

Dunster Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 17 October 2011

at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

Present

Marilyn Crothers (Chairman); Inspector Lisa Simpson (Avon & Somerset Constabulary); Ron Buckingham (Elworthy Parish Council); David Powell and (Luxborough Parish Council); Steve Eggar (Roadwater Village Trust); Gareth Hughes (Skilgate Parish Meeting); Margaret Smith and Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council); Stephanie Oliver (Timberscombe Parish Council); Jim Kent (West Somerset Seniors Forum); Christine Lawrence and David Peake (SCC), Roger Webber (Cutcombe Parish Council); Keith Turner, Alec Chick, Bruce Lang and Wendy Bass (WSC).

1. “Have Your Say” – Community Issues

Old Cleeve Parish Council raised concerns about the junction from Blue Anchor onto the A39 at Carhampton, a difficult junction to pull out from, and local people used the junction at Dragons Cross as an alternative. She asked if it would be possible for the 50mph sign to be moved to the Williton side of the junction as it would be easier for motorists to pull out before the traffic speeded up. David Peake from Somerset Highways agreed to take this back to Somerset County Highways..

Concerns were also raised that following surface dressing of the road between Binham and Chapel Cleeve .the white line in the centre of the road had been replaced however it was not central. Mr Peake was also asked to note that micro surfacing, in Huish Lane, in Pixton Way, Dulverton and on a number of roads in West Quantoxhead, was of poor quality.

A request was made for rumble strips to be inserted to warn of the junction at Elworthy Cross as a number of vehicles missed the junction and drove on.

It was pointed out that surface dressing of the road at Blue Anchor Bay was done over a bank holiday weekend and the grit that found its way onto the pavement made it difficult for children to cross onto the road and it prevented a wheelchair user from going out.

In answer to a question about the cost of brown bags, Bruce Lang advised that the current charge was £25 for 10 bags.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jean Humber (Withycombe Parish Council); Paul Toogood (Dunster Parish Council); Ian Gummer (Luxborough Parish Council); Dougie Heyhoe and Chris Jones (Devon and Somerset Fire Service; Martin Dewdney and Tim Taylor (WSC); Ian Liddell-Grainger,MP.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 July 2011 and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 July 2011 were agreed.

Bruce Lang advised the Panel that that there was a bus stop at Morrisons that met the planning conditions. Panel members were still concerned at the location of the bus stop and were unsure whether the stop was for alighting the bus and getting on. Bruce Lang was asked to check.

4. Magna West Somerset Housing Association

The Chairman advised that Tony Murray from Magna had sent his apologies and requested that his report be presented to the Panel at the January meeting.

5. Police Report

Inspector Simpson advised the Panel that there had been a crime spate in the Panel area during September. This was mainly due to thefts from agricultural machinery during harvesting. Reported crime figures were now going down as well as detections going up and the position was much improved since last 18 months ago. Road stops of all vehicles and rural junctions had been undertaken and although the thieves had not been caught it had probably deterred others.

It was noted that a new beat manager had been appointed for Old Cleeve, Andy Ware, who would replace James Holdsworth.

In response to a question about the fatal accident on the A39 Inspector Simpson advised that road diversion plans had been used to close the road although it was clear from feedback that there were a significant number of learning points. Wrong information had been provided and in future more portable signage would be used.

6. Highways Report

David Peake advised the Panel as follows –

Parish	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Dunster Panel area	Various roads	Surface dressing 2011 programme			
West Somerset	A39 Minehead to Williton	Installation of A39 emergency alternative routes signing scheme			
Luxborough	Kingsbridge	Drainage works. Temporary traffic signals	15 Aug	2 Sept	3 weeks
Dunster	A396 High Street	Replacement of cobblestones with paving slabs. Temporary traffic management and suspension of parking areas	5 Sept	25 Nov	12 weeks
West Somerset	Western and Central	Winter service practice days including dry run of salting routes by gritters	11 Oct	11 Oct	1 day
	Eastern and Southern		12 Oct	12 Oct	1 day
West Somerset	Mart Road depot	Invitation for parish/town councils to call into depot between 09.00 and 13.00 to pick up ten 20kg bags of de-icing material.	29 Oct	29 Oct	Morning

West Somerset	Mart Road depot	Invitation for parish/town councils to attend depot open evening to view the winter service operation between 18.30 and 20.30.	15 Nov	15 Nov	Evening
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7. **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service**

No member of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service was present therefore Panel members did not receive an update.

8. **West Somerset Strategic Partnership (WSSP)**

Panel members were advised that a meeting had been arranged for 25 October to discuss the future of the Partnership.

9. **West Somerset Council Report**

Bruce Lang advised –

- The council was in the process of pulling together its Medium Term Financial Plan with a challenging financial situation and a funding gap.
- The Section 106 agreement in respect of the Site Preparation works at Hinkley Point had been signed. This would result in additional monies for 2 years.
- Following a recent consultation exercise with members of the public regarding council priorities, 620 completed returns had been received. The service areas that most people would like protected were economic development, street cleaning and litter collection. If cuts had to be made the preference would be to cut grants, the customer centre and tourism promotion.
- Parishes were thanked for taking part in the recent consultation regarding devolution and delegation of services. Panel members were asked to check that a response had been sent from their parish council as these would be needed to feed into a report to Council in November.
- Panel members noted that a boundary review of SCC was underway with a proposal to reduce the number of county councillors from 58 to 55. There was no proposal to change the 4 county councillors for West Somerset although there would be some changes to the boundaries of each division in order to achieve equality of electorate.
- The roll out of Sort it plus bin collections was agreed to be a logistical challenge. Parishes were updated regarding the start over the next fortnight – Monday 17 to Friday 28 October.
- The Panel was advised that due to staff cuts at the Council it would no longer be able to provide a note taker at future Panel meetings.

10. **Dates of Meetings in 2011**

23 January 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton
23 April 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton
23 July 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton
22 October 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.