

## Dunster Panel

### Notes of Meeting held on 15 October 2012

#### at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

#### Present

Christine Lawrence (Chairman for the Meeting); Faye Barringer-Capp (Carhampton Parish Council); Chris Oliver (Dunster Parish Council); Ron Buckingham (Elworthy Parish Council); Phil Gannon, Margaret Smith (Old Cleeve Parish Council); Anne Sparling, David Powell (Luxborough Parish Council); Dave Walker (Skilgate Parish Meeting); John Fulwell (Withycombe Parish Council); PC David Masters (Avon & Somerset Constabulary); Tony Murray (Magna Housing Association); David Peake (SCC Highways); Jim Kent (West Somerset Seniors Forum); Keith Turner, Martin Dewdney, Tim Taylor, Edwin May, Bruce Lang (WSC); Gordon Tizzard; Stephanie Oliver (ENPA)

#### **1. “Have Your Say” – Community Issues**

Representatives from Old Cleeve Parish Council raised concerns at the increasing number of accidents on the A39 through Washford which were causing long delays. It was stated that the Old Cleeve Parish Council would be pressing for a 20 mph speed limit through Washford and whatever remedial works could be undertaken. County Councillor Christine Lawrence confirmed that she had made a bid for a small improvement scheme for Walnut Tree corner in Washford which, if agreed, would facilitate some minor improvements to this part of the highway. She would welcome a written representation from Old Cleeve Parish Council to support this bid.

Reference was made to the fact that the new lifebuoys on Blue Anchor seafront had not all been put in place and Bruce Lang agreed to check on the progress for this item.

Concern was raised at the condition of part of the sea wall on Blue Anchor seafront and a request was made for West Somerset Council to provide an update on discussions with the Environment Agency on this matter. Bruce Lang agreed to arrange for an update to be provided and enquire whether it would be possible for someone from the Environment Agency to attend a future meeting of the Panel. In response to a request it was also agreed that the Council should look into providing/replacing a chain to prevent parking at the Watchet end of the Blue Anchor seafront. Bruce Lang agreed to follow these matters up.

Councillor Tim Taylor said that a meeting would need to be held between Old Cleeve Parish Council, Carhampton Parish Council and West Somerset Council to discuss the future of the Blue Anchor toilets.

A concern was raised regarding the number of highways signs that could not be read due to being covered by foliage and David Peake agreed to keep this matter under review and take action where possible.

Concerns were expressed regarding highway markings that had been placed in the two lay-bys on the Dunster straight which effectively prohibited all parking except for buses. David Peake confirmed that these markings would be removed to allow all general parking in the lay-bys in question.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Marilyn Crothers, Alec Chick (West Somerset Council); Steve Eggar (Roadwater Village Trust); Jean Humber (Withycombe Parish

Council); Inspector Lisa Simpson (Avon and Somerset Constabulary) and Ian Liddell-Grainger MP.

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2012 and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 July 2012 were agreed.

Under matters arising it was mentioned that the West Somerset Council had confirmed that any reference to displaying a red flag on Blue Anchor seafront should conditions be dangerous would be removed from signage as due to a lack of staffing capacity such a facility could no longer be offered.

It was also confirmed that warning signs relating to mud on the beach had been erected at all the entrances to the beach along the Blue Anchor seafront.

It was also stated that West Somerset Council was continuing to monitor the dredging processes relating to Watchet Marina including the possibility that this process was having an impact on Blue Anchor Bay.

Bruce Lang confirmed that two training sessions on the new standards regime were being provided for town and parish clerks and councillors on Monday 29 October 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Williton and Wednesday 31 October 2012 at 6.00 pm at the Town Hall, Dulverton.

### **5. Magna West Somerset Housing Association**

Tony Murray the Director of Magna West Somerset Housing Association attended the meeting and took the Panel through a very informative briefing paper – a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix A.

Members of the Panel then asked a series of questions including relating to the housing management and office costs; the Home Help Scheme; help for people who are not Magna tenants; reference to the good anti-social behaviour partnership working with the police; parking problems at Skilgate; impact of changes in benefit rules.

The Panel thanked Tony for his presentation and answers provided to questions.

### **6. Police Report**

In the absence of Inspector Simpson, PC David Masters presented the police report. Detection rates in the Panel area were at 42/43% and therefore slightly down. Non-dwelling burglaries were still on the increase and the police asked the public for extra vigilance.

Preventative action was encouraged including not to leave valuable property that could be seen in parked cars and to leave the light on at home when going out.

In response to a question about the effectiveness of the 101 number which should be used for non-emergency information purposes, it was suggested that, if known, it would be worthwhile trying to phone the local beat officer first. Such numbers should be available on the police website.

### **7. Highways Report**

David Peake reported on the current and proposed works being undertaken in the Panel area – as set out in the attached Appendix B.

David also made reference to the Local Choices event to be held on 13 November 2012 at the Monksilver Village Hall being facilitated by the County Council. The event would commence at 7.00 pm and anyone was invited to attend where the focus of discussion would be on issues such as a possible community warden scheme, urban grass cutting and youth services provision.

Various questions were then asked of David including:

- receiving an update on progress regarding the proposed roundabout at Washford Cross;
- problems relating to highway drainage;
- thanks for the work that had been undertaken at Castlemead, Washford with one or two minor reservations;
- concern at the leakage of residual tar etc on the road surface at Cats Lane/Monks Lane;
- concern from Upton Parish Council regarding issues relating to blocked drains;
- reference to a potential small improvements scheme near Combe Sydenham regarding the erection of an effective safety fence or at least providing an affordable temporary option.

#### **8. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**

No one was in attendance from the service.

#### **9. West Somerset Council Report**

Bruce Lang reported that the next few weeks/months would be crucial in terms of the Council finalising its proposals for the 2013/14 budget. Given that the government grant figures were unlikely to be known until early/mid-December the picture was unlikely to be clear until the new year.

Councillor Taylor as Leader of the Council also confirmed that the Local Government Association had been invited to work with the Council and other local authority partners to help identify appropriate options for the way forward and it was expected that the official report from this work would be available in November. Councillor Taylor would also be meeting with the new local government minister Brandon Lewis, together with the Chief Executive of West Somerset Council on 13 November 2012.

#### **10. Dates of Future Meetings**

28 January 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton  
15 April 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

The meeting closed at 8.42 pm.