

## Minehead Area Panel

### Notes of meeting held on 10 December 2014 at The Avenue Methodist Church Hall, The Avenue, Minehead

#### Present:

Sandra Slade (Chair)	Resident
Penny James	Taunton Deane Borough Council & West Somerset Council
Cllr Maureen Smith	West Somerset Council & Transition Minehead & Alcombe
Cllr Andrew Hadley	West Somerset Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott	West Somerset Council
Cllr Christine Lawrence	Somerset County Council & Exmoor National Park Authority
Cllr Terry Venner	Somerset County Council
David Peake	Somerset County Council Area Highways
PC Mark Curran	Avon & Somerset Police
Tony Murray	Magna West Somerset
Pete Vallance	Co-op
Aileen Walters	Co-op
Graham Sizer	Minehead Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Burge	Minehead & District Social Club
Paul Ramsay-Read	Longbay Sea Power Ltd
Pam Hawkins	West Somerset Railway
Sue Lloyd	Resident
Andrew McCausland	Minehead Baptist Church
Sandra Coln	Resident
Colin Isherwood	Resident
Cath Isherwood	Resident
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

#### **1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

Sandra Slade welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Ron Blundell, Anne Clarke (Manor Road/Staunton Lane Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator), Diane Partridge, Cllr Gail Herbert (Minehead Town Council), Cllr Marcus Kravis (Minehead Town Council), Cllr David Sanders (Minehead Town Council), Sue Sanders (Minehead Town Council), Cllr Roger Thomas (Minehead Town Council), Jenny Lennon-Wood (Minehead Development Trust), Sian Perry (Pubwatch), Cynthia Stevens

#### **2. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns**

Sandra advised the meeting that following a request made by Anne Clarke, Manor Road/Staunton Lane Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, for a larger sign (bridleway and speed restriction) to be put at the entrance to Alcombe Combe, thanks had been received from Anne Clarke for the sign, which unfortunately, was not having the desired effect of slowing the traffic.

Thanks had also been received from Ron Blundell for the comprehensive minutes of the last meeting. He felt that the Area Panel was a good public forum for the raising of local issues.

A number of issues had been received for Have Your Say, as follows:

- (a) *Sandra read out a question raised by Diane Partridge regarding when work would be carried out to the stream at the junction of Staunton Lane and Manor Road. It was Diane's understanding from a previous Panel meeting that funds had been made available in two tranches for work to be carried out on the sheepdig to stop the flooding of Lower Manor Road and Combeland Road. The work done earlier in the year had been completely obliterated as the saplings rooted in the stream and not removed had been re-growing for several months. Debris and vegetation would now wash down and block the grills, with the resultant water overflowing the walls, rushing down the road and entering the houses further down.*

*Diane was aware that drainage work was planned for this area of road from 5 January, but had not been able to ascertain any details, ie, whether it meant work on the drains rather than the stream. She suggested that perhaps the two areas of work could be combined to save money.*

Peter Owen, Assistant Highway Service Manager for Somerset County Council West Somerset Highways Area, had responded to say that the work on the Sheepdig would be undertaken within the current financial year and David Peake advised that had phoned Diane to appraise her of the situation.

- (b) *Sandra read out a question raised by Diane Partridge asking why the street lights were on 24 hours a day for several weeks in Manor Road and Church Street, even after the County Council were notified.*

Richard Bishop, Assistant Highway Lighting Engineer, had responded to say that the faulty street lights in Manor Road and Church Street had now been resolved. The units had been day burning due to an intermittent Western Power Distribution supply fault causing the normally switched supply cable to become permanently live. This had been reported to Western Power Distribution on 4 September and, following an initial repair, it had been reported again on 2 October 2014. Richard confirmed that Somerset County Council would not be charged for any additional energy whilst the lights were on 24 hours during the fault period.

- (c) *Maureen Smith was concerned with the amount of litter on the path leading from Morrisons to the West Somerset Railway and had noted that there were no bins along the path itself.*

Mandy Chilcott advised that she had spoken to West Somerset Council and if a bin was not being used very much elsewhere it could possibly be re-located to the path.

- (d) *Maureen also pointed out that at the West Somerset Railway end of the path there was a bike sign only, but further up the path there was a bike and pedestrian sign.*

David Peake stated that there should be shared signs along the path. However, the path had not yet been adopted; once it had been adopted the signs would be changed to shared signs.

- (e) *Andrew McCausland raised the issue of parking in Watery Lane (by St Michaels First School) on Sundays as several parishioners had received fines. There had not been a problem with parking in this area on Sundays before and the new signage had been found to be confusing. Fortunately, Somerset County Council had acknowledged the poor signage and the fines had been cancelled/refunded.*

David Peake said that the Traffic Regulation Order for the area needed to be looked into and the signs/lines returned to how they should be, as per the Order. Until this occurred he advised drivers not to park in the area on a Sunday.

**ACTION: David Peake to arrange for the Traffic Regulation Order for Watery Lane (specifically near St Michael's School) to be looked into regarding lines and signage.**

Terry Venner added that throughout Minehead there were un-corresponding signs and lines and that Gary Warren, Traffic Engineer for Minehead, had told him that this was to be reviewed in 2015.

### **3. The Annual Magna Report – Tony Murray, Director, Magna West Somerset**

Tony Murray spoke to the Annual Magna West Somerset report which had been circulated with the minutes. He reported that the housing stock had increased this year with 33 new homes in Alcombe. There were 540 Magna homes in Minehead/Alcombe, which equated to 23% of the Magna West Somerset housing stock. There was a huge demand for affordable housing. 62 properties had been let in 2013 and 35 to date in 2014, using Somerset Homefinder Choice Based Lettings Scheme.

£4.3million was spent on maintenance. In 2015 all properties in Minehead and Alcombe were to be externally decorated plus guttering repaired as part of their five yearly painting programme.

Unfortunately, since 2012 the Government grant 2015-2018 for house building has reduced from 50% of the cost of building a new home to 25%. To obtain the extra finance for building Magna could either increase rent and/or sell houses. They used to re-finance/invest monies but it was not a good time to do this. Nine one-bed flats were to be built in Ellcombe using planning gain money. They would be let out at 60% of the market rent. Usually, any new homes built had to be let at 80% of the market rent.

Andrew Hadley asked if Magna were looking yet at the proposed development on land at Hopcott Road. Tony replied that they were not yet looking at this site. There were other housing associations operating in Minehead – Knightstone and Vulcan Rural – who may be considering this site.

20-30 new homes could be built with development monies over the next few years. It was hoped that a new Government would assist with the building of new dwellings.

Welfare reform changes commenced in 2012. In 2015 there would be the roll-out of Universal Credit, which would affect single working age claimants.

Garage sites may have development potential, but they were found to be not economically viable to build on so Magna were now looking to sell the sites. The monies gained could be used to reduce Magna's debts of £55 million or to finance building schemes. There were nine garage sites in Minehead and 30 overall in West Somerset. Sites in Watchet and Williton had already had planning permission as building plots.

Tony was asked if Magna were allowed to buy properties on the open market. Tony replied that Magna could buy open market properties and that there used to be a grant available for this from the Government, but this was no more.

Maureen Smith informed the meeting that she was involved in trying to set up a Community Land Trust in order to help people come together to buy land. At the moment it was being set up as a legal entity so that they would be ready for any

opportunities available such as monies for a self-build property. A similar scheme had been set up for the development of new homes at Townsend Farm, Carhampton. Another example was an old shop site in East Reach, Taunton, which was being refurbished by a Taunton Community Land Trust - they would be having an open day on 19 December.

Tony advised that Magna were looking to make better use of their current housing stock and in this regard there was an incentive scheme to encourage single people to move to smaller properties. Monies from EDF Energy were being used to employ a person to run this incentive scheme. Magna received high levels of customer satisfaction and on an annual basis ran walkabouts to which councillors, the police, etc. were invited. The future walkabouts in the Minehead Area Panel area were Cuckoo Meadow on 17 February and Seaward Way on 17 March.

The issue of dropped kerbs at Magna properties was raised, following its mention at the last Minehead Area Panel meeting. Tony informed the meeting that pre 2002 £4 per week was charged on someone's rent if a dropped kerb was put in at their property. This charge was no longer made. Hardstandings for cars were not installed by Magna as part of the dropped kerb development and tenants needed to seek permission from Magna to put in hardstandings. Sandra felt that as the roads (eg Hayfield Road) were very narrow tenants should be encouraged to put in dropped kerbs and hardstandings to get cars off the roads/pavements and allow access by emergency vehicles as well as better use of pavements by pedestrians.

Tony agreed that access was a big problem and appreciated Sandra's argument, but stated that safety issues and land availability also needed to be looked at. Terry Venner said that The Environment Agency were reluctant for hardstandings to be created due to the possible resultant increase of water on the highway.

Sandra thanked Tony for this year's annual Magna report.

#### **4. Business in the Community Health High Street Campaign – Pete Vallance, The Co-op**

Pete reported that the Community Health High Street Campaign had been set up by Prince Charles, following Lady Porta's 27 recommendations, including the need for brand chains to get involved in the community. Four businesses were involved – Santander, Boots, the Co-op and Marks and Spencer; three of whom had outlets in Minehead. The Minehead Vision Group had applied for the scheme to come to Minehead and they were now in the second quarter of the project in Minehead. There was the potential for Minehead to affect change with national businesses giving support to the community. Three areas were being focussed on:

- 1 How to increase footfall.
- 2 How to boost pride
- 3 How to reduce the number of empty shops

An example of a national company getting involved in the community could be seen with Santander (and Lloyds Bank) working with Engage on the Pumpkin Festival and match-funding the money made.

In respect of footfall, Pete was pleased to announce that although it had decreased in Minehead between July and September, it had had gone down less than the national average of 2.5%. Cameras had been set up by Boots and the Co-op with the sole purpose of counting people.

The opening hours of the businesses was being looked at, particularly with the introduction of the 'click and collect' service, which enabled people to collect their

online purchases from a chain store rather than from the Royal Mail sorting office, with its often reduced hours.

The problem of unattractive empty shops was being looked into and also the stores of national chains looking untidy.

With the four brands showcasing their efforts, other known businesses were getting involved – for instance, Barclays Bank, was getting more engaged in the Campaign.

Pete reported that the business voice for Minehead was the Chamber of Commerce and Santander, Boots and the Co-op had now become members of the Chamber. Graham Sizer, chair of the Chamber of Commerce, had been sceptical that the nationals would get involved in the Chamber and local activities, but now felt confident that Santander, Boots and the Co-op would get involved, and, as such the manager and staff of 'big' shops needed to be kept informed of what was happening locally. The meeting felt that the thermal calendar on the Visit Exmoor website, which would be going live imminently, could be used for this purpose, with organisers of all events being able to add details. In addition it was noted that staff levels needed to be increased for local events as well as national days, such as Mother's Day. Also perhaps car parking trends would be useful to businesses in determining the number of people in the town.

Terry Venner expressed the view that parking on Sundays should be provided free of charge in the car parks.

Mark Curran asked whether, as Spar was owned by the Co-op, whether there were any plans for the closed Spar in Alcombe. Pete advised that the Co-op did wish to do something with the building.

Mandy Chilcott expressed disappointment in the windows of WH Smith. She would like to see what was inside the shop and for the windows to be more cheerful.

Paul Ramsay-Read advised that the independent businesses in the town were not suffering and were working together. Pete asked that the independents provide evidence of footfall and the number of transactions being carried out to the Chamber of Commerce.

Sandra thanked Pete for his interesting and informative talk.

## **5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 September 2014**

Sue Lloyd advised that on page 10 point (e) 'Quay Lane' was incorrect and should have read as 'Quay Street'. Subject to this correction, the minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **Matters Arising**

*Item 3 – PC Mark Curran to arrange for Porlock Road at Woodcombe, near the camp site and Bratton Straight to be assessed for speed gun work by the Police and to look into the lack of speeding complaints for the Woodcombe area on the website: Mark advised that speed gun work tended to be concentrated on Seaward Way at the present time.*

Sandra advised that the proposed speed indicator device installation dates for Minehead for 2015 were as follows:

- A39 Alcombe – weeks commencing 20 April and 10 August.
- The Parks (Woodcombe) – weeks commencing 20 April and 10 August.

- The Parks (towards the town centre) – weeks commencing 4 May and 24 August.

If any of the above dates were not suitable to please let Minehead Town Council know so that they can advise Somerset County Council accordingly.

*Item 4(b) – Mandy Chilcott/Penny James to check on the ownership of the flowerbed below the bench on the bend between Gladstone Terrace and Alcombe Road:* Mandy stated that the land was owned by Somerset County Council and Terry Venner advised that Minehead Town Council would be tidying it up and undertaking litter picking in the Spring.

*Item 4(g) – Sandra Slade to write to the West Somerset College Board of Governors asking them to approach Peter Lewis, Director of Children Services at Somerset County Council for assistance:* Sandra said that this had been done and no reply had been received. Christine Lawrence advised that Peter Lewis was no longer in the post and Mandy Chilcott added that the situation at the College had moved on.

## **6. Minehead Vision Group – an update**

A report had been prepared by Corinne Matthews, Regeneration & Tourism Manager with West Somerset Council, which Sandra read out, as follows:

- The Annual Meeting was held in October where Cllr Roger Thomas (Minehead Town Council) was appointed as Chair, Cllr Mandy Chilcott as Vice Chair and Brenda Maitland-Walker as Secretary.
- Unfortunately Minehead Town Council had recently voted on a motion of ‘no confidence’ in the Minehead Vision Group and therefore rigorous steps were being taken to address those issues and resolve the Town Council’s concerns with the Minehead Vision Group.
- Minehead Vision Group continued to have regular oversight of the work of the Minehead Vision Manager, Minehead Development Trust, the Minehead Events Group and the Minehead Information Centre. It was also working very hard to support applications for the residual of the Morrison’s S106 funding.

## **7. Minehead Development Trust – an update**

A report had been prepared by Jenny Lennon-Wood, which was read out in her absence by Sandra Slade, as follows:

### **Update on Minehead Development Trust (MDT)’s key aim, the creation of a community hub in Minehead’s Old Hospital:**

- As the owners, NHS Property Services Ltd, failed to sell the site within the one-year Protected Period, the Old Hospital was re-registered as an Asset of Community Value on 18 August 2014.
- MDT submitted an Expression of Interest on 16 September and had until 1 March 2015 to submit a bid.
- Adrian Dyer (retired WSC Chief Executive) and the MDT Board were working on the business plan, drawing upon information from the Options Appraisal, Pre-Feasibility Study, draft bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Asset Opportunity Workshop; the aim was to submit the draft business plan to a potential funder in December.
- A Project Enquiry Form was also being drafted as the first stage of bidding for Heritage Enterprise funding.
- The Project’s focus was now “The creation of a heritage, culture and community hub in Minehead”, using the Old Hospital as the obvious location for the hub rather than prioritising saving the building.

- The business plan needed to demonstrate the social and economic 'sense' of the project and its relevance to the community, so the Board were seeking the support of Minehead Town Council (MTC), West Somerset Council (WSC), Somerset County Council (SCC) and other key stakeholders. To this end Adrian Dyer had presented the outline business plan to WSC's Corporate Policy Action Group on 29 October and to Minehead Town Council on 18 November. The next step would be to approach SCC and seek more detailed discussions with all three Councils.
- Completion of the business plan would provide an opportunity to publicise the project widely through the media and re-launch the community funding pledges campaign.

**MDT was also responsible for running the Minehead Information Centre (MIC):**

- MIC's first season in its new location had gone well, with considerably increased footfall and positive customer feedback. Partnership with the Beach Hotel and Minehead Museum was proving to be a great asset to the town. The Centre was now operating on reduced Winter hours but preparation for the next season continued behind the scenes.

**Minehead Vision Manager:**

- In addition to the Old Hospital project and MIC, MDT hosted and line managed the Minehead Vision Manager and Admin Assistant posts to deliver the Minehead Vision Group's Action Plan.

Maureen Smith added that MDT were also responsible for the work being undertaken to restore Clanville Gardens, and to this end had secured a grant for the design of the site.

**8. Police Report**

PC Mark Curran reported that crime was exceptionally low at the current time. At recent Butlins adult/music weekends there had been no issues and at the Madness weekend there had been only one phone call to the Police, which turned out to be a family dispute not a Police issue.

A police station and custody suite would be retained in Minehead although it was not yet known where these would be located. The Minehead Police Station would link with the Wellington Police Station in April.

A member of the public stated that two vehicles had been broken into in North Road. Mark was not aware of this but felt they would have been instances of opportunist crime rather than part of a pattern or series of crimes.

Graham Sizer said that there had been windows broken within the town. Mark replied that the offenders had been identified via CCTV, but were not locals and not deemed to be visitors at Butlins due to the late time the crime was committed. He did not feel that there was a pattern to the crime.

As reported in the local media, 17 cannabis plants had been found in Minehead. The offender had been caught.

Mark further advised that extra Police would be on duty for the Butlins Weekends. Drivers were being tested for drink driving on Monday mornings and all to date had successfully passed.

It was noted that approximately 90 people had been caught speeding on the A39 at Carhampton in one day, although the location where the mobile speed camera was positioned was not seen to be an area of risk.

A member of the public stated that the traffic was terrible along Townsend Road on weekdays and asked whether a crossing could be installed for Minehead Middle School. Sandra advised that in the past she had written to the School and Somerset County Council regarding the need for a crossing but to no avail. The road was very wide opposite Minehead Middle School and the reception building now being located on Townsend Road rather than Ponsford Road had exacerbated the traffic problem. David Peake advised that such a project could be put forward as a bid by a County Councillor to the Somerset County Council's 'Small Improvement Scheme' funding pot, which was currently the case with a proposed crossing at Bircham Road.

## **9. Burning Issues**

Chris Jones of the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report which Sandra read out, as follows:

### **Operational News**

- Minehead Crews attended 41 operational calls during the last quarter. These included six road traffic collisions, nine property fires, most of which were cooking or electrical related, several special service calls to assist other agencies including a carbon monoxide incident, a fuel spillage and an animal rescue. Crews also attended a small number of domestic smoke alarm calls.
- There were two cases of deliberately ignited fires during the last quarter in the Minehead area. These involved rubbish in a street bin and undergrowth in a wooded area.
- Owners of properties with log fires and log burners continued to be encouraged to be prepared and have their chimneys swept before using them.

### **Community Safety News and Activities**

- Road safety advice was delivered at the recent Minehead Christmas light event on 6 December.
- Drink drive messages were delivered in partnership with the Police, Somerset County Council Road Safety and Ambulance teams and experienced lots of positive engagement with the general public.
- Also, 6 December provided a good opportunity to remind people of the hazards when driving in and around flood water (please see attached leaflet)

### **Christmas Community Safety**

Fire statistics show that in December, 20 people a day were either killed or injured in accidental fires in the home in England. In December 2013 there were around 2,700 accidental fires in homes across England – more than any other month of the year.

While fire safety was important throughout the year, the extra distractions of Christmas made it especially important to be vigilant during the festive season, as follows:

it is especially important to be vigilant during the festive season, as follows:

- Ensure you have working smoke alarms installed on all levels of your home.
- Never leave cooking unattended. The majority of fires start in the kitchen so this is a high risk area.
- Never leave burning candles unattended. Keep candles out of reach of children and away from decorations, cards and wrapping paper, fires, lights and heaters.
- Put your cigarette out, right out. Make sure your cigarette is fully extinguished and take care when under the influence of alcohol or tired.



- Don't overload sockets. Ensure only one plug per socket. Always turn off plugs when they are not in use, except those that are designed to be left on, like freezers.
- Ensure you switch off fairy lights and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house. Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard (BS EN 60598) and are in good working order before use.
- Make sure that everyone in your home knows what to do in a fire – in the event of fire you should get out, stay out and call 999.
- Do something good this Christmas. Test the smoke alarms of someone you know who may need help such as an older relative or neighbour to ensure their safety as they are at greater risk from fire.

## 10. **Town Council Update**

No-one was available from Minehead Town Council to provide an update.

## 11. **District Council Update**

Penny James reported the following:

### **Street Signs**

There was currently a backlog of street signs to be replaced/renewed which the Council were currently trying to work through. Last week nine street signs were installed in and around Minehead. One had been installed in a slightly wrong location and this was to be rectified as soon as possible.

### **Blenheim Gardens**

There had been a few operational changes recently which had seen improvements to Blenheim Gardens. The staff had been working hard to improve the site as well as plant out the flower beds with 4,500 annual bedding plants and 1,700 bulbs. The standard of the Gardens had improved so much that the Council were hoping to enter Blenheim Gardens for a Green Flag award in 2015.

The Grounds staff had also been working hard carrying out water course clearance works around the District.

### **The Rhynes**

The condition and maintenance of the rhynes in and around Minehead had been a concern for local residents and councillors for some time. On 1 December a report was presented to WSC's Scrutiny Committee which detailed the condition of the rhynes and identified riparian ownership of different areas of the rhynes, including those where the ownership needed further investigation. The report clearly stated what the Council were doing to maintain the rhynes and what further steps were required. Funding was also broached, including asking for an increase in the budget.

The report was well received by the Scrutiny Committee. Councillors Richard Lillis and Mandy Chilcott (who both represent Minehead Central Ward) and Cllr Martin Dewdney (who represents Old Cleeve Ward) had asked if they could become more involved and suggested setting up a working group. Cllr Mandy Chilcott and former County Councillor Brenda Maitland-Walker had requested a tour of the Butlins moat which the rhynes flow into and had additionally requested that WSC's Technical Officer, Keith Richards, joins them. Butlins to date had not confirmed a date.

Further WSC updates were available, as follows:

### **Public Conveniences**

Blenheim Gardens public conveniences and the main ladies and gents facilities at the Carousel public conveniences on Warren Road were closed for the Winter on

Monday, 27 October 2014 and will re-open on Monday, 30 March 2014. The two unisex public conveniences at Carousel remain open.

### **Woodcombe Pond**

The Council had some issues with this pond where it had become stagnant as the original dam was not operating correctly. It had now been re-dammed to raise the water up so that it would run back into the pond and the pipe that feeds fresh water into the pond from the stream had been cleared. Hopefully this should now run smoothly.

### **North Road Car Park**

A streetlight had been damaged in this car park and cordoned off and made safe. A quote was being sought for a replacement.

### **Works at Minehead Harbour**

The harbour shelter and harbour master's office/fishing tackle kiosk had been redecorated. A replacement metal galvanised post had been fitted next to the fishing tackle kiosk to prevent vehicles accessing the harbour. A new notice board had been installed at the harbour and a new sign installed on the harbour master's office. Some small repairs to the harbour wall had been completed.

## **12. County Council Update**

Christine Lawrence reported the following:

- The Environment Agency and Somerset County Council had met in October to discuss flooding. A flooding plan needed to be put in place for Minehead and a draft document would be presented to the people of Minehead in early 2015, with the intention for it to be adopted in the Spring. Minehead Town Council staff would take the lead in the event of flooding.
- Townwatch – the combined Shopwatch and Pubwatch schemes – is very successful. Sian Perry and Richard Lillis had been distributing radios and virtually all the retail outlets had got one. Training on the use of the radios would take place in January/February 2015.

A member of the public expressed concern that the adult weekends meant low police coverage for the rest of the town. This concern had been raised at a local Pubwatch meeting and they would be putting this issue in writing to the Police.

Mark Curran agreed and explained that door staff at Stones and The Duke of Wellington attended the Hairy Dog to assist with an issue during the recent Butlins Madness weekend (when there were 5,500 people at Butlins) as there was only one police officer in the town.

## **13. Highway Matters**

David Peake reported the following

### **Completed Highway Works:**

Carriageway resurfacing at Park Street, Minehead.  
Replacement of road gullies at Staunton Road, Alcombe.  
Drainage work at Glebelands, Minehead.  
Footway resurfacing at Glebelands, Minehead.

### **Future Highway Works:**

- Construction of concrete channel at the top end of Staunton Lane in Alcombe would take place from 5 to 23 January with a temporary road closure.
- Installation of a pedestrian handrail at Hopcott Close would take place over one week in January.

- Drainage work at Ellicombe Cross in Alcombe would take place over two weeks in March with a temporary road closure.
- Relaying kerbs and carriageway patching on Porlock Road would take place over one week in March.
- Water main renewal, footway improvements, traffic signal system upgrading, highway works in relation to new doctor's surgery and carriageway resurfacing on A396 West Street and Church Street, Dunster would take place from 5 January to 31 March with a temporary road closure.
- Phase 1 – vegetation clearance along Manor Road, Alcombe was carried out in March 2014. Phase 2 – silt removal from pond upstream of bridge, installation of new trash screen on bridge and installation of new trash screen on mouth of first culvert downstream of bridge along Manor Road, Alcombe was planned for March 2015.
- Construction of a new roundabout on the A39 and B3190 junction at Washford Cross. Enabling works were currently underway at the A39 Long Street and B3191 North Street junction in Williton and the B3190 and B3191 Five Bells junction in Watchet. No works would be undertaken over the Christmas period and would re-commence in the new year. The plan was to re-open the roads for the summer holidays next year, with work re-commencing again in September (with the diversions back in place) to complete the job before Christmas 2015. There would be four or five 'Big Weekends' (closure of B3190 south of the junction) from April 2015 onwards.

It was noted that the works for the Washford Cross roundabout would take longer than originally planned as the A39 route would be unobstructed for a two-way flow throughout the works. The Watchet road would be shut, apart from in the Summer period when work would be suspended.

David also read out a list of Road Traffic Orders which had been issued by SCC. These RTOs were all in their consultation period.

- Bancks Street – from junction with The Parade, introducing no waiting and no loading between 8am and 6pm. Signs up to the limited waiting bay (new signage).
- Orchard Road – double yellow lines from the junction with Church Road/Orchard Road for 10 metres both sides of the road (new signage).
- Trinity Way/Seaward Way – at the junction with Trinity Way and Seaward Way 'keep clear' signs on two carriageways to the entrance and exit of the Trinity Way estate.
- Holloway Street – one way road – one single yellow line from the bottom of Holloway Street on the right hand side to join with the double yellow lines at the junction with Clanville Road.
- Selbourne Place – the removal of a single yellow line at the junction of Selbourne Place and Bampton Street. Remove single yellow line outside properties numbered 1A to 13 and remove signage.
- Mart Road Industrial Estate – give way sign at the junction of Brunel Way outside Webber Bus Depot and Minehead Kitchens.
- Tregonwell Road – double yellow lines at the junction of Irnham Road outside properties Kenella House and Rosemary Lodge.
- Glenmore Road and Station Terrace – yellow lines drawn but no stops at the end of lines to denote end of 'no parking' area.
- Tythings Court – double yellow lines at the entrance and exit of Tythings Court.
- North Road – no yellow lines between Blenheim Gardens entrance and the corner of Blenheim Road even though there are parking regulations in place.
- Bampton Street – two parking bays opposite Bampton Court (30 minutes waiting period) 8am to 6pm, plus two parking bays off Park Terrace between 8am and 6pm.

- Church Street and Manor Road, Alcombe – double yellow lines for 10 metres from the junction of Quarry Close towards the Britannia Inn and double yellow lines at the junction of Church Street and Manor Road.
- Bernard Crescent – to extend the single yellow lines at the entrance to Bernard Crescent for 10 metres on one side of the Crescent.
- Cedars off Watery Lane – to apply for single yellow line around the estate, ‘no parking’ between 8am and 6pm, plus correct signage.

Terry Venner advised that any proposals for Road Traffic Orders could be sent to him for consideration by Minehead Town Council before going to SCC Highways.

Christine Lawrence advised that she had just been to a residents meeting at Ellicombe Meadow with Strongvox (developers). There were problems with the construction works, such as mud on the road.

Christine further advised that during the three-month road closure for roadworks on the A396 through Dunster, Dr Kelham would be running two surgeries – his usual surgery at Mill Street would remain open for patients on the Timberscombe side, whilst a temporary surgery at Dunster Tith Barn (with parking) would operate for those unable to get through the roadworks, ie patients in Carhampton, Dunster Marsh, etc.

The school buses would continue to run and West Somerset Council were being asked for free parking for three months in The Steep car park so that parents could park there and ‘crocodile’ walk the children to Dunster School.

Christine informed the meeting that many people were in favour of the proposed pedestrian crossing at Bircham Road, including Minehead Town Council, West Somerset College and the Minehead Area Panel. WSC officer, Angela Summers, would be looking into the possibility of using S106 monies as £100,000 was required.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

##### **Minehead Museum**

Sue Lloyd reported that Minehead Museum had received 6,000 visitors since April 2014. It was now in ‘hibernation’ for the Winter.

##### **Non-attractive Roundabouts**

A member of the public asked why the five roundabouts in Minehead were lacking in floral displays. Was sponsorship being sought? Terry Venner responded in that Minehead Town Council had taken over four of the roundabouts and grassed them over. Six or seven businesses had come forward interested in sponsoring the presentation of the roundabouts.

Mark Curran asked whether allotment groups could get involved to work on the roundabouts. However, Mandy Chilcott advised that a licence was required to work alongside a highway.

Apparently sedum was to be considered for the Washford Cross roundabout.

##### **Lidl**

A member of the public asked what the state of play was regarding Lidl coming to Minehead. It was noted that soil sampling on the site was taking place at the moment. Mandy Chicott stated that the sale of the land was not yet complete and once it was planning permission would then need to be sought.

**15. Date & Venue of Future Meetings**

**Future meeting to be held on:**

Wednesday, 11 March 2015 at St Michael the Archangel Church Hall, Quarry Close, Alcombe at 6.30pm.

The Panel agreed that they would like the Minehead Area Panel meetings to continue to take place in different venues in Minehead, so the Panel will tour again in 2015.