

**ILMINSTER DIVISION COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT APRIL 2017**

**ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES**

At this month's SCC full council meeting, a question in relation to the issue of baseline Key Performance Indicators for the transfer of adult social care services to Dimensions was raised. In a written response, it has become clear that direct comparisons are going to be difficult to make. Responses to other questions in relation to risk and specific contract terms were not made available as they are deemed to be commercially sensitive. Concern was also expressed over ongoing staffing issues and the underlying business case, including cost savings, for the transfer of the service

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

A local resident has raised concerns with me over the failure of the contractor to provide adequate, safe, seating for transport to Holyrood, in addition to other ongoing issues, which I am actively pursuing.

**GREENFYLDE SCHOOL – FUTURE EDUCATION PROVISION**

No further updates on this at the moment.

**SALE OF COUNTY FARMS**

There has been recent press coverage in relation to the ongoing policy of SCC to divest itself of County farmland, which continues. At the request of local farm tenants, I have been continuing to provide support to ensure that their voices are held and that a fair and transparent deal is obtained for all.

**SSDC – SCRUTINY**

I have attended two meetings this month, one exclusively dedicated to the 5 year transformation plan and strategy for achievement. It is intended that the move towards the utilisation of capital investment as an income generation tool will enable delivery of services to be retained at current levels, and will provide a 7% return on investment. Other aspects under consideration include the environment, agriculture and food. The programme has been broken down into 7 priority projects; detail in relation to achievement and timescale is not yet clear. Emphasis is to be placed on small business support, particularly in Yeovil and Chard.

**SSDC – AREA WEST**

**LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS**

At this month's meeting an update on local housing needs was received. The number of applicants on the Homefinder Somerset register as at the end of March was 2050 for South Somerset. Ilminster remains in high demand as a first choice for housing.

In Neroche ward the situation is:

**Ahill** – 1 x 4 bedroom house is being sought

**Broadway** – 3 x 1 bedroom properties (1 x 3 bed property advertised in the last 12 months)

**Donyatt** – 1 x 1 bedroom property; 1 x 2 bedroom property

**Horton** – 4 x 1 bedroom properties; 1 x 2 bedroom property; 1 x 3 bedroom property (3 x 1 bedroom; 3 x 2 bedroom; 1 x 2 bedroom advertised)

A training session for elected members in relation to **Universal Credit** is being held at Westlands, Yeovil, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 9.30am – 12.30pm, which I am hoping to be able to attend – in the meantime, any local resident with queries in relation to this should get in touch with their District Councillor.

Anyone with concerns about someone rough sleeping or about to become homeless should contact the Housing Advice Team on 01935 462938 or email [housingadvice@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:housingadvice@southsomerset.gov.uk)

### PLANNING

Fees are to be introduced for officer advice in relation to planning applications within the district. Whilst telephone advice will remain free of charge, there will be a sliding scale of charges for written advice (from £50 for a single householder application) and also face-to-face meetings (£100). The majority of enquiries, taking up a considerable amount of officer time, are from agents acting on behalf of clients.

There has been no decision, as yet, on how the new Community Infrastructure levy (CIL) is to be spent.

**SHUDRICK VALLEY** – as expected, the decision in relation to this planning appeal has now been made, resulting in dismissal of the appeal.

**CANAL WAY** – Although the agenda for next month's Area West meeting has not yet been confirmed, I believe that The Persimmon, Canal Way application will be considered at the May meeting, to be held at Swanmead School.

### HIGHWAYS

**WINSHAM** – plans for road works, and the intended diversion route, has caused considerable concern. Highways have agreed that an error was made, and a new diversion route is proposed; to be confirmed once permission has been gained from Dorset.

**A303/A358** – several local workshops have been held, and questions raised in relation to concerns over the use of the A358 route through Donyatt as a diversion once work begins.

#### Donyatt SID readings March 15 – 30<sup>TH</sup>

Ave. speed 44mph      85% percentile - 51 mph      6357 vehicles over 50 mph  
Total vehicle numbers 29,752

#### Iminster SID readings March 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

Ave. speed 31 mph      85% percentile - 36 mph      14 vehicles over 50 mph  
Total vehicle numbers 4,166

### RIGHTS OF WAY

**WINSHAM** – Local residents continue to be concerned over local landowners obstructing rights of way, and SCC's lack of action, which I am pursuing.

In addition to this, a planned diversion route to accommodate upcoming road closures, and the subsequent impact on surrounding communities, has been raised, and addressed.

**ASHILL** – The following is currently out to consultation - Upgrade of CH 1/23 from a footpath to a Restricted Byway (511M) and add a Restricted Byway to Copse Lane.

**ILMINSTER** – an order has been made to modify the definitive map to upgrade Footpath CH32/20 to a Restricted Byway at Green Lane.

### TRADING STANDARDS

As few people indicated that they wished to attend the talk planned for this month was cancelled. However, I was able to provide information to those attending the Memory Café.

### **SSDC COMMUNITY HEALTH AND LEISURE ANNUAL REPORT**

Funding and officer support has been provided across Area West in the last 12 months, with 3 three key themes:

- Increasing utilisation of outdoor and green spaces for exercise and health related activities
- Decreasing the number of adults and children who are currently inactive
- Reducing the number of overweight and obese adults and children

Walk leader training is available – In Neroche, Broadway now has a weekly Health Walk, and CLICK into Activity is continuing

**Priorities for 2017/18** – increase the number of short health walks in the area; run a flexercise workshop; increase the number of sport50/pop up community activities sessions; continue to set up community exercise classes where required; continue to run the CLICK in Activity programme.

School Tennis Coaching was delivered at Neroche School.

Anyone interested in taking advantage of the support and facilities offered should contact Linda Pincombe on 01935 462614 or email [Lynda.Pincombe@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:Lynda.Pincombe@southsomerset.gov.uk)

### **EVENTS/ACTIVITIES ATTENDED**

4/4	SSDC - Scrutiny
4/4	Ilminster Literary Festival meeting
4/4	Broadway Parish Council
7/4	Whitelackington VH quiz
10/4	Whitelackington VH charity coffee morning
12/4	Winsham parish council
14/4	Winsham – Bell Inn Easter fish and chips
16/4	Cricket Malherbie Easter service
17/4	Donyatt VH ploughman's lunch
18/4	SSDC – Scrutiny
18/4	SSDC – District Executive
19/4	Ilminster memory Café
19/4	Route 1 Advocacy training
19/4	SSDC - Area West
20/4	<b>SSDC – full council – not attended</b>
26/4	<b>SCC full council – not attended</b>
29/4	Horton VH jumble sale for BHMC
29/4	Kingstone Fair
30/4	Dowlish Wake Speke Hall fund raising lunch
30/4	Ilminster Bowling Club - fund raising quiz for Ilminster Scouts

Please note that although my monthly reports cover both my District and County Councillor activity I only comment on items relating to District that are pertinent to Neroche ward or where District decisions have a wider implication for surrounding villages.

Although I am standing again for election on 4<sup>th</sup> May, my current term of office as your County Councillor has now come to an end. My personal thanks go to all of those who have provided support and advice during the last four years.