

## District Councillor Report to Glastonbury Town Council – September 2020

**Cllr. Jon Cousins**, Mendip District Councillor for Glastonbury St. John's Ward.  
Member of Standards Committee, Audit Committee, & Assets of Community Value Panel.

### **Mendip business impacting on Glastonbury:**

#### **Unitary Authority – Stronger Somerset:**

In light of the Secretary of State's apparent desire to create a Unitary Authority for Somerset, Mendip have worked with the other District Councils in the county to develop an "*ambitious plan to deliver a stronger future*".

Called **Stronger Somerset**, this plan is an alternative to the one being proposed by Somerset County Council. The major difference being that – whereas the County Council envisions a single-tier successor to the non-metropolitan county – the Districts have considered the creation of two Unitary Authorities, the boundaries of which would reflect the combination of Mendip and South Somerset in the East; Sedgemoor, West Somerset and Taunton in the West.

Mendip describe this as "*a vision that has emerged from many months of detailed research, planning and consultation from our own councils and with experts in Somerset and across the UK.*"

Glastonbury Councillors can find out more about the proposals on the Mendip website:  
<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/ss>

#### **Section 106 Monies:**

With thanks to Cllr John Coles, who alerted Glastonbury Town Councillors to the unspent Section 106 monies from the development of Watt's Corner, I have been in communication with Carol Taylor, the Section 106 Monitoring Officer, who has confirmed that there is a fund ring-fenced to be spent only in accordance with a 'S106 Deed of Variation'.

The amount – £45,673.49 – must be spent within 10 years of receipt, which was 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012. It can only be used for the purchase of land for use as local area of play and/or equipping those areas with play equipment and or the improvement or enhancement of existing local area of play within the vicinity of the development. The agreement defines the vicinity to be within a 2 Kilometre radius of the development.

At my request, Carol Taylor has provided a map of the vicinity in question, and she has indicated that the money could be used for "*a few small bids ...in order to improve existing facilities around Glastonbury.*"

I intend to liaising with my three fellow Glastonbury District Councillors about this over the next month, and will report back in October.

#### **I attended the following Mendip meetings:**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August: Standards Committee

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August: Audit Committee

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August: Combined Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee

In addition, as the Town Council substitute, I observed the Towns Fund, Towns Deal Board meeting on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August.