

## Williton, Watchet & Quantocks Area Panel

### Notes of Meeting held on 11 June 2013

at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton, at 7.00 pm

#### Present

E May (WSC); D Talling (Holford PC); J Sansom (West Quantoxhead PC); J Koch (Williton PC); J Richards (WACET); G S Dowding (WSC); D Westcott (WSC); A Knight (WSC); A Dyer (WSC); J Foster (Watchet Town Warden); R Newby (SCC Highways); G Austin-Thompson (DSFRS); Z Manu and Sue Thompson (Avon and Somerset Police)

#### **1. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns and** **5. Police Report**

- Detection rate 50%
- Current issues – Badger Cull
- Regular patrols in car parks on the Quantocks
- Post Office robbery in Watchet was the only serious crime
- Stogumber Beer Festival / Watchet Carnival on radar
- Explanation on new management arrangements provided by Police representatives and confirmed by CEO following meeting with Chief Superintendent and new Chief Constable.

#### **2. Election of Chairman**

Agreed that Councillor E May would be elected Chairman of the Watchet, Williton and Quantocks Area Panel for the ensuing twelve month period.

#### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from C Morgan (WSC); S Goss (WSC); H Davies (WSC); D Peake (SCC Highways); V Boxall (Stogursey PC); S de Renzy-Martin (Watchet TC); L Whetlor (Watchet TC) and G Bigwood (Williton PC).

#### **4. Notes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2013 and Matters Arising**

The notes of the meeting held on 19 March 2013 were confirmed as a correct record. No matters arising.

#### **6. Highways Report**

Richard Newby reported on the planned works in the Watchet, Williton and Quantocks Panel area and a list of completed on-going and future works is attached at Appendix A.

The following was also reported on:

- Withycombe straight would be resurfaced
- Emergency Routes Scheme – an exhibition would be held at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross on 19 June 2013 between 4pm and 8pm and relevant papers would possibly be included in the Community Matters newsletter

- A question was asked concerning how much of Long Street, Williton would be closed
- A placing of a new barrier on the corner opposite the Co-op would go ahead with a contribution from Williton Parish Council

The Chairman expressed a vote of thanks to Richard Newby for his assistance to the area, as he would be relocating to the Bridgwater area office.

## 7. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service

Garry Austin-Thompson advised that changes were being implemented to the Fire and Rescue Service but the local front line services should not be affected. He further reported on the following projects:

- 1) Promote lighting improvements for children crossing outside Danesfield School
- 2) Road safety between Washford and Withycombe straight, and at Halsway Hill
- 3) Create database of thatched roof properties

## 8. West Somerset Council

Adrian Dyer reported on the following:

**Watchet Public Conveniences** – work had now been completed to refurbish the Harbour Road public convenience to bring it up to modern standards. This was a joint project with the Town Council.

**Watchet Esplanade** –

- An order had been raised to repair the slabs on the Esplanade at the Harbour Road entrance.
- The installation of 6 lanterns would hopefully commence Thursday 13 June and would be a mixture of replacing old lanterns and installing new ones, where they had been previously removed.

**Blue Anchor Hotel Coast Protection Scheme** – following works in Bridgwater to repair a partial collapse of a wall adjacent to the River Parrett, it had been possible to obtain approximately 75 of the gabion baskets that were necessary in the initial repairs. The intention was to reuse them to provide additional protection at the base of the cliff at Blue Anchor subject to obtaining the necessary approvals and funding. These gabions had been installed at the Watchet end of Blue Anchor on the car parking area. Meanwhile work was on-going to pull together plans, grant applications and cost estimates for a proposed coast protection scheme.

**Goviers Lane Crossing** – the scheme had been nominated for an Institute of Civil Engineers partnership award and the announcement of the successful submission would be made on 28 June.

**Future of Panels** – the level of satisfaction had gone down from 75% in 2010 to 43% in 2012. Comments from four parish councils had been received and it was agreed to report back to a future Panel meeting following consideration of the issue at a meeting of the Council's Corporate Policy Advisory Group.

**Hinkley Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Consultation** – the NDA (a Government agency responsible for the decommissioning of the civil nuclear power stations in the UK) were currently consulting on options for the interim storage of

Intermediate Level Nuclear Waste. Currently waste from Hinkley Point A is stored at Hinkley Point A and of the eight options being considered by the NDA, seven of them would continue to see waste from Hinkley being stored at Hinkley. However, one of the options involved waste from Dungeness A on the south coast being transported into and stored at Hinkley Point A.

In addition to the future storage of waste, the NDA was also consulting on the treatment and storage of Fuel Element Debris (FED) (essentially the used casing around the fuel rods). Currently FED from Hinkley A was treated (a process called dissolution) and then stored at Hinkley A. Of the nine options being considered by the NDA four would see FED from elsewhere being transported to, treated and stored at Hinkley A. The options being considered for FED may see waste from Sizewell A in Suffolk and Oldbury in Gloucestershire being brought to Hinkley Point A.

The consultation period for comments had been extended to 30 June 2013. The Council would be considering its response at its full Council meeting on 26 June – the Council's Cabinet had recommended to full Council that West Somerset objects strongly to the concept of waste from elsewhere being transported to, treated and stored at Hinkley Point A.

Stogursey, Kilve and Williton Parish Council had all written in support of the Council's recommendations and would object.

**East Wharf** – positive meetings had been held at the end of May between Urban Splash, the Marina Operator, West Somerset Council and the Onion Collective. Urban Splash had produced a viable scheme that would form the basis of further discussions over the next two weeks. It was still intended to produce a report to full Council in August.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

17 September 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton