BEGINS

The situation at Pomparles Bridge and Bretenoux Road, the Town Deal Fund and ongoing proposals to resolve the pinch point on the A361 in Chilkwell Street have all been important priorities this month. The Climate & Ecological Emergency Group at Mendip District Council (Climate & Ecological Emergency officer, Hayley Warren), will be resuming their programme, including community consultations, now the election period is over; the community consultation at Shepton council offices is on Sat 15th Feb.

Mendip District Council (MDC) have commissioned a traveller consultation which is currently being undertaken by Smart Communities, a part of Community Council for Somerset. The consultation is to include interviews with as many of the 80 or so rough sleepers and roadside dwellers in Glastonbury as possible. It will also include 40 interviews with stakeholders and residents. As the District Councillor responsible for Bretenoux Road and Pomparles Bridge areas I continue to receive a steady stream of complaints and queries about this issue, which I consider to be a consequence of the broken housing market nationally, a view also taken by the leader of MDC, Ros Wyke, and her cabinet colleagues. The change in regime brought in by Universal Credit, and its inherent problems, is also unhelpful. I learnt only today that a car was burnt out last night by persons unknown.

Discussions are ongoing re. the formation of the new Town Deal Board which is due to meet by the end of the month. This is being coordinated by Jenny Pitcher, Senior Economic Development officer at MDC.

I have been made aware by the new Action Against Invasive Roads group in Pilton that the Southwest Peninsula group are proceeding with strategic outline business plans for their proposals for a solution to the Chilkwell Street pinch point (and the heavy traffic), despite our own town council correspondence with Somerset County Council and public statements from James Heappey and Tessa Munt that they do not support any of the proposals to date.

ENDS