

ILMINSTER DIVISION COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT JULY 2017

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The last boundary review took place in 1996/7. As a result of the recent findings of the Electoral Commission in relation to the ward boundaries and the size of the electorate (currently 131,767 electors, 39 wards and 60 councillors), SSDC has proposed that the number of councillors remains unchanged.

HIGHSPEED BROADBAND

The connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS) voucher scheme deadline has been extended to Sept. 30th. By the end of 2019 CDS aims to have increased broadband access to at least 380,000 homes and businesses, including next phase contracts with Gigaclear/Airband.

FREE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Heart of the South West Growth Support Programme offers a range of services enabling small/medium enterprises (SMEs) during the 3-year programme to receive a business diagnostic check and 1-to-1 support, as well as events and workshops.

Register online at <http://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/gsp-apply/> to trigger an initial face-to-face meeting to establish a development plan and identify further support to help achieve business goals. Other sources of support and advice from external agencies, training providers or regulatory bodies will be signposted. Businesses will also have the opportunity to receive further free support by choosing up to three more intensive support modules including marketing, innovation, HR and finance. Those completing the full programme will be entitled to a review of their digital issues and opportunities.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION

The proposed contract is to be to Compass Disability Services as they were deemed to be the most economically advantageous providers.

FREE NHS HEALTH CHECKS

These 20 min. checks, assess risk of developing heart attack, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, and provide advice on how these risks may be reduced. It is suggested that local communities arrange for checks to coincide with another community event such as a coffee morning. For more info. and details of eligibility contact somerset@tohealth.com phone 07860 268445 or www.somersethealthchecks.co.uk

CHARD HOSPITAL

The future of the hospital has gained media attention this month, but I have not been made aware of any specific decision being taken at this stage.

DISPOSAL OF COUNTY FARMS

As a result of intervention by a local councillor, who I am keen to support, any further decisions relating to the continued disposal of land, which affects a number of local residents, is to be halted whilst a task and finish group is set up to review the policy impact.

GRASS CUTTING

Residents of Bush's Orchard, Ilminster have been concerned about the lack of grass cutting this year. In making enquiries it seems that the area in question is still until the maintenance care of developers Persimmon and I understand that action has been taken.

ILMINSTER FLOODING

Flash floods in the centre of town this month have had a devastating effect on a number of businesses in the town centre, with long term consequences. Along with town council representatives, I have been supporting action to resolve this, both in terms of identifying the responsible authorities and ensuring that appropriate measures are put in place to rectify what is clearly an unacceptable situation, and also to prevent future incidents

LOCAL HERO RECOGNITION AWARD

FloodRe have a Local Hero Award worth up to £10,000 to benefit the local community. The reward for the winning individual or community provides an opportunity to share your experience and nominate a person or group who has been a Local Hero for flood action.

The closing date is 18th Sept. For more info. contact

floodwessex@environment-agency.gov.uk or lisa.milton@environment-agency.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

FINGER POSTS

the Somerset Fingerpost Restoration Project is for local authorities to work in partnership with the community to restore iconic landmarks. SCC and the SW Heritage Trust have produced a handbook to provide information to enable community groups to participate.

There is an extensive section on health and safety guidance and training. SCC is offering volunteers half day 'Highway Safety Awareness Training' workshops. Only volunteers who have completed this will be allowed to carry out cleaning and painting work on fingerposts.

email: fingerposts@somerset.gov.uk

SID READINGS

Iminster, Station Road – 20/6 to 4/7 – 37,092 vehicles in total.

2,823 vehicles exceeding 40mph 211 vehicles exceeding 50mph Ave. speeds 32mph

Donyatt Hill – 20/6 to 4/7 – 27,183 vehicles in total

1,548 vehicles exceeding 40mph 122 vehicles exceeding 50mph

1/7 to 18/7 – 27,035 vehicles. 144 exceeding over 50mph

Iminster, Winterhay Lane – concern has been raised in relation to the parking of private vehicles on the approach to Daido; it is felt that this may cause visibility obstruction. After a meeting with the Mayor, the Traffic Engineer has suggested the views of homeowners be sought, and that a daytime restriction on Mon-Fri 8am -5pm is appropriate.

WINSHAM SPEED LIMITS

A query has been raised over the introduction of a 20mph zone in the village. In response, highways have said that new requests for speed limits outside schools are dealt with by the installation of flashing lights with a '20' safety message.

ILMINSTER FORTNUM PLACE PARKING

In response to concerns raised by local residents, highways have said that the parking issues are not dissimilar to those seen across the County and they would only consider removing parking where there was evidence of a safety or congestion issue. According to their records there is no history of personal injury collisions along this section within the last 5 years and therefore they would not consider the introduction of yellow lines at present. They also consider that parked cars have a natural traffic calming effect and that their removal often increases the speed of vehicles along a given length.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

The Cross, Ilminster

SCC as the Highway Authority have received an application for this temporary closure from Wessex Water. This road will be closed from 30th August 2017 and is expected to last for 5 days to install a washout in this road. For further info. contact Wessex Water on 0345 600 4 600

Chilworthy Lane, Donyatt

Along Chilworthy Lane from 600m west of the junction with (A358) Peasmarsh Farm Lane to Stibbear Lane, westwards for a distance of 220 metres. This will enable Highways to carry out drainage works and becomes effective on 04 Sept. 2017, remaining in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to last for 5 days.

HIGHWAYS PLANNED WORKS

Knowle S. Giles – Knowle Church Road – highways drainage - 21-25 Aug. 5 days

DRAINS – Work is due to be carried out in communities across the Ilminster Division area.

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING EVENTS

Interest has been expressed in supporting affordable housing, especially as Yarlinton are now disposing of properties in rural areas as they become vacant. Grants are available for local parishes to carry out such activities as Housing Need Surveys to support their submissions when asked to comment on future planning applications. For more info. visit Wessex Community Assets <http://wessexca.co.uk/contact/> or contact Leisa.Kelly@SouthSomerset.Gov.Uk 01935 462641

PLANNING TRAINING

A second session training session for Town & Parish Councillors in responding to planning applications will be held on Thurs. 12th Oct. at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, SSDC Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT. Those wishing to attend should contact angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or phone 01935 462148 by 22nd Sept.

FAMILY HUBS

A key priorities from SCC's Children & Young People's Plan is to establish early help hubs in local communities, offering multi-agency services that identify and support children and families who need additional help and can intervene quickly. Phase 1 of creating 'family hubs' is to consider the future strategy for public health nursing services (health visiting and school nursing) commissioned by SCC, and how services can work jointly with the council's GetSet (early help) services for children's centre services and family support services.

FUNDED CHILDCARE

SCC is encouraging working parents to apply for up to 30 hours of funded childcare for three and four year olds. From Sept. the Government is doubling the amount of funded childcare hours from 15 hours to 30 hours a week (for 38 weeks of the year). It can be spread across the year to include school holidays, up to a max. of 1,140 hours a year. To qualify, both parents must be working, earning on ave. at least the equivalent of 16 hours at the National Minimum/Living Wage per week, and must earn less than £100,000 p.a. To apply go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk Eligible parents will receive an 11 digit code to take directly to a participating childcare provider. For info. and a list of participating childcare providers, visit SCC's website at www.somerset.gov.uk/eye30

LIBRARY SURVEY

The results from the survey will inform SCC about what is important to library users and how the SCC can help customers make the most of future library services. Questions include how often you visit, what services you use, how you find staff support, the quality of library facilities and services, how library services could be improved and what stops people visiting their local library. It can be completed online www.somerset.gov.uk/librarysurvey until 12 Aug. or are available from local libraries. It is also open to under 16s.

READING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers aged 13 and over, who have spare time over the summer holidays are wanted to help with the Summer Reading Challenge which encourages children aged 4-11 to read for pleasure. Volunteers, based in libraries, help children read at least six books of their choice over the summer holiday. Once complete, children receive a collectors' card. As well as talking to children about what they are reading, volunteers will help choose books, join in with craft activities and story time sessions, and help create displays.

For more info. and a to apply visit your local library or <http://www.somersetvolunteer.co.uk>
Applicants will be invited to an informal chat to discuss the role.

DOWLISH PAVILION

The New Inn are holding a BBQ fund raising BBQ on Sat. 9th Sep. from 4pm to 8pm. Tickets at £10, include a welcome Pimms. Tickets are available from The New Inn.

BROADWAY PC

There are currently 2 vacancies to be filled.

SWANMEAD SCHOOL

Excellent year 6 SAT results this year have put the school second in the middle school ranking across the country, a great achievement.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES ATTENDED

1/7	CLOKS – Jungle Book Guildhall Chard
1/7	Winsham Shop proposal
2/7	Donyatt Duck Race
3/7	Ilminster resident meeting with Enham & social services
3/7	Ashill PC
4/7	Broadway PC
4/7	Samaritans AGM
5/7	Winsham PC
5/7	MaKe Performance
6/7	MacMillan fund raising event
7/7	Warehouse performance
8/7	Combe St. Nicholas School open day
8/7	Ashill School Summer Fayre
9/7	Donyatt VH breakfast
9/7	Visually Impaired Cricket Match
10/7	Neroche School Governors
10/7	Donyatt PC
12/7	Fiveways School open evening
13/7	SCC Health & Wellbeing Board
13/7	ILF meeting
14/7	Ilminster Highways issues
17/7	Exeter City Council – Strategic Thinking & Decision Making Training
17/7	Horton PC
17/7	Donyatt – resident planning issue
17/7	Ashill – resident planning issue
18/7	Neroche School Sports Day
18/7	Ilminster Town Council
19/7	SCC Full Council
19/7	SSDC Area West
19/7	Swanmead School Awards Evening
20/7	Winsham Jubilee Hall Coffee Morning
20/7	SSDC – Community Housing Workshop
20/7	SSDC Full Council
21/7	MacMillan Nurses Fund Raising Dinner
22/7	Chard Museum Open Day
31/7	Ilminster Literary Festival Meeting
31/7	Minster Summer Lunch Club