

Cllr Liz Leyshon report - June

Below please find my notes from a SCC briefing yesterday which may give Councillors some more information. I am also pleased to inform you that I have been pushing hard for the NSL parking enforcement officers to be issued with body cameras and a trial is to commence. Glastonbury will be one of the towns selected for the trial.

Briefing on Economic & Community Infrastructure SCC on 8.6.20

Registration Services: priority order is Deaths – Births – Marriages. Backlog of more than 2000 births to be registered but benefits unaffected. No news yet on how and when marriages may again be possible.

Libraries reopening being considered alongside the reopening of High Streets. Concentrating on the five bigger Libraries first (not Glastonbury or Street).

Recycling centres now taking wider range of items, still only for essential trips and with long queues early in the mornings. Some issues with new provider on kerbside and green waste collections.

Transporting Somerset: Lots of work with the NHS, social care transport increasing now. Public transport running at 10 – 15% of normal numbers. 60% of journeys still provided. No increase in numbers using public transport since lockdown was eased.

Some **school transport** running with low occupancy for social distancing, SCC still paying full price to companies to keep them viable.

Heritage & AONB phased reopening eg Somerset Museums

Highway commissioning – lots of work on the Active Travel Cell, positioning with Dept for Transport and looking for long term potential through short term opportunities.

Three strands of work and funding, all interlinked. More expected in 2021:

1. Districts funded direct for reopening of High Street. Chaired by Sedgemoor, SCC has place at table.
2. £120k bid to DfT for Active Travel in Somerset, looking for temporary measures for active travel eg cycle lanes. Chaired by Alyn Jones Of SCC, working with Districts.
3. Second tranche of Govt funds for Active Travel, £480k expected for Somerset to make more permanent changes.
4. Feb 2021 announcement of Govt funds of £2billion expected for more active travel work.

County & Districts also having discussions with town councils, demand for immediate changes outstrips supply of funds so local involvement is essential.

Work on the highway by SCC and others eg utilities: Huge numbers of applications for work on the highways, greatly increased from this time last year. Some relaxation of requirements reflecting lighter traffic.

Housing development sites are getting back to work.

SIS schemes are standing back up, some good progress. NO news yet on completion of the two Glastonbury SIS. As Town Council contributed to the costs, it may be worth a follow up letter from the Mayor.

Big construction projects are coming on well eg Junction 25, with social distancing in place.

Thank you.

Liz

Liz Leyshon
County Councillor for Glastonbury & Street