

Mendip District Report from Phillip Ham

The last month has been busy with Covid 19 still being the biggest issue. The council offices are still closed with most employees working from home. All meetings are virtual, large or small.

CABINET included items on Footpaths and Cycleways to reduce car useage with some funding from central government. A paper ref the new clear air act and its implications to our district, and also an updating paper on progress and this years intended workload Regards equality. There were also actions agreed with the cabinet from the work done by the Scrutiny deprivation group. All these items I had a personal interest in as I had worked on all of them.

SCRUTINY we had verbal updates on how MDC had dealt with the pandemic from chief excutive Stuart Brown and financial 151 officer Paul Deal who spoke of the implications to 20/21 and 21/22 years financially.

PLANNING the May meeting was abandoned due IT failures to notify all parties involved and has been rescheduled for 10/6/2020 with the June meeting on 17/6/2020 ,on the later meeting the Eagle application will be discussed although the Eagle Inn was granted a asset of community value by MDC.

GRASS CUTTING This had been stood down due to Covid 19 , but after several phone calls I was promised it would be cut week commencing 18/52020 but then it was announced that rewilding of the grass would be done in Mendip inline with reducing carbon footprint. I then demanded a map showing where this was to happen, eventually I was told this did not include Coleford and cutting would start again very soon, this was 3/6/2020..... still waiting.

GREEN WASTE BINS. Firstly those who paid for there bins on time will get a refund next year due to them not being emptied during April and May. Secondly the emptying seems a bit erratic at the moment due to day changes and staff shortages.Please let me know if this continues so I can get it sorted.

PARKING. SCC have now got traffic wardens back working on the streets BUT MDC have decided not to charge for parking in the Car Parks until August when the decision will be reviewed, one must ask the question where is this lost revenue going to made up from?

FOODBANK and DAGGARO hot foods. A big thanks must go to Amanda and Dagmar for these services, they have worked for weeks to help those in need in Coleford. I know there are many others that have helped and made a big difference to so many, it is a credit to everyone.

CAMPING. We had unofficial camping in the bottom playing field a couple of weeks ago, We had complaints and bad behaviour with the Police involved, but did very little the situation got worse and at this time understood they were homeless, young children involved and lockdown. Child social services, the police were called again. To make it even worse they were driving a SORN car, probably no insurance and false number plates. Glad to report All ended peacefully?

Mendip District Report from Alan Townsend

Planning - I'm sure we all share the frustration of the failure of Mendip to determine Yellow Gate Field by the target date of 12-6-20. Is the reason for reconsultation clear?

In Coleford the application for 63 houses in an identical planning context has just closed its reconsultation, largely for highways reasons, it is now nearly 6 months beyond its original target date.

Eagle Inn, Coleford - Mendip have agreed this is to be classified as an Asset of Community Value. In parallel a planning application was due to be heard at 17th June Board for its conversion into 6 flats. The owner has appealed against the ACV ruling and also withdrawn the planning application.

Markets - good to see Mendip are re-opening the street markets. Wells on Saturday was reasonably well disciplined!

Cabinet - the decision was made to press ahead ahead with detailed study of the main routes that could be upgraded to support the initiative to increase commuting by walking and cycling. Consultation with Parish Councils is planned. I feel a reality check coming on for our Ward!

Safeguarding - the Licensing Board agreed that Safeguarding training for Taxi is to be mandatory as they provide a unique perspective on possible vulnerable people.

Highways - Sara Davis from Somerset Highways is keen to carry out a programme of sign cleaning in the area. She has asked me to prepare a candidate list for the 4 parishes in the Ward so she can arrange a package of work with their contractor rather than a piecemeal approach. Could Stoke draw up a list please?