

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for October 2017

PCSO report - PCSO Mike Storey reported that the latest neighbourhood statistics / recorded crime for the Frome Rural North Beat during September were as follows:

- Criminal Damage - 4
- Dwelling Burglary- 0
- Non Dwelling Burglary - 0
- Theft from a vehicle - 2
- Theft of a vehicle - 1
- Anti-social behaviour - 7

The current PACT priorities were discussed at the meeting held on the 11th September at Mells when the following priorities were agreed by members of the public who attended.

- Anti-social behaviour within our rural villages - Anti-social behaviour affects and hurts our communities. In the last three month period ASB has decreased but our rural villages would like this made a PACT priority to keep this decrease as a trend.
- Speeding through the villages - Speeding in the villages on both rural beats of Frome has been highlighted as a priority. The Speeding causes safety concerns amongst the communities. We have many active Community speed watch schemes in operation in the villages.
- Non - Dwelling Burglaries - has been highlighted as a major concern within the rural community of Frome. This was raised at the latest PACT meeting and chosen as a priority.
- Fly Tipping - Fly-tipping is on the rise. Fly-tipping is defined as the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it'. Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish in our rural locations causes a local nuisance and makes our rural communities look ugly and run down.

Somerset County Council report -County Cllr Ham reported that:

- County Farming - The first in depth review meeting has taken place which mainly concentrated on statistics, numbers, setting references and setting up a work programme. The 2nd meeting will take place on Friday the 13th October.
- Small Highway Improvement Schemes - County Cllr Ham has been made aware of 4 schemes but only 2 schemes can be submitted. The closing date for applications is the 31st October.
- Consultation on Children's Centres - This has just started. Coleford will be at risk but County Cllr Ham is trying to find out who uses it, is it needed or could it be a nursery school for Bishop Henderson school.
- Quarry Liaison meetings - Whatley, Wainwrights, Colmans and Torr will take place next week. Halecombe has been adjourned until November.
- Budget - Meetings will start soon. The funding gap is currently £18 million.

Mendip District Council report - District Cllr Philip Ham reported that during the month activities included:

- Getting planning permission for the new library and office space.
- Revamp of Mendip Lottery - it has been a success but it could do more.
- Putting together new communications and marketing team at Mendip District Council. New ideas and innovations are coming forward - more use of social media.

- Homing of 2 more Syrian Refugees families.
- Work around road closures and fly tipping around Berkeley Marsh, Frome.
- “Changing Places” - Wells and Frome funding agreed in principle by Mendip District Council. Street promised by the new owners of Clarks Village. Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury are still in discussion. These are costing around £30K each with maintenance around £3K per year.
- Property portfolio - This is coming together. Big meeting on 16th October with the final decision to be made.
- Public Space Protection Orders - This has been passed for Towns with Parish Council applications to follow in about 6 months.
- Council contract - Licensing will now be staying at Mendip District Council. A couple of other items are under discussion.

Mendip District Council report - District Cllr Townsend reported that the formal meetings to report on were:

18-9-17 Scrutiny Meeting - Continuing the objective of closer working with the town/city councils. Presentations were received from Wells, Street and Frome Councils. Themes included planning, car parking and safe cycling with a common desire to work more closely with MDC at an earlier stage. Housing Services updated us on their work with more success reported on reducing the numbers housed in B&B. Over 50% of the housing need is for 1 bedroom accommodation.

26-10-17 Parish Forum - The main theme was a presentation by SWP on waste collection. The planned introduction of a 3 week period for non-recycling collection is being delayed by a combination of the need for new collection trucks, staff training and further publicity. A major issue is the amount of food waste currently dumped in the green bin. Landfill gets ever more expensive. Attention focused on the poor attendance - only 13 attended including District Councillors. A brain storm concluded that the choice of subjects needed to be more appealing and all were asked to get proposals from their Parish Councils. A later start and refreshments were also called for.

27-9-17 Planning Board - Two contentious items were decided. An application for holiday lets behind the Crown in Pilton was approved on the basis that economic development was a priority. The expansion of the Mendip site to include the Shepton library was approved on the basis that the existing building would probably have closed anyway. There was local concern that this would have an economic impact on the town centre.

29-9-17 Licensing Seminar - The Board were invited to join South Somerset District Council for an update on topical issues by Cornerstone Barristers. The Uber saga is important as they now operate from Bristol. When their London licence expired they had been informed of a series of measures they needed to introduce to convince TFL that they were fit and proper people to carry the public in safety. This they failed to do, so their licence was not renewed. Of local interest is the concept of Front of House drug testing for festivals etc. This allows people with suspect substances to offer them for testing to eliminate the risk of fatal drug contamination. This is done on a voluntary and anonymous basis, with the principle of protecting public safety. Several trials have been completed and analyses are awaited.

Decisions on Previous Planning Applications

2017/2099/FUL - A barn to accommodate calves under 18 months of age due to prohibition of moving animals under TB regulations, Hillside Farm, Newbury Hill, Coleford, Frome, BA3 5RU

Mendip District Council have approved the application with conditions

2017/2061/HSE - Retrospective planning application for a garden store in the rear garden of 2 Hillside, Coleford, Radstock

Mendip District Council have approved the application with conditions

2017/2053/HSE - Removal of existing conservatory & erection of a single story extension to the rear. 3 Wesley Villas, Church Street, Coleford, BA3 5ND

Mendip District Council have approved the application with conditions

2017/1927/FUL - Erection of detached 2 storey 4 bed dwelling,
Land East of Colbury House, Anchor Road, Coleford, Radstock
Mendip District Council have approved the application with conditions

2017/2131/HSE - Single storey rear extension with apex roof
3 Careys Mead, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5NR
Mendip District Council have approved the application with conditions

Notification of address of premises - application relating to Dudley Taylor Pharmacies, Next to Cross Ways Fish and Chip shop on junction of Highbury Street and Church Street, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5NH. Confirmation has been received that the premises from Dudley Taylor Pharmacies Ltd which they intend to provide pharmaceutical services is Crossways Fish Bar, Church Street, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5NH.

Planning Applications

2017/1374/FUL - Proposed 20MW Flexible Electricity Generation Facility (FEGF) Rebastone Masonry Limited, Newbury Works, Newbury Hill, Coleford, BA3 5RX

It was proposed that the application be refused for the following reasons:

1. Concerns over the access to the site and the transport delivery plan.
2. When operating, what would be the effect on the gas pressure for residents in the village?
3. Concern that the proposal would be very poorly located, requiring excessive infrastructure and disruption of the road network; cable connections and road works of 7 km and 3 km are proposed to the nearest grid connection points.
4. Concern over sound pollution especially considering the close proximity to the bridleway.
5. The application contradicts the Mendip District Council Adopted Local Plan Part 1, core policies 3 and 4 by taking a lot of Coleford potential employment land without providing employment.
6. The hours proposed for the construction are excessively long.
7. Are there any advantages to the village? Could there be a Section 106 award with an annual payment?
8. Concern over air pollution.

A vote was taken which was unanimously in favour of supporting the proposal to recommend refusal.

Reports on Highway and Footpath Issues

Renovation of Finger post signs - Somerset County Council have issued detailed guidance for any volunteers wishing to renovate the signs which includes the detailed surveying process. It was noted that some of the signs are obscured by hedgerows and undergrowth which will need addressing prior to any renovation work being undertaken.

Small Improvement scheme application - 5 sites have been identified for improvements, they are:

1. Disabled access into the Co-op store to include improvements to the pavement and making a visual definition using red tarmac / banding to alert and slow traffic at the junction.
2. Improve the parking at Careys Mead, which in turn will improve access onto Highbury Street for cars negotiating from Careys Mead.
3. Create pavement at the site of the old Doctors surgery on Anchor Road.
4. Reduce speed on Church Street - possible creation of a 20mph zone.
5. Reduce on road parking at Alfords Ridge - no solution available at present.

The application needs to be completed ready to submit before the deadline of 31/10/17.

Parish Cemetery

Councillors discussed the Cemetery Policy which had been updated by the Clerk and the fact that at present none of the burial plots have exclusive rights issued to next of kin, although they are treated as so.

Exclusive rights: Having sought advice from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, the Clerk explained that it is much better for the Council to issue the Deed of Exclusivity as it takes away any margin for error when installing a memorial or re-opening a plot.

For future applications the working party felt that this should be carried out with immediate effect and that the 50 year Deed of Exclusive Right of Burial would be automatically granted and for all existing plots a master list be held on the Parish Councils files.

The Deed of Grant and application form which includes exclusive rights was approved by Councillors and it was felt that a fee of £20 should be charged to cover the administration fee.

Cemetery Policy: The new proposed Cemetery Policy had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. A vote was taken which was in adopting the new policy.

Small Grants Award for 2017/18

The Parish Council are now welcoming applications for funding from the Small Grants scheme. If you are involved with a local club or organisation and have a project which needs funds then why not apply? The closing date for applications is the 31st of October 2017. The application is available from the Parish Council website using the following link: www.colefordsomerset.org/documents

Bishop Henderson School and Dog Fouling Signage competition

Cllr Townsend had met with Ms Tonie Scott, Head of Bishop Henderson School and had a tour of the school inside and out to see the facilities available to all years. They spoke about closer liaison and Ms Scott said she was keen to give a presentation at the annual Parish Meeting which was encouraging.

Approximately 30 laminated posters had been created by the more senior class to highlight the importance of being a considerate dog owner and cleaning up after it. There was lots of imagination used along with some graphic images! Councillors agreed that all of the posters were very imaginative and should be put on display throughout the village.

During the Council meeting 2 winning posters and 2 runners up were selected. The winners will be notified via the School and will be awarded with their prizes.

Environment Report

During the recent visit, there were only 3 members of the payback team, which was disappointing. However, the team worked hard and managed to get the playing field gates painted and refilled the grit bin at Underhill. They also cleared the debris from behind the changing rooms and took the waste away with them, which was appreciated.

It was confirmed that half of the projects mentioned in the original list have now been completed. If anyone has any new projects to add then please let the Clerk know by emailing clerk@colefordsomerset.org Depending on the weather it is proposed that the woodwork in Coleford Playing field will be a priority for the next visit.

It was also reported that the new grit bins must be installed as soon as possible so that they can be filled by the Highways team before the onset of winter weather. Locations include Douglas Yates Court, Stockhill, Lawrence Road and outside the Church Hall.

Agree Preferred Contractor for BMX Pump track

After a great deal of debate a preferred contractor has been selected, namely Rob Wareham of Dirt Kraft Ltd. The main factor determining the vote in favour of Dirt Kraft Ltd was the significantly lower cost of this proposal than Forte Trailscapes.

Date of Next Meetings:

Tuesday 24th October 2017

Tuesday 7th November 2017

Wednesday 8th November 2017

Planning Meeting & Finance Working Party Meeting - Precept

Small Grants Working Party Meeting

Parish Council Meeting