District Councillors report January 2022

Before Christmas I did manage to visit the flood attenuation ponds in the parrocks lodge area with the flood officer from SSDC and he agreed that some work needed to be done particularly on two of the ponds just to keep the flow managed properly, one on the edges of the drain area where overhanging grass needed clearing and another on a stone path where the ditch needed a bit of work to remove loose stones.

I have been volunteering at the vaccination centre in the Guildhall Chard and we are accepting walk ins tomorrow morning between 9am and 1 pm if you are aware of anyone who either has a booking in taunton or similar town and would prefer to come to Chard, they can come to Chard and cancel their other appointment. This service will be stood down after tomorrow morning as the take up is now fairly low, however we have successfully vaccinated over 2500 local residents many of whom are elderly. This is available to anyone who needs first second or booster jab (or fourth if entitled) and for any age over 12 – although for the over 12s they must have had their last injection before 12th oct 01.

I notice that there are two planning applications on your agenda tonight that are past the date of consultation, the first being the Quarry extension which took place today at Somerset County Council. Your County Councillor was unable to attend but did ask for a decision to be made at this meeting, as a District Council member I was not allowed to speak because the request was treated as a member of the public which has to be submitted 5 days in advance and I was not aware of the application in time. All the Quarry applications go to the County Council and not District until the Unitary is in place.

The Committee RESOLVED that the decision be discharged to Dorset County Council in accordance with Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972:

This means that you will have to submit your views to Dorset Council when it comes to their committee, possibly through the public time as will Martin and I.

The second is for land rear of Belle View terrace on School lane, the parish was given an extension of time to comment and this was up on 5th jan. the paperwork has come to martin and myself for member liaison decision, this is the point where we can ask for it to go to Area West for decision and luckily we are here tonight to hear your debate, so we will listen to your meeting this evening to see what members views are on this, the officers recommendation is to allow the units to be temporarily sited on the ground for up to 3 years which would give the applicant time to find alternative storage or to apply for a permanent structure.

There is still some backlog with the waste partnership collections due to heavy loads from the holiday period and Covid absences, the main advice still is for missed rubbish and clinical collections, please leave out in the usual place and they will return. For recycling they will do their best to return within 2 days if they cannot they will come back on the next scheduled collection day the following week. To help manage delayed collections some rounds are being dropped in order to manage “rolling” collections which never catch up