

District Councillor's Report February 17 2015

Somerset Waste Partnership

At the last District Executive Meeting there was a presentation on the Somerset Waste Partnership's draft business plan for the next five years. The Executive was told that there were plans to review kerbside collections considering such things as:

- Material collected
- Method of collection
- Frequency of collection
- The infrastructure at the various depots and what the reprocessing arrangements were
- The improvement of recycling facilities in flats and schools

Last year an attempt was made to remind residents that food waste should not go into the black bins. An area in Somerset was selected and stickers were placed on the black bins by waste collection crews as they emptied bins – a fairly large sticker carrying the message no food waste in this bin. Trial was quite successful and other areas will now be targeted.

Another new initiative to come to our area will be the development of a re-use facility at Chard. There is one already operating at Priorswood.

Garden waste collection charges have been increased for the year 2015 to 2016.

A one-year subscription will be £48.00 and £91.00 for a two year subscription. The charge for garden waste sacks remains the same – ten for £25.00

As most of you will know, it is now possible to recycle 'triggers'. There is a recycling container in Tesco car along side the other recycling units next to the southern wall.

Health and Leisure

District Council's Community Health and Leisure team need to refresh the leisure strategy for South Somerset. Consultation workshops will be arranged at different location around South Somerset to which the key stakeholders and members of the public will be invited.

The last time this type of consultation took place, it was held at the Tennis and Bowls Club. Three people attended that meeting – I was one of them, Stuart Shepherd another and the third was a gentleman from the Bowls Club in South Petherton. It was at that meeting Stuart and I discovered that the Consultants had Ilminster designated a village rather than a Market Town.

So when this Council receives notification of the consultation events I would urge as many of you as possible to attend, it really is important.

Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

The District Council along with the Police and other agencies are provided with powers, through legislation, to help protect individuals and communities from crime and antisocial behaviour. New legislation, which was introduced in October last year, should help protect victims and the environment while allowing those involved with crime prevention to deal with the perpetrators.

The number of powers available has been reduced from nineteen to seven.

Private Sector Housing Grants/Loans

You may not be aware of the fact that South Somerset District Council, for the last eight years has been operating a Home Loan Scheme in partnership with Wessex Reinvestment Trust or Wessex Home Loans, as they are now known.

Scheme enables the District Council to award loans to homeowners for the purpose of:

- Bringing homes up to the decent homes standard
- To improve energy efficiency within their homes
- To fund 'green deal' initiatives
- To top up disabled facilities grants
- To assist in the purchase of mobile homes for local residents

Grants to deal with urgent and essential repairs to ensure that their property is both wind and weatherproof can also be awarded.