

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428
Email: clerkcolefordsomerset@gmail.com

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Newsletter for February 2020

Police report

The latest neighbourhood Crime statistics / recorded crime from 1st – 31st January are as follows:

- Residential burglaries - 2
- Non dwelling Burglaries – 0
- Attempted Burglaries - 0
- Criminal Damage – 0
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle – 1
- Theft - 1
- ASB – 2



Highways

It was confirmed that:

- Weeds/ making good of the highway edge by @ The Hub, Church Street - Highways will not be finishing the length by the collapsed wall until it is made good.
- Charmborough Lane pothole - this was located as outside our District.
- High St drains - earlier report to Highways will be chased up.

Other items to report:

- Pothole on Anchor Rd between former Post Office and RBL. This was reported and repaired within 3 days.
- 30mph sign on Anchor Rd, broken support bracket. Reported and repaired within 2 days as it could have broken loose in the gale.

Update on Coleford Parish Plan Questionnaire

The number of people who responded to the questionnaire was disappointing however the responses came from different parts of the village which was positive and reflected a balanced view. The age of those responding was towards that of retirement age, most of which thought that a new plan should be created with 17 people offering to help.

There were varied responses to what people liked about the village with the countryside, the people and the community rating highly. The dislikes included parking problems, poor bus service, poor roads, speeding, dog fouling, litter and fly tipping and the lack of a daily post office.

The priorities for a new plan would include:

1. Village facilities and services,
2. Countryside and rural environment,
3. Highways, traffic, road safety and speeding
4. People and community
5. Village environment and built quality , including dog fouling, litter and fly tipping.
6. Bus service
7. Parking
8. Housing, sustainable development and social housing
9. Communications
10. Crime and disorder



A copy of the results will be sent to the people who offered to help produce a new plan to see if they would like to comment on the report. An informal meeting could then be held in the Spring to discuss the results and ask directly about the willingness to work on the various topics. After the meeting the Parish Council can consider whether they wish to further promote a new plan.

VE Day 75 event planning

The celebrations are starting to take shape. A leaflet will be circulated to all households encouraging everyone to get involved. The events planned at present are as follows:

Thursday 7th May

Coleford Theatre Group play – *Keep Smiling Through*

Friday 8th May

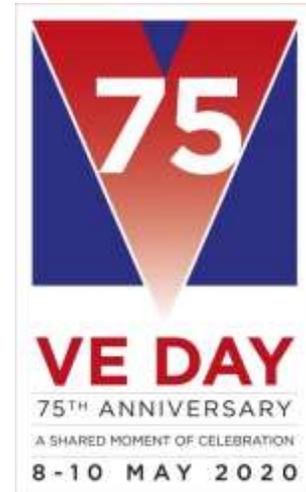
12.00 - 4pm - Holcombe Party in the Park
2.00 - 5.00 Holy Trinity Flower Festival and Exhibition
2.55 Last Post and Toast
6.55 The Cry for Peace and Church Bells will ring out
Coleford Theatre Group play – *Keep Smiling Through*

Saturday 9th May

Breakfast at Holcombe
Event TBC at the Gospel Hall
2.00 - 5.00 Holy Trinity Flower Festival and Exhibition
4pm Live music at the Kings Head

Sunday 10th May

9.30 Coleford Church Service
11.15 Holcombe Church Service
2.00 Plant trees
2.00 - 5.00 Holy Trinity Flower Festival and Exhibition
Commission of the tapestries
High Tea with war time songs FREE for those over 75 and older



It has been agreed that £1K will be made available from Parish Council funds to support the celebrations. A committee have been formed to make decisions on how that will be spent but could go towards supporting cost of hiring costumes for the play, buying trees, bunting etc.

It was acknowledged that trees could be planted at the boundary of Highbury playing field and Coleford playing field.



Date of Next Meetings

Wed 26th February 2020 - Planning Meeting
meeting

Wed 11th March 2020 - Parish Council

**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 Report:

County Cllr Ham provided the following Somerset briefing report.

- The discussion over whether to become a unitary authority continues to gather pace. The County Council will be voting next week and are in favour of becoming one unitary authority whereas Mendip District Council are against the proposal. Different options are also being discussed.
- The Somerset Fund – Grass roots community groups are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to £1500 – the deadline for applications is 14/02/20. The Somerset Fund will support local people of all ages and wide range of causes, including giving the best start in life to the most disadvantaged children, growing the life skills of young people, improving the mental health of people of all ages, increasing opportunities for better physical health, supporting people with disabilities and life-limiting illnesses and combating loneliness and isolation.
- Climate Emergency Strategy Events – Rescheduled public events to discuss the creation of Somerset’s first climate emergency strategy have been confirmed and will be run by the Somerset Climate Action Network (SCAN) on behalf of Somerset’s four District Councils and the County Council. The strategy will identify ways to work towards being carbon neutral by 2030 and adapt to predicted climate change impacts. The events will be held 10am until 4pm on:
 - 08/02/20 - Bridgewater House, Kings Square, TA6 3AR
 - 15/02/20 - Mendip DC offices, Shepton Mallet. BA4 5BT
 - 22/02/20 - Vicarage Street Methodist Church, Yeovil, BA20 1JB

Community Connect - Somerset County Council’s adult social care team have implemented a new website. Some of the key things on the site include:

- A directory of micro providers – the growing network of small scale often single person, care providers who can help with care.

- A list of drop-in events being run by a huge range of community and voluntary organizations in your local area
- Information about support for carers
- Help to access equipment through the county’s two independence and advice centers
- A directory of registered home care and care home providers.

Fizz Free February - The campaign to ditch sugary drinks for 29 days is part of the wider sugar smart campaign aimed at cutting back on the amount of sugar consumed. Public Health England on the nations diet shows that sugar now makes up 13.5% of 4 to 10-year olds’ and 14.1% of teenagers daily calorie intake while the official recommendation is to limit sugar to no more than 5%. Research has shown that in Somerset 1 in 5 children enter primary school overweight or obese, 1 in 3 enter secondary school overweight or obese.

Talking cafes - Adult social care now has 17 Talking Cafes and a network of community agents and village agents who work closely with SCC’s social work teams to ensure that people are able to find solutions that help them live as independently as possible in their own home. 5519 people have been supported through the Talking Cafes to date.

Free health Checks - Nearly 7000 people benefitted from the free health checks last year thanks to the service delivered for Somerset County Council and the NHS. And the checks will continue this year, giving anyone over 40 the chance to have a free check up every 5 years helping to identify those at higher risk of certain health problems such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease or stroke. During the 30-minute check a healthcare professional will check blood pressure, cholesterol, BMI and lifestyle. With these results the practitioner can advise patients about small changes that they can make which could have a huge impact on their future health.

Bovine TB - Following a successful bid for funding from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Somerset Trading Standards has launched a new information pack giving farmers all the information they need to help safeguard their herd from Bovine TB. The packs provide information on the regulations, how to access support and give practical tools for farmers to help increase biosecurity standards with the aim of reducing the impact of the disease.

Somerset Prepared - This is the official multi agency partnership working closely with communities to deliver advice, support and training to enhance local resilience to emergencies. Their work includes raising awareness of local risk, providing advice, guidance, support and funding to locally led community resilience initiative; providing resilience networking and information sharing platforms for community groups through meetings, events and supporting technology; supporting partner agencies between member organizations.

Mendip District Council Report:

District Cllr Townsend reported from the 3rd February Cabinet meeting that:

Recycle More - the new County-wide programme with new vehicles and the 3 weekly non recyclable collection will start with Mendip in June. There will be at least two rounds of publicity with the aim of making it clear what additional items will be recyclable and specifically encouraging people to put food waste in the right bin.

Council Reorganisation - the option preferred by County is for one Unitary organisation. Mendip wish to explore other options possibly favouring the retention of the existing structure but with the District councils working more closely together. A business case for this is being prepared for July Cabinet.

Climate Emergency - members of the public made urgent pleas for action. A report was presented showing a detailed baseline of the sources of CO2 emissions in the District. Domestic heating and insulation are highlighted. Council funded electric car charging points are being explored. A public Climate Event is being held at Mendip on 15th February from 10-00 until 4-00.

Also, from the PACT meeting on 20th January at the Coleford RBL. This was very poorly attended with more officials than members of the public. The police could easily conclude that the village has few concerns about crime! Priorities were again set as Speeding, Rural Theft and Poaching. On speeding the view from all parties was that in addition to SID data publicity was vital and threats of going to the press have helped others. John Gould is retiring and Mike Storey is moving, replacements are being sought.

District Cllr Ham reported that

The local plan no longer meets the required 5 year housing targets and sites for 520 houses need to be found in the next year. It has been suggested that these should be in the North East of the District from Chilcompton through to Rode. The number of houses specified to be built each year within the plan will also increase from 420 to 615. It has been said by Mendip District Council that any planning applications submitted would have to be monstrously harmful for it not to be approved.

Mendip District Council has borrowed a further 80 million pounds of which 60 million will be spent on regeneration with the other 20 million being invested into assets which will generate income from their rental capacity.

Climate change continues to be a hot topic and effects nearly every discussion, strategy and report at Mendip District Council. As a Parish Council we will need to consider what we can do. Nunney Parish Council has adopted an environmental policy which the Clerk read out.

The gypsy and travellers at Mells corner next to Halecombe quarry have started clearance of more land but it is not clear who actually owns it.

District Cllr Townsend has been pursuing the case officer regularly to establish the outcome of the Gladman application as the decision was due at Christmas. It has been confirmed that both Somerset Highways and Wessex Water have no comments on the proposed application.

It has been confirmed that work on the new Co-op on Anchor Road will commence in March 2020.