

Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Pannell (SHDC)

- BREXIT – Main issues for SHDC

The clear message from all government departments is that councils should be preparing to leave the EU on 31st October and assuming the 'reasonable worst case scenario' (RWCS) which is that we will be leaving without a deal. DEFRA are focused on food exporters - engagement with business, at all levels, remains a major challenge. SHDC have been working with the fishing industry in the South Hams but there is real concern about engagement with the farming industry.

All information will be available on the Gov.UK website and that this should be the 'go to' place for residents and businesses. The link is; www.gov.uk/get-ready-brexit-check. SHDC have added a 'Brexit button' to the front page of their website.

There is an expectation that Government will expecting information from local authorities very quickly as we near the 31st October and reporting is likely to be required 7 days a week - officers have commenced planning to meet this requirement. A full-time officer has been seconded to respond to these challenges.

- The A38 through the South Hams sits within the Highways England South West Asset Delivery contract. This places the responsibility for network management with Highways England. In terms of **ragwort management**, the process requires instruction by Highways England to our Maintenance & Response contractor. Highways England do adopt the DEFRA Code of Practice for Ragwort and all Highways England operational estate through South Hams is currently rated as High Risk. The summer ragwort has just been completed.
- New **planning** guidelines have been published that give communities the legal right to challenge ugly buildings and poorly designed new homes in their towns and villages. Additionally, the owners of purpose-built blocks of flats and detached properties will be able to add two storeys to their homes without planning permission. Homeowners will still need to comply with building regulations, but neighbours will not have a formal route to object

- SHDC Resolutions:

"We propose that SHDC lobbies National Government to create a structure of fines that Local Authorities can impose for planning breaches. These would include illegal felling or damage to trees, illegal removal of Devon Bank and all mature hedge banks." This would speed up enforcement.

- *In the interest of public health, of our residents and of tourism there shall be no further closure of SHDC public lavatories.*
- SHDC is looking at the Wigan way of working. *Instead of a Local Authority seeing its role as delivering services to its clients/customers, its role becomes one of working with, not for, people and bringing individuals and groups together.* This approach is often called Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) or Asset-Based Working.)

Cllr Hosking (DCC)

- Confirmed that 1 of the applications for funding for the equipment for the village Hall had been agreed and the second application was in process.
- Informed that additional government funding would lead to 20,000 more police officers and 16 new hospitals including a rebuild for Derriford.
- Confirmed that additional funding has enabled the whole length of road at Ashford to be repaired.
- Agreed to chase up the request for a warning sign for the dip in the road at Benicknowle which he acknowledged was deteriorating.
- Agreed to follow up Cllr Franklin's concern regarding the issue of worsening flooding at Larcombe Corner and new Park Farm

- Agreed to follow up Cllr Peach's query regarding progress with the repairs of road signs at Crabdon Cross and Horner Corner.
- Agreed to chase up the new designs for Gara Bridge traffic solutions.

Highways and Community Lengthsman

Council agreed that the Lengthsman is doing an excellent job, slight amendments to the contract for 2019-2020 were agreed. The Lengthsman will be instructed to cut the grass on the kerb opposite Brushford.

Diptford Playing Field

Council thanked the Playing Field Committee for the work they do to maintain the Field and for their response to the ROSPA safety report.

Council adopted the revised Financial Regulations.

Planning Applications

Concerns were expressed about flood risk for the one planning application considered and the 2 decisions made by SHDC were noted.

Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 12th November, 7.30pm in the Hall.