

COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2002**REPORT OF COUNCILLOR BULGIN (PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION)**

I am pleased to report that since the last full Council meeting revised and updated regulations for TDBC car parks have been adopted. The result of these amendments will make the car parks safer for people to use, remove any nuisance for adjacent properties and give the Council the necessary powers to pursue any contraventions. It was considered not appropriate to apply height restrictions in the car parks because several businesses in the Deane have to have access to goods loading bays via public car parks. The officers considered this along with other activities being experienced in various car parks and came up with a package to cover all issues. All Councillors have been notified of the changes and after due process the order has been adopted.

The latest phase of the Residents' Parking Scheme in French Weir was adopted on 9 September 2002. The streets concerned were Cleveland Street, Portland Street, Clarence Street, Upper Wood Street and Northfield Gardens. This completes the scheme for this zone. Following reviews there are proposals to modify the St Augustine's Area to include Duke Street and Priory Court and to extend the hours for the Albermarle Area to 8.00pm. Alongside this the double yellow line restrictions in Station Road are also being reviewed to evaluate the need for them, and if possible to revert to single yellow lines in places which will help local businesses that trade in the evening.

The grant of planning permission for the flood alleviation scheme at Halse Water is imminent - another piece in the jig-saw for the development of Norton Fitzwarren, and for protection of the existing properties there and further down stream In Taunton and beyond.

Proposals from developers for the design and use of land at Taunton Trading Estate have been made public and are stimulating debate - I hope that we are seeing the beginnings of some positive action in this area and that we will in the not too distant future see the site used to it's full potential.

On a connected issue, it is pleasing to report that the County Council has very recently approved the plans for the construction of Silk Mills Bridge with work likely to start in 2004

The County Council's adoption of a Speed Management Policy is now under way, and over the next few years over 100 new speed limits will be applied in Taunton Deane, with five times that number throughout the whole of Somerset. The County Council have indicated that they wish to handle the processing of all these new Traffic Regulation Orders, instead of the District Councils, in order to ensure a common approach to all issues. I believe this is good news because it will not only save TDBC officers time but will also save on costs.

Councillor Roy Bulgin

