

DAPTC Eastern Area Committee meeting held on 4th July 2018 in the Cecil Hall Cranborne

The main topic of discussion was Local Government Reorganisation.

The Chief Executive submitted a report which included information that the judicial review instigated by Christchurch Borough Council should be determined by the end of July. The report also stated that there is a consultation on warding for the new Authorities which closes on 27th August. Concern was expressed about the lack of weight given to Parish and Town Council comments as they are treated as one comment from any member of the public. Advice was given not to submit “standard” letters. All letters which appear to be of a “standard” format will be counted as a single letter.

All those present were advised to recommend to their Councils to precept for possible future changes. The Chief Executive also informed those present that NALC had achieved a considerable saving for all local councils by persuading the Government to remove the need for local Councils to appoint a Data Protection Officer. The estimated saving to the sector is approximately £3m.

In response to previous requests, the Chief Executive is preparing to provide more Planning Training. Some concern was expressed about training including explanation of the NPPF as this is currently being reviewed and might therefore change. Previous Planning Training has been provided in area settings by Officers from the appropriate District/Borough Council. The Chief Executive is considering a County wide event, probably at Kingston Maurward using a Planning professional who should be able to provide appropriate training in the circumstances outlined.

The District Council report included information about the process EDDC is using to effect asset transfer to larger parishes and town councils. The Local Plan will be reviewed and briefings for Parish and Town Councils will be held in Christchurch (31st July) and Wimborne (2nd August). The Plan will be valid until 2024.

All those present were reminded that the Chief Executive of DAPTC is under extreme pressure due to extra work in connection with LGR and the long term sick absence of a member of staff.

Member Councils reported items of interest and events as follows:-

St Leonards +St Ives: The Council is struggling to provide the planned woodland burial site and allotments.

Verwood: There was an uncontested by election to fill a casual Council vacancy.

Colehill: A new map will be installed shortly in an oak frame on Perspex which will make it more vandal proof

Alderholt: New gym equipment has been installed in the Recreation ground and has been well received.

Corfe Mullen: Assets to be requested for transfer have been agreed. The Skate park is on schedule and should be opened soon.

Knowlton: There are many bridleways in the parish and some are in a very poor state. One will require £70K to restore it and the Parish Council is trying to encourage horse riders to help with this work.

Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge: The village hall roof will be replaced. Wessex Water have resolved sewage flooding problems. There will be a village event on 7th July with children's entertainment from 2pm to 7pm and music in the evening from 7pm. There has been fly tipping near the A354.

West Moors: There will be a multi activity day on 14th to allow people to "taste" activities. This is a repeat of the event held last summer.

Sturminster Marshall: The parish council is working on its requests for Asset transfer from EDDC. The Village Hall car park has been resurfaced.

Vale of Allen: Witchampton Fete will take place on 7th July. Little Owls pre-school has closed due to the closure of the chapel which was its venue. Fund raising is taking place to try and find another venue to allow it to re-open. New signposts are being made for the parish by the Blandford Men's Shed. The Parish Council is trying to replace the "Rest and be Thankful" seat, possibly with a metal seat although a wooden replacement would be preferable. The Parish Council will probably not take on any assets from EDDC. The Council has a new Clerk from a Council in Sussex.

Pamhill and Shapwick: A very successful Country fair raised approximately £6K which will be used to improve the playing field. There is some ill feeling about the use of the money. There are no children in the villages. The public uses the field and the Council has been urged to take on the playing field and put up the precept to maintain it properly as it is maintained by volunteers at present. The group of volunteers is not prepared to carry on. It has been suggested that the Parish Council encourages users to support the field financially via justgiving. There are a few pieces of play equipment which might be removed.

Ferndown: The fete was the best for 10 years. The Fair was back and wishes to return for the Carnival but there is a risk of damage to the Recreation Ground. The profit was approximately £4K. Ferndown is aspiring to become a plastic free town. There is a problem with the refurbished car park. Improvements to the King George V playing field will be done in sections. The Town Council is trying to have the Stour and Avon trail re-opened but has not been able to find volunteers to carry out the necessary work. The standard of footpaths in Ferndown is not as high as that of the same paths where they pass through West Moors. In response to ideas for fund raising, Cranborne and Edmonsham representatives stated that the Open Gardens event organised by and in aid of the Church raised approximately £13K. There were approximately 20 gardens open and teas were also sold. Tickets to visit all gardens were £10 per person.

The AGM of the committee was held. Cllr Adrian Hibberd of Alderholt was elected Chairman and Cllr Penny Yeo of West Moors was elected Vice-Chairman. Cllr Terry Cordery was elected to represent the committee at Executive Committee meetings should the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be unable to attend.

Other items raised included information about a possible Dorset National Park and a request for clarification about disposal of low energy light bulbs. There was a brief discussion about maintenance of footpaths and bridleways and it was agreed that a speaker would be requested for a future meeting to provide information and advice.

The next meeting will be held during the 3rd week of October.

