



21st February 2023

Good evening, Mayor and Councillors.

Since our last report at the January meeting of the Town Council, the time remaining of the County and District Councils is inexorably running out. By the time of the Town Council meeting, there will be only 38 days remaining and this will probably be the penultimate report from your District Councillors.

As you will expect, the pressure is building to deliver the new council on the 1st of April. As such, instead of being one of the busiest times of the year for the elected members of the District Council, it has now become one of limbo for many, as a lot of the annual tasks and responsibilities have transferred over to Somerset County Council and the incoming Somerset Council.

Although some governance tasks, such as scrutiny and audit still remain, these are more of a sweeping up role in preparation for a smooth hand over. Statutory roles are gradually being merged with the other authorities, as systems and methods are integrated. Some, such as waste collection were already there and just need the new governance arrangements to be put in place.

➤ Full Council

- Due to the inclement weather in January and advice given by the police, our January Full Council meeting was held virtually.
- At the meeting we were given a very comprehensive briefing about our investment in SSDC Opium Power Ltd. This is the joint company set up with SSDC to provide Battery Storage facilities for renewable energy and earn an income from doing so. For example, at a recent meeting of the Executive, it was decided to withdraw the previous six months profit of £900,000 and pay it to the two principal shareholders, SSDC and Opium Power. This was split, in accordance with a previous agreement, on a 65/35 percentage basis, which provided SSDC with £585,000 of additional income.
- At our January meeting we also resolved to authorise our Director of Service Delivery to accept the terms of a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £1.6m towards delivering the 'Uncovering Ham Hill's past for its future' project.
- We also discussed the ongoing financial pressures surrounding the District Council's 'Yeovil Refresh' capital programme. This resulted in the reallocation of already identified funds towards the completion of the project.
- The February meeting of the Full Council, scheduled for Thursday the 16th was cancelled. Our next, and last meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday the 30th March 2023.

➤ Area West



- The penultimate Area West Committee meeting was held on the 15th February and the last meeting has been rescheduled for the 8th March 2023.
- At the February meeting we were presented with grant application from the Merriott Tithe Barn Committee in order to support their project of installing new flooring guttering and damp-proofing. The committee had been asked previously for the award of just over £8,000 or 17% of the total funding. But issues over responsibility and governance of the property were raised by the Committee and the decision was deferred until enquiries were made. These concerns have now been addressed and the Area West Committee were happy to unanimously support the project.
- A report held over from the cancelled January meeting was brought to the Committee. This updated all Area committees on Section 106 (S.106) schemes across South Somerset and gave an example of the new matrix being proposed for detailing S.106 going into Somerset Council to track those monies. See appendix A below. We were assured that these monies will remain ringfenced going forward and will be available under the new council. We were also assured that officers were not aware of any monies being in danger of being 'timed out' and returned to developers.

➤ **The Octagon Theatre**

- As you may have seen in the press recently, the Octagon Theatre has achieved another milestone in its £29m redevelopment. Planning approval was granted by SSDC's Regulation Committee on the 14th February 2023.
- Planning application 22/02486/FUL gives full details of the proposed partial demolition, renovation and extension of the Octagon Theatre. This will include the expansion of the main auditorium from 622 to 900 seats, construction of 2 new cinema spaces, a dance studio and much expanded foyers. There will also be big changes to the backstage area with the construction of a new theatrical fly-tower and better facilities for performers and staff.
- This redevelopment, supported by the new Somerset Council, will see the Theatre become a destination attraction, not just for audiences in Somerset and neighbouring counties, but for larger touring productions and companies too.

Cllr Val Keitch

Cllr Brian Hamilton



Appendix A.

Ilminster S.106 funds.

01/01991/REM	Ilminster	West	Station Rd Ilminster	10,000.00	8,547.66	1,452.34	
06/02906/OUT	Ilminster	West	Shudrick Lane, Ilminster	138,994.62	138,994.62	0.00	
07/05553/FUL	Ilminster	West	Land at North Yard, 122 Station Road, Ilminster	42,148.00	42,148.00	0.00	
13/04760/FUL	Ilminster	West	Canal Way, Ilminster	543,533.48	416,362.68	127,170.80	
14/00025/FUL	Ilminster	West	Summervale Medical Centre, Ilminster	42,003.74	17,291.89	24,711.85	
17/04802/REM	Ilminster	West	Winterhay Lane, Ilminster	157,648.73	33,289.60	124,359.13	

Example of proposed S.106 matrix for Somerset Council

Appendix B

Application Details Location and Description	Planning Obligations Secured	Trigger Point	Monies Received or Infrastructure in place	Outstanding Obligations	Status & Projects Funded/ Lead Officer	Balance Comments End Date
<p>Ward: AVISHAYES (CHARD)</p> <p>12/04319/OUT Parish Chard</p> <p>Land at Avishayes Road Oaklands Avenue Chard Somerset TA20 1HS</p> <p>Erection of 78 dwellings, new access and road (outline) (GR 333736/109130)</p> <p>Agreement Date: 15/09/2014</p>	<p>Sports and Leisure: Offsite Leisure Contribution: £142,691.29 towards enhancing one or more of the facilities in Chard: Changing Rooms, Community Halls, Equipped Play, Playing Pitches and/or Youth facilities. Community Health & Leisure Admin Fee: £1,426.91</p> <p>Education: Education: £98,056.00 as a contribution towards the provision of primary school education within Chard.</p> <p>Affordable Housing: Units Agreed: 20</p> <p>Miscellaneous Gains: Public Open Space</p>	<p>50% of the Off-site Recreation, Admin Fee & Education contributions payable on or before 25% of the dwellings.</p> <p>50% of the Off-site Recreation Contribution, Admin Fee & Education contributions payable on or before 50% of the dwellings.</p>	<p>Received:</p> <p>1 March 21 £84,919.66</p> <p>15 September 21 £85,024.70</p>	<p>Education: £98,056.00</p> <p>Miscellaneous Gains: Public Open Space</p>	<p>Status: Commenced</p> <p>Projects Funded: Guildhall Air Conditioning - £11,603.00 Admin Fee £3,538.24</p>	<p>Balance: £154,803.12</p>
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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>



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/>