

# Parish Council of Coleford

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## Newsletter for July 2019

### Planning

Proposed Housing Development at Anchor Rd - Councillors were briefed on this pre-application proposal for up to 70 houses from Gladman Developments. Some residents had already received a promotion brochure requesting them to give their views. Residents had met with the Writhlington Action Group who had been successful in resisting a similar application from Gladman. Mendip DC will be resisting this proposal at the Inspector's hearing on the Local Plan Part 2 on the basis that it is outside the village Development limits and that Mendip can demonstrate that housing targets are achieved already. Councillors felt that the Parish should also present their objections to the Inspector as there were very strong feelings that local facilities and infrastructure could not cope, especially the already dangerous highways issues. It was agreed that a public meeting should be held to allow all views to be expressed. This was scheduled for 7-00pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July at the Royal British Legion at Coleford.



2019/1504 Agricultural barn for livestock at Springwater Farm – Coleford Parish Council have recommended approval on the basis that satisfactory assurances were received on the treatment of effluent and a proper mining survey was completed.

### Parish Plan

It is 10 years since the last Plan was published. Councillors agreed that an update would be worthwhile as the last one had produced a number of successful outcomes. A questionnaire will be circulated to the village to ask residents whether they feel that a new Plan should be created, if they wish to help, and what issues should be addressed. This will be an important document as it could shape the development of the Parish over the next 10 years and we would encourage all residents to complete the questionnaire.

### Highbury Playing Field

The Clerk had received requests for basketball and netball hoops to be installed at the hardcourts, Highbury. In light of the current goals being in a poor condition the Clerk is seeking quotes for a combined goal and basketball hoop set. Once received the Council will consider whether to proceed with the purchase. It was agreed that the netball hoops will be retrieved from storage and installed at the courts soon.



### VE Day

Councillors are keen to start advance planning for the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe on the weekend of 8/9/10 May 2020. We will be contacting other village organisations to set up an organising committee. Initial thoughts involve possible road closures, and all are asked to dig out their (or their parent's or grandparent's) wartime memorabilia.



### Highways issues

Cllr Townsend is meeting Somerset Highways on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Agenda items will include dangerous parking at Underhill/Church St, low hanging branches at Stockhill, road surface split at Lipyeate, surface dressing programme, safety issues on Newbury Lane.

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## **2020 Village Day**

The Council was pleased to receive a request from the Coleford Revival Group asking for Highbury Playing Field to be made available for the 2020 Village Day planned for 28/29/30 August 2020

## **Litter Champions**



The Parish Council will be supplying litter picking equipment to both the Kings Head public house and the Co-op so that willing volunteers can borrow the gear and do a litter pick of their choice to help keep the village clean. That could be 5 minutes or an hour, any contribution will be very much appreciated. Just pop in and ask a member of staff who will be able to provide you with all that you need to complete the pick.

## **Mendip District Council Report:**

District Cllr Ham reported that he has been appointed as Chair of Scrutiny which will be looking at 4 areas over the next 4 years namely;

- Policies & Strategies – This is wide ranging from car parking to housing
- Contracts – Looking at how they are run and areas where they could be improved.
- Access – Big project and includes new rail and road projects through to disabled access into a building and social media. This will be tackled in stages.
- Deprivation – Fortunately not a big problem for Mendip District Council but still a topic that will be explored.

Mendip District Council has signed up to Somerset County Council's climate change program but are also running their own program at Mendip District Council.

Attendance for new member training has been poor, but it is hoped that this will improve.

The Local Plan inspections start soon but there are no real issues surrounding Holcombe.

The plans have arrived for the highway improvement schemes for the old Frome to Wells road and the Beacon crossroads. There will be a consultation event in the near future to show all interested.

He said that as his division had been supplying most of the stone to Hinckley C that he had made contact with the Community Fund Organisation to come and present to us what we could apply for. He also has a small pot of money to help with 'improving lives' and a larger pot which is titled 'improving lives to prevent demand'. District Cllr Ham said that he is still reading through and will send further detail asap.

Last Monday Cllr Ham was presented to HRH. Princess Anne on the opening of an upgraded and changed Bridleway near Faulkland.

District Cllr Townsend reported:

Training – there have been a further 4 training sessions in the month. Attendance has been patchy.

12/6/19 Meeting of the Licensing Board, covering licensing of hypnotists, and mandatory reporting by Taxi drivers of health issues.

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14/06/19 - 2 x Meetings of Licensing Sub Committees, covering an alcohol licence for a new Co-op at Pilton, which was granted. Also a Taxi driver had been reported for abusive behaviour but he handed in his licence before action could be taken.

19/06/19 - Planning Board met for the first time under the new regime with a long agenda including items held over from May because they could not field enough trained Councillors.

26/06/19 - Formal tour of Glastonbury Festival site for Licensing Board members. Concerns about the lack of space between tents were raised but D&S Rescue advised that this had been risk assessed and concluded that naked flames were very rare as little cooking was done, and modern material was much less flammable.

01/07/19 - Full Cabinet - It was noted that of the 17 newly appointed Cabinet Members and Assistants only 11 were in attendance. Cllr Townsend has been appointed as a member of the committee established to address the Climate Emergency.

Coleford Parish Council have been advised that a planning application is being prepared by Gladman Developments to build up to 70 houses between Lipyate Cross and Upper Merrifield. There are many issues to address.

## **Somerset County Council Report**

County Cllr Ham had sent his apologies along with the following report:

1. Cllr Ham recently attended the Chairman's awards at Taunton and was pleased to see many awards for the Mendip Area.
2. Cllr Ham was presented to HRH Princess Anne last week at the re-opening the Bridleway from Faulkland to Norton St Philip. It was an enjoyable morning and made to feel at ease with good conversation with HRH.
3. A conversation is underway with the Hinkley C Community fund organizers and hope to hold an event in my division for all parishes that have had inconvenience, noise, dust and traffic problems will update soon.
4. The Old Frome to Wells Road and Beacon Cross roads – County Cllr Ham and County Cllr Pullin's scheme are moving forward. Plans are due in the next few days so will be holding an event for an afternoon/evening for everyone to comment. A date will be released soon.
5. I have 2 funding pots:
  1. Improving Lives Grants - Total £2K
  2. Improving lives to prevent demand – Open bids.
6. Further report from Somerset County Council was available. The Clerk will photocopy the paperwork for both grants and the Somerset County Council report to be circulated to Councillors for consideration.

## **Date of Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 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](mailto:clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com)**

**Check out the website [www.colefordsomerset.info](http://www.colefordsomerset.info)**

*Philip Ham, Chairman*