

## Julie Earp

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 25 March 2021 15:56  
**To:** Julie Earp  
**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

The extra excess cost makes the state of Ashcombe Lane even more galling so I would be pleased if you would point out this fact to the relevant councillors.

I would be pleased if you would pass on my other comments to anyone who may sympathise . The local M P is not interested and it is not possible to take up the matter with alternative MPs ,even those on appropriate select committees . There is more understandable concern about cladding on high rise buildings at the present time .

Thanks for your patience . Regards /

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**From:** Julie Earp <deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 25 March 2021 15:26

**To:**

**Subject:** RE: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Dear

As I said before, new owners can challenge their council tax band within 6 months of moving into the property. I've done it myself in the last year.

If you take a look at the following link you will see that they can challenge their council tax band if they can find some evidence of property prices back in the 1990's and to strengthen their case, Tesco has been built since the properties were built. If the band is downgraded, you and your fellow residents of Ashcombe Court can then challenge them too.

<https://www.gov.uk/challenge-council-tax-band>

There is nothing the Town Council can do to help you or other residents with changing your council tax band. It's a personal matter that must be dealt with direct with South Somerset District Council and the Valuation Office.

Regards,

Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk

**From:**

**Sent:** 25 March 2021 15:16

**To:** Julie Earp <deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

I have now received notification of council tax due for forthcoming year and I note that the majority of properties here will now be paying £964 excess compared with £810 for year 2019-20 which I quoted in my email to the council . It is ironic because a substantial part of this increase is towards old age care but we moved into an establishment such as this so we care for ourselves as long as possible without any cost to the taxpayer . Retired people should be encouraged to live in this kind of establishment

Regards

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**From:**

**Sent:** 05 March 2021 10:20

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

You obviously do not understand the system of banding and the appeals procedure . A property purchaser can do no more than an existing owner .

I have read in detail the latest email circular from Martyn Lewis ( money saving expert ) re council tax and there is no way we can get the banding changed . There are several owners who have already pursued this matter but the rules do not permit re-banding in our situation because it is all based on 1990 valuations. At the very least you have to find an identical property in the same area with a lower banding.

Regards

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**From:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 04 March 2021 16:16

**To:**

**Subject:** RE: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

That's no problem

It's a shame about the council tax banding. I had a look at the post code on the Valuation Office website and there is a range of bands on Ashcombe Lane. Perhaps the next time a property is sold, the new owner should apply for a revaluation and see what happens.

Kind regards,

Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk

**From:**

**Sent:** 04 March 2021 16:13

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie , My last email was untidy as the message was not sent out in accordance with my format

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**From:**

**Sent:** 04 March 2021 16:08

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

Thank you for advising me that the matter will be discussed at next meeting .

There is no chance that the banding will be reviewed . Others have pursued this matter without any success as all the identical properties are on this estate and are all on the same band. It would require an Act of Parliament to get it reviewed . All we can do is try and persuade the local authorities to make Ashcombe Lane as attractive as possible and enhance the value of our properties so they are closer to the assigned banding

Regards

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**From:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 04 March 2021 08:39

**To :**

**Subject:** RE: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Good morning

The Councillors asked for the road/pavement issue to be added to the agenda of the next Planning, Highways & Transport meeting which will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April. In the meantime, they have instructed the office staff to research and gather information ready for the councillors to discuss and determine a way forward at that meeting.

As you know, both Cllr Brian Hamilton and I have already asked for Highways to visit Ashcombe Lane to assess the road and pavement. We are awaiting their response.

The issue of council tax has to be raised by the residents directly with the Valuation Office Agency. It is my personal opinion that you may have more success if all the residents collectively approach VOA for a revaluation of your properties.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/valuation-office-agency>

Kind regards,

Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk

**From:**

**Sent:** 03 March 2021 15:44

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie,

What was the outcome at yesterday's meeting.

Regards



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**From:**

**Sent:** 25 February 2021 17:48

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

If the relevant councillors had taken notice of my emails sent months ago, their research would have been completed by now .I am keeping a log of all these delays for future use .

Regards

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**From:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 25 Februarv 2021 13:42

**To:**

**Subject:** RE: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Dear ,

Cllr Hamilton was correct in that we can raise it as an issue in the March meeting, but it won't go on the agenda until April as the office staff need to collect information to put to the councillors. They need us to research the matter with Somerset County Council etc. before they can make decisions going forward.

So, next Tuesday, I will read your emails to the Councillors and they will decide the next steps. The office staff will then carry out what they have asked of us and it will be discussed further in April.

Kind regards,

Julie Earp

Deputy Town Clerk

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**From:**

**Sent:** 25 February 2021 13:36

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

I am more confused than ever . Brian Hamilton told me that the matter would be discussed at next meeting (2nd March ) provided I made the request before last Tuesday . I did this on Sunday so why has this been delayed until April

Regards

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**From:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 24 February 2021 11:41

**To:**

**Cc:** Hayley White <[town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Dear

I can't possibly comment about emails you have sent to councillors as the Town Council office had not been informed of this prior to Cllr. Brian Hamilton getting in contact with us.

The Town Council must follow set legal regulations with regards to agendas, meetings and minutes, and it is the Town Clerk who sets the agenda and summons the councillors to the meeting.

Residents are welcome to raise any issues or concerns via the Town Council office to be included in the agenda for future meetings. Unfortunately, you have missed the agenda for the Planning, Highways & Transport meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. However, we are still able to raise your issue as a speaker at the start of that meeting to make the Councillors aware of the problem, and they can then decide on the next course of action, ie. for the Town Council office staff to carry out some research on this matter, so that it can be added to the agenda to be discussed at the following Planning, Highways & Transport meeting which will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April.

I hope that helps you understand the procedure.

Kind regards,

Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk

**From:**

**Sent:** 23 February 2021 15:43

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

I dont understand the procedure . What is the meeting on the 6th April . I am getting very impatient as I sent emails to the relevant councillors before their last meeting and received no reply from anyone . The original email was sent a year ago . I may need to involve the local press .

Regards ,

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**From:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 23 February 2021 14:50

**To:**

**Cc:** Hayley White <[town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Dear

Thank you for letting me know. I will of course read your email to the councillors on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It will be their decision to add it to the agenda of the meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April when it would be discussed and minutes would be taken. I will of course let you know the outcome of the meeting as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk  
01460 52149

**From.**

**Sent:** 23 February 2021 14:10

**To:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Hello Julie ,

At 85 Yrs of age I do not expect to have the ordeal of making a presentation on zoom when all the information is available and I do not wish to attend the meeting . Will you please confirm that the councillors will still consider the matter and it will be minuted

I have carried out a parking survey this morning as follows

- 12-45 10 cars in Ashcombe Ln + 1 Land Rover . No vans which is unusual and fewer cars
- 12-50 Adjacent car park 19 spaces not in use and 2 electrical charging points not in use .
- 1300 Car park opposite Mulcheny House 38 spaces not in use .

I did this on foot and I am rather slow so there would be no great problem parking at these locations instead of adjacent to their home or place of work . Car park charges are very low compared with elsewhere .

Regards

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**From:** Julie Earp <[deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 23 February 2021 10:14

**Cc:** Hayley White <[town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

Dear |

Thank you for your email detailing your concerns about the current situation on Ashcombe Lane.

District Councillor Brian Hamilton had already been in touch with us, and I have already reported the state of the road and pavement in Ashcombe Lane to the Highways department to support Cllr Hamilton's earlier report to them, and we hope to receive a response soon.

With regards to the parking issues on Ashcombe Lane, you are most welcome to attend the Planning, Highways & Transport Meeting which is due to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March on Skype. You will have 3 minutes to talk about the parking issue before the committee. Although, the committee won't be able to provide an official outcome at that meeting, they will decide on the next steps.

If you would like to attend the meeting on Skype, please let me know your Skype account details by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, so that I can add you to the group. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please let me know if you would like me to read your email to the committee on your behalf.

Kind regards,



Julie Earp  
Deputy Town Clerk

**From.**

**Sent:** 21 February 2021 15:47

**To:** Town Council <[town.council@ilminster.gov.uk](mailto:town.council@ilminster.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Ashcombe Lane -very poor conditions for consideration at next planning, & highways transport committee

I realise you are a very busy person with all your council duties but I would be very pleased if you would provide some assistance re the situation below .I am not very certain who to contact to get things done and I understand the highways department are rather dismissive and unhelpful . I have become aware that Ashcombe Court as a whole is making a massive over contribution to the council tax budget (see appendix notes at foot of this email ) and as such I would expect the local authority to take more notice about the state of Ashcombe Lane which is devaluing our properties . My specific complaints are as follows .

. (a) The road condition is very poor and needs attention and the traffic calming cobble stones extend onto the pavement and this section should be removed . There are lots of very elderly people who use these paths and they are a trip hazard .

(b) The lane is becoming a public car park for all types of long stay vehicles when there are 2 low cost public car parks nearby .One is only 50 Yds further up the road and the other (opposite the playing field ) is less than 300 Yds away and very convenient for town shopping . When you confront drivers and ask why they park here they tend to be abusive rather than considerate . No council officials up to now have been prepared to place any restrictions on this parking .

I understand that there are properties in Silver St ( opposite Ashcombe Ln,) which have been converted into flats and this will increase the demand for local parking . When the council approved this conversion did they stipulate that the tenants should use off road parking .

My personal preferences about parking restrictions in Ashcombe Ln are as follows

(a) No vans other than used by contractors working in Ashcombe Court .

(b) The existing inset into the pavement should be reserved for emergency vehicles / pickup point for disabled residents .

(c) I understand the difficulty if people wish to do a quick shop eg at the pharmacy ,the fruit shop ,or the butchers and there is no parking availability in Silver St so I think there should be 20 minute parking limit in Ashcombe Ln .

Regards

Appendix

The value of Ashcombe Court properties has not followed the normal property trend so the council tax band selected in the 1990s is no longer appropriate and it would require an Act

of Parliament to make a change so we have to accept the excess payments but in return we should get a lot of helpful consideration .

There are 32 properties on site paying council tax on the same council band F . All 2 bedroom terraced cottages are identical apart from 2 which are slightly larger and all apartments are the same except 2 which are larger . Using present day valuations with the aid of the Nationwide calculator the banding on the 28 standard properties should be D instead of F which is £801 per property with current taxation levels . The overall excess for these properties is £22,428 . I have assumed that the other 4 properties should be on E rather than F which is an overpayment of £400 per property ie £1600 excess for these properties . The overall excess payment is just over £24000 for period 019/020

📧 See 14 more messages

**BH**

This email was sent to a very prominent councillor on 28/2/020 and I have not received any satisfactory positive responses as yet so I would be pleased if you would give this matter your careful consideration

Regards