

## District Councillors report Nov 2021

Members may have already heard that there will be unitary elections next May at which parish Councils will also be contested. This will mean that the new Council will be running alongside the District Councils for 11 months as it forms and slowly takes over responsibilities such as planning and Environmental health as well as those the County Council is already running.

There is a new “opportunities hub” which has opened in the Library in Chard on 1<sup>st</sup> November, this is a dedicated space where residents can meet advisors, receive mentoring support and training opportunities, this is a free service to all who are without work, training or are underemployed. This is being delivered by Abri the housing provider and is provided by SSDC and the department of work and pensions. Hopefully these sessions will allow people to upskill and increase wages and productivity.

I have had several meetings with Councillors about the flood alleviation ponds in your parish, I have managed to contact SSDC about four of these which are in the area of the A358 by Parrocks House these should be maintained by SSDC because they appear on an asset register that I have from 2014 from the back of a cupboard. I have a meeting scheduled with an officer onsite to discuss and I am also going to ask him to visit the pond dug out on what we think is land owned by the County Council in Forton and a mystery pond on the edge of Forton and Millfield trading estate, which is possibly owned by Wessex water but was put in in the middle 1980's. I am hoping to get a land registry report on this one during December when I can get back out to it with a member of my family that may be able to help.

There are no Tatworth and Forton planning applications to be heard at this months Area West meeting but both the Persimmon and Fore street applications are likely to be heard as soon as the reports are ready, Martin and I will keep you informed. The application has gone in for 97 dwellings in the Chilson common/Perry Street and can be viewed online with the following number 21/03296/OUT.

Last week was flood action week! And South Somerset District Councils website has a couple of links to websites on their site which are relevant to the local flooding issues we have had recently, one directs you to the Government Gov.uk on which members of the public can sign up for flood warnings both surface water and river floods. There is also a site called the national flood forum which has lots of easy to understand information on flooding and responsibilities which you might want to direct the public to, it is a support group and has lots of advice and information for people affected by flooding.

The latest carbon calculation from SSDC shows we are lower than our target of 10% reduction this year at only 6%. Part of this is due to the 24/7 use of Brympton way by Avon and Somerset police who are currently using this as their headquarters plus the increased use of the crematorium last year. There are several projects designed to help our reduction for next year including installation of improved insulation, additional solar panels and ground source heat pumps on some of our highest use buildings.

There is an interactive platform called the great collaboration in which parish councils can track and capture information that individuals, local business and schools etc are taking to reduce carbon in your area, it encourages and helps councils to produce a parish carbon reduction action plan and shares knowledge with other communities.