

District Councillor Report to Glastonbury Town Council – April 2021

Cllr. Jon Cousins, Mendip District Councillor for Glastonbury St. John's Ward.
Member of Standards Committee and Audit Committee.
A District appointee to the Joint Scrutiny Panel of the Somerset Rivers.

It has been a relatively quiet month for me at District.

Glastonbury issues:

I have received a number of messages regarding van dwellers highlighting Glastonbury residents' frustration at the perceived lack of enforcement by Mendip.

There has also been an on-going issue with ground-works taking place without planning permission at a location on the edge of the ward.

Councillors briefing with Tracy Aarons and Stuart Brown:

On Thursday 1st April, I attended a Zoom briefing delivered by Mendip's Deputy Chief Executive Tracy Aarons and Chief Executive Stuart Brown regarding good practice for councillors and officers with regard to protocol and etiquette.

The briefing also enabled a discussion about the potential impacts of both Covid-19 and the move toward Unitary on the operations of the District.

Severe weather provision:

In light of the cold spell we have recently been experiencing, I would like to draw Town Councillors' attention to the 'Severe Weather Emergency Provision' (SWEP) provided by Mendip.

During periods of severe weather, emergency accommodation is provided for people sleeping rough in Mendip.

If councillors become aware of anyone rough sleeping during periods of severe weather, please advise them to contact **Elim Connect Centre** on 01749 677097 to access the provision.

Elim coordinate and provide emergency accommodation at times of severe weather "*to create safe spaces for rough sleepers to leave the streets and take shelter from harmful weather conditions*". To find out more please visit Mendip's website:

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/swep>