

# Parish Council of Coleford

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Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB  
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## January 2021 Newsletter

### **PCSO report**

The Frome Rural Beat North currently have poaching, speeding, theft / non dwelling burglary and fly tipping as the current priorities.

The Beat Team contact details are as follows:

Beat manager – PC 2673 David Cohen, [David.Cohen@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:David.Cohen@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)

PCSO 9011 Russell Ford, Mobile – 07547658018, [Russell.ford@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Russell.ford@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

PCSO 8118 Dan Beck, [Daniel.Beck@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:Daniel.Beck@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

### **Planning Applications**

[2020/2308/HSE](#) - 4 Anchor Close, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5BZ - Retrospective garden shed/workshop replacement

Coleford Parish Council recommended approval.

[2020/2528/TPO](#) - The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5NG - G1 and T1 - Ash: Fell to ground level due to Ash Dieback. TPO M1075.

Coleford Parish Council recommended approval with the condition that replacement trees be planted.

### **Planning updates**

[2020/2201/OTS](#) - Gladman application, Anchor Road:

Gladman have still not produced the additional Landscape appraisal that was promised with the application on 28<sup>th</sup> October. After our resolution at the last meeting The Clerk submitted our formal recommendation to refuse. At the same time she recorded our disappointment that the application was allowed to be registered with this key document missing and reserved the right for full consultation if and when it is finally received. Mendip's website recorded 270 objections on 12<sup>th</sup> January. Work continues to get County Highways to undertake a site visit to Charmborough – this is not easy under current conditions. Prior warning has been given of another closure of Brewery Lane at the end of February. Yet again the diversion published by Highways is not via Charmborough Lane but all the way round to Kilmersdon, the Pipe works, Vobster and Coleford.

Appeal – Mendip have notified that Gladman have lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate on 17<sup>th</sup> December against the refusal of planning permission in August for the original application ref 2019/2345. The Inspectorate are still validating the appeal, so we do not have a start date, a response date, the type of appeal or an Inspector's name.

[2020/2157/FUL](#) – Erection of agricultural building for storage of hay, straw and machinery and part lambing shed. Meadow View Farm, Charlton Road, Holcombe

Mendip District Council approved with conditions

[Request by Coleford Parish Council for Tree Preservation Order \(TPO\) on the Elm located in the boundary hedgerow along Anchor Road, Coleford.](#)

The Tree Officer, Bo Walsh has responded by saying that the tree was not considered a suitable candidate for a TPO because of its location and conflict with the existing streetlight. It is also very close to the highway itself and is not anywhere near maturity and although the species itself has importance nationally, which was a point also

raised by the CPRE and local Councillors – regrettably, Elm trees do not always survive due to their vulnerability / susceptibility to disease. Councillors agreed that the refusal would be challenged.

## **Highways**

Charmborough Lane – there is a duck invasion, please beware. Cllr Townsend has put up a warning sign.

Pedestrian crossing – Highways responded rapidly to Cllr Townsends request for a repair to the failed light by the Old Post Office.

Anchor Rd – the 30 mph sign has come loose again, Highways have been informed. The road surface is breaking up just beyond the sign. Also as reported earlier in the meeting, the pavement has become a safety hazard again at the entrance to Springwater Farm.

## **New signage at Preachers Vale**

Niall Robertson of Mendip District Council had agreed to the Parish Councils request to improve the signage at Preachers Vale. It has been suggested that 2 signs will show the house numbers clearly in each direction which it is hoped will improve access for all users.

## **Finance**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter budget Review – Councillors reviewed the financial position for the Parish Council as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The forecast shows that the Council is predicted to end the year in line with the 2020/21 budget.

Discuss and agree Budget for Precept 2021/22 – A proposed budget for the coming financial year 2021/22 was considered and after discussion it was agreed that in light of the current climate a 1% increase would be applied on last year making the Precept £44,541. This would equate to £1.12 per week for the Parish Council element of the Council tax for a resident living in a Band D property - A rise of 1p per week on last year.

## **Update on the Somerset County Council Climate Emergency Fund bid**

Cllr Conn confirmed that the bid had been submitted on the 9<sup>th</sup> January and acknowledgment had been received. The bid total amounted to £32,480 and included community orchards with benches, fitness area, a nest swing and allotments with community composting. A decision is expected by the 11<sup>th</sup> March as to whether we have been successful. Cllr Conn suggested an update on the application be posted on The Coleford Echo to inform residents. Should the application be successful, the next stages would be to:

- Make a decision on whether the allotment site is to be at Highbury playing field or an alternative site elsewhere in the village.
- Apply for planning permission for the hard standing at the allotment site (if required)
- Engage with parishioners for help with planting the orchard and wildflower areas

Cllr Ham thanked Cllr Conn for the work that he had done to complete the professional and thorough bid. Cllr Conn thanked Cllrs. Ham, Drescher and the Clerk for their work on bid costings

## **Update of Royal British Legion (Coleford) Asset of Community Value**

Cllr Ham reported that a post was placed on The Coleford Echo seeking letters of support for the application to make the Royal British Legion building at Coleford an Asset of Community Value. To date, 19 letters had been received. The legal documents relating to the building are currently being copied ready for the application to be submitted before the January planning meeting.

## **Date of Next Meetings:**

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Planning meeting

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Parish Council Meeting

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention please contact the Clerk on 01749 880428 or email [clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com) Check out the website [www.colefordsomerset.info](http://www.colefordsomerset.info)

**Philip Ham**

# Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council Report

## **Somerset County Council report**

**Covid-19 Restrictions:** Revised Government regulations mean that Somerset entered Tier 4 restrictions on from December 31st. The main requirements of this Tier are:

- No household mixing, aside from support bubbles and two people meeting in public outdoor spaces. Hospitality closed, except sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.
- Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close.
- Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.
- Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open during term time. Registered childcare and childcare bubbles permitted.
- Indoor leisure, accommodation and personal care – closed.
- You must not stay overnight away from home.
- Indoor entertainment closed. Some outdoor attractions may remain open.
- Places of worship open for private prayer and communal worship.
- You must stay at home and only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons.
- You must not leave a Tier 4 area or stay overnight away from home. Coronavirus infection rates:

As at 31st December the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 9355 (up from 5,110 on 1st Dec) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 335 (228). The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 248.3 for Somerset with Mendip at 211.1, Sedgemoor at 332.9, South Somerset 193.1 and SW&T at 268.8. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 3% above the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.0 and 1.2. It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.

**Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline:** A single phone number is available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm, offering a range of support – from help accessing food or medicines, to emotional and financial support, and employment, housing and business advice.

**Vaccination programme roll-out:** Somerset residents who have been identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization (JCVI) as the highest priority are being invited for Covid-19 vaccinations first, including people aged over 80 and health and care staff. Residents should not contact their local NHS services for vaccination, they will be contacted when it's their turn and given the information that they need for their appointment. For more information visit: [www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-duringcoronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset](http://www.somersetccg.nhs.uk/health/local-services/health-services-duringcoronavirus/covid-19-vaccinations-in-somerset)

**Somerset County Council Support:** More than 700 County Council staff are being redeployed to support the NHS challenge of rolling out the county's biggest ever vaccination programme. The first community GP-led sites have begun vaccinations and follows the launch of the programme in hospital hubs. Further plans are being drawn up to ensure vaccination in other locations across the county. Operating seven days a week which will require a considerable staffing resource and whilst every effort is being made to avoid disruption to Somerset County Council services some impact will undoubtedly be felt in areas outside of vulnerable people services.

**High Speed Broadband:** Three companies have been selected to roll-out the next phase of full fibre network on behalf of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) programme, backed by Government funding. Airband, Truespeed and Wessex Internet will be installing full fibre broadband across Devon and Somerset to more than 56,000 rural homes and businesses over the next 4 years.

**One Somerset Pledges:** Somerset County Council has set out ten clear One Somerset pledges in the proposed move to a single Unitary authority:

1. No disruption to local services as we change, and a promise to keep you fully informed.
2. We will protect those front-line staff working with vulnerable people across the county.

3. Council tax will not increase because of moving to a single unitary council.
4. Physical, face-to-face council contact points across the county.
5. One telephone number and one website to access ALL council services.
6. Improved services for our vulnerable residents including housing, adults' & children's services. Improved services for our children and young people, including education, training, jobs and transport.
7. More local decision making by our town and parish councils and new local community networks.
8. Closer relationships with partners including the NHS, police, education, and the voluntary sector to deliver better services.
9. We will not split Somerset in half, divide communities, lose our proud identity, or weaken our standing on a local, regional and national level.

### **Mendip District Council Report**

**Planning:** Mendip still does not have a solution to the problem of excessive Phosphate levels on protected (Ramsar) sites on the Levels. At the moment applications for some 1500 houses remain on hold.

Local Plan Part 2 Examination – The Inspector is still expected to produce his report in January.

Consultations – There are concerns about the lack of publicity given by Mendip to the consultations on: Pre application and Planning Performance Agreement Service, Landscape and Character Assessment, and Statement of Community Involvement with respect to LPP1. It appears that none of the 5 Parish Councils which District Cllrs Ham and Townsend are involved with had any formal notification. This has been taken up with Mendip and a request made for an extension of time to respond.

**Mendip Social Housing:** After much heated debate Council finally agreed to pause the programme to allow proper consultation with the affected communities in Frome, Glastonbury and Street and examination of the whole process, including the selection of Aster. The hostility generated over the threat to the ecology of the site at Easthill, Frome must help with our defence of the environment against the Gladman application

**Cabinet:** The meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January recorded that Mendip's priorities over the next few months are:

- Saving Lives, through supporting the extensive vaccine roll out and community testing
- Delivering Statutory Services, such as homelessness prevention, environmental health, licensing and planning
- Supporting the economy and our local people

We were reminded of the Somerset Covid Helpline **0300 790 6275** – this is open 8am to 6pm, 7 days a week.

A Somerset Recovery and Growth Plan was tabled with the objective of Building Back Better. This is a county-wide plan covering People, Business, Infrastructure and places and homes. The nearest item identified for us would appear to be the redevelopment of a railway station at Shepton Mallet. There is yet to be any specific reference to the Frome area. The Major areas identified appear to be Yeovil, Taunton, Bridgwater and the Gravity site on the old Royal Ordnance Factory at Puriton, with Glastonbury town centre also promoted. A bid is also being prepared for submission to Her Majesty's Government and United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority proposing Somerset as the centre for the Spherical Tokamat for Energy Production nuclear fusion project.