

ILMINSTER DIVISION COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT AUGUST 2017

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION

Compass Disability Services have sub-contracted out the mental health aspect of their newly acquired contract to Somerset MIND.

CHARD HOSPITAL

No further information has been forthcoming in relation to this.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

OFSTED recently visited SCC for their final pre-inspection monitoring visit. The focus this time was on the leaving care service and support for children with disabilities. Formal feedback is awaited and the full OFSTED inspection will take place in the autumn.

'Childcare in Somerset: Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017'

This has been published on the SCC website and can be found at:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/information-and-statistics/statistics/childcare-sufficiency-assessment/>

DISPOSAL OF COUNTY FARMS

At the SCC Scrutiny committee meeting, due to be held in early September, it is expected that a task and finish group be set up to review the current policy and make recommendations.

MINIBUSES

SCC operates 60 minibuses used to transport social care, special educational needs and the general public across the County, which are currently panel vans converted to minibuses with tail-lifts installed in the rear of the vehicle. Low floor minibuses are now available which comply with DDA requirements and offer access from the road level negating the need for a tail-lift and improving accessibility. These allow for greater flexibility improving access and dignity for the user and reducing health & safety risks for SCC. Individuals will be able to walk onto the bus with no large step to navigate or wheelchairs can be pushed directly into the vehicle by the carer. They will be used on SCC demand responsive, social care and special educational needs routes to enable greater flexibility within the fleet.

The proposal is to replace 10 vehicles during 2017/18 and each year thereafter in line with the business requirements already set out during the MTFP process. The cost for 2017/18 is £727,170 for the 10 vehicles (£72,717 per vehicle).

SOMERSET JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA) 2017 - 'AGEING WELL'

This qualitative report has recently been published www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/jsna

The summary gives an overview of the strategic health, wellbeing and social needs of Somerset people and this year has a focus on ageing well. The JSNA 2017 evidence will support the planning of services for older people and targeted preventative work to help younger people, where possible, maintain good physical and mental health into later life. Like many counties, Somerset has a growing, ageing population, and one of the key issues appears to be social contact.

COMMUNITY CONNECT

This is a partnership enabling community and voluntary organisations, Adult Social Care services and health services to work together to provide advice and support to help people live as independently as possible in their community.

Drop-ins are now taking place across the county, where people can speak to Community Agents and Village Agents, health professionals, Adult Social Care workers and community organisations, such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau, and volunteers, who will ask a few questions to find out what they are worried about, or what they would like to achieve or change in their life and will provide advice about where to find the right support or activity, or offer a suitable solution.

Dates and venues of drop-ins can be found at: www.somerset.gov.uk/dropin

By working together Community Connect aims to successfully help more people to be independent for longer. A project called 'Reviewing to Improve Lives' is looking at Learning Disability placements and support packages to make sure people are living as independently as possible and achieving their personal aspirations in life.

Consultation on the 'Education Travel Policy'

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families has agreed to consult in the Autumn term on a revised Education Travel Policy for SCC to apply from September 2018.

HIGHWAYS

A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme Supplementary Consultation

The original consultation was split into two sections. Section 1 – junction B in the vicinity of West Hatch Lane. Section 2 - improvement from junction B to Southfields Roundabout. It is acknowledged that more work is needed to find the right solution for section 1, and frustration that only one option was originally put forward.

The supplementary consultation carried out this year via a series of public exhibitions.

There is no further consultation planned for section 2 as highways believe that they have received clear feedback from the completed consultation, with approx. 300 consultation responses. There will be a preferred route announcement for section 2 later this year.

Submit any further observations or comments should be submitted to

a358tauntontosouthfields@highwaysengland.co.uk

WINSHAM TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - HAZELWOOD HILL, WINSHAM

SCC have received an application for the temporary closure of Hazelwood Hill from A Plant Lux Traffic Control from 4th Sept. for 2 nights (21.00 - 06.00hrs) to enable BT Openreach to access an underground structure for new customers connection works to be carried out.

SIS

SCC's Small Improvement Scheme has been running for 6 years, with the successful implementation of over 160 minor highway improvement schemes so far.

New scheme submissions will be eligible from Sept. and I will be attending a workshop to clarify my role as a County Councillor, in the application process, scoring mechanism, consultation, the delivery of schemes, and the management of stakeholder expectations.

SID READINGS

Ilminster, Winterhay Lane – due to be discussed further at the next relevant ITC meeting.

SCC HIGHWAYS DROP-IN SESSION - ILMINSTER FLOODING

In the wake of the flooding experienced in Ilminster last month, this was organised to allow members of the public to meet with Highways and Environment Agency officers. Due to the number of premises affected, this qualifies for a 'Section 19 Investigation' into the likely causes, what needs to be done and how to take things forward. The results of the investigation will be published, along with plans for action and timescales involved and I am told that an outline report giving an indication of next steps will be made available before the end of the year. What has become clear, is that in addition to issues over drain clearance, a contributing factor is the extent that uncollected hedge and verge clippings are washed into the drainage system, along with hay falling from tractors during transportation. Since the meeting, a Highways representative has also met with Town Councillors.

PLANNING TRAINING

A further reminder of a second session training session for Town & Parish Councillors being held in response to planning applications will be held on Thurs. 12th Oct. at 6.30pm at 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.

AREA WEST

Persimmon application Canal Way – further to the meeting of SSDC's Area West committee this month, at which a number of members of the public were present, my proposal that this be refused and referred to the Regulation Committee for determination at the meeting on Oct. 17th (deferred at Persimmon's request), was agreed. Key areas of concern remain the number of houses proposed, the single access point, access for emergency vehicles, lack of services and the absences of a travel plan.

HIGHWAYS PLANNED WORKS

Knowle St Giles	Knowle Church Road	Highway drainage investigation (Jetting). Temporary road closure.	21 Aug	25 Aug	5 days
Horton	St Peters Close	Footway reconstruction. 'Give and take' traffic management.	28 Aug	01 Sep	5 days
Donyatt	Chilworthy Lane	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	04 Sep	08 Sep	5 days
Chaffcombe	Kingston Well Lane	Drainage improvement works. Temporary road closure.	15 Jan	19 Jan	5 days
Cudworth	Cudworth St & Knights Lane	Carriageway resurfacing. Temporary road closure.	12 Feb	15 Feb	4 days

POLICE REPORT

During the last month a number of incidents in the area were reported, including shop thefts, harassment, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour incidents, assaults, public order offences, burglary, drug offences and fraud. In the majority of cases, these incidents were linked to a falling out between a group of neighbours, none of whom were willing to make a formal complaint.

DOWLISH PAVILION

There are still tickets available for the fund-raising BBQ on Sat. 9th Sept. from 4pm to 8pm. Tickets at £10, include a welcome Pimm's. Tickets are available from The New Inn, Dowlish Wake.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES ATTENDED

1/8	Ilminster TC meeting
4/8	Whitelackington VH quiz
5/8	Donyatt Summer Fete
7/8	Ashill PC
9/8	Friends of Donyatt Despatch
10/8	Ashill Church coffee morning
10/8	Chaffcombe – meeting re: planning
11/8	Somerset Mind charity golf day presentation
12/8	Horton Flower Show
13/8	Donyatt VH Breakfast
13/8	Horton Flower Show Service
13/8	Dowlish Wake BBQ
13/8	Chard Museum cream tea
13/8	Whitelackington Open Gardens Day
13/8	Charity Quiz – Royal Oak, Ilminster
14/8	Ilminster - Highways Drop-In session
14/8	Horton PC
14/8	Chaffcombe PC
15/8	SCC meeting with CEO
15/8	SCC meeting with Chair of Children's Scrutiny
15/8	Ilminster TC
16/8	Cudworth Market
16/8	Chard Museum Trustee Meeting
16/8	SSDC – Area West - Chard
17/8	Winsham Jubilee Hall Coffee
17/8	Milford & Dormor - Shrubbery Tea event
17/8	SSDC – Full Council meeting
15/8	Ilminster TC
16/8	Cudworth Market
16/8	Chard Museum Trustee Meeting
16/8	SSDC – Area West - Chard
22/8	Meeting re; Canal Way planning application
23/8	Fairtrade committee meeting