

Hill Forts Ward

Local Government Report to Parish Councils

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Local Government Re-organisation

The Leaders and Chief Executives of the six Future Dorset councils met the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in London on Wednesday 27th September to request an update on the Future Dorset proposal for Local Government Reorganisation.

The Secretary of State thanked the councils for their patience and recognised the challenges that the delay in his announcement has created. He is aware that the councils have established two new Joint Committees to develop the partnerships, and welcomed the good progress that has been made.

Leaders updated the Secretary of State of developments locally and assured him that support for the proposal remains strong. The Secretary of State said that Dorset is his top priority in terms of local government issues, and he hopes to make an announcement in the next few weeks.

While all of Dorset councils await a decision from central Government on 'Future Dorset', the focus remains on business as usual and in developing our collaborative relationships.

Two Area Committees have been formed; the Dorset Area Joint Committee and the Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch Area Committee. These committees have been established to enable Members to fully participate in discussions about the future of public services in Dorset and to find solutions to shared challenges that all councils face.

The first meeting of the Dorset Area Joint Committee took place on Wednesday 20th September.

This Committee is made up of representatives from Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council. Sherry Jespersen is one of the representatives on this Committee.

The first meeting of the Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Area Joint Committee will meet on the 5th October.

This committee is made up of representatives from Dorset County Council, Christchurch Borough Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and Borough of Poole Council. Deborah Croney is one of the representatives on this Committee.

A350/C13 Road Improvements

Earlier in September, DCC Cabinet ratified the funding of the maintenance works and improvement schemes to the A350 and C13 (consulted upon earlier in June).

The works are soon to commence and Parishes directly involved have been invited to attend regular monthly update meetings to ensure that the programme is on track and also, for the highways team to gain feedback on any issues that may arise with design and construction, as the project progresses.

The first update meeting will be held on 9th October at 2pm at Stourpaine Village Hall.

Regarding the HGV one way system: Consultation with the Freight Operators and Emergency Services will soon be completed and will allow Andrew's team to finalise options and the detailed design stage once the feedback has been received. This will be the subject of further decision-making through the County Council Cabinet and then the Regulatory Committee. Detailed information will be made available at the monthly update meetings as the project progresses.

Durweston Bridge Works Deferred to Summer 2019

Deborah met with the engineers on the 18th September for an update. The bridge team has looked at the possibility of refurbishing the concrete extensions and parapets of all three flood-arches without closing the road. In short: working around live traffic extends the work period from 14 weeks to 30 weeks and more than triples the cost of the works.

The Engineers fully appreciate the amount of disruption that these works will have to local businesses, residents and to the wider community. They

understand that a road closure for 3 months will be the very last option to be considered. They are committed to finding a solution and have agreed to take a fresh look at the problem rather than trying to further modify the original design.

As the bridge works are now being reconsidered, Deborah will keep in touch with the engineers and arrange a public meeting at an appropriate time in the future.

Hambledon Division meeting Friday 6th October at 6:30pm Durweston Village Hall

The final Divisional meeting of 2017 will be held on Friday 6th October 6:30pm – 8:30pm at Durweston Village Hall. Deborah is delighted to welcome Simon Hoare MP as Guest Speaker and we hope that each Parish is able to send along representatives. A programme for the 2018 Divisional meetings is being prepared. If there are any specific areas of interest or topics Parishes would like to table then please do contact Deborah directly and she will try to accommodate.