

## **Williton, Watchet & Quantocks Area Panel**

### **Notes of Meeting held on 12 June 2012**

**at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton, at 7.00 pm**

#### **Present**

Eddie May (WSC); Inspector Lisa Simpson (Avon & Somerset Constabulary); Richard Newby (SCC Highways); Anthony Trollope-Bellew (SCC and WSC); David Talling (Holford Parish Council); Loretta Whetlor (Watchet Town Council); Janet Sansom (West Quantoxhead Parish Council); Jenny Koch (Williton Parish Council); Iain Porter (Quantock Hills AONB); Stuart Dowding, Dave Westcott, Tony Knight, Adrian Dyer (WSC)

#### **1. & Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns and 5. Police Report**

Inspector Simpson reported –

- There had been an increase in non-dwelling burglaries – at one point up by 200%, but she emphasised actual numbers are small. The particular problem is that they are rural by nature. Other crime statistics are down.
- Traffic police are doing spot checks.
- Speeding on Priest Street – figures showed that the vast majority of drivers were doing in excess of 30mph and therefore were prosecutable (over 50% driving in excess of 36mph).
- Youngsters/Drug related crime – problems in Memorial Ground, Watchet concerning possible drug activity. Inspector Simpson explained that any information that members of the public have should be forwarded to the police.

#### **2. Election of Chairman**

Agreed that Councillor E May would be elected Chairman of the Watchet, Williton and Quantocks Area Panel for the ensuing twelve month period.

#### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from David Peake (SCC Highways); Chris Warren (Bicknoller Parish Council); Graham Bigwood (Williton Parish Council); John Richards (WACET); Valerie Boxall (Stogursey Parish Council); Hugh Davies and Sue Goss (WSC)

#### **4. Notes of the Meeting held on 27 March 2012 and Matters Arising**

The notes of the meeting held on 27 March 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **6. Highways Report**

Planned Works in Watchet, Williton & Quantocks Panel Area

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Williton	Doniford Road	Embankment and verge repairs.	Completed		
SCC	Watchet	Kingsland	Road and drainage repairs.	Completed		
SCC	Watchet	Kingsland	Carriageway resurfacing.	Completed		
SCC	Sampford Brett	A358 WSR Black Arch Bridge	Carriageway resurfacing.	Completed		
SCC	Nettlecombe	Nettlecombe Park Road	Flood damage causing undermining of road and bridge. Emergency road closure.	Completed		
LOCOG	West Somerset	County Gate to Crowcombe via Minehead, Dunster & Williton	"Olympic Torch Relay" Day 3 – Exeter to Taunton	21 May	21 May	1 day
<b>Ongoing</b>						
SCC	Sampford Brett	A358 Tower Hill	Drainage work. Temporary traffic signals.	8 May	29 June	8 weeks
SCC	Crowcombe	A358 Crowcombe Bypass	Embankment/verge/carriageway repairs. Temporary traffic signals.	22 May	23 June	5 weeks
<b>Future</b>						
SCC	Crowcombe	A358 Crowcombe Br, Crowcombe Bypass	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure between 19.00 and 07.00.	3 July	4 July	1 night
<b>Other</b>						
SCC	West Somerset Area	West Somerset Area	2013 Carriageway Surface Dressing Programme currently being compiled. Any suggestions for further investigation?			

## 7. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

No representative was available to attend.

### 7a. Quantock Hills AONB

Iain Porter reported on the following:

- Illegal off-road vehicles driving on the hills. Natural England enforcement officers in conjunction with the police have made prosecutions.
- 46% of local government funding had been cut in recent years.
- Full programme of events – volunteers welcome.

## 8. West Somerset Council

Adrian Dyer advised as follows:

- Attendees were reminded that there would be an Armed Forces Day Ceremony at the Council Offices on 25 June 2012 at 10.30am.
- Olympic Torch – the passing of the torch through Williton proved a great success with particular thanks to Williton Parish Council for their assistance.
- Hinkley Point – it was reported that there would be a delay in the commencement of the main preliminary works due to the wide-spread discovery of asbestos on the site which would require removal.
- Flood defence works – following flooding in Dashwoods Lane, Bicknoller investigations have been carried out and a draft proposal is being put together to alleviate the possibility of future flooding.
- Goviers Lane railway crossing – tender prices have been received and a meeting is scheduled to be held in July with WSR and SCC to discuss the allocation of costs.
- Watchet Harbour
  - A specification is being prepared to enable the work involved in demolishing the warehouse to be tendered.
  - Two treads have been replaced on the landing steps.
  - The Council's Community Safety Officer is currently investigating an apparent conflict between anglers and boat owners when coming in and out of the harbour. Various measures were being considered including improved signage, the installation of steel bins for chopping and disposal of bait etc.
  - Work has been undertaken to review the signage on the West Pier.
  - Ongoing inspections of the impounding harbour wall is being undertaken by structural engineers as there are unproven claims that the wall is moving in high tides.

A question was raised as to the value that the Area Panel meetings were providing on the basis that there were no members of the public in attendance and if the district councillors and parish councillors were discounted then there were only five other people present. It was agreed to debate this issue further at the next meeting, and that a notice of meetings would be published in the Community Matters newsletter.

The Chairman of the Panel raised two issues concerning Williton Hospital and the free school status of Danesfield School. With regard to the hospital he advised that the redeployment of staff was complete and no members of staff had been made compulsory redundant. He further advised that future plans to maximise the opportunities at the hospital are being formulated but the outpatient facilities would remain as they currently are. With regard to Danesfield School he advised that the parents' attempt to obtain free school status was proving difficult in that sufficient overall support amongst parents was not forthcoming.

**9. Note Taker for the Next Meeting**

No one volunteered to take notes at the next meeting.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

25 September 2012, at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton.