6	Ilminster twinning Assoc. Event
12/6	Neroche School assembly
12/6	SCC – HR Policy training
12/6	SCC – Highways meeting re: Donyatt SIS
12/6	SCC – Highways meeting re: A358 upgrade
12/6	Horton PC
13/6	SSDC – Licensing
13/6	SCC – Code of Conduct training
15/6	SCC – Health & Wellbeing training
15/6	SSDC – transformation update
15/6	SSDC – Full Council
16/6	SCC – Scrutiny training
16/6	Somerset MIND project launch
17/6	Whitelackington VH table top sale
17/6	Ashill Church Fete
18/6	Data Protection at Work course
18/6	Cyber Security course
20/6	SCC – Corporate Parent Training
20/6	SSDC – Universal Credit & Homeless Act workshop
20/6	Ilminster Town Council
21/6	SCC - Public Health Scrutiny training
21/6	SCC - Scrutiny for Policies, Adults & Health Committee
21/6	SCC - Adult Safeguarding training
23/6	Chard Museum event
24/6	Horton Fete
25/6	Ilminster civic service
25/6	Children's Hospice SW fund raising quiz
26/6	PACT meeting
29/6	Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan meeting

