

**Cllr Lindsay MacDougall**

**April 2022**

**Equalities Steering group** which included a presentation from Mendip officers about the new Local Community Networks.

**Elim Connect:** Cllr Smyth and I met with staff at their centre in Wells to better understand the changes taking place where Elim will no longer be providing a drop-in pastoral care service to the homeless, as the service will be taken in-house to Mendip District Council, where the priority is to bring down the numbers of homeless and van-dwellers by the roadside.

I have also undertaken numerous meetings/conversations with van-dwellers and residents with relation to the proposed PSPO amongst other things.

**Planning Board:** the telecoms mast in Frome was turned down by a narrow majority for health reasons, observing the Precautionary Principle where research has been shown to be out-of-date and of poor quality.

**SCAN (Somerset Climate Action Network)** on Home Insulation: including information on the **Somerset Retrofit Accelerator project:** the project aims to develop the supply chain for low carbon, whole house retrofit of homes in Somerset through:

(1) 50 discounted Home Retrofit plans for Somerset households in partnership with Futureproof (see <https://futureproof.uk.net>);

(2) 30 paid places on the Futureproof Essentials course for local construction professionals;

(3) creation of new online resources through a Green Directory for Somerset;

(4) showcasing low carbon homes through virtual online tours; those interested in participating can find out more here use the following tinyurl link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdeb9awe>

It was observed that we need 2,300 retrofits done every day until 2050 in order to go net zero.

**Rivers Trust conference:** which included discussion re Payment for Ecosystem Services, a solution to the pollution of our waterways that has been chosen by water companies in Northern France and in Southern England. Wessex Water is one of 5 companies that have been handed notices re discharge. Guy Thompson, of Wessex Water and Financing UK Nature Recovery stated that there is a £44 billion funding gap for what is required to reach 2030 goals. Reference was made to a successful project in Billingham where tomatoes are grown from sequestered carbon; 17k tonnes of CO2 have been sequestered in the first 30 years of operation at 90% less cost than conventional treatment:

<https://www.theguardian.com/big-energy-debate/2014/sep/22/carbon-storage-teeside-industrial-renaissance>

**Somerset Bus Partnership** the good news is that £11.9 million has been announced for Somerset in the latest round of funding from central government for the Bus Service Improvement Plan. An ambitious £163 million was the bid from Somerset County Council in November.

**Glastonbury Community Development Trust** AGM: the jobs finding and advice service has recommenced in their Abbey Mews office on Mondays 10-12, whilst further volunteers are required to resume the daily service offered prior to the pandemic; please contact [admin@glastonburycdt.org](mailto:admin@glastonburycdt.org) if you are able to help. No skills required except a friendly and helpful manner, and you learn the ropes on the job.

**Avalon Community Energy Community Benefit Fund** meeting: free curtains and carpets are offered to those on benefits or otherwise vulnerable to the value of £300 per application to apply contact: [communitybenefit@avaloncommunityenergy.org.uk](mailto:communitybenefit@avaloncommunityenergy.org.uk)

**Walkers are Welcome/Glastonbury on Foot:** I attended a meeting where improvements to our walking and cycling facilities were discussed. This is in addition to the **LCWIIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Improvement Plan)** at Mendip District Council which will be announcing the results of its initial surveys in the next month or so.