

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for June 2019

Police report

A report had been received from Chief Inspector Sharon Baker which read as follows:

“I thought it good timing to drop you all a quick update on what your local teams have been doing to tackle County Lines. Whilst the activity I have highlighted is over the last fortnight, it is typical of what they are doing regularly across nearly all of our towns.



We had a week of action aiming to disrupt County Lines offenders from operating but also aimed at protecting those most at risk. In South Somerset and Mendip alone we visited 47 households, speaking to individuals we know are targeted, we worked with colleagues in housing and social care to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures were in place for those at risk.

The visits led to the seizure of what we believe to be Class A drugs, and other items connected with dealing drugs. I have copied in the press release below, which can be found on our website and accessed via this link;

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/news/2019/05/county-lines-drug-dealing-lines-bombarded-with-disruptive-text-messages-during-week-of-action/>

We have had the support of specialist officers from across the force to help us tackle County Lines drug dealing, including patrols by our mounted colleagues in Yeovil. Other specialist units are less visible but are here helping us to catch those responsible. Our Traffic colleagues have been supporting us trying to find vehicles used by drug dealers, and while in our towns seizing uninsured vehicles they come across.

The additional officers helped us increase our pro-active capability and numerous searches and arrests have been made as a result, cash and drugs once again seized, causing further disruption to those offenders. In addition to this we have carried out 4 warrants searching suspected premises responsible for dealings drugs in just the Mendip area alone.

I hope you can see tackling those intent on causing our communities most harm is a real team effort – and that includes you. We actively monitor addresses and persons of concern, but obviously only when we know, and rely on information being passed to us from the public and professionals.

If you would like me or a member of my team to come and brief any groups or staff about County Lines or indeed any other issue you are worried about please just ask myself or a member of your local team. Thank you for your continued support of our local teams”.

Planning applications

2018/2348/HSE – Proposed construction of a new porch.
Sunnyholm, 3 Highbury Street, Coleford, Radstock
Coleford Parish Council recommended approval

2019/1314/HSE – Erection of side/rear extension following demolition of existing annexe and erection of detached double garage. Magnolia, 2 Tinkers Lane, Newbury, Frome
Coleford Parish Council recommended approval

2019/1161/OTS - Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the erection of 1no. Agricultural workers dwelling and attached annexe with details of access.
Hillside Farm Newbury Hill Coleford Frome BA3 5RU
Coleford Parish Council recommended approval



Highways

The overhanging foliage at Stockhill would be reported to Somerset Highways at the next planned meeting in the village. It was noted that the pavement had been marked up in Careys Mead in preparation for resurfacing.



Concerns had been reported regarding the danger of vehicles emerging from Charmborough Lane onto Charlton Rd. There was an accident recently but no injury reported. Cllr Townsend has requested that Rebecca Davies of Somerset Highways meets for onsite to see what safety measures can be put in place.

Update on safety proposals at Crossways Junction - Cllr Ham reported that it looked like the yellow lines could go ahead however any humps etc would be subject to further consultation & approval by Somerset Highways. If yellow lines are to be installed then users of the shop and pharmacy will be pushed into parking in the Legion car park, but this then raises the issue of who will pay to resurface the car park. Conversations have started with the Radstock Co-op group, Gospel Hall and the Pharmacy as to whether they will contribute towards the costs of resurfacing the car park but it is not known at this point what they would be prepared to pay. The cost of resurfacing is estimated to be in the region of £16K. If the Parish Council is to invest for the benefit of the community, then public parking-would need to be secured for a minimum of 10 years within a legal contract. Cllr Ham will have further discussions with the Royal British Legion to see if they would be able to give such a guarantee.

Play areas

Interest has been expressed by a group of local women who would like to start playing netball at the hard courts at Highbury. Cllr Ham confirmed that there were netball hoops in storage and he would arrange for them to be taken down to the courts as soon as possible.

The Council considered the quotes received for new basketball hoops and after discussion it was agreed that clarification would be sought from Hexa Sports to confirm the total cost of the combination football posts with basketball hoops incorporated. A decision on whether to proceed with a purchase of these will take place at the next meeting.

The Parish Council had been asked if there was anything that it could do to help with the weeds and grass cover at the football field. The Clerk will approach a professional company and seek a quote for them to advise on the problem.

Crossways Garage

There had been several incidents recently of young people hanging around the Crossways Garage resulting in the windows being smashed. Concern was mounting as to whether individuals may be able to get inside causing harm to themselves and or to the property. The Parish Council contacted the developer and requested that the site be made safe. They responded swiftly and boarded the windows and access to prevent access.

It is not known at this point when the work will start on the building of the Co-op but if the Parish Council is notified we will of course pass the information on to the Parishioners.

Water Leak at Highbury playing field car park

Over the weekend of the 15th /16th June a water leak developed underground in the Highbury car park. The water board came out and turned the supply off and have issued the Parish Council with a 14 day notice to take action towards repairing the leak. The water supply will have to remain off until the repair is completed however quotes are being sought as we speak.



Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 26th June 2019 @ 7pm Planning meeting

Wednesday 12th July 2019 @ 7pm 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 Check out the website www.colefordsomerset.info

Somerset County Council Report

County Cllr Ham reported as follows:

The Panorama programme 'Crisis in Care' highlighted the incredible work by Adult Social Care staff based in Somerset. In two moving programs the difficulty of managing the ever increasing demand with reduced funding was brought into sharp focus. The programme provides a balanced view of the challenges faced by front line staff and the Council and is hoped that it will help galvanize the national debate on the future of funding of care.

National Volunteering week is the first week in June where invaluable work of volunteers from across the County is recognized and celebrated. Every week hundreds of volunteers give up thousands of hours to support a wider range of activities throughout Somerset. Volunteering through the County Council could not be easier whether its driving or mentoring, assisting the libraries or AONB's there are opportunities for everyone at www.volunteering-somerset.gov.uk

Summer camps are at the heart of the LIFEbeat experience providing intensive residential programs where 50 young people work together with adult staff and volunteers to form creative community for a week. LIFEbeat focus on four outcomes which allow young people to build a greater understanding of themselves and others; self-esteem, emotional intelligence, social skills and resilience. More info can be found at www.lifebeat.uk/somerset/somerset-camp-2019

Somerset County Council have agreed to a further £1.3m of funding to the £1m budget to deliver a significantly increase d number of member led small improvement schemes over the next 12 months. It is predicated that the number of deliverable scheme in the year will rise from 20 to 60 and work is now ongoing to re-schedule the delivery dates.

In 2019 Somerset County Council had 68 resurfacing schemes (17 principal road schemes, 51 non principal road schemes) totaling 22 miles to deliver plus 2 flood related re-surfacing schemes in West Somerset. In addition there will be surface dressing at 152 separate locations totaling 148 miles of roads. The total budget for this work is £14.5 million.

Volunteers are need this summer to pass their love of reading onto children during this year's Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge taking place across all of Somerset Libraries. Last year over 7400 children took part in the challenge and this couldn't be achieved without the help of volunteers who need to be aged 13 and over, with a love of reading and able to give up spare time of their summer holiday (13th July to the 7th September) For more information www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/srcvolunteering

Somerset Cider producers have been put to the test as part of a programmed of annual food sample test to ensure that food is properly described, compliant with required labelling and does not contain unauthorized additives or other substances that would make them unsafe. As Somerset is a major cider producing area artisan ciders were tested for compliance with labelling, alcohol content, and the undisclosed use of sweeteners and the presence of sulphites. Most samples taken were satisfactory however 6 were found to have artificial sweeteners which were not properly declared and on contained sulphites which were not indicated. All alcoholic content was satisfactory.

Mendip District Council Report

District Cllr Townsend sent the following report. Under the new regime my new appointments are:

- Planning Board – Substitute Member, previously a Full Member
- Licensing Board – Full member as before
- Audit Committee – Substitute member
- KeyRing Lettings – no longer a Director
- Quarry Liaison – still a member

June is a very full month with a total of some 18 Meetings and Training sessions planned.

Mendip District Council responded very swiftly to a request to clear a mattress and other rubbish which had been fly tipped in Dark Lane.

Mendip District Council have obtained a £50k Government grant to help with the homeless problems, which is being allocated to KeyRing to employ a specialist to seek out and support rough sleepers

District Cllr Ham reported that the new administration structure is no in place with 11 Cabinet members instead of 6 and 7 Cabinet assistances instead of 3. The cost therefore has doubled overnight. Cllr Ham confirmed that his roles were as follows:

- Chair of scrutiny and working groups
- Deputy leader of the Conservatives
- Equalities
- Migrant forum
- Quarry liaison
- Audit Committee substitute
- Director of Frome Independent Market

Local Plan Part II hearing is to take place at the end of July, early August. Coleford will be considered on the 1st of August reference proposed allocation for housing the land above the old recycling depot.