

COUNTY COUNCIL CONSERVATIVE GROUP

BRIEFING SHEET FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

JUNE 2018

Adult Social Care Precept: SCC's Adult Social Care will use the additional 3% Council Tax precept, which was approved by the Government, to support the local care market and encourage more re-ablement at home with less emphasis on care beds. However all types of provision will see an increase in costs as the local market has still to deal with the additional cost of overnight care (sleep ins). This recent court judgement will cost SCC an additional £1.5m a year.

Youth Club Grants: Youth clubs across Somerset have netted a share of more than £105,000 in grants from Somerset County Council's Youth and Community Service. The grants, for 34 youth clubs in total, (Mendip 8, Sedgemoor 6, South Somerset 12, Taunton Deane 5 and West Somerset 3) will support projects across the county to help run popular sessions. They are matched by over £287,000 in locally raised funding and hundreds of hours in volunteers' time – all for the benefit of Somerset's young people.

Mind of my Own: Somerset's Ryan Leakey was recently crowned Mind of My Own (MOMO) champion of the year for his role in supporting its use. MOMO is an app used nationally by children in care, care leavers and their social workers to share good news and sort out problems. It allows children to be at the centre of their care as they can speak up anytime and anywhere they want – using a phone, tablet or computer, and Somerset is recognised as one of the top MOMO-friendly local authorities in the UK.

BBC Panorama: SCC's imaginative and highly successful work in the local care sector has attracted national attention; Over the next few weeks Adult Social Care will be assisting BBC Panorama who are producing a programme on the challenges of providing elderly care across the Country. It is hoped that this will raise awareness of the issues being faced by individuals, families and their care staff on a daily basis.

Pothole news: Following the difficult winter weather conditions of the past few months the Government have confirmed additional Pothole Action Fund capital contributions to Somerset of £3.662m for the 18/19 financial year. On average around 19,000 potholes are filled in Somerset every year.

SCC Accounts: Each year the County Council is required to produce a Statement of Accounts. This document sets out a summary of financial affairs and together with the Annual and other plans which SCC must produce by law, provides a commentary on performance. Making sure SCC are accountable for their work is extremely important and the financial statements help to show how money has been used.

The Accounts are available to read by everyone at:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/information-and-statistics/financial-information/budgets-and-accounts/>

National Volunteers Week: A number of celebratory events and activities are planned to take place during National Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) to thank and honour Somerset's thousands of unsung heroes. Volunteers are invaluable in improving lives, giving as little or as much of their time to help others, the environment & communities.