

DUNSTER PANEL - NOTES OF MEETING 26 JANUARY 2015

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WILLITON

Present:

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew (West Somerset Council) – Chairman of Meeting

Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker and Cllr Faye Barringer-Capp and Cllr Philip Laramy (Carhampton Parish Council)

Cllr Tony Brooks (Crowcombe Parish Council)

Cllr Margaret Smith and Cllr Phil Gannon and Cllr Teresa Bridgeman (Old Cleeve Parish Council)

Cllr Tim Taylor and Cllr Martin Dewdney (West Somerset Council)

Cllr Gordon Tizzard, (West Quantoxhead Parish Council)

Cllr Ron Buckingham (Elworthy PC)

Cllr Chris Oliver (Dunster PC)

Jim Kent (Somerset Older Citizens Alliance)

David Peake and Karin Harwood (SCC)

Shirlene Adam (West Somerset Council)

Sue Gannon (Resident)

Apologies Received:

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

Cllr Christine Lawrence (SCC)

Welcome

The meeting was opened by Cllr Trollope-Bellew.

1. “Have Your Say” – Community Issues

Sue Gannon (Resident) shared her concerns over the existing signage at Smiths Yard Lane (near new roundabout). Request made for signage to be clearer on “no access to A39”. David Peake agreed to discuss with EDF.

Sue Gannon (Resident) asked how long the traffic lights will be at Five Bells. David Peake confirmed they will be there for the duration of the work.

Several attendees wished to raise specific Parish Highways issues and the Chair asked for them to be dealt with directly by SCC. At future meetings of this Panel, SCC officers will be available to deal with specific issues 10 minutes in advance of the start time.

Cllr Margaret Smith shared her concerns re the state of the public conveniences in Blue Anchor, and passed two photos to Shirlene Adam who will progress with Property Services.

Cllr Margaret Smith flagged issues with drainage on Bilbrook Lane. David Peak of SCC Highways confirmed that minor works were being planned.

Cllr P Gannon shared concerns on heavy usage of lanes by “construction” vehicles, creating potholes etc. Details to be shared with David Peake (SCC Highways).

Cllr P Gannon shared details of a planning issue re the planned solar park construction. He is concerned about apparent breaches in planning conditions and lack of response from planning officers – Shirlene will progress with planning managers.

Cllr T Bridgeman wished to note her thanks to Highways for clearing banks in some areas in OCPC. She urged SCC to include this in next year’s budget.

Cllr P Gannon asked for more detail on the roundabout at Washford. He shared a drawing, but recognised this was not to scale. His concerns relate to the angle of approach being incorrect, and the diameter of the roundabout itself being too small. David Peake (SCC Highways) to try and find out more.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were noted from Ian Lidell-Grainger MP, Cllr Christine Lawrence (SCC), and Chris Jones (Devon & Somerset Fire Service).

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held 13 October 2014 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2014 were accepted.

Matters arising:-

- Attendees wanted further information on the roll-out plans for superfast broadband in the West Somerset area. Karin Harwood confirmed that every Parish will be consulted by SCC on the location of the cabinets. The Panel shared frustration on the apparent level of secrecy on locations and timings of rollout. Panel requested Shirlene to write on their behalf to Paula Hewitt (SCC) and request an update on the timing of CDS and extension programme.

4. Police

No representative at the meeting and no report received.

5. Highways Report

David Peake (SCC Highways) updated the Panel on key areas of planned works as follows:-

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
Completed						
SCC	Old Cleeve	Old Mineral Line, Roadwater	Additional fencing at top of spillway		Completed	
SCC	Bicknoller	Trendle Lane	Drainage work.		Completed	
Ongoing						
SCC	Withycombe	Higher Rodhuish Road	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	22 Jan	30 Jan	2 weeks
SCC	Nettlecombe	Slade Lane	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	26 Jan	20 Feb	4 weeks
Future						
BT	Bicknoller	Honey Row Lane Dashwoods Lane	Installation of broadband cabinets and cabling. Temporary road closure.	23 Feb	10 Mar	2 weeks
SCC	Crowcombe	Roebuck Lane	Drainage work. Temporary road closure.	Mar	Mar	4 weeks
SCC	Skilgate	Little Haddon Farm to village	Carriageway resurfacing.	Apr	Apr	1 week
SCC	Clatworthy	Waysdown Lane	Carriageway resurfacing	Apr	Apr	1 week
Other						
WW SCC BT WPD Private	Dunster	A396 West Street & Church Street	Temporary road closure planned for three months (January to March 2015) for:- Water main refurbishment. Highway works in relation to new doctors' surgery. Enhancement scheme for cobbles/footway. Replacement and upgrading of traffic signal controlled shuttle. Upgrading of electricity supply. Replacement of manholes covers to telephone ducts/chambers. Carriageway resurfacing.			
EDF	Williton	A39/B3190 Washford Cross Roundabout	Construction of new roundabout is now underway. Phase 1 will be carried out between 5 January and 12 July, when all temporary road closures and traffic management arrangements will			

			<p>be removed for the summer. These will be reinstated on 2 September and works are planned to be completed by Christmas.</p> <p>The will be four or five "Big Weekends" (closure of B3190 south of the junction), with the first one scheduled for July.</p>
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6. Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

The following update was shared in advance of the meeting.



Area Panel Meetings items for discussion / community information.

Meeting Date: 26/01/2014

Location: Williton Council Chambers

Operational News for Community information relevant to the areas covered by area panel meeting:

- Minehead Crews have attended around 40 operational calls during the last 3 months. These have included Road Traffic Collisions, several property related fires most of which have been cooking related. Several special service calls to assist other agencies including a Carbon Monoxide incident. There have also been a large number of Chimney fires.

We would encourage owners of properties with open fires and log-burners to make sure they have been prepared by having the chimney swept before using them.

Community Safety news and activities within the areas covered by the relevant area panel meeting:

Throughout December road safety advice has been delivered at various events including the main drink drive messages.

Lots of positive engagement with the general public and plenty of support for the drink drive messages we are delivering in partnership with Police, Somerset County Council Road Safety and Ambulance teams.

Also a good opportunity to remind people of the hazards when driving in and around flood water.

Leaflet attached to email.



DS2014-1370
Hidden dangers of f



ChimneySafety.pdf

7. West Somerset Flood Group

Cllr Teresa Bridgeman updated the Panel on the work of this group – largely set up to deal with problems faced last year. The group could be a useful “voice of Parishes” in the West Somerset area on flooding matters.

Cllr Bridgeman encouraged those in the Panel are not currently engaged in this to contact her for further details. She will attend the other Panel meetings in March to raise awareness of the group and encourage further membership.

The West Somerset Flood Group will meet quarterly – no need to have a Parish Flood Plan in order to join.

8. District Flood Board

Cllr Trollope-Bellew briefed the Panel on this new emerging forum – encompassing reps from WSC / SCC / ENPA / EA / Wessex / IDBs / WSFG. This forum will co-ordinate all flood related matters across the various agencies. Next meeting in March.

9. West Somerset Council Report

Shirlene Adam updated the Panel on key areas as follows:

An update on property related issues:-

Park Street Car Park, Dunster

Concern has been raised from a member of the public about the condition of a wall in Park Street Car park, Dunster. This has been forwarded to the Property services team to inspect and progress if necessary.

Blue Anchor PCs

The Property Services team are looking to undertake some repairs at Blue Anchor pcs to include replacing some ceiling panels, renewing some equipment, repairing window frames. This work is being costed.

And on community issues:-

Community Matters Newsletter Survey Results

After producing the WSC Community Matters newsletter for four years, we decided to check we were still producing a publication which was still of use to our readers. The survey results demonstrate our readers are very happy with the newsletter. Comments have included: “The information and the way it is presented is excellent” and “Best update from all of Somerset”.

From the results we have concluded our readers are interested in receiving information on community news, council service updates and funding opportunities for their community projects. So we will continue to produce a weekly electronic newsletter which is available to parish/town councils and community groups. Anyone wishing to register for the newsletter can sign up

via our home page: www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk and select the newsletter tab on the right of the web page.

Joint Management And Shared Services

Nearly done! Headline is BCase has been delivered – so ongoing savings of over £300k per annum for WSC.

Cllr Gannon asked for contact details for the new team of officers.

And finally on our budget position as at mid Jan 15:-

Budget Update

- The Council continues to face significant financial pressures, with ongoing reductions in Government funding and increasing costs for services. At the start of the year the Council identified a budget shortfall of £316k for 2015/16. In identifying this shortfall the Council had already incorporated ongoing savings of £307k from our sharing of management and services with TDBC.
- Funding Settlement - The provisional funding settlement was announced on 18 December. This confirmed our funding has reduced significantly – although it was not quite as bad as previously projected as the Government have made a small step towards addressing funding disparity between rural and urban councils.
- Balancing the Budget -The Council is in the process of finalising the budget proposals. Financial position report presented at Scrutiny Committee 15 January. Cabinet due to recommend the proposed budget on 4 February. Council meets on 25 February to set its budget and council tax for next year.
- A range of budget ideas identified, saving £64,000. Aim to avoid impact on front line services, but some reduction in funding for community grants and AONB is included in the proposed savings. Grant funding for parishes towards impact of Council Tax Rebates on the Tax Base has now ceased, saving £87k. [Town and parish councils set local precepts without any limitation imposed by government.]
- Cabinet not yet indicated its proposed council tax for 2015/16. Any increase of 2% or more would require a referendum.

Based on current information (see Scrutiny report 15 Jan), have the potential to set a balanced budget for 15/16 – which is an important step regarding financial sustainability, subject to confirmation re elements to be finalised as highlighted above.

However, looking beyond next year we expect further reductions in government funding and cost increases, so will continue to be a big financial challenge in future years with a projected funding gap >£1m by 2020.

9 Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 14 April 2015 7pm Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

Monday 27 July 2015, 7pm Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton.

Tuesday 6 October 2015, 7pm Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

Date of Meeting	Agreed Action	Action Owner
26.1.15	Future Panel Meetings – SCC Highways rep will be available to discuss any specific Parish issues for 10 minutes before the start of the meeting.	David Peake (SCC)
26.1.15	SCC Highways to discuss potential signage improvements at Smiths Yard Lane with EDF. (near new roundabout). Request made for signage to be clearer on “no access to A39”. David Peake agreed to discuss with EDF.	David Peake (SCC)
26.1.15	Request Paul Hewitt (SCC) to update the Panel on the timings of broadband rollout.	Shirlene Adam (WSC)
26.1.15	Planning issues at solar park construction to be flagged to Bryn Kitching (Planning Mgr).	Shirlene Adam (WSC)
26.1.15	More info re roundabout at Washford and angles of approach. SCC Highways to respond to Phil Gannon	David Peake (SCC)
26.1.15	Contact details for new officer structure to be issued to Parish Councils	Shirlene Adam (WSC)