

District Councillor Report June 2014 – This report was circulated after the meeting due to the time constraints at the Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th June 2014

‘Our Place’ – Working with partners & communities to reshape services in South Somerset

South Somerset Together, the district’s Local Strategic Partnership will hold its annual general meeting on Thursday 10th July (18:00 – 20:30) in the Council Chamber, South Somerset District Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil. This is an opportunity for residents and businesses to hear about new initiatives that might reshape services for local communities in South Somerset.

The Partnerships’ focus will be on local priorities and will aim to reduce costs by cutting waste and duplication and harnessing community input.

Capacity in the Council Chamber is restricted, so anyone wishing to attend should book their place by contacting Chereen Scott, SST Co-ordinator, on 01935 462377 or by email: Chereen.scott@southsomerset.gov.uk

New court move against South Somerset fly-tippers

New guidelines for fly-tipping will be used in South Somerset court from 1 July and could mean far higher penalties for the very worst offenders.

National guidelines for fly-tipping and other environmental crimes have been drawn up by the Sentencing Council after a review concluded that fines were too low in some cases and did not reflect the gravity of the offences committed.

The new guidelines could lead to jail terms and penalties of up to £3million for the most serious cases, with lower level criminals facing fines or community sentences.

The new guidelines apply in England and Wales to individuals aged 18 and older and organisations sentenced on or after 1 July 2014, regardless of the date of the offence.

Superfast Broadband

The South Somerset District Council have been concerned that a number of businesses in South Somerset still do not have adequate broadband provision.

Early this year the Government said that additional funding (£22 million) would be made available for the South West but only if were matched pound for pound by Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Councils. So, last Thursday, the District Executive decided ‘in principle’ to commit a sum of £640,000 towards the provision of superfast broadband in the South Somerset District.

It is at the moment an ‘in principle’ decision as the Executive require a more detailed breakdown of the proposed programme before they take the final decision.

“Competitive broadband speeds are now an essential requirement for a successful business and we make no apologies for saying that connecting our small and medium sized businesses at an affordable rate will be our priority. If South Somerset is to remain a great

place to do business and attract inward investment, then excellent broadband speeds are vital.”

The District Council have arranged an Introduction to Child Protection Basic Awareness

Monday 7 July 2014
6.30 – 9.30 p.m.
Ilchester Town Hall
Ilchester
BA22 8QN

The course is run in partnership with the Somerset Local Safeguarding Children Board’s programme and is for volunteers working in non-affiliated clubs and community groups. The aim of the course is to provide volunteers with an understanding and knowledge of their own and other’s responsibilities. Individuals completing this course will be issued with a certificated.

To book a free place contact Steve Barnes, South Somerset District Council’s Young People’s Officer

Tel: 01935 462408 or email: stephen.barnes@southsomerset.gov.uk