

DUNSTER AREA PANEL MEETING

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

NOTES OF THE MEETING

Attendees: Cllr Faye Barringer-Capp (Chair) Carhampton Parish Council
Cllr James Laver, Crowcombe Parish Council
Cllr R Buckingham, Elworthy Parish Council
Cllr Geoffrey Williams, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Phil Gannon, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Smith, Old Cleeve Parish Council
Cllr Marilyn Crothers, Nettlecombe Parish Council
Steve Eggar, Roadwater Village Trust
Gary Austin-Thompson, Williton Fire Station
Jim Kent, West Somerset Seniors Forum
Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker, West Somerset Council
Barbara Heywood, Williton Hospital League of Friends
Andy Heron, Chief Operating Officer, Somerset Partnership
NHS Trust
Chris Hall, Assistant Director, West Somerset Council

1) "Have Your Say" Community Issues

Old Cleeve Parish Council wished to record their thanks for the recent resurfacing and drainage work undertaken at Bilbrook Lane. The Parish Council also wished to know if the temporary speed restrictions of 30 mph at Bilbrook on the A39 were enforceable and requested an update on the proposals to reduce accidents in this area and a review of the formal speed limit. The Parish Council also asked when the road warning markings in Washford would be renewed, in particular the slow signs, when approaching the bends. Would it be part of the on-going remarking work that is taking place? Finally, the Parish Council raised its concerns regarding the decision by West Somerset Council to no longer fund the public toilets at Blue Anchor from 2017. Old Cleeve Parish wished to record that they do not have the funding to take on this facility and have been appealing for interested parties to come forward to take over the responsibility for the public toilets. The Parish Council understand two interested parties had come forward and requested that an update on progress be provided. It was agreed that the highway requests above would be forwarded to SCC Highways in order to get a reply.

Cllr Marilyn Crothers wished to pass on Nettlecombe Parish Council's thanks to SCC Highways for recent resurfacing works which had taken place around

Huish Barton. The Parish Council requested an update, further to past discussions regarding the maintenance of their cast iron road signs, about funding for Exmoor National Park or help regarding this.

Cllr Margaret Smith raised concerns that the gabions on the sea front have been in place for four years and the road surface underneath the gabions is in an unsafe condition. A request was made as to who is responsible for repairing the eight parking bays where the gabions are currently situated.

An update was requested regarding the request for a speed indicator device for Blue Anchor sea front. The Parish Council understood this would be in place for late October/early November. Cllr Maitland-Walker informed the Panel that once an application had been made for a speed indicator device it could take some time for the device to be installed by SCC Highways.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Chris Jones, Devon and Somerset Fire Services; David Peake, SCC Highways; Cllr Brian Leaker, Cllr Martin Dewdney and Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, West Somerset Council, Shirlene Adam and Eileen Ford from West Somerset Council.

3) Minutes of Meeting Held on 25 July 2016 and Matters Arising

The notes of the meeting held on 25 July 2016 were approved and there were no matters arising.

4) Update on Williton Community Hospital

Andy Heron, Chief Operating Officer, gave an update on Williton Community Hospital. Williton is one of 13 community hospitals in Somerset and is one of only three hospitals which provides beds for patients suffering from a stroke. There has recently been a change in the way stroke services are currently provided. The Clinical Commissioning Group which buys health services on behalf of the population in Somerset, have been considering a study following a 2 year pilot service in the Mendip area and a further extended 1 year County-wide service called the Only Supported Discharge Service for People with Stroke. This is a service, which is run in partnership between the Trusts, with the NHS Trust being the biggest provider within this partnership. The original findings concluded that the best treatment for stroke sufferers was to get the patient active as soon as possible and to get them home as soon as possible. However, with changes to the funding of NHS services the decision was made by the Clinical Commissioning Group to decommission six stroke beds at Williton Community Hospital. This would reduce the number of stroke beds from 12 to 6 beds, with 8 rehabilitation

beds. Mr Heron confirmed that the longer-term plans for Williton Hospital was not currently known.

Mr Heron took questions from the Panel members. Concern was raised regarding:-

- Would the removal of the 6 stroke beds increase the overheads to the hospital and making it an unviable community hospital in the future?
- The ease of relatives to visit patients due to the lack of public transport if a relative is be rehabilitated in South Petherton or Shepton Mallet hospital.
- The level of care and support available to provide adequate and reliable home care to the patient and their relatives.
- The difficulty of health staff having to go into rural areas to visit patients at home due to the distances across West Somerset
- The possibility of using volunteers rather than health staff in respect of social care.
- The better rate of progress a patient makes when in a local community hospital than one some distance away from home.
- The possibility of either Williton or Minehead Community Hospital closing due to their close proximity and providing similar services in the future.

5) Police Report

There was no Police report.

Concern was raised regarding a number of thefts from caravans at Warren Farm.

6) Highways Report

David Peake provided a written update in his absence:-

Planned Works in Dunster Panel Area

West Somerset House, Williton 4 October 2016

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Old Cleeve	Lower Bilbrook Lane	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
SCC	Nettlecombe	Vempletts Lane	Carriageway resurfacing.		Completed	
Ongoing						
SCC	Huish Champflower	Brown Lane/ Chitcombe Rocks	Drainage work and carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	31 Aug	7 Oct	6 weeks
ENPA	Dunster	A396 West Street	Footway scheme. Temporary traffic signals at times.	19 Sept	25 Nov	10 weeks
SCC	Nettlecombe	Beggearn Huish to Clitsome farm	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	3 Oct	14 Oct	2 weeks
Future						
EA	Cannington	A39 Bridgwater Road	Flood prevention works. Removal of temporary bridge. Temporary road closure between 19.00 8 th to 19.00 9 th .	8 Oct	9 Oct	24 hours
SCC	West Quantoxhead	A39 Bridgwater Road, near Wibble Farm	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures between 19.00 and 07.00.	10 Oct 17 Oct	15 Oct 23 Oct	5 nights 4 nights

WW	Bicknoller	Trendle Lane	Water supply work. Temporary road closure.	11 Oct	13 Oct	3 days
WW	Bicknoller	Church Lane	Water main replacement. Temporary road closure.	24 Oct	2 Dec	6 weeks
SCC	Old Cleeve	White Horse to Roadwater	Carriageway patching.	Oct Nov	Oct Nov	
SCC	Old Cleeve, Treborough & Luxborough	B3224	SCC Resilience Programme. Gully grating/frame strengthening.	Oct Nov	Oct Nov	
Other						
SCC	West Somerset	Various	Surface dressing programme.			

7) Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

Gary Austin-Thompson attended from Williton Fire Station. There are 20 firemen based at this station and they have attended 534 incidents to date. The majority of these incidents have been to support the ambulance service. Williton Fire Station is concerned regarding the level of speed of some drivers within the area and, in particular, Bilbrook. Gary asked the Panel that if they are involved in speed awareness projects to involve the Fire Station.

A discussion took place regarding the number of accidents at the bends at Bilbrook and what, if any, evidence the Fire Service had that could be used to assist with a request to reduce the speed limit.

8) West Somerset Council Report

Chris Hall gave an update on West Somerset Council and agreed to respond to the questions raised in respect of the Blue Anchor toilets and the gabions.

Chris updated the Panel that the Minehead office no longer take payments and information had been placed in local newspapers to inform users of this change in service.

BT are currently undertaking a 90 day consultation for the removal of 16 public telephones.



Chief Planning Officer
West Somerset Council
West Somerset House
Killick Way
Williton
Taunton
TA4 4QA

23rd September 2016

TIME SENSITIVE - 90 Day Consultation period end date: 24th December 2016

Dear Planning Officer

Further to our previous letter, we are writing to you as part of a formal consultation process regarding our current programme of intended public payphone removals. This letter formally starts our consultation with you and the local community.

There are currently 16 public payphones in your area which have been identified and proposed for removal by BT under the 90-day consultation process and details of these payphones are shown below.

To ensure that the local community are fully informed, we have placed consultation notices on the relevant payphones, and a sample notice is enclosed. We have also included the date we posted these notices on the payphones. The consultation period will close on 24th December 2016. Unless you contact us to agree otherwise, responses received after this date will not be accepted.

This consultation process gives your local communities the opportunity to adopt a traditional red 'heritage' phone box and make them an asset that local people can enjoy. It's really simple to do and it costs just £1 - <http://business.bt.com/phone-services/payphone-services/adopt-a-kiosk/>

Overall use of payphones has declined by over 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide payphones for use in emergency situations is diminishing all the time, with at least 98 per cent of the UK having either 3G or 4G coverage. This is important because as long as there is network coverage, it's now possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no credit or no coverage from your own mobile provider.

You may also want to consider the recent Ofcom affordability report which found that most people do not view payphones as essential for most consumers in most circumstances - http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/research/affordability/affordability_report.pdf

On the 14th March 2006 the Office of Communications (Ofcom) published a statement following their 2005 review of universal service in the Telecommunications market, which includes a requirement for payphone provision to meet reasonable needs. Part of that statement amended our obligations with regard to the removal of payphone service - http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/uso/uso_statement/

As stated in Ofcom's 2005 review, it is the responsibility of the local authority to initiate its own consultation process to canvas the views of the local community. They would normally expect these consultations to involve other public organisations such as the Parish or Community councils and work within the terms of the Communications Act 2003. This means that you must be able to objectively justify your decisions.

Full guidance on the removal process can be viewed at:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removals.pdf>

and a summary is available at:

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removing_callboxes.pdf

The guidance also details the appeals process we must follow in case of unreasonable objections.

What you need to do next

Please complete and return the attached annex with your decision on each payphone.

If the decision is that the local community wish to 'adopt', please provide their contact details and we'll do the rest.

If you wish to 'object', you'll need to complete the last column with your reasons, having reviewed all of the factors set out in Annex 1 of Ofcom's guidance (see link above), and the information sent to you in our previous letter.

If the information is incomplete for any payphone in the list, then we'll assume you have no objection to its removal and also that you do not wish to adopt it.

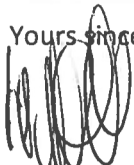
The best way to respond to us is by email at btp.authorisation.team@bt.com. Please retain proof that the email was sent or apply a read receipt. If you would prefer to respond by post please use the following address and allow at least two days for postal delivery:

BT Payphones
pp 4th Floor Monument TE
11 – 13 Great Tower Street
London
EC3R 5AQ

You will need to obtain proof of postage from your local post office and be aware that we are unable to receive mail that requires a signature.

If you've got any questions then please get in touch with us by emailing btp.authorisation.team@bt.com.

Yours sincerely



Rick Thompson
Payphone Planning Officer

West Somerset District

Telephone Number	Address	Post Code	Number of calls in last 12 months	Posting Completed Date	Agree/ Adopt/ Object	Comments/Reasons
01278652490	PCO STOLFORD STOGURSEY BRIDGWATER	TA5 1TH	2	01/09/2016		
01278732211	FORGE CORNER BURTON STOGURSEY BRIDGWATER	TA5 1QB	0	01/09/2016		
01278732279	PCO VICARAGE ROAD STOGURSEY BRIDGWATER	TA5 1RD	3	01/09/2016		
01278741201	OPP. THE PLOUGH INN HOLFORD BRIDGWATER	TA5 1RY	0	01/09/2016		
01398331463	PCO SKILGATE TAUNTON	TA4 2DQ	0	01/09/2016		
01398341356	PCO OLDWAYS END EAST ANSTEY TIVERTON	EX16 9JQ	0	01/09/2016		
01398371295	PCO UPTON TAUNTON	TA4 2HX	0	01/09/2016		
01643702268	PCO WOODCOMBE MINEHEAD	TA24 8SA	96	01/09/2016		

Telephone Number	Address	Post Code	Number of calls in last 12 months	Posting Completed Date	Agree/ Adopt/ Object	Comments/Reasons
01643702967	PCO PERITON WAY MINEHEAD	TA24 8AH	0	01/09/2016		
01643821483	PCO MARSH STREET DUNSTER MINEHEAD	TA24 6PN	9	01/09/2016		
01984618298	PCO CROWCOMBE TAUNTON	TA4 4AE	27	01/09/2016		
01984623650	PCO HUIJSH CHAMPFLOWER TAUNTON	TA4 2EX	0	01/09/2016		
01984640441	PCO WASHFORD WATCHET	TA23 0NH	6	01/09/2016		
01984640559	POST OFFICE WITHYCOMBE MINEHEAD	TA24 6QA	3	01/09/2016		
01984656426	PCO BICKNOLLER TAUNTON	TA4 4EU	1	01/09/2016		
01984667264	PCO WILLETT LYDEARD ST. LAWRENCE TAUNTON	TA4 3QB	1	01/09/2016		

Signature:

Area: West Somerset District

British Telecommunications plc
Registered office:
81 Newgate Street
London EC1A 7AJ
Registered in England No 1800000
www.bt.com

Notice date:



PUBLIC NOTICE

Payphone kiosk removal

Hello.

Our information shows that this phone box has had very little use over a significant period of time.

We're therefore proposing to remove this phone box. There is a consultation period of 42 days from the above date.

Please contact your Local Authority Planning Department if you have any comments.

If you'd like to know where the nearest alternative payphone is, or who your local authority is please contact us on:

0800 661 610 option 1

This number is only able to provide alternative payphone details and the name of your local authority.

Chris provided an update on the Council's transformation project and confirmed that on 7 September 2016 West Somerset Council agreed to the creation of a new Council with Taunton Deane Borough Council. Central Government have now been informed of this decision.

The Council approved the sale of Church Street public toilets in Dunster on 13 July 2016. The building is now being advertised for sale and will be going for auction on Tuesday 11 October 2016 in London by Lambert Smith Hampton. The intention is to use the money from this sale for community benefits. Community groups can make bids for this money for the benefit of their community.

Erosion continues to take place along the coast at Blue Anchor, particularly behind the Blue Anchor Hotel. The slipway has delaminated and the Council is looking at the risk associated with this and the options available to minimize the risk. The bid to the Environment Agency failed and West Somerset Council currently has no funding to implement a coastal erosion protection plan.

Interested parties have come forward in respect of taking over the maintenance of the public toilets at Dunster Steep, but an official bid has yet to be received.

Cllr Phil Gannon asked about the public consultation process in respect of the newly created Council. Chris informed the Panel that it is currently with Central Government to confirm to the Council how it wishes TDBC and WSC to consult with its partners, the business community and the general public.

Further discussion took place regarding the gabions at Blue Anchor and the fact that the coastal trail may not be using the gabions due to the cost.

The issue regarding the closure of Blue Anchor toilets was raised again by Cllr Smith. Chris informed the Panel that the decision to close the toilets was made due to the financial difficulties of the Council and that the operating of toilets is a non-statutory requirement. The Council has a legal responsibility to fund statutory services, over non-statutory requirements.

9) Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting is on 23 January 2017 at 7.00pm.