

Verwood Town Council Meeting Tuesday 23 October 2018

District Councillor Report – Cllr. Spencer Flower

Transfer of Assets – The East Dorset District Council Cabinet Committee has been working to ensure that the agreed transfers of assets to Town and Parish Councils, prior to the abolition of the council on the 31 March 2019, takes place in an orderly manner.

The council has employed a solicitor who will be dedicated to carrying out the legal work require in discussion and correspondence with solicitors acting for Parish and Town councils who wish to have assets transferred following the abolition of East Dorset District Council.

Local Plan Review – There will be a report coming to the Cabinet on Wednesday 31 October with a recommendation that due to the absence of a Multi Modal Study, which sets out the initiatives and interventions required ensuring the area has a suitable transport system, that the review be deferred. This study will act as a basis for funding bids to improve the road network and ensuring the revised Local Plan is soundly based.

It will also give the council the opportunity to introduce some master planning, which will be used to inform the multi Modal Study and meet the latest version of the NPPF.

The current study is out of date. Using such out of date data would not allow the Council to submit a 'sound' Local Plan, thus putting the area at risk of inappropriate housing development in the green belt, granted on appeal. Therefore members will be asked to support the delay in the bringing forward preferred options until the early autumn of 2019.

In support of this proposal the Shadow Executive Committee agreed at its' meeting on Monday 15 October to support the recommendation that all existing District Local Plans needed to be completed and submitted to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public [EAP] so that when approved can protect the green belt during the period leading up to the adoption of a new Dorset Council Local Plan due by the autumn of 2024.

Moors Valley Golf Course – The council were notified two weeks ago that Mack Trading, who had managed the golf course at Moors Valley for over ten years, had gone into voluntary administration. The course was immediately closed until further notice, while the Cabinet had the opportunity to decide the best course of action. There will be a report coming to the Cabinet on Wednesday 31 October, recommending that the council take on the responsibility for the day to day running, management and maintenance of the course. It is currently a viable concern, which does not require any council subsidy to operate, which is good news for the longer term future, as part of the Moors Valley offer.

Routine course maintenance has continued during discussions with the Official Receiver regarding the surrender of the lease to protect the integrity of the course. The council has also been able to purchase of grass cutting machinery from the Receiver.