

DUNSTER PANEL - NOTES OF MEETING 7 APRIL 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

Present:

Cllr Marilyn Crothers (Nettlecombe Parish Council) – Chairman of Meeting

Cllr John Fulwell (Withycombe Parish Council); Cllr Margaret Smith and Cllr Phil Gannon and Cllr Teresa Bridgeman (Old Cleeve Parish Council); Cllr Ron Buckingham (Elworthy Parish Council); Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker and Cllr Faye Barringer-Capp (Carhampton Parish Council); Cllr Tim Taylor and Cllr Martin Dewdney (West Somerset Council); Steve Edgar (Roadwater Village Trust)

David Peake (SCC Highways); Matt Ballard (SCC Ec Dev); Laurent Boon (BT); Shirlene Adam (West Somerset Council); PCSO Sue Hurley (ASC)

Welcome

The meeting was chaired, as agreed at the last meeting, by Marilyn Crothers.

1. “Have Your Say” – Community Issues

Cllr Margaret Smith (Old Cleeve Parish Council) raised the issue of access to the slipway at Blue Anchor. There are some concerns about cars parking in the top area and the impact this may have on the structures below. The request is for West Somerset Council to progress action to remove the barriers to the slipway, but leave the chain at the top area.

Cllr Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council) mentioned the resurfacing works on the Mineral Line. He will progress his issues off-stage of this meeting.

Cllr Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council) reported a number of accidents through Washford in recent times, causing damage to properties. The request is for a reduction in the speed limits and additional monitoring in this area.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held 27 January 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

Cllr Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council) raised the issue of publication of Building Control Fees. He felt that West Somerset Council were not following the correct procedure and would like this checked.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Liddell-Grainger MP; Cllr Christine Lawrence (SCC); Cllr Christine Oliver (Dunster Parish Council); Chris Jones (Devon And Somerset Fire Service); Jim Kent (West Somerset Seniors Forum);

4 Broadband

Matt Ballard (SCC) and Laurent Boon (BT) shared a presentation on the roll-out of fibre broadband. Presentation attached for information at Appendix 1. Matt and Laurent dealt with questions from the Panel on the roll-out and reminded all that more information, including up to date mapping of roll-out is available on the project website. (www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk)

Members thanked Matt and Laurent for their excellent update.

5 Police Report

PCSO S Hurley presented an update on the crime statistics for the Dunster Panel Area since the last meeting. There were no emerging trends causing any concern.

PCSO S Hurley also reported that:-

- they are currently involved in an initiative focusing on rogue traders, and we will be attending various public places handing out leaflets, and advice against bogus callers. Although we do not have a problem in our area with bogus callers but it is always good to remind people of the possibility of this happening as we can become complacent living in a low crime area.
- The time of year has come where we are having more visitors and people parking in beauty spots going walking. There will be checks done on vehicles(if they have valuables in them) and letters sent to the registered keeper with crime prevention advice.

Cllr Tim Taylor (WSC) reported that he had recently attended a very useful and impressive presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable and the District Commander.

6 Highways Update

David Peake shared his update report (attached at Appendix 2) and briefed the Panel on forthcoming work areas.

In response to a question regarding Eastbury Hill, he advised this had not triggered the minimum level re safety works.

In response to a question regarding responsibility for collection of cones after completion of works, he advised that this depends on what the job is and who does it.

He offered the Panel the opportunity to receive a presentation at a future meeting on Highways Safety issues.

7 Devon Fire and Rescue Service

A report was sent in advance of the meeting and was read to the Panel. The report is reproduced as follows:



Area Panel Meetings items for discussion / community information.

Meeting Date: 07/04/2014

Location: Council Chambers, West Somerset Council, Williton

Operational News for Community information relevant to the areas covered by area panel meeting (Remember Data Protection):

- Minehead Crews have attended 42 operational calls during the last quarter. These have included 6 RTC's, a large number of Chimney Fires, several smaller property fires.
- There have been no cases of deliberately ignited fires during the last quarter in the Dunster panel area covered by the Minehead crews.

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

- Community safety teams have continued the arson awareness sessions in both the College and Middle school.
- Community Safety teams recently delivered three bespoke sessions and practical demonstrations of cooking oil related fires at the college. These ranged from pupils studying catering and hospitality, Public service students and also a small number of students with additional learning needs.
- A major community engagement event took place during March running out of Minehead Fire Station called Phoenix Job Centre plus. This was also reported on both the local press and the fire service website.

This particular scheme was funded on this occasion jointly by WSC and the Fire Service.

It's a scheme where 12 individuals on Job seekers allowance from the West Somerset area are given practical training under a Fire Service related environment and discipline. This is aimed to help them learn new skills such as Health and Safety training, basic First Aid at work, Health and Hygiene along with team building from fire service related training and drills.

It effectively helps them become more employable, improve their CV's and quite often their morale and confidence.

After 7 days of intense training there is a pass out parade where local employers are invited along with various council dignitaries and invited guests. They will see the pass out parade and demonstrations of all the skills they have learnt.

Previous programmes have seen over 75% of those taking part achieve employment offers and secure jobs following the programme. On many occasions, some employers have offered jobs or interviews to some of those taking part based on the demonstrations and effort they witness at the parades.

Early indications are that at least 7 of the participants have secured employment or membership on a volunteer scheme within a week of the course completion.

DSFRS news and public information concerning items such as the budget announcements etc. relevant to the area panel meeting:

- Following the efficiency savings of the initial £5.5 million for 2013/14, the Fire Authority continues to look at the next rounds of savings for 2014/15 which will run in excess of £5 million. Indications are that savings are likely to continue up until 2018
- Information can continue to be found on our service website dsfrs.gov.uk

The Panel recorded their thanks to Emily Wishart (WSC) on the Phoenix Job Centre plus scheme

8. West Somerset Council Report

Shirlene Adam updated the Panel on key areas as follows:

- 20 Year Flood Plan (Somerset Levels and Moors) – this is now available on SCC website and all Parish Councils are encouraged to review and respond if appropriate.
- West Somerset Council Budget – the revenue and capital budgets were recently approved. West Somerset Council have agreed a Council Tax Freeze for 2014/15.

- Joint Management & Shared Services – the focus is now on implementing the approved Business Case to join the officer structures of West Somerset Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council. The joint Management Team is now in place, and proposed structures are now emerging for the next phase, with the aim to have joint tiers 4/5 managers in post July / August 2014. The Government has recently awarded the Councils £750k to support the implementation of the business case. Work has started on planning for the transformation phase of this project.
- Blue Anchor Coastal Protection Scheme – the bid earlier this year to the EA for funding was rejected and the Council is currently reviewing the options / choices available.
- Blue Anchor Slipway – the Council is in contact with Margaret Smith and has completed a survey of the area. The slipway will be reopened and signage will be improved.
- Blue Anchor Public Conveniences - the roof will be repaired over the next few weeks. The facilities will remain open whilst the works are being carried out.
- Carhampton / Withycombe – there have been two meetings to discuss flooding issues with reps attending from District, Parish and County Councils.

Cllr Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council) questioned the level of work planned to be carried out in Blue Anchor to the public conveniences – this was noted.

9 Dates of Future Meetings

28 July 2014 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices Williton

13 October 2014 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices Williton

26 January 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices Williton

13 April 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices Williton

NOTE: The chairman requested that the Panel consider sharing the note-taking at future meetings. Volunteers welcome.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm