

Glastonbury Town Council
Somerset County Councillor Report
October 2019

Local Plan: The recent findings of Mendip District Council's (MDC) Local Plan Hearing in August recommend that MDC should make provision for a travellers' site at Morlands in view of the significant shortfall in accommodation; the inspector also found that due to a shortfall in housing allocation in the Northeast of the district of 500 or so dwellings, the Local Green Spaces in the draft Plan should be reviewed and therefore the Local Plan will not be finally adopted until April 2020. Our own Neighbourhood Plan's referendum and adoption will therefore also be delayed.

MDC has announced **free coach parking** will continue indefinitely at Northload Street West coach park, due to the tourism benefits of this policy.

MDC is encouraging district councillors to become **Mental Health Champions** and this is to be extended to town councillors. More information may be obtained at MDC's event at Council offices to celebrate **World Mental Health Day** on Thursday, 10th Oct, 11am - 2pm. The event is open to the public and will be attended by a number of organisations and groups all actively supporting individuals and communities; at the event people can also discuss healthy lifestyles and debt budgeting; there will also be a 'physical activities' corner, mindfulness area and free prize draw and refreshments.

Regarding the **Pomparles Bridge encampment**, there will be an announcement re. decisions on enforcement at the MDC November cabinet meeting.

MDC's newly formed **Climate & Ecology Emergency Group** (CEEG) has announced a Climate Change Action Plan, which includes a number of key themes: behavioural change, money (investments), energy, food & nature, transportation, water & waste, and the built environment. For more information, MDC's Climate Change & Resilience Officer, Hayley Warrens (tbc, or myself) will be speaking about this at the **People's Assembly** organised by **Glastonbury's own Climate Emergency group** on 26th October, 1-3.30pm in Glastonbury Town Hall. MDC's CEEG is providing a series of speakers; on 22 October Nick Pyatt, from Trioss, will be talking about **Climate Change Adaptation**, including business resilience, at Mendip Council offices, starting at 6.30pm; all councillors welcome (please note that this is not a public event however). I understand Somerset County Council's proposals re. a Climate Strategy Framework are to be announced in November; this will coordinate with MDC's CEEG proposals.

Cllr Lindsay MacDougall