



15th November 2022

Good evening, Mayor and Councillors.

Since our last report at the October meeting of the Town Council, it has been a relatively quiet period outwardly for South Somerset District Council (SSDC). This is not unusual as October is traditionally quite with major reports being delivered in the November/December meetings. But, like the proverbial swan, the calm upper part belies the frantic paddling beneath the surface as LGR moves inextricably closer to the 31st of March and the demise of SSDC after nearly 50 years (11 years as Yeovil District Council).

In the meantime, we can report the following SSDC highlight(s) that may have in an impact on Ilminster in particular:

➤ Phosphates

- At their November meeting, the District Executive considered a report looking at supporting the release of phosphate credits (P Credits) within the Somerset Levels and Moors (SLAM) Ramsar catchment to unlock stalled housing developments.
- As you may be aware, the SLAM is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Habitat Regulations 2017 and listed as a Ramsar Site under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat.
- In November 2018 the Court of Justice of the European Union passed a judgement, now known as 'Dutch N', which meant that all development impacting Ramsar sites needed to be prevented from driving up pollutants going into watercourses. Subsequently, because of the already perilous state of watercourses feeding into the SLAM, Natural England wrote to the surrounding District Council Local Planning Authorities and advised, that until mitigations measures were put in place, all development needed to be considered against the potential impact of phosphate discharge into the SLAM.
- Over the last few years, our planning team, in partnership with many others, have been exploring responses to the ruling and Natural England's concerns by looking at ways to mitigate the impact of phosphates on the Levels.
- As a result, the District Executive agreed to the plan put forward by the planners to begin coordination of the 'P credit' scheme. This will hopefully provide a solution to unblocking the planning system and provide the houses that are needed.
- The SSDC Full Council meeting scheduled for the 17th of November has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on the 15th of December 2022.



➤ Area West

- At October's Area West Committee, an update was presented by Mr Jon Doyle, the 'Strategic Manager Community Infrastructure, Climate and Flood Management' for Somerset County Council on the Ilminster Section 19 (S.19) report. In his introduction he outlined what a S.19 report was and its purpose.
- A point to note, comments and feedback on the draft S.19 report are required by this Friday the 18th of November.
- At the meeting it was asked how members of the public can respond to the S.19 report, given that the report did not appear to be publicly available via the SCC website. Mr Doyle said that he would see if this could be done. In the meantime, responses are encouraged to be sent directly to LLFA@somerset.gov.uk
- A copy of the report can be found in the Area West Agenda by following this link: <https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/g3252/Public%20reports%20pack%2019th-Oct-2022%2017.30%20Area%20West%20Committee.pdf?T=10>
- Another point to note was that Mr Doyle appeared to indicate that any recommendations emanating from an S.19 had no statutory obligation to be carried out.
- You can view the draft minutes of the Area West meeting by following this link: <https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/documents/g3252/Printed%20minutes%2019th-Oct-2022%2017.30%20Area%20West%20Committee.pdf?T=1>
- The Area West Committee scheduled for the 16th of November has been cancelled.

Cllr Val Keitch

Cllr Brian Hamilton



INFORMATION REFERENCES:

Links to South Somerset District Council's agendas, minutes and other useful information can be found at the following links:



YouTube recordings of SSDC meetings:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSDst3IHGj9WoGnwJGF_soA



SSDC agendas, minutes and decisions can all be found either through the 'Modern.Gov' application or by following the link:

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>



For a guide to vaccinations in Somerset, visit:

<https://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-during-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset/>



Coronavirus. For information on a range of different support that is available visit: www.southsomerset.gov.uk/coronavirus



Somerset Waste Partnership: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/>

Recycle More: <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/recycle-more/>

SSDC NEWS:



Links to South Somerset District Council's latest news stories can be found at the following link: <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/news/>