

Steve Henderson

District Councillor's report

Sept '19

Very quiet for me at MDC last month with only 1 Planning Board meeting to attend, (which went on until 10.30pm).

The question of ASB has arisen again after a relatively quiet period in the Town. Through a combination of more visible policing and events not of our making the usual suspects that had blighted the High Street had gone and traders and public alike were pleased that the Town was no longer a sometimes no go area.

At last month's Council meeting Cllr Lund said that a shopkeeper in the Town had approached me about the increase of ASB in the Town this year, a meeting of which I had no recollection.

When I questioned the shopkeeper he admitted that he was talking about a meeting we had last year which made more sense but he did go on to say that he had witnessed an increase in drug taking and dealing on the Market Cross.

Although I haven't seen that myself I have noticed on a couple of occasions drunken behaviour from what I would call 'new faces'.

After the hard work of the Council, the police, the Community Partnership and others to get the Town Centre back to being a pleasant place to be we shouldn't let it slide back.

We need the visible presence of the Police back to nip this in the bud.

There is a meeting of the Community Partnership this week (which I can't attend) and I would hope that this emerging problem is discussed in depth and a strategy put in place. Councillor Lund and I share a place on the Partnership so I hope we can have a progress report from him at the next Council meeting.

The progress on the Deed of Dedication at Tor S&L is slow but still heading in the right direction as we shall see when it comes up on the agenda on Tuesday evening.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> August I helped out at A Night at the Abbey. There were 5 stages, approx. 25 acts, food and a bar. It was a lovely evening attended by about 2,000 people. A great event in a beautiful setting.

I would ask you all to spread the word about the upcoming Steve Knightley gig at the Town Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. Tickets are on sale at £22. Please tell your friends and share on social media etc. He is a fantastic act and I have no doubt it will be a great evening.