

Parish Council of Coleford

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November Newsletter

Small Grant Awards

The Parish Council has approved the following grants for 2019:



1st Coleford Scout - £250 towards folding tables & benches
Coleford @ The Hub - £350 to a new floor steam cleaner
Court Café - £400 towards Christmas celebrations for the group
Huckyduck Carnival Club - £400 for LED Lightbulbs
Coleford Revival Group - £600 towards the Pensioners Christmas meal
Coleford Theatre Group - £500 for LED lights & Costume hire

Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire

The questionnaires have been delivered to each household. If you need another for other family members there are spare copies at the Kings Head, The Eagle, The British Legion and @ The Hub.

The Parish Council is really keen to hear from you and remember that if you return a completed questionnaire you will be entered into a prize draw to win £100. Reply boxes can be found at The Eagle, British Legion, the Doctors Surgery, Co-op, The Hub, The Kings Head and the Vicarage door



The deadline for returning the questionnaire has been extended to Sunday 8th December.

Coleford @ The Hub

Its great to hear that the heating system at The Hub is now fully functioning. Don't forget to support the Post Office which is @ The Hub every Monday 10am til 12 noon and Wednesday 9am til 11am.



VE Day event planning

The Parish Council is holding a second VE Day meeting on Friday the 6th December 2019 @ The Hub when they hope to finalise details on how Coleford residents and groups will celebrate the VE Day 75, which will take place from Friday 8th May to 10th May 2020 – The Friday will be a bank holiday! Anyone interested in getting involved should attend.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wed 27 th November 2019	Planning & Precept Meeting
Wed 11 th December 2019	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

Philip Ham, Chairman

Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council reports for Coleford & Holcombe

County Cllr Ham reported that:

School places – Applications for secondary / Upper schools closed on the 31/10/19 and the team are now beginning the task of placing students into schools. For those applying for their first school place the deadline for applications is the 15/01/20. Further information can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/apply-to-start-school/ Applicants are encouraged to submit 3 preferences including their local school as one of those preferences.

Mental Health First Aid Course – A 2 day free mental health course is being held on the 29/01/19 & 06/12/19 and helps attendees to spot the signs of mental health and to provide assistance on a first aid basis. Further details can be obtained from Sophie Chivers in Public Health schivers@somerset.gov.uk

Dillington House – Dillington’s Winter Wonderland is back for the 3rd year from the 30th November to the 1st December with Christmas stalls and skate rink.

Learning Disabilities – Independent living – As part of the promoting independence strategy SCC are currently focusing on those with learning disability. So far this year the County Council have moved with individuals express agreement 42 people with learning disabilities from residential care to supported living accommodation. This has resulted in a tremendous improvement in their quality of life.

Stepping stones - Independent living – Around 150 young people in Somerset leave care every year and as part of National Care leaver’s week SCC are highlighting the urgent need for more stepping stone carers to help them on their journey to independent living. Stepping stones carers welcome young people (usually leaving foster care) into their own home and support them with managing bills, cooking, shopping, gaining employment opportunities and accessing further education.
Stepping

Stones carers receive a weekly fee plus extra for food and utilities. More information on how to support a young care leaver is available on 0800 587 9900 or by visiting www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk

Climate emergency strategy framework – A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes since the SCC committed to being carbon neutral by 2030 and agreed to work with all district councils in Somerset on a strategy to do so. Countrywide drop-ins and online consultations on the emerging Climate Emergency Strategy Framework are being held throughout January.

Somerset Rivers Authority – This month the annual report was published. In 2018-19 just over £3.8 million was spent on actions designed to protect both people and property across Somerset. Because there is no one simple solution to Somerset Flooding challenges and everyone in the County is affected in some way the SRA invest in wide range of actions to reduce the flood risks and increased the resilience when floods occur. All works are additional to those carried out by the Flood Risk Management Authorities in Somerset.

Dementia Support Groups – SCC is looking to invest more than half a million pounds to kick start and extend projects and groups that run day time activities for people with dementia and provide respite for their unpaid carers. Now two new projects are coming on stream, The Magdalen Environmental Trust near Chard offering a once a week session for adults with Dementia and their carers on its organic farm. The Dementia Café based at Wincanton; Dementia and Arts Programme run by the Creative Innovation Centre in Taunton; The Active Social Minds project in Wells and the Filo project across the County.

National Recognition Award – SCC Locality Manager Chris Denovan has been selected as a finalist for the lifetime achievement category in the annual Social Worker of the Year awards in recognition of her contribution to the profession over four decades. The winner from each category will compete against each other to be named Overall Social Worker of the Year 2019. Chris has been a forefront of Somerset’s innovative community connect approach, with passion for helping people remain independent and live the lives they want to live. She and her team also featured in the recent Panorama care documentaries broadcast earlier this year.

Mendip District Council Report

District Cllr Ham said that many meetings have been cancelled or postponed due to the General Election including Cabinet and Scrutiny. This also applies to SCC with full council moved to January. Scrutiny work around the 4 themes continue at pace but procedure and awareness of political change and climate change seems to influence decisions and progress.

There have been several planning applications of late, putting the planning department under pressure with many of them taking up more time. Cllr Ham has been directly involved with an issue at Apple Meadows in Leigh On Mendip regarding a ransom strip. People have bought the houses and after all legal costs and searches finding out they cannot re sell due to a strip of land not in their ownership. It is currently being investigated to establish who is at fault and how it can be resolved..

District Cllr Townsend had provided the following report:

Planning Board 16-10-19

Nothing of specific interest to Coleford. However at the 20th November Board they will be reviewing the outline application by Gladman for up to 100 dwellings at Elm Close on the western edge of Wells. Any lessons for Coleford may be crucial. Interesting that only 45 neighbour objections are recorded.

MDC Licensing Sub Committee 25-10-19

An urgent review was required of a Taxi Licence holder to ensure he is a Fit and Proper person, which we unanimously agreed.

MDC Cabinet 4-11-19

- Glastonbury residents complained about Travellers behaviour and lack of enforcement by Mendip
- Pilton By Pass - discontent about the way potential routes had been released leading to planning blight. MDC agreed to carry out a proper consultation
- Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan – Cabinet had previously agreed that it should pass to Referendum but a developer has raised a legal objection which may lead to an expensive judicial review of Mendip’s decision
- Climate and Ecology Emergency Strategy – an Action Plan is being generated under the overarching County strategy which will lead us to carbon neutrality by 2030. There is no mention of Hinckley B or C! A paper on creating new footpaths and cycleways as part of the strategy had to be withdrawn because of lack of consultation with the equestrian community! Full public consultation on the Strategy will happen in February.
- Motions on Markets strategy and District filming - Withdrawn because Cabinet hadn’t got their act together
- Bristol Clean Air Strategy – Tom Killen raised concerns on behalf of us to the south of the city, for example haulage contractors accessing the M4. Bristol Council have now assured Mendip that we will be involved in the final consultation process.