

## **DUNSTER PANEL - NOTES OF MEETING 13 OCTOBER 2014**

### **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 (Carhampton Parish Council)

Cllr Tony Motture (Crowcombe Parish Council)

Cllr Marilyn Crothers (Nettlecombe Parish Council)

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

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

Cllr Gordon Tizzard, (West Quantoxhead Parish Council)

Cllr John Fulwell (Withycombe Parish Council)

Shirlene Adam (West Somerset Council); Tony Murray (Magna Housing Assoc);

#### **Apologies Received:**

Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

#### **Welcome**

The meeting was opened by Cllr Trollope-Bellew.

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

Cllr Phil Gannon (Old Cleeve Parish Council) advised that the work underway to facilitate broadband was causing concerns locally. The teams appeared to be working “all hours” and noise issues had been reported to SCC Highways.

Cllr Margaret Smith (Old Cleeve Parish Council) had been asked by a local resident if there were any plans to demolish the public conveniences in Blue Anchor. Shirlene Adam (WSC) confirmed there were no plans to do this and that she would continue to chase for a response to issues flagged at the July meeting re condition survey.

Cllr Marilyn Crothers (Nettlecombe Parish Council) advised she was in discussions with SCC for new road signage to help with traffic issues in Roadwater (specifically HGVs who continue to proceed through unsuitable narrow roads).

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were noted from Ian Lidell-Grainger MP, Cllr Chris Oliver (Dunster Parish Council), Steve Eggar (Roadwater Village Trust), David Peake (SCC Highways); Chris Jones (Devon & Somerset Fire Service).

**3. Minutes of the Meeting Held 28 July 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2014 were accepted.

**4. Magna West Somerset Housing Association**

Tony Murray (Magna) presented his Annual Report to the Panel, emphasising the investment made in the properties within the Dunster Panel area.

The Panel discussed the work that had been done to implement affordable heating solutions and improve insulation – accepting that fuel poverty continues to be a major issue.

Tony advised that re-lettings continue to be prioritised for local people but that some of the more rural properties were becoming harder to let (affecting approximately half the villages in West Somerset area). Tony requested that Cllrs encourage residents in their area requiring housing to get on the Homefinder Register.

Tony and his team continue to do the neighbourhood walkabouts – covering all areas annually. Parish Councillors are invited to join and a schedule will be given to WSC for wider circulation.

There is less funding available to facilitate the development of new housing than in previous years. Magna has decided not to bid to Govt for the limited funding that is available nationally (due to business case viability and the challenge of letting at 80% of market rent). Magna do have a small amount of money available for development and will focus on delivering affordable housing via planning gain.

The Panel discussed the impact of recent welfare reform changes on the community.

Concerns were shared with Tony re redundant garages – and residents parking inappropriately on the highways. Magna are sighted on this issue and accept this is a “top” community issue.

Finally, Tony agreed to investigate an issue re standards of shrub maintenance in Minutes Close / Windsor Lane.

**5 Police Report**

No update received.

## 6. Highways Report

Copies of David Peake's (SCC) report were shared with the Panel – as repeated below. Photos of signage solutions were also shared.

### Planned Works in Dunster Panel Area

West Somerset House, Williton 13 October 2014

	Parish/Town	Location	Description	Start	Finish	Duration
<b>Completed</b>						
SCC	Old Cleeve	A39 Washford Inn Corner	Carriageway resurfacing.	Completed		
SCC	Stogumber	Slade Close	Footway resurfacing.	Completed		
SCC	West Somerset	Various	2014 carriageway surface dressing programme.	Completed		
<b>Ongoing</b>						
SCC	Old Cleeve	Old Mineral Line, Roadwater	Additional fencing at top of spillway. Works Order placed following Dunster Area Panel of 28 July.			
<b>Future</b>						
WW	Crowcombe	A358 Flaxpool	Water main replacement. Temporary traffic signals.	20 Oct	28 Nov	6 weeks
WW	Crowcombe	Station Road, Crowcombe Heathfield	Water main replacement. Temporary suspension of exit onto A358.	20 Oct	7 Nov	3 weeks
<b>Other</b>						
WW SCC 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.  Carriageway resurfacing.  Public exhibition at Dunster Tithe Barn 2pm to 8pm on Tuesday 28 October.			

EDF	Williton	A39/B3190 Washford Cross Roundabout	<p>Start delayed from originally planned September start date.</p> <p>Temporary road closure of B3190 north of the crossroads to facilitate construction.</p> <p>Following Dunster Area Panel of 28 July, site meeting held between representatives of EDF and the owners of "Tropiquaria" to discuss issues in relation to the construction operation adjacent to the animal park.</p>
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The Panel discussed the following areas of concern:-

- the number of accidents on the A39 at Washford (4 since last meeting of Panel). The accidents have not required police attendance, but have caused damage to vehicles and property.
- The road markings and blocked drains at Dragons Cross.
- The roundabout at Cannington flooding
- The rejection of a roundabout plan for Dragons Cross (claimed to be too steep) – but the new roundabout in Bridgwater appears to be equally steep.

Panel Members would raise any specific issues / questions directly with David after the meeting if necessary.

#### 7. **Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service**

Apologies – no update this meeting.

#### 8. **West Somerset Council Report**

Shirlene Adam updated the Panel on key areas as follows:

West Somerset Flood Group - This is a working group – driven by Parish Councils – with the ambition to collate the overall picture from all the various Parish Flood Plans in place. It has its initial meeting in September.

Blue Anchor Car Park - Old Cleeve Parish Council have reported concerns re the maintenance of Blue Anchor beach car park. West Somerset Council have revisited grass cuts to this area and a 4 yearly cut is now in place. Furthermore, there is some patching required to the car park which is under investigation.

Blue Anchor Cliff Issue - WSC have requested that the bid is resubmitted to Environment Agency Panel. Officers are progressing within approvals and aiming to get bid to EA very early in new year.

Church Street Public Conveniences – to confirm that following last quarters update – no approach was made by the Parish Council to reopen the facilities.

JMASS - Currently working through the final stage of "joining up" the officer arrangements. As reported last time – currently on track to deliver what we said we would deliver.

Budget Challenge For WSC - Despite the JMASS project the Council still has a difficult financial challenge ahead. The MTFP shows a predicted budget gap of £316k for next year and the Councillors are working on options for how to resolve this.

Allergen Information for Loose Foods - Advice on the new Food Information Regulations for small and medium food businesses – see link  
<http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/getattachment/Environment/Food-Safety/Food-Safety-Advice/Food-Allergen-Labeling/Allergen-Information-for-Loose-Foods.pdf.aspx>

Projects that can Utilise Food surplus - Somerset Community Food is developing an online resource for small-scale producers relating to 'local food surplus solutions'. The overall aim is to make surplus fresh fruit and veg available to people who need it or can use it productively. The resource will advise people with surplus fresh produce of local community/support groups/organisations across Somerset which could use surplus fresh produce e.g:

- To give away to people who need it
- To use themselves (e.g. in community kitchens, drop in centres etc)
- To raise funds for an organisation (e.g. local organisations who sell fruit and veg to raise money for activities)
- To barter?

Do you know of local groups and projects who accept produce contributions and may wish to be listed? Plus, when the on-line resource is at a point to be promoted, could you suggest any relevant local places where it could be advertised?

Somerset Community Food, is a grass-roots charity which aims to re-connect people with the social, health and environmental effects of growing, buying, preparing and eating local food. For more information E: [carolinelewis\\_ot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolinelewis_ot@yahoo.co.uk) or see Somerset Community Food website <http://www.somersetcommunityfood.org.uk/> and incredible edible link. <http://incredible-edible-somerset.ning.com/>

West Somerset Healthy Living Fair – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014 - Great success, nearly 150 people attended. Now considering organising a similar event next year to promote the health and wellbeing services which are provided by our voluntary and community sector in West Somerset.

All of the above have appeared in our 'West Somerset Community Matters Newsletter' over the last few weeks. We are looking at refreshing the newsletter and will be contacting parish/town councils to find out what they find useful and if there is anything they would like included. Research planned for this month/November.

G Tizzard requested an update on the land sale to Lidl in Minehead. The Panel were advised that surveys were underway and it was hoped this would be progressing soon.

Cllr Maitland-Walker queried why the item on Rhyns had been pulled from the Scrutiny forward plan. (Confirmed post meeting that this was still on the forward plan for discussion at the West Somerset Scrutiny meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014).

## **9 Dates of Future Meetings**

26 January 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices Williton

13 April 2015 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices Williton

The Panel were asked to consider agenda items for future meetings – with the two issues below being requested

- An update from the West Somerset Flood Group
- A written update on progress against the implementation plan for Broadband.