

This month I have taken on a new role as a member of the Equalities panel which has yet to meet. This is in addition to membership of the Planning Board which meets monthly and the Licensing Board which meets every two months. These roles are in addition to my role as Shadow Portfolio holder for Neighbourhood Services; this has a complex remit which includes: MDC (Mendip District Council) asset maintenance, cctv, carparks and road closures, trees, play areas, waste, the Idverde contract (street cleansing, grounds maintenance, loos, graffiti, fly-tip clearance, facilities management), markets and events on council land, bereavement and interments, enforcement and dog warden services. This month as well as duties associated with these roles I have mostly been concerned with housing issues and the various encampments in town, including Pomparles Bridge and the Actis Estate: I have had numerous complaints from residents and these problems need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

To better understand this issue I have visited the shipping container accommodation (currently displayed at Paddington Farm); I have also visited the Morlands site with other councillors; and further liaised with Nick Cottle, the Portfolio holder for Neighbourhood Services and other councillors on the Glastonbury Living Spaces panel, including Ros White, Leader of the Council and Liz Leyshon and Steve Henderson.

The new Climate & Ecological Emergency Group at Mendip has been meeting regularly over the summer; MDC has now appointed a Climate & Resilience Officer, Haylee Warrens, Hayley has a varied background supported by her BSc Hons in Geography and Environmental Management. She further trained as a Geography teacher becoming curriculum lead before deciding on a career change and becoming the Sustainable Travel Planner for Royal United Hospital in Bath. In this position she managed and delivered sustainability projects across the Trust developing their Travel Strategy and often linking with BaNES and their plans to implement a Clean Air Zone within the city by 2020. Earlier this year Hayley was appointed as a planning assistant at Mendip but when she saw this post advertised she along with others thought it was a fantastic way to take something they have a passion about, use their education and experience and make a difference driving the Council's commitment for Mendip to be carbon neutral by 2030. Hayley will be working with the strategic lead for Climate Change and Cllr Tom Ronan, Portfolio Holder for Strategic Policy and Climate Change, focusing on the implementation of the Council's Action Plan to meet its commitment. As part of this she will be leading and enabling innovative projects with local businesses and community organisations, where her teaching experience will be invaluable, to:

- Promote a better understanding of energy loss and savings, leading to lower energy usage strengthening links to tackle energy poverty
- Promote the use of green infrastructure and renewable technology to generate energy
- Promote the reduction of waste and improving recycling
- Encourage the use of low carbon alternatives to the private car
- Promote and developing training and employment potential in both energy production and energy saving areas
- Promote behaviour change within our communities

She has promised to visit the Town Council; a date will be arranged shortly for sometime in the next few months.