

## District Councillor report - Lindsay MacDougall - April 2021

Due to the upcoming elections, Mendip District Council meetings this month have been limited.

I attended a (further) phosphates briefing, and also Planning Board.

I also attended the Members Equality Steering Group where there were a number of items on the agenda:

- \* we were briefed about the 2 full-time workers at Somerset County Council (SCC) working to prevent Hate Crime;
- \* we were informed of the work of the 2 gypsy liaison officers at SCC, whose work building relationships with the travelling community has been paused due to Covid in favour of assisting enforcement teams in a non-confrontational manner; data is to be assembled on pitch requirements to inform planning policy-making, numbers available in late Summer/ Autumn.
- \* also discussed was Black History Month; SCC plan to provide a set of videos re the Windrush story and provide a screening with a celebrity speaker; on 22 June a day of celebration of the Windrush Generation is to be held. Nether Stowey was apparently one of the first areas to push for slavery to be banned.
- \* we were briefed on the work of the Somerset Diverse Community Project, including "Language Connect" for people who need to improve their English who are matched up with English speaking volunteers to talk on Zoom or a platform of their choosing; more info at [ccslovesomerset.org](http://ccslovesomerset.org)
- \* lastly, we were informed that the Syrian Refugees Programme is on pause during Covid; in future the programme will be opened up to other nationalities.

ENDS