

Local Government Report to Parishes December 2018

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Shaping Dorset Council Update

Work continues with regular meetings of the Shadow Council, Shadow Executive and the working groups. Regular newsletter and updates on progress plus details of meetings held plus the programme of activity required to be completed by May 2019 can be found at:

<https://dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com>

Here, you will find a suite of information ranging from useful publications (e.g. Boundary Review maps and the constitution) meeting dates, agendas, minutes and newsletters for Parishes. Work towards developing the new Council's Budget is currently underway and North Dorset Councillors are keen to ensure that any council tax rises are kept to a minimum. These discussions will become more formal over the coming month.

Durweston Bridge (A357/A350 Junction) Update

Just to reflect briefly that scheduled works to the flood arches was postponed just over a year ago. You may recall that the works will be extensive, requiring a road closure that will impact on the wider area. During the course of this year, Deborah has had a number of discussions and meetings with the engineers. With very helpful engagement from Durweston Parish Council, the County Council engineers are keen to ensure that the full closure of the bridge is kept to a minimum and that wherever practical and safe to do so, a shuttle system will be operating in order to keep access over the bridge open for as long as possible.

We will soon be approaching a time when engineers and contractors will begin scheduling the bridge works. The key things the Parishes need to know are the dates for the work commencement, the stages of work and at what stage the road will be fully closed. It is also important to know about the proposed route

diversions at the earliest opportunity so that we can mitigate for specific local issues and businesses in order to keep disruption through the villages and the local area to a minimum.

The Programme of works is extensive requiring the replacement of the flood arches and also the road surface along the embankment. DCC Cabinet are considering the funding requirement on December 5th. Deborah will be attending to ensure that funding support is secured.

The programme of works and commencement date are currently being worked on. The proposed diversion route for the actual road closure will be consulted upon and, given the possible impacts of the closure DCC has confirmed that this consultation will take place as soon as possible.

It is worth noting that the patch repair to the side of the bridge undertaken last month is a temporary measure. Further repairs using stone will be done while the bridge is closed next year.

A350 and C13 Road works update

Vehicle Message signs (VMS) HGV One-way system

Christys Lane, Shaftesbury – the civil engineering work is complete. This includes ducting, duct boxes, cabinet and concrete slab base for the sign. The sign and associated electronics are currently being manufactured with a view for installation later this month.

A350 Blandford By-pass – Civil construction is currently taking place before the sign manufacturer can install the signs. The works includes ducting along a section of the bypass and the concrete base for the sign. To ensure safety of the workforce and travelling public there are times when there are temporary signals so on occasion there can be delays. Both of these signs can be used for general traffic messages or road safety messages but will primarily be used for HGV routing with detection of vehicles to bring up the correct message to ensure that drivers follow the north/south route.

C13 Melbury Abbas

Design work has moved on with regard to the HGV pull in and the new VAS sign adjacent to the pull in. Design Engineers are working with the manufacturer on the new VMS sign to be provided. This will be linked up to the existing VMS on Spreadeagle Hill and the traffic signals in Dinah's Hollow that will be improved as part of the work. Currently, DCC are programming

engineering work to start in January. This will require road closures to carry out the work. So further information will be forthcoming.

C13 Gore Clump Junction improvements (by Compton Abbas Airfield)

Design work had progressed and DCC are currently in the process of consultation for a Stopping Up Order for the northern side of the triangle, to ensure that this junction can be closed off.

Sign & lining matters

The majority of signing and lining is complete including all speed limits. There are a few matters that need completing which we are working with the DCC Highways Sign Shop to complete. This includes gateway signs in Durweston and on the approach to East Melbury from Zig-Zag Hill and improved signing at the junction adjacent to the pub in Fontmell Magna.

Seasonal Good Wishes

**May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

