

DUNSTER AREA PANEL MEETING

MONDAY 24 JULY 2017 AT 7.00PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

NOTES OF THE MEETING

Attendees: Cllr Faye Barringer-Capp (Chair) Carhampton Parish Council
Cllr Philip Laramay, Carhampton Parish Council
Cllr C Oliver, Dunster Parish Council
Cllr M Crothers, Nettlecombe Parish Council
Marcus Kravis, Member of the Public
Jamie Munro, PC 4376, Avon & Somerset Police
Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker, West Somerset Council
Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew, West Somerset Council
Cllr P Pilkington, West Somerset Council
Cllr M Dewdney, West Somerset Council
David Peake, SCC Highways
Bruce Lang, Assistant Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer,
West Somerset Council
Eileen Ford, West Somerset Council

1) "Have Your Say" Community Issues

Questions received from Cllr Geoff Williams and Cllr Margaret Smith from Old Cleeve Paris Council were read out by the Chair in their absence.

Cllr Williams Questions

"On 8 February 2017 the Blue Anchor slipway was closed for safety reasons, a structural report was commissioned, and the ownership of the site was to be clarified. As the Parish Council we are frequently asked by local people and visitors about what is happening with this closed area. Please may we request an update on progress on this matter?"

For over four years the parking bays at Blue Anchor sea front have hosted the gabions. We are delighted to learn tomorrow they are due to be removed. At last their detrimental effects have been recognised and we thank all those involved in taking the decision to remove them. We hope we have not been premature in arranging our celebrations tomorrow evening.

We have noticed an increase in the incidence of fly tipping in our Parish. This is particularly disappointing when we have two recycling centres close at hand. It will be interesting to see if the slight relaxation in the rules for vehicles and trailers using the recycling centres will reduce the level of fly

tipping in our area. Any fly tipping is unacceptable and we would like to enquire what actions are being taken to investigate incidents and to prosecute the perpetrators.

After all of the hard (and costly) work to resurface the A39 at Billbrook it is disappointing to note the incidence of vehicle accidents is again on the increase. A week or so ago there were at least three crashes during a one week period. One car had to have its roof cut off to release the occupants. Despite the work on the road, and improved signage, this stretch of road still represents a significant driving hazard and it is only a question of time before an accident involves a fatality or serious injury. It is unacceptable to simply put it down to "excessive speed" when it has not been proven that any of these crashed vehicles have been exceeding the speed limit. It is Highways responsibility to improve safety beyond the present measures, and this will not be achieved by ignoring the problem. We as a Parish would like to call again for the speed limit through the section of road to be reduced to 40mph.

It is regretted that as a Parish we are unable to send our key delegates to attend this meeting. This is because the DPM have unfortunately chosen to hold its meetings on the same day as our normal Parish Council meeting (third Monday of each month). This has happened on occasion in the past but was rectified. We wish to actively participate in these meetings and would like to request that they are arranged on dates whereby all Parishes can be present without clashing dates with PC meetings".

Cllr Margaret Smith Questions

"The Blue Anchor slipway was closed on 9 February this year to prevent access to and from the beach.

We were informed the slipway has been closed for safety reasons which naturally we support.

We are told investigations are in progress to find out who actually owns the slipway/foreshore. There have been suggestions from members of our parish as to who this area belongs to, but we have no idea if any of these suggestions have proved to be helpful.

After five months there must surely be some feedback on progress or otherwise.

Local people and visitors ask when the barriers come down. Unfortunately we have no idea of the state of play and cannot give any suitable answer.

The slipway is within our parish we would very much appreciate an update on the whole situation.

I enclose a picture of the A39 road sign at Dragons Cross. Not only is it hardly visible and it desperately needs a wash. We have raised the matter many times at the DPM. Please can it be cleaned and the foliage surrounding it to be cut back, and the SID (speed indicator device) to be used more often in this location in an attempt to slow the traffic down”.

Bruce updated the Panel on the issues raised by Cllr Williams and Cllr Smith.

The Slipway – The slipway at the eastern end of Blue Anchor is not registered at Land registry. This means that the land was not registered prior to 1968 when written records were centralised. The area of concern, the promenade, belongs of the owner of the Blue Anchor Hotel. Discussions have been held with the owner and a meeting is being organised. Mr Kravis, who has an interest in the Hotel, was present at the meeting and confirmed he would welcome a meeting with the Council as soon as possible.

The Blue Anchor Gabions

The gabions are not owned by the Council, they are in the ownership of SCC Highways. It has been suggested the gabions are going to be moved by the owner of the Blue Anchor Hotel to form part of the sea defence this week. This has not been confirmed to the Council. Marcus Kravis confirmed that the Blue Anchor Hotel had engaged a contractor who would move the gabions next week.

Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping should be reported to the Council via the Customer Services Team; most reports are sent via the Councils on-line website, telephone call or by walking into the office. The Council has a contractor which should remove the fly-tip within 5 working days, but there are exceptions.

- The Council can only remove fly-tips on Public land
- The Council's contractor cannot remove dangerous material such as asbestos; the requestor/reporter will be asked to provide more information, (picture, accurate location etc.) which will be forwarded to the SWP who will remove
- The Council can only pick-up fly-tips in West Somerset
- The Council cannot remove items from Crown, NT or Exmoor National Park areas/land

Cllr Crothers mentioned that a large plastic bag had been fly tipped between the Tropicana and Fair Cross. Bruce agreed to report this so that this fly tipping could be dealt with.

Highways Surface

Blue Anchor beach car park area; this is the only road surface the Council are responsible for here, (as with all Council owned assets/car parks). The Manager of the car parks is aware of some issues and some of the surface has already been replaced. Work has now been delayed to after the summer break. David Peake informed the Panel that any safety concerns regarding the A39 should be put in writing to Beverley Norman, Transport Manager at SCC.

Road Sign

David Peake informed the Panel that from the photograph provided by Cllr Smith the road sign is visible, albeit partially. As part of the planned maintenance SCC Highways will be hedge cutting in August in that area when the foliage would be cut. Cllr Trollope-Bellow mentioned that accidents were usually due to the negligence of drivers.

Cllr Oliver read out an update from the Dunster Parish Council regarding the toilets since taking them over the Council. The Parish Council decided to charge the public 20p for use of the toilets. A local cleaner from Minehead has been employed to undertake the cleaning of the toilets. Building work has taken place to change the layout of the toilets. The Parish Council did experience some teething problems in the early days. The main problem was the door being propped open by the public, thereby avoiding the need to pay the 20p fee.

Cllr Maitland-Walker raised the issue of ragwort on the road verges. David Peake agreed to report any sightings of ragwort. The main issues were at Crowcombe on the A358 and on the cycle route between Dunster and Minehead.

Parish Councils are advised to report any sightings of ragwort to countyroads.westsomerset@somerset.gov.uk. Any sightings of ragwort on the motorway system need to be reported to Highways England.

Marcus Kravis raised the issue of a new Fish and Chip van operating on the sea front at Blue Anchor. Bruce Lang agreed to speak to the Licensing Department to confirm whether the Fish and Chip van was operating with all the relevant licenses.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Old Cleeve Parish Council as the meeting clashed with their Parish Council meeting. Apologies were also received from Cllr Christine Lawrence, SCC, after the meeting.

3) Appointment of a Chairman

Cllr Fay Barringer-Capp was proposed by Cllr Barbara Maitland-Walker and seconded by Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew to be chair of the panel for the ensuing twelve month period. This was agreed by all those present.

4) Minutes of Meeting Held on 18 April 2017 and Matters Arising

Cllr Geoff Williams is from Old Cleeve Parish Council and not Uffcombe as stated in the minutes. The minutes were amended and agreed.

Bruce Lang gave an update on the matter arising from the last meeting. Contact had been made with SCC Rights of Way Department who were unable to send anyone to a future Panel Meeting. Any questions should be put into writing to them.

Bruce further updated the Panel regarding Cllr Gannon's FOI request. In the future it was intended that a telephone number would be added to letters so the public had a contact number in case of further queries.

5) Police Report

Jamie Munro, PC4376, attended the meeting and gave the following update.

Key Issues/Incidents

Over the past 3 months, the area has noticed an increase in both **theft from motor vehicle (TFMV)** and **non-dwelling burglaries**.

TFMV – Mainly occurring within beauty spot car parks. This is a seasonal issue due to the increase in visitors to beauty areas in West Somerset. Particular areas include all car-parks on the Quantock Hills, and car parks giving access to beaches and other coastal landmarks. Specific locations include Staple Plain and Kilve beach car-park. Users of these areas are requested to ensure that all valuables are removed from their vehicles, or at the very least, they are removed from display. This is very much an opportunistic crime with offenders identifying easy targets and offending at times when there are no witnesses.

Our response to the issue is that we have increased patrols around the beauty spots and will utilise our Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme. This scheme allows for patrolling officers to identify vulnerable vehicles (ie, vehicle which have valuables on display) and notify the registered keeper of the fact that their vehicle was vulnerable to attack. This scheme aims to get the word out that vehicles left vulnerable to attack are likely to be attacked, and that becoming a victim of this type of crime is very much avoidable if the vehicle owner takes the necessary precautions.

We are also exploring the use of a covert capture car for the area to deploy as and when it is available. This vehicle is set up with covert cameras which can capture offenders breaking in to the vehicle.

Non-dwelling Burglaries – This has shown a spike recently, especially in rural locations although there has been some very recent interest shown in the Roughmoor Trading Estate. Sheds and outbuildings are the main targets with power tools the main items stolen. Power tools are easily sellable hence their value to the offender. People can reduce their chance of becoming a victim by ensuring that valuable tools are kept in a secure location, with consideration that they are locked within their homes rather than in vulnerable outbuildings.

Our response is to increase night time patrols in targeted locations, whilst liaising with our intelligence department to identify likely offenders. The beat team is also making contact with every victim of burglary to assess evidence, complete house-to-house enquiries, and to review their crime prevention measures. We can utilise the bobby-van for victims who require additional security measures but would not necessarily be able to install themselves. This is particularly helpful for vulnerable victims and elderly victims.

Hate crime

The beat team are piloting a scheme to ensure that victims of hate crime receive the highest level of service from us as an organisation. The scheme will see the beat team making contact with the victim on the first day following the report to the police, followed by further contact on day 7 and one month. This will ensure that the victim receives any extra support they require and this will run alongside the investigation. The scheme will ensure that the victim has a single point of contact with the police throughout the investigation, without needing to call 101 to be put through to the investigating officer.

General Crime

Crime is on the up year on year. There are a multitude of reasons for this but it is likely to include the reduction in the number of front line officers, the improvement in ways in which crime can be reported, and the force's commitment to ethical crime recording. There is no simple solution to the increase in crime. All I can do is assure you that if there are any developing crime series occurring in the area, the beat team will do all they can do to

tackle it, reduce it and utilise a multi-agency approach to find solutions. An individual can photograph high value items on the website imbolise.com. Include any serial numbers. The Police do use this website to restore stolen items to the rightful owner.

Marcus Kravis raised the issue of two recent house burglaries in Watchet and Carhampton that took place on the same day. The offender of one of the burglaries had been apprehended. The local public were concerned if the properties had been targeted. The police feel that this was not the case and that they were opportunist crimes.

Anti-Social Behaviour

No current issues highlighted to the beat team. No particular perpetrators. The summer will likely see an increase in ASB relating to alcohol use, noise later in the evenings and youth related issues when the summer holidays begin. Please ensure that our beat contact details are forwarded to anyone who wants them so that issues can be reported.

Key dates

30 July 2017 – Watchet Carnival

20 August 2017 – Emergency Services Day at Hoburne Leisure, Blue Anchor (leaflet attached)



Charity Emergency services day poster.r

Crime Statistics

Can be found by following the below link:

<https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AW052/crime/>

This relates to crime covering the entire beat area.

The contact details for the Neighbour Police Team in Williton and Watchet are as follows:-

Neighbourhood Beat Manager

PC 4376 Jamie Munro

Williton Police Station

Mob: 07889659436

Jamie.Munro@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

Police Community Support Officer

PCSO 9273 Sue Thompson

Williton Police Station

Mob: 07889655209

Susan.Thompson@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk

**Police Community Support Officer
PCSO 7292 Peter Bolton
Williton Police Station
Mob: 07889655193
Peter.Bolton@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk**

6) Highways Report

Planned Works in Dunster Panel Area

West Somerset House, Williton 24 July 2017

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Withycombe	Rattle Row	Repairs to Withycombe Ford.		Completed	
SCC	Luxborough	B3224 Blagdon Lane to Roundhouse	Drainage work Phase 1.		Completed	
SCC	County-wide	Various	Surface dressing. Main train programme.		Completed	
Ongoing						
SCC	Stogumber	Vellow Road	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	17 July	24 July	2 weeks
SCC	Nettlecombe	Slade Lane	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	24 Jul	18 Aug	5 weeks
SCC	County-wide	Various	Surface dressing. Combi 1 programme.	23 Jun	25 Aug	9 weeks
Future						
SCC	Nettlecombe	Beggern Huish to Clitsome Farm	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	3 Sep	8 Sep	5 days
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Washford to Washford Cross	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening/at night.	Sept	Sept	1 week
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Washford Cross to Bowhayes Cross	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closures in the evening/at night.	Sept	Sept	1 week
SCC	Luxborough	B3224 Blagdon Lane to Roundhouse	Drainage works Phase 2. Temporary road closure.	Oct	Oct	1 week
SCC	County-wide	Various	Surface dressing. Combi 2 programme.	1 Aug	18 Aug	3 weeks
Other						
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Dragon Cross, Bilbrook	Funding has been secured from central government to carry out a further section of flood reduction works at this location. The finance is available in the 2017/2018 financial year and the work is outline programmed for November. It is anticipated that traffic management will be temporary road closures between 09:00 and 15:30 Monday to Friday with HGVs and buses escorted through the site once each hour.			

Cllr Crothers of Nettlecombe Parish Council raised the issue of repairs to the bridge at Park Road as a sign had been in place that work would take place on the bridge for 3/5 weeks in August. David was unaware of this and agreed to check what work would be undertaken.

Cllr Trollope-Bellow raised the issue that EDF had not handed over the ownership of the roundabout at Washford Cross.

7) Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service

No representation and report was received from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

8) West Somerset Council Report

Bruce provided the following update.

West Somerset Lottery

Sales for the West Somerset Lottery are going well with over 1,000 tickets now sold. The lottery has been supported by nearly 500 individuals and the first draw will take place on Saturday 29 July 2017.

If supports continue to buy tickets every week for the year the Council could potential raise £32,385.60 per year.

Tickets can be brought on-line at www.somersetwestlottery.co.uk or by calling 0300 30 20 666 (calls charged at local geographical rate)

Nearly 60 local voluntary organisations, community groups, school PTAs and sports clubs have now registered as local good causes for the lottery.

2018/19 Budget

- In setting the 2018/19 budget we will be seeking options that avoid disruption and reduction in highest priority front line services and prioritise efficiency savings.
- We will review our fees and charges, as we do each year to seek to cover our costs wherever possible.
- We will consider introducing new fees for discretionary services, this will help support statutory services.
- We will continue to look for income generation initiatives which will support the corporate aims but also bring forward much needed income streams

- We will review our existing budgets to identify trends which lead to outturn underspends and realign these budgets to free up monies to support other services and initiatives.
- We will continue our transformation work which is generating efficiency savings that will help address the budget gaps and challenges in future years.
- Our first challenge is a £179k budget gap in 2018/19.

Public Toilets

Nothing to report. Blue Anchor and Dunster Steep public toilets were handed over prior to the last meeting.

Caravan on Blue Anchor Seafront

A legal process had to be adhered to remove the caravan. The caravan left over the weekend 17/18 June 2017. This took some 6 weeks and a number of the residents are unhappy it took so long, however, it should be noted the Council have to adhere to the law. There was a legal process which the Council had to follow.

Cllr Maitland-Walker raised the issue of a caravan parked illegally. The Parish Council had tried all avenues in order to see what could be done to move the caravan. The difficulty has been in establishing ownership of the land. David Peake agreed to check with the Highways Department as the public do continue to use the road. Martin Ford is the Enforcement Officer at SCC regarding illegally parked caravans/vehicles.

Dunster Steep

Open Spaces will be cutting back and clearing the car park / picnic area in Dunster Steep on Thursday.

Dunster

- Exploration pit dug at a point of subsidence in the car parking area. The work involved is more complex than originally thought due to the road/bank make-up. The hole will be filled for the summer holidays with repairs starting in the autumn.

Old Cleeve

- Disputes concerning a street lamp in Washford – this is a Magna Housing or SCC Highways issue.

- Concerns regarding street sweeping in and around the Parish –these areas do not form part of the contract and never have. One is just a dirt track and as such is not classed as a highway and in private ownership.
- Increase in fly-tips.

Carhampton

- Nothing to report.

General Election

% turnout in the SCC elections on 4 May as follows in the West Somerset

Divisions:

46.07%	Dulverton and Exmoor
41.02%	Dunster
44.36%	Minehead
39.43%	Watchet and Stogursey

% turnout in the Parliamentary election on 8 June for the Bridgwater and West Somerset Constituency was 65.3%

We are just about to begin our canvass, so every household will be sent a form and asked to confirm who should be registered to vote at that address – encourage people to return these as, if we do not get them back, we have to send reminders and then make personal visits, so an early response saves the council money!

Strategic Housing Framework

The Strategic Housing Framework consultation would end on 20 September 2017.

9) **Dates of Future Meetings**

A discussion took place regarding the future dates of the meetings. Concern had been raised regarding the clash with Old Cleeve Parish Council meetings. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday 30 October 2017 at 7.00pm.

The meeting in January 2018 would remain as Monday 22 January 2018.

The meeting in April 2018 would take place on Monday 9 April 2018.

It was agreed that these new dates would be provided to Parish Councils as soon as possible.