

Dunster Panel

Notes of Meeting held on 18 July 2011

at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

Present

Marilyn Crothers (Chairman); Jean Humber (Withycombe Parish Council); Faye Barringer-Capp (Carhampton Parish Council); Inspector Lisa Simpson and Bruce Strachan (Avon & Somerset Constabulary); Ron Buckingham (Elworthy Parish Council); Paul Toogood, Christine Oliver and Bidy Bale (Dunster Parish Council); David Powell and Ian Gummer (Luxborough Parish Council); Dave Walker (Skilgate Parish Meeting); Margaret Smith and Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council); Jim Kent (West Somerset Seniors Forum); Christine Lawrence and Paul Davies (SCC), Roger Webber (Cutcombe Parish Council); Tim Taylor, Keith Turner, Alec Chick, Bruce Lang, Heather Crockford and Wendy Bass (WSC).

Marilyn Crothers welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

1. "Have Your Say" – Community Issues

Old Cleeve Parish Council raised concerns about speeding cars on the s bends at Bilbrook and at the entrance to Warren Farm. Pam Bosley the owner of Warren farm referred to the straight piece of road in front of her farm where speeding traffic and vehicles overtaking make pulling out from the farm very dangerous. There had recently been near misses and an overturned car on her property. In response Inspector Simpson suggested the Parish might wish to consider installing the community speedwatch and she requested accident reports from Highways. She advised that taking the registration numbers of vehicles was the best action although not always possible and she would consider mobile and static patrols for the area.

Concerns were also raised about speeding bikers on the A358. Inspector Simpson agreed to raise this with traffic colleagues and reminded the Panel that a number of buses using this route had cameras on board.

In response to a question about the lack of a bus stop at Morrisons in Minehead. Bruce Lang agreed to check the planning conditions.

The Panel noted that surface dressing of the road at Blue Anchor Bay was due to commence however the car parking spaces owned by the district council would not be treated. It was noted that there would not be a substantial difference in levels.

2. Election of Chairman

Marilyn Crothers was elected as Chairman for the 2011/12 year.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Pamela Scragg and Tim Webb (Old Cleeve Parish Council); Loretta Whetlor (WSSP) and the Exmoor National Park Authority.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 April 2011 and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 April 2011 were agreed.

A request was made that Ian Liddell-Grainger MP should be invited to meet with the Panel at the next meeting.

The Panel was advised that a recent report from OFCOM regarding Superfast broadband had reported that in the Exmoor National Park area there was 4% coverage,

in surrounding areas it was double this figure and in larger urban areas it was up to 90%. County Councillor Christine Lawrence advised that SCC had been successful in a bid to bring Superfast broadband to Somerset and that the more rural areas would be looked at first.

5. Townsend Farm Housing Development

Vaughan Lake from Hastoe Housing Association introduced himself and advised the Panel that Hastoe was a Registered Social Landlord of the Homes and Communities Agency. A recent 4 year funding bid had been successful and the Townsend Farm scheme was included in the bid. Hastoe was a rural housing specialist. Mr Lake agreed that the next step was for discussions to take place with Carhampton Parish Council in order to agree a timeframe to deliver a suitable housing scheme. In response to a question about housing need he confirmed that the present housing needs survey would be refreshed.

6. Police Report

Inspector Simpson and Paul Davies, Street Works Manager at SCC presented 5 road diversion plans to be used following a fatal/serious injury road accident. The trial site related to a road closure between Dunster and Washford Cross. Mr Davies advised that new posts would be erected at the Dunster junction with the A39 and at Washford Cross where signs would be installed. The signs would be locked and opened only following an accident and other signs already on the diversion route would have stick on signs advising the emergency route. Rest places for stacking larger vehicles had yet to be identified.

A suggestion was made that the two parking spaces opposite the Yarn Market should be removed during an emergency. Mr Davies and Inspector Simpson confirmed that all comments made and other suggestions would be taken on board regarding the proposed diversion routes before they were finalised. Roger Webber requested that the proposal for the diversion relating to Dunster and Washford Cross be revisited in the vicinity of Wheddon Cross, Exford and Winsford.

With regard to crime since the last Panel meeting Inspector Simpson advised that crime had increased with figures showing 100 more crimes than in the previous quarter. The majority were thefts from sheds, outbuildings and cars. She asked Panel members to take back the message to parishes that members of the public should check the security of their own property as many of the thefts were from unlocked premises.

7. Highways Report

David Peake advised the Panel as follows –

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| Carhampton | A39 Minehead Road | Carriageway resurfacing. |
| Carhampton | A358 Church Road | Carriageway resurfacing. |
| Williton | A39 Priest Street | Carriageway resurfacing. |
| Nettlecombe | B3224 east of Raleghs Cross | Strengthening edges of carriageway. |
| Treborough | B3224 Goosemoor to Beulah Chapel | Surface dressing. Temporary road closures. |
| Nettlecombe | B3190 Sticklepath | Surface dressing. Temporary road closures. |
| Carhampton & Old Cleeve | B3191 Carhampton to Blue Anchor | Surface dressing. |

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| Old Cleeve | Dragon Cross to Blue Anchor | Surface dressing. |
| Elworthy | B3224 Elworthy Cross to Tolland | Surface dressing. |
| Tolland | B3224 Handy Cross to Combe Florey | Surface dressing. Temporary road closures. |
| Huish Champflower | Sanders Barnstaple | Surface dressing. |
| Huish Champflower | Potters Cross and Winters Cross | Surface dressing. |
| Old Cleeve | Lodge Rocks Lane | Surface dressing. |
| Withycombe | Higher Rodhuish Road | Surface dressing. |
| Withycombe | Sandhill Lane | Surface dressing. |

8. 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.

9. West Somerset Strategic Partnership (WSSP)

No member of WSSP was present therefore Panel members did not receive an update.

10. West Somerset Council Report

Bruce Lang advised –

- There were still financial challenges at the district council and the Medium Term Financial Plan showed a funding gap of £900,000 next year and £1.4m over the following 3 years. All parishes had been contacted to arrange a meeting to discuss future service delivery in each parish. The outcome of these discussions would feed into a report to Council in November 2011.
- The West Somerset Council's Planning Committee was due to meet at 10am on Thursday, July 28, 2011, to consider EDF Energy's application, made through its subsidiary NNB Generation Company Limited, for site preparation works at Hinkley Point. The meeting would be held in the Council Chamber at West Somerset House, Williton. Because of the high level of public interest in this special interest major application, the Planning Authority was exercising its discretion and overseeing special arrangements for the meeting and this included limiting the number of public speakers.
- Following a peer review of the Planning service it had been identified that communication with parishes could be improved. It was proposed that Planning officers should be invited to a future Panel meeting and this was agreed.
- The Panel was advised that corporate consultation was ongoing during July and members of the Panel were encouraged to complete a survey form. The results would be used to refresh the Council's priorities.

11. Dates of Meetings in 2011

17 October 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton.
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

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.