

# County Council Report

---

Cllr Toni Coombs & Cllr Spencer Flower

January 2018

---

## Carillion in Dorset

Dorset County Council does not have any current contracts with Carillion. However, there are three previous school's contracts including Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne and Holy Trinity Primary School, Weymouth, as well as a lesser scale external works project at Lytchett Minster School. Due to the nature of the contracts, these schools had protection against latent defects for 12 years which may now be lost with the collapse of Carillion.

There is also concern about the potential impact this may have on Carillion's supply chain, which might include some local contracted suppliers. There are ongoing discussions with the managers of the DCC frameworks and it is still very much an emerging picture as information becomes available. It is expected that there will be widespread implications for the UK construction industry.

## Hospital discharges and Delayed Transfers of Care

Reducing Delayed Transfers of Care is an important target for DCC this year as it's linked to the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). A lot of work has been done to improve delays are recorded and reported; and this has had a positive impact on performance. With three months to go to year end it is currently predicted that DCC will be under target by around 300 days. All the teams in the hospitals and localities have worked hard to achieve this.

Reducing delays is important as hospitals are not the place to be if you no longer need acute intervention. In an 18 month study about the association between bed rest and functional decline it was discovered that 10 days in a hospital bed (acute or community) leads to the equivalent of 10 years ageing in the muscles of people over 80. That means these people can lose their independence and may need more social care intervention following a stay in hospital

## Responses to recent weather

At the start of the year, Storm Eleanor gave us 90mph winds and a lot of fallen trees. The arboricultural team were kept busy with over 30 fallen trees across the county. Some of these incidents were simply to clear roads, but where the trees had brought down power lines it meant working with the operator to make things safe before dealing with the tree itself.

At the height of the storm, due to the large number of issues being dealt with, tree and branch removal was prioritised with A and B roads being dealt with first. Other roads were temporarily closed until the obstructions could be cleared.

## Flying away...

Peter Moore, Service Director (Environment) will be leaving in March to take up a new position as Director of Development and Engagement at the national charity, Butterfly Conservation, which is based here in Dorset. Peter joined DCC in 2007 before being promoted to Service Director in 2014. Since 2014, Peter has led the efforts to maintain and improve the natural and built environment and developed the contribution which environmental and property

services make to the corporate aims on health, wellbeing and economic development. His vision and joint working with Public Health has had a real impact within the wider prevention at scale work with Health.

Phil Sterling, Coast & Countryside Service Manager, will be leaving at the end of February, also to work for Butterfly Conservation as Programme Manager for a new 'Building Sites for Butterflies' project which will seek to deliver new habitats for wildlife through the planning, development and construction process. Phil joined DCC in 1993 as County Ecologist, later serving as Natural Environment Team Manager before his promotion to Service Manager in 2014. Since then, Phil has overseen service transformation in a number of areas, including the approach to highway verge management which has delivered significant savings and a higher quality roadside environment, earning the county council national plaudits in the process.

## **Springfield Road, Verwood**

Your county councillors attended a site visit earlier this month to see the progress on the project. We have kept in touch with local residents to ensure that disturbance is kept to a minimum; this includes the upkeep of the diversion route via Manor Lane which is an unadopted highway.

The water works took three months instead of three weeks, but all costs are to be borne by the contractor and not the Council. DCC's contractor Hansons did as much work as possible on the new section of road and the boundary treatment for residents whilst they were unable to access the unmade part of Springfield Road. The water works were finally finished just before Christmas and Hanson's returned at the end of the first week of the new year. Services need to be laid on each side of the road before the construction of the base surface can be constructed.

Works are not due to finish now until May due to the delays caused by the water works.