

ILMINSTER DIVISION – SSSC/SCC COUNCILLOR REPORT AUGUST 2014

By comparison with previous months August has been relatively quiet on the meeting front, as one might expect with the holiday season in full swing.

HIGHWAYS

THE BEACON – A number of local residents and businesses have been in contact with me this month over the continued closure of The Beacon. Recipients of these monthly reports will know that since last winter I have had regular contact with highways to ensure that concerns are heard and that consideration is given to the urgency of seeking a prompt resolution to an ongoing situation that is having a negative impact in many areas. Much of what has recently been reported in the news has not been accurate.

SCC update as of 29th August – *‘The results of investigative work to discover what has caused structural damage to a road near Ilminster could be ready next week. The B3168 at The Beacon has been closed since February when extreme wet weather caused the road to move and there were concerns for the safety of drivers. Following recent on-site investigations by geo-technical experts, a number of samples were taken away to be further analysed. The results of this work should be completed next week which will enable a final ground investigation report to be compiled. SCC will then use this report to consider its options for carrying out work to make the road safe to reopen. Cllr Harvey Siggs, SCC’s Cabinet Member for Highways, said: “Once we have received this report we will be in a much better position to confirm the actual works required and give a realistic timescale as to when work can begin. “We appreciate the sensitivity of this road closure and the impact that it is having locally, but we have always stated that it is our intention to re-open the road before the Christmas period. “There has recently been speculation that the road will be closed for two more years. This is pure speculation and I would like to reiterate that we will do everything we can to reopen the road as quickly as possible.”*

In light of this statement I have requested the provision of the proposed plan of action.

LISTERS HILL – Concern has been raised over the poor handling of recent work carried out that caused the closure of this section of the road, in addition to possible problems with loose chippings being washed into gullies/drains, which may cause blockages. I am awaiting a response from Highways, and have chased up again.

WINSHAM SIGN ON A30 - The absence of the sign was reported and its replacement is in hand.

PLANNING

At SSSC’s full council meeting this month it was agreed that the proposed modifications to the Local Plan be put out for public consultation.

With regard to Ilminster particularly, questions have been raised in relation to school provision should current applications for development go ahead. I am awaiting a response from SCC.

Ashill – Area West considered the application for the gypsy/traveller site at Cad Road this month. A number of residents were present to express their concerns, and members decided to reject the officer’s recommendation for approval, by a narrow vote. Key considerations were the impact that the development would have on the nearby listed buildings/sites, and also concerns over flooding. Once again there has been some level of dissatisfaction over the inconsistency in reports and comments received (or not) from statutory bodies.

Broadway – following public consultation, an application had now been submitted for housing development at Tanyard, where residents have some concerns in a number of areas.

SCC Regulation committee is due to meet this Friday, 4th, to consider varying the permitted hours of operation of planning permission No. 13/01200/CPO for the deposit of soils to raise land at field No. 9071, SE of Newlands Farmhouse, Crewkerne Road, Chaffcombe, Chard, TA20 4BS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The SSSC consultation on affordable housing continues until 17th September. And copies of the strategy can be obtained by contacting SSSC on 01935 462462.

COUNTY FARMS

My planned meeting with officers, due to take place in August, is now taking place this week.

Report – July 2014 **Linda Vijeh – 3 Rectory Court, Vicarage Hill, Combe St. Nicholas, TA20 3NE**
Mob. 0797 178 5069 E-mail – lindavijeh@hotmail.com

FLOOD FUNDING

I am pleased to report that Donyatt have now received confirmation that their application for a grant from the flood mitigation fund has been successful.

I met earlier this month with David Welch from Rotary over concerns with regard to the warehousing and distribution of both monies and items donated, and contact with SCC and other agencies. It is important to appreciate that assistance is intended to aid reinstatement, not improvement of those properties affected.

EDUCATION

As children return to school this week, after the summer break, I shall be on the alert for any concerns/problems in relation to providing school meals for infants. At the end of last term some issued remained unresolved with individual schools.

Both Holyrood and Wadham reported great results for both GCSE and A level results – well done. In relation to further education I have been contacted in connection with concerns over places being offered to pupils then subsequently withdrawn. This seems not to be an isolated situation and I am following this up on their behalf.

SCHOOLS FORUM – Nothing further to report this month. I will be attending an OFSTED update meeting later this week.

SOMERSET GOVERNORS' STRATEGY GROUP

Nothing further to report this month. The recruitment process for Exec. Officer is now under way, with interviews expected in October.

HEALTH

I still am actively pursuing a decision with regard to the allocation of this year's Health & Wellbeing fund of £5k, and am disappointed that I so far have nothing further to report. **I have also not received response from any of the parishes in relation to possible dates and venues for the training to be held should this be approved, along with agreement for village hall availability.**

CORPORATE PARENT BOARD

I have raised concerns over the failure of those attending to report actions allocated to them from previous meetings and have been assured by the CEO that this will not continue. I have also raised my own concern, in the wake of the Rotherham cases, where there continues to be a reliance on paperwork, which may result in issues being overlooked. This is now being addressed. The difficulties surrounding recruitment and retention of social workers is ongoing and of concern, not least the cost of hiring agency workers.

ROYAL DEVON AND EXETER NHS FT

The annual Members Say event is planned for Saturday 27 Sept. 10am – 3pm, with two workshops – 'Hospital at Home' and 'Early Supported Stroke Discharge'. The event is usually over subscribed so early booking is important. Contact 0800 731 0319.

SOMERSET RURAL YOUTH PROJECT

The next meeting is planned for later this month.

BROADBAND ROLLOUT

The workshop planned for September 10th is intended to be a Chamber of Commerce event, contrary to information received earlier.

ILMINSTER DIVISION – SSDC/SCC COUNCILLOR MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES AUGUST 2014

4th	World War 1 memorial service
9th	Horton Flower Show
10th	Donyatt breakfast
	Combined parish service – Horton VH
11th	Flood group funding update meeting - Taunton
16th	Ashill coffee morning
	Donyatt Fun Day
	Broadway surgery opening event
	Charity wine tasting – Taunton
18th	RD&E – Member & Patient Engagement committee
	SCC – B3168 Beacon update
	Chaffcombe PC meeting
19th	Ilminster Town Council – full council meeting
20th	SSDC - Area West – Crewkerne
21st	SSDC – Full Council
22nd	Flood funding meeting – Ilminster
	Horseshoes & Handprints Charity Quiz – Shrubbery
23rd	Chard Museum and Ilminster Twinning Assoc. fund raiser
24th	Party on the Park, Ilminster
28th	SCC – Corporate Parent meeting
31st	Dowlish Wake Flower Show

These monthly reports are intended to provide an overview of activity, but as always, more in-depth information is available on request.