

# **Annual Report 2019/20**

## **Report of Councillor Chris Booth - Community**

Thank you to all councillors who have been supportive to me in this role. I've tried to be as informative as possible through the year and I hope you've all enjoyed your first year on Somerset West & Taunton Council albeit as we enter a very strange period ahead.

Here are a number of successes and updates from the year:

### **Health, Wellbeing and Equality**

- We were very happy to once again support the CABs in Taunton and Minehead to the sum of £33K which included £8K alongside all the other districts and the County Council to pay for a consultant to help the CABs around Somerset find ways to progress financially. We are back filling the managers one day per week to help them engage with the process.
- We are continuing to fund all receivers of voluntary and community grants from 19/20 without any cuts.
- The Fit for my Future Consultation which was developed between Somerset County Council, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and Somerset NHS Partnership, is currently open to public consultation on how care across Somerset will work going forward and urge all members to have their say but please let me know of any comments you wish me to submit on behalf of this council.
- Adopted the International Definition on Anti-Semitism
- Renewed our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant
- Approved Corporate Equality Objectives 2019 -23 and action plan to deliver against these

### **Somerset West Lottery**

Somerset West Lottery has 84 live Good Causes and 525 players with each player buying two tickets on average. The amount raised since its launch in 2017 is £171,889.00 with a projected revenue for 2020 of £52,104.00

We also provide a SWL Community Grant via the Somerset Community Foundation where local groups/organisations can bid for up to £1000 in two windows throughout the year. The latest round closed on 20th March and the next one will reopen on 12th October.

### **Localities**

Our locality teams have provided incredibly important support to communities, parish councils and members. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and proactive community projects, from the Art Reminiscence Project in North Taunton to tackling consistent fly tipping in Halcon.

Our One Teams continue to meet in their various forms in North Taunton. East Taunton and Wellington and are essential in leading community engagements and events in some of our most deprived areas in the district. We will work hard to make sure this continues.

### **Skills Up West Somerset**

We have provided staff and admin time to maintain this important service to support apprenticeships, skilling up and providing routes in work in West Somerset.

### **Going Forward**

- Working with the CCG, we are looking to develop our own district health and wellbeing board which will play into the CCG's Neighbourhoods Programme. More information will follow on this as we discuss options and feasibility and continue to build the theme of health and wellbeing.
- Public Space Protection Order - to come through democratic process.
- Seek to increase emergency shelter provision for rough sleepers.
- Develop CCTV Programme - This is a difficult situation as we not only attempt to conjoin the two systems from the previous district areas but we also need to fix a number of cameras in West Somerset, predominantly in Watchet. Currently none in Watchet work while there are also some not working in Minehead. Officers are currently trying to find the best quote to get the cameras in Watchet and potentially some of Minehead cameras back online in the short-term. Going forward across the whole district area, I would then hope we could gradually move our cameras over to wireless, this saving line rental costs. We also need to consider the future of who administers our cameras; currently the Taunton Deane cameras are administered by Sedgemoor Council while the West Somerset are administered in Minehead Police Station by volunteers. We need to bring the whole district under one system and one that works best for the people of SWT.
- Undertake review of community and voluntary grants in how they distributed and administered.
- Social Value Strategy to come through democratic process.
- Charter for Compassion - subject to Full Council acceptance.