

Steve Henderson

District Councillor's report Mar 2020

On the 13<sup>th</sup> Feb I attended a meeting of the Glastonbury Living Spaces group which comprises of Town, District and County councillors as well as officers from District and County.

There was a presentation from Smart Communities, a company that had questioned the Travelling and Caravan community on the reasons, circumstances and hopes they have for living the way they do. This was just an interim report but provided a lot of information, some of which may seem obvious some not. Report available.

These meetings are confidential because of potential commercially sensitive information but pieces of land, that may offer a site of some sort, are identified and then either dismissed or earmarked for further investigation but finding a potential site is proving difficult.

A travellers' charter maybe drawn up which will be a 'self-policing' agreement between the Travellers and the DC that would see rules regarding no drug dealing, no intimidation of other residents, responsible disposal of waste etc adhered to while they are parked up. This is seen as an interim partial solution to complaints from residents but by no means a permanent arrangement.

There is also a plan being drawn up to resolve the Pomparles Bridge camp, the details of which will be made known in the near future.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb I was at the Planning Board meeting. An unusually short meeting with only three items on the agenda. The meeting could have been even shorter had members of the public and indeed some councillors dealt with the applications on the table and not issues from the past that had no relevance to our decisions on the night.

I had a meeting with four members of the Wyrral Park Bowls club on the 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. The club is on the verge of signing a new lease with Fusion and have big plans for the future. They would like to extend their clubhouse, are looking for new members and would ultimately like to buy the club that they are so passionately involved with. I will be helping them in any way that I can to ensure a successful future for the club.

While on the subject of Tor S&L I expect Councillors are aware that the Village Green application from the Friends of Tor Leisure has been formally withdrawn. As long as nobody else takes on the application this is another step in the right direction towards getting the Fields in Trust deed finalised.

There was a Full Council meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> with a full agenda largely dealing with finance of the DC but which also had items on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Group (CEEG), The Corporate Plan and the Future of Local Government in Somerset. We also voted to set the Council Tax but had to return the following week to correct a miscalculation of the amount of the increase in the Council Tax.

Finally. On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> I was at the Open mic at the Hawthorns. This particular Tuesday marked 10th anniversary of the Open mic evenings in the Hawthorns.

Simon, the owner of the Hawthorns, had originally given us a month's trial to see how it would work out and we're still going strong ten years later. Here's to the next ten years.