

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council
Fiona Lyons

www.stoneaston.org.uk

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AGENDA

For PARISH COUNCIL MEETING to be held at **Clapton Village Hall**
Tuesday 8th January 2013 commencing at 7.30pm

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

2. Public participation

3. Minutes of last meeting

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th November 2012

4. Matters arising

- a. Request for funding for Ston Easton Village Hall

5. Report from District / County Councillor

6. Planning

- a. 2012/2585 Erection of agricultural building at Easton Croft, Ston Easton
Please see response forwarded on behalf of the Parish Council attached below
- b. 2012/2427 Incorporate 440m² of paddock into garden at Windy Ridge, Clapton
- c. 2012/0554 Construction of a solar park at Whitchurch Farm, Ston Easton – variation of condition

7. Financial matters

- a. Financial Update – SALC
- b. Request for funding – Mendip CAB
- c. Invoice for £240 from New Leaf for tree works
- d. Clerk's expenses

8. Correspondence

- a. Community Council for Somerset – Surviving Winter Grant
- b. SCC – Speed Indicator Device installation dates for Ston Easton 2013
- c. Chewton Mendip CEVA Primary School, Consultation on admission arrangements
- d. SCC – Local Choices Events
- e. SCC and Community Council for Somerset – Emergency Flood Relief Grant Scheme
- f. Avon and Somerset Police – District Commander's Newsletter
- g. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation
- h. MDC – Local Plan Consultation

9. Matters for report and items for next meeting

10. Date of next meeting (Tuesday 12 March 2013)

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Item 3

Minutes of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at **Ston Easton Village Hall**
on Tuesday 13th November 2012 commencing at 7.30pm

1. Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from David Watts and PCSO Nicky Housley

The following declarations of interest were declared:

Tom Killen declared an interest in item 6b.

Tom Osborne – Item 7a as he is a trustee of the Village Hall

The Chairman advised that all councillors should apply for a dispensation for Item 7c as advised by SALC. FL provided all members with a Dispensation Form

2. Public participation

Phil Clement Smith from Ston Easton Village Hall was present and it was agreed to bring item 7a forward

The PC had, some months ago, agreed to allocate funding for various works undertaken over the past year to the Village Hall and assumed that Phil was attending to advise on details of that expenditure and seek ratification of the proposed grant. However Phil stated that the SE Village Hall committee no longer required funding support for those works instead he went on to report on recent events affecting the Red Room Nursery and Village Hall.

The nursery is no longer being used and consequently there is concern that deterioration of the Red Room could affect, and ultimately result, in the SE Village Hall being unsafe to use through ingress of damp etc. Demolition of the Red Room and making good the Village Hall external wall is therefore now the priority of the Village Hall committee and accordingly they have requested contractors to provide estimates for the works needed.

TK proposed the following:

That the Parish Council is sympathetic to a request for funding but, as it is not now required for what the PC considered was its original purpose, a decision be deferred to the January meeting when quotes for new works will have been received.

This was seconded by RW and carried.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 2012 were approved and signed but it was suggested that, to avoid confusion, some distinction should be made between Hope Salvidge and Somerset County Councillor Harvey Siggs as both are noted as HS in the minutes. FL to use Mrs HS when referring to Hope Salvidge.

4. Matters arising

- a. Wessex Water - Manor Farm-Pipe Leak (RW) – It was noted that this is now repaired but the wall has been left in a questionable state.
- b. Highways issues – Main A37: South of the village: The response to a PC request for drain clearance from SCC Highways was noted, but TK stressed that the drain is seriously in need of inspection/clearing as water gushing out of the drain goes right across the road causing a potential hazard. HS agreed to follow this up with the Highways Engineer.

Mrs HS reported a blocked drain between Clapton and Bulls Wood Hill.

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RW reported Pot holes in Hay Street and Lower Hay St. etc.

ML stated that lanes in Clapton are getting worse with mud etc from farming activities indeed some lanes are becoming impassable in anything other than a 4wd vehicle. It was also noted that Green Ditch Lane is very bad with drains blocked by mud which again could pose a serious hazard.

The County Councillor confirmed that farmers are held responsible for clearing mess from roads caused by their own, or contractor's vehicles.

He acknowledged that this year has seen 225% of the normal rainfall but that due to budget constraints, drains are now only being jetted as/when required rather than on a routine basis, SCC does get complaints and HS repeated that councillors or members of the public should report dangerous roads to Highways at Taunton.

- c. Decision following the public enquiry relating to the footpath across the golf course – The Inspector's decision not to confirm the Modification Order ie.- there will be no extension to the bridle way, was noted.
- d. Planning issues at Home Farm, Ston Easton – The update from MDC was noted.

5. Report from District / County Councillor

TK reported that the recent Audit Commission report relating Governance recognised that the Council has had to make tough decisions but this has put MDC in a good position to go forward £5M of savings had to be found and the Council is now confident about setting the budget for the next financial year.

The following points were also noted:

- Significant cost reductions have been achieved in the Ground Care Contract and out sourcing the call centre to Birmingham will result in further savings.
- The Council's website is being reinvigorated which will allow more people to access council services online.
- There has been no increase in fly-tipping in the district, enforcement action remains difficult as often witnesses are not willing to take it forward.
- The Core Strategy will be in place by the new year, it includes a lot of work relating to business growth and job creation in the district.

HS reported that budgets remain difficult for the following reasons:

- The Government is offering local authorities 1% of their Council Tax revenue as an incentive to cap any council tax increase. This amount to approximately £64,000 for SCC . If a Council proposes an increase of more than 2% a referendum will have to be held which could cost in the region of £50,000.
- It is understood that Government funding will be cut by up to 8% which will be a reduction of approximately £500,000 for SCC.
- There has been a rapid increase in the funding required for children in care.
- SCC spent £1.8M on top surface dressing roads through the summer months.

HS also reported that the Wellbeing funding being distributed across the County has to be allocated by January and the Parish Council was asked to consider whether any projects of £500+ could be identified within its villages.

The pedestrian crossing in Chilcompton is in place and another is potentially planned for Gurney Slade, the crossing at Draycott is held up for a bat survey to be completed.

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RW queried the status of the planning application for Hinckley Point and HS advised that a decision will be made by January. Most of stone will go by rail/sea but there will be some lorry movements in the early stages of construction.

6. Planning

- a. 2012/0691 – Grant of permission for access track at the sewage treatment works, Zion Hill, Clapton. Noted
- b. 2012/1274 - Manor Farm, Clapton - Barn conversion
TK had declared an interest in this matter.
Recommend approval as there had been no objection in the village and this was a renewal of the original permission.
- c. 2012/2289 - The Paddock, Hay Street, Ston Easton - Single story rear extension
It was noted that this application has now been approved
- d. 2012/2154 - Elm View, Langley's Lane, Clapton - Lawful development cert
No objection. Recommend approval
- e. 2012/2117 - Fairfield House, Hay Street, Ston Easton - Extension and replacement garage.
It was noted that this application has already been approved

TK confirmed that he had considered the information before him at this meeting but had not predetermined any applications.

TK stated that the Parish Council should ideally either support or object all applications. If no comments are submitted the planning officer is able to make a decision on a delegated basis but if a recommendation is made either to refuse or approve an application it is then referred to TK as Ward Member.

Applications for Easton Croft, Ston Easton and Windy Ridge had been received after the publication of the agenda. To ensure that councillors are made aware of any applications and members of the public are given an opportunity to make representations FL will e-mail all Parish Council members and also place copies on the parish noticeboards. As meetings are only held on a bi-monthly basis, special meetings can be held if required.

TO advised that in addition to the above the following application had also been approved:
2012/0554 Construction of a solar park at Whitchurch Farm, Ston Easton

7. Financial matters

- a. Request for funding for Ston Easton Village Hall – see above
- b. Return of £133.00 surplus funding from Jubilee celebrations at Chewton Mendip
- c. MDC - Parish precept 2013-2014
- d. All members present had signed Dispensation Forms.
- e. RW proposed that the precept should remain the same at £4,600. This was seconded by TK and carried.
- f. Bank accounts balances – FL reported that the balances in the Current account and the Business Reserve account stood at £3,264.11 and £2,624.25 respectively
- g. Payment of the Clerk's expenses of £47.73 was proposed by SH seconded by RW and carried

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8. Correspondence

- a. 2012-2013 Recycling dates
- b. Notes from SALC
- c. Somerset Waste Core Strategy Consultation
- d. FWAG Press Release
- e. SCC – Local Choices and Phase Two of the Somerset Youth Innovation Zone Project
- f. SCC – Community Warden Scheme Proposal
- g. MDC – Rough Sleeper Reporting Line
- h. MDC – Draft Homelessness Strategy
- i. MDC – Parish Council Bulletin

9. Matters for report and items for next meeting

Ston Easton Village Hall

10. Date of next meeting (Tuesday 8 January 2013)

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Item 6a

From: fionajlyons@hotmail.co.uk
To: consultationresponses@mendip.gov.uk
Subject: 2012/2585
Date: Sun, 9 Dec 2012 13:53:15 +0000

I have been asked to forward the following comments from Ston Easton Parish Council relating to application number 2012/2585 - Easton Croft, Ston Easton

Some residents have voiced concern over its position, the general feeling is that the building should be against the woods.

Also some residents have concerns as to the veracity of the application as an agricultural building given apparently that the applicant does not practice agriculture, and the concern is that it will be used for storage or other non-agricultural uses.

Regards
Fiona Lyons
Clerk to Ston Easton Parish Council

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Item 7a

Localising Support for Council Tax

The Government's response to recent Consultations has been issued (26th November 2012). In particular the Response addresses the proposals made in the paper of 28th August 2012. The proposal for an unadjusted tax base for local precepting authorities is NOT being followed through. The Regulations will be introduced very shortly (effective 30th November).

The response nationally and locally will now be considered but it has to be recognised that the proposals supported by so many parish & town councils will not be carried forward.

At this stage we set out below extract of text from the full published response (some 16 pages in total) which is available through the www.communities.gov.uk web-site.

Peter W Lacey FCA

EXTRACTS FROM RESPONSE DOCUMENT:

Chapter 2: Government's response

2.1 In establishing its final policy the Government has considered carefully the responses to both the funding consultation and the council tax base consultation and has continued to work with the local government sector to understand the implications of both proposals.

2.2 It is clear from the responses to the council tax base consultation that, whilst the proposal set out in the consultation could provide parish councils with greater certainty of funding, there is concern that it could, over time, increase the financial pressures on billing authorities. In particular that excluding localised council tax support reductions from the council tax base for all specials items could impact on the calculation the 'relevant basic amount of tax' as only some special items are included in that calculation.

2.3 The Government also considers that taking action centrally on the basis of an assumption that billing authorities will not pass down funding that is properly attributable to parish councils is contrary to the spirit of localism.

2.4 Given the views of the respondents and to ensure consistency with the spirit of the localism agenda, the Government considers that greater weight should be given to the potential for the proposal set out in the council tax base consultation to increase the financial burden on billing authorities.

2.5 The Government will not, therefore, apply an unadjusted council tax base to the local precepting authority or to other special items. Accordingly, the council tax base regulations will apply reductions to the calculation of the council tax base for local precepting authorities and other special items, as well as billing and major precepting authorities.

2.6 The Government is clear that the funding attributable to the parish precept has been provided to the billing authority and expects them to work with local parish and town councils to provide certainty over their funding.

2.7 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 which will give effect to the Government's position will come into force by 30 November 2012 to ensure the council tax base setting process is not affected.

Annex B: Guidance for authorities

Certainty of Funding for Parish and Town Councils

B8. As there is not a mechanism for providing funding through the business rates retention system directly to parish and town councils the Government is providing the funding attributable to them to the billing authority. To enable this funding to reduce the local precepting authority's council tax requirement, and so potentially offset some or all of the costs of offering support, the billing authority will need to pass funding down to the local precepting authority.

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B9. To support considerations over funding, the Government has published provisional funding allocations, setting out how much funding might be attributable to the local precepting authorities, based on its share of council tax in the billing authority area.

B10. This figure is intended as a starting point: Precisely how much funding should be passed down will depend on a number of factors, including the design of the scheme and the number of claimants in the local precepting authority area.

B11. In line with the localism agenda there will not be a legislative duty to pass down funding. Billing and local precepting authorities should be able to come to agreement on arrangements for passing down the funding attributable to the local precepting authority, reflecting the factors outlined above, and other relevant local circumstances. The total amount of funding allocated to local authorities is 90% of forecast subsidised council tax benefit expenditure for 2013-14.

Questions and Answers

Parish / Town Council

I am a Parish or Town Councillor – how do I access the funding that is attributable to my parish/town council?

You need to engage with the billing authority for your area as they will receive, through the business rates retention system from 2013/14, funding corresponding to the parish / town council share of the overall funding allocated to local authorities.

When should I receive the funding attributable to my parish / town council?

Funding for local council tax support for billing authorities, including that attributable to the parish and town council, will be provided through the local retention of rates system. Therefore you will need to engage with your billing authority over the timing of any payments.

How much funding should be made available to my parish / town council? You will need to engage with your billing authority on this issue. The Government issued an indicative amount attributable to the cumulative number of parish and town councils in each billing authority area at Annex A of the Funding Arrangements consultation available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/2146648.pdf> .

This amount is based on local precepting authority shares of the billing authority area Band D council tax bill and should only be seen as an indicative figure that acts as a starting point for discussions with billing authorities.

The indicative total level of funding attributable to all parish / town councils in each billing authority area will be updated and published alongside the provisional Local Government Finance settlement in December.

Precisely how much funding should be passed down will depend on a number of factors, including the design of the scheme and the number of claimants in the local precepting authority area, both of which could change from year to year. The total amount of funding allocated to local authorities is 90% of forecast subsidised council tax benefit expenditure for 2013-14.

26th November 2012

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Item 8a

Community Council for Somerset – Surviving Winter Grant

Jacky Smith
Village Agent for Cluster Mendip 1
Tel: 01823 331222
07950782436
jsmithva@somersetccc.org.uk

Dear All.

Surviving Winter Grant.

This is a grant open to anyone over the age of 60 who is having problems, on a limited income, with heating their home to an acceptable level.

I have application forms that I can take to anyone who you think may need this grant in your parishes.

I can help them complete it and countersign and then forward for processing. This I am assured will be a speedy process.

Many thanks
Jacky Smith

Item 8b

Subject: Speed Indicator Device (SID) Installation Dates for 2013
Date: Mon, 17 Dec 2012 13:01:24 +0000
From: DJGrabham@somerset.gov.uk

Please find below the proposed dates for the installation of the SIDs in your area for 2013.

Installation dates have been carefully coordinated throughout the county to maximise efficiency but please note they are not set in stone. Should any of the dates below not be convenient please let me know as soon as possible.

Ston Easton (A37 High Street)

- 11/03/13
- 08/07/13
- 04/11/13

Regards
Dave Grabham
Traffic Engineer
County Hall
TAUNTON
telephone: 01823 358265

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Item 8c

Chewton Mendip CEVA Primary School Notice of Statutory Admission Arrangement Consultation

Important information concerning the admission arrangements for Chewton Mendip CEVA school

The School Governors are proposing changes to their school admission arrangements to apply from 1 September 2014

In accordance with the 2012 School Admissions Code the Governing Body is giving notice that a statutory Admissions Consultation will commence on 17 December 2012 and end on 1 February 2013. During this time you are invited to view the Governors' proposed 2014/2015 Admission Arrangements and provide any comments for consideration by the School Governors.

The proposed 2014/2015 admission arrangements will be displayed on the school website throughout the consultation period at www.chewtonmendip.somerset.sch.uk or a paper copy can be made available for viewing at the school office. By way of comparison, the current 2013/2014 admission arrangements are also available to view on the school, website and will remain so until any revised arrangements take effect.

The Governors will meet shortly after the consultation ends to consider all comments received during the consultation period and a response will be sent to everyone who contributed. A final version of the Governors' 2014/2015 admission arrangements will be published on the school website by 15 April 2013 after which no further adjustments will be made unless for a matter of legal compliance.

Please submit your comments to the Chair of the Governors c/o office@chewtonmendip.somerset.sch.uk or write to the School Office to arrive no later than midday 11 February 2013.

Admissions Consultation
Chewton Mendip VA Primary School
High Street
Chewton Mendip
Bath
Somerset
BA3 4LL
01761 241465

Somerset County Council – Local Choices Events

Nigel Rea
Customer and Communities Director
Somerset County Council
County Hall, Taunton
Somerset, TA1 4DY

Dear All,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend one of the recent Local Choices Events. These events have built on the success of those held earlier this year, with a number of interesting ideas and constructive suggestions being put forward during the Workshop sessions. By now, we had hoped to be in a position to share our report of the Events with you but, unfortunately, the postponement of the West Somerset Event due to the recent flooding has prevented us from doing so.

We are planning to circulate the report within a week of the rearranged West Somerset Event on 29 January. If you would like to attend the West Somerset Event, which will take place between 5.00pm and 7.00pm at West Somerset House, Williton, TA4 4QA, please e-mail Mark Brown: MBrown2@somerset.gov.uk or phone 01823 355233.

Subsequent to the events, a number of you requested further details of the Community Enablement Fund, so I have attached details of this along with the application form. I have also attached below a link to the presentations from the Events.
www.somerset.gov.uk/localchoices

Once again, thank you if were able to attend one of the Local Choices Events - many of you gave up some of your valuable time to make these Events a success and we are most grateful for your support.

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Item 8e

Community Council for Somerset – Emergency Flood Relief

Jacky Smith
Village Agent for Cluster Mendip 1
Tel: 01823 331222
07950782436
jsmithva@somersetccc.org.uk

Dear All,

I attach an Emergency Flood Relief document which includes an application form that may apply to any residents in your villages affected by recent flooding. There is a grant scheme of £250 per person available through Somerset Community Foundation. Please can you make it available to anyone in your Villages who you think may have been affected.

Please contact myself or The Somerset Community Foundation direct on 01749 344949.

Kind Regards
Jacky Smith

Guidelines for applicants to 2012 Flood Appeal – 28th Nov 2012

Somerset County Council has provided £50,000 for immediate relief to flood victims to be administered by Somerset Community Foundation (charity no 1094446) under our Surviving Winter programme. We expect further donations to be added to the fund from members of local communities.

Emergency Relief Grants

Our first priority is to swiftly get financial help to people whose homes have been flooded during November 2012.

We call these '**Emergency Relief Grants**' and they will take the form of a flat-rate payment of £250 to help with the most immediate needs. A simple application form is attached to these guidelines. All we will require is some basic details and confirmation that your home has been flooded during the November 2012 floods. The form must be independently countersigned by someone in a position of authority who can confirm you have been flooded. For example this could be a local parish councillor, member of the clergy, or someone from emergency services. If you need help in filling the form out, please call us on 01749 344949.

Further support

As the impact and need becomes clearer in the coming days and weeks, and as more funds become available to us, we will launch further rounds of grants.

In some cases these may be additional grants to the most vulnerable households that have been flooded – and receipt of an Emergency Relief Grant will not affect your eligibility for further support - but we will look at options for supporting other parts of the community also.

We are particularly keen to hear from local charities and community organisations/facilities that are either helping people affected by the flooding or have themselves been damaged by floods.

Whether you are eligible for an 'Emergency Relief Grant' or not we would like to hear from you to understand how the floods have affected you and your community. We cannot promise to meet every need, but it will help us assess priorities for using the funds available to us. Please e-mail floodrelief@somersetcf.org.uk

Item 8f

**Chief Superintendent Nikki Watson, District Commander
Yeovil Police Station, Horsey Lane, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1SN**

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone: 101

E-mail nikki.watson@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Our Ref: NW/LS

11 December 2012

Dear Parish/District/County Councillor/MP's/NHW Co-ordinators/Sue Mountstevens,

As Christmas approaches and I write my last newsletter of 2012, you will no doubt be aware of recent significant changes with the announcement that our Chief Constable will be standing down, and the appointment of a new Police and Crime Commissioner. I think it is also an opportune time to give updates on the substantial progress made over the whole of the Somerset East district.

Firstly, I should like to say I have very much enjoyed working with our Chief Constable, Colin Port, for the past 8 years and thank him for all his valuable support. I wish him well for the future as he stands down as Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset from January 2013 and can inform you that there is an ongoing process to appoint a new Chief Constable.

We have also recently seen the appointment of the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Mrs Sue Mountstevens, and I look forward to working with her over the coming months and years in continuing to make our communities safe. I have already had the opportunity to meet with her and discuss in brief the 4 specific areas she would like the Force to focus on as a result of her consultation with local communities. These areas are:

1. Tackling anti social behaviour
2. Tackling violence, particularly violence towards women and girls
3. Preventing and reducing crime, specifically burglary
4. Putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system.

We will be working closely to draw up a plan local to Somerset East District to tackle the crime and community safety issues which most affect our communities. Mrs Mountstevens is keen to consult widely on this plan and there will be several opportunities early in the New Year for you to contribute. Details of these events will be advertised on the Force website. The plan will be finalised and published in April of next year.

Moving on now to progress made during the last few weeks, November saw two very successful Relentless operations, resulting in 100 additional arrests for a variety of crimes, including burglary and vehicle crime. We were supported by many of our partners during this period, including those from local authority and housing organisations. Everyone worked seamlessly together to make the two days a fantastic success, and in addition to partners, large numbers of staff from Police HQ administrative posts came to work on the District to support us and boost numbers. We also had a six week period of concerted effort around serious acquisitive crime such as burglary and vehicle crime and we were able to secure the support of specialist resources from Police HQ, as a result of which a number of arrests were made.

Serious acquisitive crime which includes dwelling burglary, theft of and from motor vehicles and robbery has reduced by 6% over this time last year resulting in significantly less victims of these upsetting and disturbing crimes. Importantly, we have had some real success in bringing offenders to justice for stealing motor vehicles and are currently detecting just under 30% of all motor thefts.

As always one of my key priorities is to ensure my officers and staff delivers a professional and effective service to anyone who needs our help and particularly to victims of crime. I measure the quality of our service by asking victims to rate the police service they receive. This month I am delighted to report that our performance has again improved in this area. Staff have far exceeded their targets for keeping victims updated and 83% of victims report they are happy with the updates provided - specifically in respect of burglary, particularly, 90% are happy with the updates they have received.

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Successes have been achieved in relation to violence against the person which has reduced by 7.7% compared to this time last year with more serious offences of grievous bodily harm and actual bodily harm reducing more than 10%.

Anti social behaviour can affect any neighbourhood and can be extremely upsetting and disruptive for not only the victim but also the wider community. My staff have been focusing on trying to reduce anti social behaviour and to work with partner organisations and communities to resolve the issues on a long term basis. The Force has introduced a Gold Standard for tackling anti social behaviour to ensure we identify vulnerable and repeat victims to give them the service they need and deserve, and I am delighted to report that 84% of people reporting anti social behaviour are happy with the service they received.

Often associated with anti social behaviour is the crime of criminal damage. My officers and staff have been focusing on reducing this specific type of crime and I am happy to report that this crime type has reduced by more than 18% compared to last year.

I always like to take the opportunity in these letters of giving information or reporting on the good work which has taken place on the District, and the following six examples give a flavour of some excellent local policing.

The first of these relates to an event a couple of months ago, when police were called to a serious fire at a block of flats in Chard. Upon arrival it was clear that the fire presented a life threatening situation to the residents. A female resident was trapped in an upstairs flat, the fire service had not yet arrived, and so one of my female officers climbed a ladder through the smoke and flames, entered the flat through an open window into the trapped resident's flat and tried to encourage the lady to climb onto the window sill. The resident was unable to negotiate the window sill, but after some quick thinking by the officer who threw a stereo speaker through the window to smash it, she was able to help the resident out to safety down the ladder, assisted by the fire brigade who had just arrived on the scene. This Officer went beyond the call of duty putting herself at risk of serious harm to save the female resident from immediate danger.

In September 2012, two Yeovil officers were called to the scene of a possible domestic incident. Upon arrival, they were confronted by a violent male who threatened them and then took refuge in a vehicle on private land. The male was in breach of a non molestation order and was not permitted to be on the property. After brief negotiations failed the male threatened the officers by suggesting he was going to blow up the vehicle he was in and as the officers tried to take action to prevent the male from injuring himself and others, he attempted to ignite a gas bottle concealed inside. The officers' quick thinking and positive action prevented serious injury or death and although the suspect did manage to partially ignite the gas bottle, causing some minor injuries to both officers and gas inhalation to himself, he was arrested for attempted murder and charged with arson with intent to endanger the life of both officers. The male is currently remanded in custody awaiting trial.

In October, officers attended a house fire in Yeovil caused by an electrical fault which led to the discovery of several hundred cannabis plants found growing. Further enquiries linked this address to another in Hazelbury Plucknett which was searched a few months earlier and found to have hundreds of plants also. Enquiries also identified yet another address in Yeovil found to contain a cannabis factory and resulted in two Vietnamese nationals being arrested. The landlord of the Yeovil properties has also been arrested.

Continuing our fight against rural crime, in October 2012, three offenders were arrested at Lottisham for theft/handling after quantities of power cable were found at the scene and firearms were seized from the address following the discovery of an unlicensed shotgun.

In the Mendip area, a male was seen acting suspiciously in Bolters Lane, Shepton Mallet. Due to the high number of rural thefts in the area officers self deployed to the area and stopped the offender and searched him. Following enquiries at the location the male was arrested on suspicion of fuel theft after discovery of major damage and siphoning from the domestic fuel tank at premises he was arrested outside. The male was charged with stealing heating oil.

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Finally, and most recently, following a series of thefts from motor vehicles overnight on 26/27 November in Frome, a known local offender was arrested on 30 November. On being interviewed he admitted all twenty three offences and has been recalled to prison to appear in court later this month.

In addition to our relentless fight against crime, it will not have escaped your notice that our area has been subject to huge amounts of rainfall over recent weeks and there have been several occasions where a number of communities, villages and roads have experienced severe flooding. My staff have worked tirelessly with the Fire Service and Local Authorities to ensure the safety of residents, assisting them in reaching their properties and on some occasions helping residents being evacuated to safety for a number of hours whilst flood water subsided.

Areas which we will be focusing on in the New Year include continuing to reduce serious and acquisitive crime, dealing with anti social behaviour, reducing re-offending, tackling all aspects of rural crime such as non dwelling burglary, theft of agricultural equipment, and metal theft. In addition, we will be looking to support residents of farms and isolated properties. We will also continue to work with other organisations to abate the negative effects of drugs and alcohol issues.

Work also continues on an initiative with partners in both South Somerset and Mendip to tackle the issues experienced by some families. All the organisations are working together to co-ordinate our support for these families, reduce duplication and hopefully improve the outcomes for the families involved. This initiative is called the Troubled Families initiative (locally named Family Support initiative) and is fronted nationally by Louise Casey in the Home Office. I will keep you updated as the work progresses but I think it is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of those families involved.

Now for an update on some recent changes in my Senior Leadership Team. Richard Corrigan has been temporarily promoted to Superintendent of the District. Chief Inspector Sean Williams moves to cover the Mendip part of the District and Chief Inspector Ray Hulin joins us to cover the South Somerset area of the District. Detective Chief Inspector Pete Warren continues to lead our CID resources.

Thank you for reading this newsletter, which is intended to regularly keep you up to date with what is happening in Somerset East District. If you have any feedback for me, my contact details are: nikki.watson@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

Finally, on a more personal but seasonal note, I should like to ask for your assistance in spreading the message to Somerset East District local communities of the importance in keeping their property secure during the lead up to Christmas. Please ensure Christmas presents and other attractive items are not left on view in vehicles and also ensure homes are secure to avoid opportunist thefts. Overall, Somerset East District has achieved the largest reduction in crime in the Force and there are currently 1,632 fewer victims than this time last year – a trend I intend to continue!

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely

Nikki Watson

Chief Superintendent

**Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner
Police and Crime Plan Consultation**

For the first time ever there will be a Police & Crime Plan for each of the six policing districts of Avon and Somerset and we want to make sure that you have your say.

We want the views of residents, community groups, businesses and victims of crime so we can make sure that the Commissioner and the police are concentrating on the things that matter to you. The Police and Crime Plan for Avon and Somerset and the six policing districts of Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset West, Somerset East and South Gloucestershire will set out the vision, aims and objectives for the your PCC Sue Mountstevens term in office.

Your Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) Sue Mountstevens will be visiting each of the six policing districts - Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset West, Somerset East and South Gloucestershire in January to further gather views about the local Plans.

We will keep you posted with the dates for when we will be visiting your area.

Please keep checking our **website** for more details. You can have your say **online** or you can call the Commissioner's office on 01275 816377 or email pcc@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk for a hard copy of the survey.

What happens next?

The findings of the online consultation and the District days will be used to inform your PCC Sue Mountstevens final draft Police & Crime Plan which will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel for review, before being published at the end of March 2013. The consultation closes on Friday, February 22, 2013.

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Item 8h

MDC – Local Plan Public Consultation

Dear Parish Clerk

Hopefully you will have received in the post a letter accompanied by a copy of the Local Plan which is the subject of **Public Consultation between 29th November and 24th January 2013**. You can access everything you need, as before, from our [Time to Plan](#) webpage. Please forward the weblink to your members.

We are not holding any formal events during the consultation period as the main focus is on people reading the plan and identifying specific changes.

As ever, throughout the consultation, please get in touch with any queries or questions you or your members might have.

Regards

John Meeker

Principal (Planning) Policy Officer

Planning Policy

Built Environment Group

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. BA4 5BT

01749 341506 (direct line)

01749 341542

www.mendip.gov.uk

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL



Mendip Local Plan Part I: Strategy & Policies Pre-Submission Consultation Response Form

- All responses should be made on a form of this type.
- There are guidance notes on page 2 to help you complete the form.
- A separate response form should be completed for each matter upon which you are making a representation.
- Responses must be received by 5pm on 24th January, 2013.

You can photocopy this form, collect additional ones from Council Access Points or download copies from www.mendip.gov.uk. You may attach additional material to this form to support the comments you make but ensure any attachments have sufficient details to match them to this form.

You can complete this form as an online survey at www.mendip.gov.uk on the 'Time to Plan' webpage.

For further information or advice, please contact at planningpolicy@mendip.gov.uk or on (01749) 341316.

Contact Details	
Name: _____	<i>If you have appointed somebody to act as your agent, please give their contact details. All correspondence will be sent to the agent:</i> Agent Name: _____ Company Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ _____ Postcode: _____ Email: _____ Tel: _____
Organisation: _____ (if applicable)	
Address: _____ _____ _____	
Postcode: _____	
Email: _____	
Tel: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____

Please note that responses must be attributable to named individuals or organisations at a postal address. They will be available for public inspection and cannot be treated as confidential.

Please indicate if you wish to be notified of future stages of the Local Plan process		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submission of the Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publication of Inspectors Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adoption of the Local Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
We will contact you by e-mail only unless you tick here		

1. Which policy, part of the Local Plan or other material does your response relate to?	
Paragraph: _____	_____

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Policy:	
Table, Map or Diagram:	
Other Matter:	

Note : *You can make a response on any part of the Plan, the Proposals Map, the Sustainability Appraisal or Habitat Regulations Assessment making references to supporting evidence the council has published. However, your comments must focus on the **soundness** of the plan and what needs to be changed (see below). A good starting point is the Council's Consultation Report which gives detailed responses to all the comments raised in relation to the draft Core Strategy (Feb 2011) and a summary of the main changes now made in the Local Plan.*

GUIDANCE NOTES

If you need any further information or advice, please contact the Planning Policy Team via e-mail at planningpolicy@mendip.gov.uk or on (01749) 341316

What can I make comments on?

You can make representations on any part of the Local Plan, the Proposals Map and supporting documents which include the Sustainability Appraisal; Habitat Regulations Assessment and the Consultation Report. Comments may also refer to the justification and evidence in the supporting technical papers.

Your comments must focus on the 'soundness of the plan (see below) and should set out what changes you want to see made.

Do I have to use the response form?

Because further changes to the Local Plan will be a matter for a Planning Inspector to consider, providing responses in a consistent format is important. For this reason, all responses should use the consultation response form. Please be as succinct as possible on the form. You can attach additional evidence to support your case. It will be a matter for the Inspector to invite additional evidence in advance of or during the Public Examination.

Can I submit representations on behalf of a group or neighbourhood?

The Council welcomes submissions from groups who share a common view on how they wish to see a policy changed. A single representation will be as effective as a large number of individuals submitting separate representations which repeat the same points.

Can I promote land for development?

You can promote a site as a genuine alternative to one of the strategic sites identified in the towns but you must be able to justify this.

It should be noted that the Local Plan Part II : Site Allocations will be the process within which sites, typically of under 50 homes, will be considered for allocation within or around towns and villages identified in Core Policy 1 of this Local Plan Part I. This process will commence in mid 2013.

Land can be promoted for inclusion within the Site Allocations process via the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which will be updated in Spring 2013. Forms to accompany new land submissions can be obtained on request or from www.mendip.gov.uk – search for SHLAA.

Question 2 - What does legally compliant mean?

Legally compliant is essentially asking whether or not the plan has been prepared in line with the regulations, whether policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and has regard to national policy as currently set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Details of how the plan has been prepared is summarised in Chapter 1 of the Local Plan, and is set out in more detail in the first part of the published Consultation Report which can be found on the Mendip website.

Question 3 - What does 'soundness' mean ?

STON EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Soundness may be considered in the context of its ordinary meaning of 'fit for purpose', 'showing good judgement' or 'able to be trusted'. The Inspector will use the Public Examination process to explore and investigate the plan against the NPPFs four 'tests of soundness' as listed in question 3. The scope of the Public Examination will be set by the responses received and other matters the Inspector considers relevant.

Where do I find National Planning Policy?

Online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2. Copies can also be inspected at the council's offices on request and purchased for a small copying fee.

Where do I find the Consultation Report and supporting documents / evidence?

On the Mendip website www.mendip.gov.uk - type in *time to plan* in the search box.

Question 4 - Do I need to attend the Public Examination?

You can indicate whether at this stage you consider there is a need to present your representation at a hearing session during the Public Examination. You should note that Inspectors do not necessarily give any more weight to issues presented in person than written evidence. The Inspector will use his own discretion in regard who participates at the examination. All examination hearings will be open to the public.

2. In relation to the matter you refer to in question 1, do you consider it affects the LEGAL COMPLIANCE of the Local Plan? (delete as appropriate)	YES	NO	Don't Know
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3. In relation to the matter you refer to in question 1, do you consider it affects the SOUNDNESS of the Local Plan? (delete as appropriate)	YES	NO	Don't Know
--	-----	----	------------

Is this because you consider the Local Plan <u>is</u> or <u>is not</u> ? (please mark one or more)		
x	Positively prepared	The plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
x	Justified	The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
x	Effective	The plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities
x	Consistent with National Policy	The plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.
<i>The descriptions above are the tests set out in paragraph 82 [Examining Local Plans] of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)</i>		

4. If your response is seeking a change to the Plan.... Do you consider it necessary to speak at the Public Examination? (delete as appropriate)	
NO	I do not wish to speak at the Public Examination
YES	Yes, I wish to speak at the Public Examination I consider this necessary because.....

Please note that the appointed Planning Inspector, not the council, will determine the most appropriate

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procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in the examination.

5. What specific change(s) do you consider necessary to make the part of the Local Plan you have identified in question 1 either Legally Compliant or Sound?

*Use this space to set out your proposed change to policy, supporting text or other content.
Use the box below to explain why you are proposing the change.*

6. In no more than 250 words...

Please set out your reasons/ justification for the response you have made

*Use this space to summarise concisely the basis of the argument behind your suggested change.
If you need to, you may attach additional material when you submit this form marked with your name and the policy/matter it relates to in case it gets detached.*

Completed forms should be returned,

By post to: Planning Policy, Mendip District Council,
Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5BT

By e-mail to: planningpolicy@mendip.gov.uk

By hand: at the Council offices at Shepton Mallet or, the Council Access Points (at Frome, Glastonbury, Street and Wells Libraries)

Responses must be received by 5pm on 24th January, 2013.

Representations received after this time will not be considered by the council or the Inspector