

**DUNSTER PANEL - NOTES OF MEETING – TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2015**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON**

**Present:**

Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker (West Somerset Council) – Chair of Meeting  
Cllr Philip Laramy (Carhampton Parish Council)  
Cllr Christine Oliver (Dunster Parish Council)  
Cllr Ron Buckingham (Elworthy Parish Council)  
Cllr Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council)  
Cllr Margaret Smith (Old Cleeve Parish Council)  
Cllr Marilyn Crothers (Nettlecombe PC)  
Steve Eggar (Roadwater Village Trust)  
PSO J Dawson (Avon & Somerset Constabulary)  
Jim Kent (West Somerset Seniors Forum)  
Cllr Christine Lawrence (Somerset County Councillor)  
David Peake (SCC)  
Cllr Bryan Leaker (West Somerset Council)  
Cllr Richard Lillis (West Somerset Council)  
Mr P Bird  
Mr T Child  
Jean Humber  
Heather Strawbridge and Martyn Callow (Southwestern Ambulance)  
Shirlene Adam, Director – Operations and Eileen Ford, Executive Assistant (West Somerset Council)

1) “Have Your Say” – Community Issues

Mr Bird requested if there could be a dog litter bin put near the Old Dairy in Timberscombe. Cllr Leaker agreed to discuss this with Cllr Dewdney and to attend the next Parish Council when this would be discussed.

Mr Bird also mentioned the difficulties he was experiencing with wind chimes within the sheltered housing estate he lived on. Mr Bird explained that he had contacted MAGNA Housing and Environment Health in respect of this. Cllr Leaker advised Mr Bird to speak to his local Councillor in respect of this.

Cllr Smith requested the Council review current signage re water quality at Blue Anchor as the current laminated signs are faded. Cllr Maitland-Walker advised that the photographs of these posters are left with her to take forward.

Cllr Crothers raised concerns about the issue of the lights at Washford Cross and Cllr Lawrence responded. The lights were close to the boundary of Exmoor National Park where there were restrictions on light pollution. Concerns were also raised about the approach to the roundabouts at Washford and at Sandford. SCC had been made aware of these concerns who have advised that these issues need to be raised with EDF.

Jean Humber confirmed her delight that the issue of ragwort had been raised at the last meeting. Mrs Humber also raised her concerns that no questions were raised to Ian Liddell-Grainger when he attended the meeting in July.

The issue of the speed limit in Carhampton was raised as there was confusion as to when the new speed limit would be enforced. Cllr Lawrence confirmed that the new speed signs had been ordered and hoped they would be installed soon, but agreed to check the situation and report back.

## 2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Faye Barringer-Capp, Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew; Cllr Martin Dewdney; Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP; Chris Jones (Devon & Somerset Fire Service) and Karin Harwood (SCC Highways)

## 3) Notes of the Meeting Held on 27 July 2015 and Matters Arising

There was one amendment to the notes:-

The notes should read "seconded by Cllr Martin Dewdney" and not Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew.

Following the above amendments the notes were approved.

## 4) South Western Ambulance Service

The Chair welcomed Heather Strawbridge and Martyn Callow from South Western Ambulance Service to the meeting.

Heather then led a discussion with the Panel that outlined her role as the Chair, explained the roles play by ambulance service (999 calls; 111 calls in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall; Out of Hours Service and Patient transportation in Bristol and Bath)

- The area covered by the South Western Ambulance Services (Isles of Scilly to Wiltshire)
- The financial difficulties the ambulance service are currently facing

- The reasons why the general public can perceive that West Somerset are not as supported as the larger towns.

The Group had the opportunity to ask questions of Heather and Martyn regarding their concerns and current issues. West Somerset Council Scrutiny Committee are hosting a debate on the Ambulance Service at their forthcoming meeting. Everyone was invited to attend.

#### 5) Blue Anchor Public Conveniences – Maintenance Issues

The Panel attendees continue to have concerns regarding the standard of the public conveniences at Blue Anchor. Tim Child, Asset Manager, was invited to attend the meeting and reassured the group that the Council continues to take the health and safety issues, plus maintenance issues, seriously. Tim informed the group of the maintenance undertaken on the toilets since 2013, which included the re-roofing of the building and a refurbishment in 2014 and that there was still planned work to take place.

The group appreciated the maintenance already undertaken, but still had concerns regarding work that still need to be take place. This included a broken downpipe, broken light fittings, a broken sewer and drain cover. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of installing modern, unisexed toilets.

#### 6) Police Report

PC Jo Dawson attended the meeting and updated the meeting that the Police had brought in a new crime recording system on 22 September 2015. One advantage of this new system is the facility to share information with other organisations.

PC Dawson informed the meeting that in the Dunster Panel area 46 crime calls had been recorded. These included 14 road traffic offences, two for anti-social behaviour and one for night-time shooting.

PC Dawson raised the issue that the Police have decriminalised the offence of parking on double yellow lines and that this is now the responsibility of Somerset County Council. This has caused concern at Blue Anchor with cars obstructing the pavement. Another issue at Blue Anchor raised concerned the fisherman who fished by on the shoreline at high tides. Due to the closeness of the road cars have been hit by a fishing hooks.

7) Highways Report

David Peake had given his apologies at the beginning of the meeting due to his attendance needed at another meeting. David's highway report is attached as Appendix One.

Concern was raised that Parish Councils had not received Highways information for the last six months. It was also raised that Highways information should be sent to schools. Shirlene agreed to check this and report back at the next meeting.

8) Devon and Somerset Fire Rescue Service

A report had been received from Chris Jones, which included leaflets on Carbon Monoxide, Chimney Safety and Dead End – a leaflet asking the public could the emergency services get to your home quickly due to parked vehicles. This report is attached at Appendix Two.

9) Let's Make Isolation and Loneliness History in West Somerset Conference – Saturday 17 October 2015

Information about this event had been forwarded to Parish Councils prior to the event taking place.

10) West Somerset Council Report

Shirlene updated the meeting on the second phase of the JMASS and the continued financial challenges facing West Somerset Council.

11) Any Other Business

Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker updated the meeting on the ream and attention ponds at Dunster Marshes. The work to be undertaken will be done in two parts due to the impact on the wildlife.

12) Dates of Future Meetings

25 January 2016 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

18 April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Officers, Williton

## SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

Date of Meeting	Agreed Action	Action Owner
06.10.15	Cllr Leaker to attend the next Timberscombe Parish Council meeting and discuss with Cllr Dewdney the possible purchase of a dog litter bin.	Cllr Leaker
06.10.15	Cllr Maitland-Walker to take forward the request from Cllr Margaret Smith the possibility of re water quality in Blue Anchor	Cllr Maitland-Walker
06.10.15	Check with SCC Highways regarding the signage for the new speed limit at Carhampton.	Cllr C Lawrence
06.10.15	Check re forwarding Highways information to schools and Parish Councils	Shirlene Adam

## APPENDIX ONE

### Planned Works in Dunster Panel Area

West Somerset House, Williton 6 October 2015

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Crowcombe	A358 Flaxpool	Carriageway resurfacing.			Completed
SCC	Crowcombe	Crowcombe Road	Drainage work.			Completed
SCC	Samford Brett	Capton Road	Drainage work.			Completed
SCC	Bicknoller	Woolston Lane	Drainage work and carriageway resurfacing.			Completed
SCC	Holford, Kilve & Quantoxhead	A39 Bridgwater Road	Drainage, kerbing, carriageway surface dressing and resurfacing.			Completed
<b>Ongoing</b>						
EDF	Williton	B3190 Washford Cross (nth bound)	Construction of new roundabout. Temporary road closure.	5 Jan 7 Sept	12 July 18 Dec	27 weeks 15 weeks
SCC	Brompton Ralph	Scarr Chapel Lane, Pitsford Hill	Repairs to parapet of Scarr Bridge. Temporary road closure.	1 Oct	23 Oct	21 days
SCC	Old Cleeve	Roadwater Road, Hungerford	Repairs to retaining wall. Temporary road closure.	5 Oct	1 Nov	4 weeks
<b>Future</b>						
EDF	Williton	B3190 Washford Cross (sth bound) Raleghs Cross Rd	Construction of new roundabout. Temporary road closure between 12.00 Saturday to 23.59 Sunday.	10 Oct	11 Oct	36 hours
SCC	Combe Florey	B3224 Raleghs Cross Road	Embankment/verge repairs. Temporary road closures between 09.00 and 16.00.	19 Oct 26 Oct	23 Oct 30 Oct	5 days 5 days
EDF	Williton	B3190 Washford Cross (sth bound) Raleghs Cross Rd	Construction of new roundabout. Temporary road closure between 12.00 Saturday to 23.59 Sunday.	31 Oct	1 Nov	36 hours

SCC	Bicknoller	Chilcombe Lane & Trendle Lane	Verge/embankment repairs. Temporary road closure.	16 Nov	27 Nov	2 weeks
<b>Other</b>						
SCC	West Somerset	Various	2015 surface dressing programme.			
BT	West Somerset	Various	Connecting Devon & Somerset superfast broad band roll-out programme.			

## APPENDIX TWO





## **Area Panel Meetings items for discussion / community information.**

**Meeting Date:** 06/10/2015

### **Operational News for Community information relevant to the areas covered by area panel meeting:**

- Since the last area panel meeting held in June, Minehead Crews have attended 44 operational calls during the last quarter. These have included 9 Road Traffic Collisions, 8 property related fires most of which have been cooking or electrical related, 3 vehicle fires, 8 special service calls to assist other agencies including animal rescue. Crews also attended 9 fires in the open. These include unattended or poorly controlled bonfires or fires on open heath and moorland. Crews have also attended a small number of domestic smoke alarm calls and calls made with good intent that did not require our attendance.

### **Community Safety news and activities within the areas covered by the relevant area panel meeting:**

Since the last area panel meeting, community safety work has been carried out at various events in and around Minehead.

These included some partnership Road Safety work at the Minehead Summer Festival, a combined blue light partnership event at Dunster Show. This included Road Safety and Home Fire Safety. Campaigns such as the FREE 'PANIC' app (what to do in the event of a collision) were promoted and the details are attached.

We also held a session dedicated to Motorcyclists safety at Minehead Fire Station during July.

This was aimed at all bikers and abilities and included three sessions covering the science of being seen, what to do in the event of a collision and basic first aid and emergency helmet removal.

As we approach the autumn, we would encourage people to have their chimneys swept ready for the winter and ensure that items such as boilers and fires are serviced by a qualified engineer to avoid potential Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

(Pdf leaflets attached)

**Additional item to bring to the attention of the panel:**

Appliances are increasingly having difficulties accessing some roads and areas due to poor parking considerations.

We would urge residents and visitors to park as tight as possible to the side and consider whether a fire engine could actually pass.

**Points to note:**

Under the **Fire and Rescue Services act 2004, section 44**, it mentions that a we may move or break into any vehicle without the consent of the owner should it be required.

The highway code also states that in sections:

**242**

You **MUST NOT** leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

**Laws RTA 1988, sect 22 & CUR reg 103**

**243**

**DO NOT** stop or park:

- anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services
- opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space
- on a bend



## Carbon monoxide alarms

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are not a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of gas appliances.

Make sure the alarm meets British Standard EN50291 and ideally has the British Standard Kitemark. You should install, check and service CO alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.

CO alarms are available from DIY and hardware stores.

## Useful information

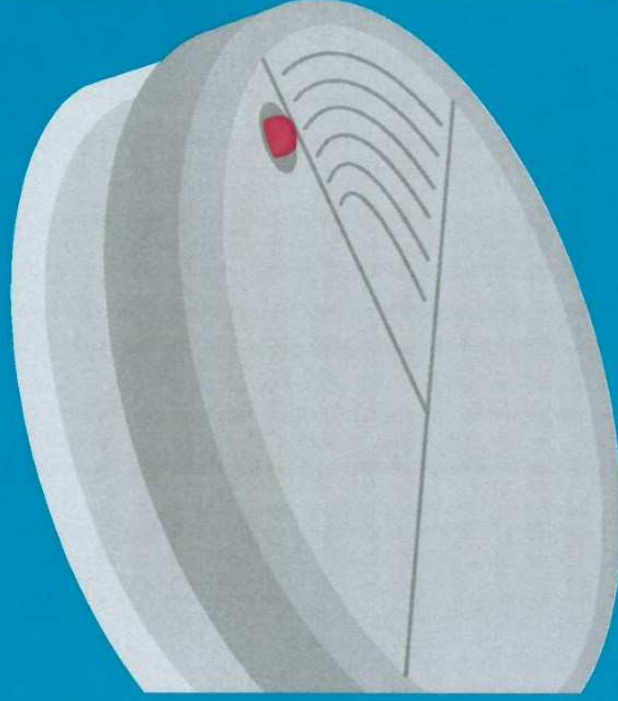
### Gas Safe register

To check if an engineer is on the register visit: [www.gassaferegister.co.uk](http://www.gassaferegister.co.uk)



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# Carbon monoxide advice



## Contact us

01392 872200

@firekills@dsfire.gov.uk

www.dsfire.gov.uk

To request any information in this document in an alternative format or language please call 0800 731 1822 or email [firesafety@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firesafety@dsfire.gov.uk)



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# Carbon monoxide (CO)

**Carbon monoxide (CO) is the most common form of household poison. You can't see it, you can't taste it and you can't smell it.**

CO gas is produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gas, oil, wood and coal. Carbon-based fuels are safe to use. It is only when the fuel does not burn properly that excess CO is produced, which is poisonous.

Poisoning occurs when gas appliances and flues have not been properly installed, maintained or are poorly ventilated.

## The danger signs

- yellow or orange rather than blue flames (except fuel effect fires or fuelless appliances which display this colour flame)
- soot or yellow/brown staining around or on appliances
- pilot lights that frequently blow out
- increased condensation inside windows.



## The symptoms

The early symptoms of poisoning can be easily confused with many common ailments and can develop quickly or over a number of days or months. Look out for:

- a headache – this is the most common symptom
- feeling sick and dizzy
- feeling tired and confused
- being sick and having stomach pain
- shortness of breath and difficulty breathing.

## Take action

If you think you have carbon monoxide poisoning, you should:

- seek urgent medical advice from either your GP or your Accident department
- open the windows and doors to ventilate the room, and don't sleep in it
- switch off all your gas appliances and don't use them again until the problem has been fixed



- shut off the gas supply at the meter control valve – if gas continues to escape, call the Gas Emergency free phone number on **0800 111 999**
- call a Gas Safe registered engineer to check all your gas appliances.

## Top tips for prevention

- Installation, repair and regular servicing of any gas and fossil fuel appliances, flues and chimneys should be carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- Make sure you have good ventilation and enough fresh air in the room containing your gas appliance.
- Ensure chimneys/flues aren't blocked and vents aren't covered.
- Get your chimney swept from top to bottom at least once a year by a qualified sweep.





## Sweeping frequencies

Frequency will depend on a number of factors which include the type of fuel used, appliance, duration of use, moisture content of wood fuel, and the type of chimney you have. Your Chimney Sweep will be able to advise on the sweeping frequency during the appointment. The sweeping frequencies below are for guidance purposes only:-

- **Smokeless fuel:** at least once a year
- **Wood** quarterly when in use
- **Bituminous coal** Quarterly when in use
- **Oil:** once a year
- **Gas:** once a year

Anybody who suspects their chimney may be on fire should call out the fire service immediately. Look out for excessive smoke, embers falling back into the hearth, sparks shooting from the chimney top, the walls of the chimney breast or adjacent walls becoming very hot to the touch.

## Carbon monoxide – be aware

Carbon monoxide (CO) gas can kill. Heating and cooking appliances fuelled by coal, smokeless fuels, wood, oil and gas can cause CO poisoning if they are poorly installed, incorrectly used or if they are not properly and regularly maintained.

Early symptoms of CO poisoning include: tiredness, drowsiness, dizziness, chest pains, nausea and flu like symptoms.

You can reduce the risk of CO poisoning by:

- having appliances installed and properly serviced by competent engineers
- getting chimneys and flues inspected and swept
- not overloading a fire and only burning the fuel it is designed for
- fitting a carbon monoxide detector
- good ventilation.



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# Chimney safety



## Contact us

01392 872200

firekills@dsfire.gov.uk

www.dsfire.gov.uk

To request any information in this document in an alternative format or language please call 0800 731 1822 or email [firesafety@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:firesafety@dsfire.gov.uk)

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## Safety advice for chimneys

Every year Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service attend hundreds of chimney fires which cost us over £250,000 a year. You can help us reduce this amount by reading the following safety advice to help you reduce the risk of your chimney catching fire.

### Preventing chimney fires

Regular cleaning of your chimney or flues will eliminate the build-up of soot and clear obstructions such as bird or animal nests, leaves and debris. You will also reduce emissions into the atmosphere by assisting the complete combustion of fuel.

It is not sufficient to use a vacuum cleaner. You should ensure your chimney flue is inspected regularly to prevent fires breaking out.

### The most common cause of chimney fires are:

- infrequent sweeping and cleaning
- burning unseasoned wood
- improper appliance sizing
- overnight burning or smouldering wood for long periods in wood stoves.

### Seasoned wood

It is important that if you are burning wood that it is dry and well-seasoned, this means that it has 20% or less moisture content. A well-seasoned log will have drying out splits in the ends. You can also use a moisture gage, which are available from hardware stores, to tell you exactly how much moisture your wood contains.

It is a good idea to buy your wood at the beginning of the summer and store it outside where it can be exposed to the wind and sun and protected from direct rainfall.

Burning wet, newly-felled or coniferous wood can cause tar or creosote to form in the wood burner and chimney which can be hazardous.

### Open fires

- Have your chimney swept before lighting the first fire of winter.
- Always place a fireguard around the fire.
- Do not overload the grate or build fires too high.
- Dispose of ash appropriately.
- Do not dry or air clothes on a fireguard.
- Ensure fires are extinguished before you go to bed.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to light your fire.



### Wood-burning stoves

- The stove or boiler should be installed and regularly serviced by a competent engineer.
- It is important to use the correct size stove for your room. One that is too large will not get hot enough to burn all the fuel in the wood and un-burnt fuel will pass up the chimney as smoke and cause creosote, which is highly flammable, to form on the inside of the flue or chimney.
- Ensure the room is well ventilated.
- If the wood burner has been used slowly (overnight, for instance) this should be followed by a period of faster burning to dry out any creosote and to warm up the chimney again.
- Don't use your stove as an incinerator for general rubbish.





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# Dead End



Acting to Protect & Save



# Would we be able to get to your home in an emergency?

**Please be considerate when you park your vehicle. It is an offence to obstruct emergency workers and it could cost lives.**

When parking your vehicle please remember to:

- park close to the kerb
- leave enough space for a fire engine or an ambulance to pass
- leave extra room near tight corners
- fold in your wing mirror.

**Every second counts when the emergency services are responding to an incident.**

**For free home fire safety advice please call us on: 0800 05 02 999**

Text info line: **078 00 00 2476**

Time/date

Vehicle