

Verwood County Division Report –October/November 2018
Cllrs. Toni Coombs and Spencer Flower

New Shadow Dorset Council – The new Dorset Council Wards have been announced by the Local Government Boundary Commission. MHCLG will then prepare an Order to be laid before Parliament at the end of October and which becomes law following the expiry of a statutory 40 days. There are very few changes to warding from the draft proposals in the immediate geographical area. Verwood will be a three member ward. Alderholt will form part of the Cranborne and Alderholt Ward served by one councillor. Three Legged Cross will now be in a two member ward along with West Moors. Full details of all of the final warding recommendation are available on the Local Government Boundary Commission Elections website. <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/3824>

The new warding arrangements will be used for the Dorset Council Election which will take place on Thursday 2 May 2019.

The Somerley HRC – Hampshire County Council has announced, without engaging in any prior formal consultation, that a charge of £5.00 per visit will be made for any Dorset residents using the Somerley HRC.

Local District and County Councillors have been involved in lobbying for any decision to be deferred to allow meaningful discussions to take place in an effort to avoid the need to charge Dorset residents.

The Chairman of East Dorset District Council has agreed that an urgent item be brought to the Full Council on Monday 29 October, so that members can debate the matter and a strongly worded communication be sent to Hampshire seeking a more acceptable outcome for Dorset residents living in the east of the county. This decision would have an impact on Verwood, Alderholt, Three Legged Cross, West Moors and St Leonards and St Ives.

Funding for the 97 Bus –Local members continue to lobby for future funding from the County Council to sustain this vital local bus service. This is particularly important for residents of Alderholt and the surrounding hinterland. With the financial support of local Town and Parish, coupled with further grant funding from County it should be possible to keep this service in operation.

Sandleheath Road-Alderholt – Local members have been involved with residents who had submitted a petition about speeding traffic in Sandleheath Road. The County Council Cabinet Member for Highways arranged a Petition Panel and both the Verwood County Division Councillors attended the meeting. It was a very constructive meeting with a commitment to look further at the issue of speeding traffic at this location. Arrangements are being put in place for a site visit with a Highways Manager and local residents to see first-hand the nature of the problem and to seek out possible ways of making drivers aware of the importance of adhering to the 30mph speed limit.