

220215 Dorset Councillor's Report to Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council

Face to face meetings

Face to face meetings of the Council and Committees will recommence from the 15th Feb Full Council Meeting onwards. This will be held in the Council Chamber at County Hall and will be live streamed. The Public and media will be able to attend in person or access the stream, and the recording. Those present live are asked to wear a face covering, and have a negative a Lateral Flow Test prior to attending.

Local Plan

Dorset Council has written to Michael Gove seeking reform of the National Planning Policy Framework and proposing that Dorset could be a pilot for a new way of creating Local Plans, based on sustainability and local needs over the next 30 years, that also recognises the ambitions of our Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

We must have a Local Plan in place: without one we face the risk of unmanaged development in Dorset, but it has to be the right plan. Our hard-working and innovative planning officers have ensured the draft Local Plan is the best it can be, but it is constrained by current planning legislation.

As a result, of the unprecedented 9,000 responses our public consultation received, many residents share my view that the draft Local Plan chases housing numbers rather than prioritises local needs.

In the letter Cllr Spencer Flower (leader of Dorset Council) also believes it is better to have fewer bigger-scale new developments in Dorset which bring in the necessary funding and infrastructure, rather than lots of small developments which put further pressure on already-stretched community resources.

Mr. Gove has been asked to consider several radical alternatives:

- allow Dorset to pilot a radically different approach to Local Plan making
- break the link between the housing land supply numbers and the Duty to Cooperate – i.e. the requirement for Dorset Council to accept unmet housing need from neighbouring councils
- allow Dorset an extension of two years until April 2026 to give more time for the new Dorset Local Plan to be developed and approved. During this extended period of plan preparation, Dorset should be protected against speculative housing development by suspending the five-year land supply requirement or by other means necessary
- fully recognise the climate and ecological emergency in the planning system, including new building regulations.

We recognise that this is national policy and may require changes to primary legislation, which is not in our gift locally.

QE Leisure Centre

Dorset Council is proposing to withdraw its management of the QE Leisure Facility. The facility is not owned by the Council but costs the Council around £500,000 per year.

Overall, 1,799 responses to a consultation were received. As expected, there was overwhelming support to keep the current arrangements which would result in no impact to residents, QES and those that use QELC.

83% of respondents said they currently travel to QELC by car, which is of note given there is a good level of alternative leisure provision in the local area. 51.1% indicated that they use or have used other local sports facilities, of which there are eight other public leisure centres within 20 minutes' drive.

85.4% of disabled users who visit the centre use the pool and QES have raised concerns around being able to maintain the swimming pool at QELC.

The Council has said it would work with QES to find a sustainable alternative solution.

This will involve helping the school find alternative funding opportunities, making the current facilities more widely available and providing support and guidance for any users who may need to make alternative arrangements for their activities if necessary.

The Council is also proposing that one-off funding of up to £150,000 is made available as a contribution towards the replacement of the all-weather pitch at the site.

Community Governance Review

There will be a report presented to Full Council on 15th February which recommends no change to the arrangements currently in place in Alderholt, Cranborne & Edmondsham, and Knowlton Councils.

Clerk's Report – February 2022

Update on stolen post box – Edmondsham

No new information received.

Annual Parish Meeting

I have had confirmation that Lord Cranborne can attend the meeting on Thursday 12th May 2022 in the Cecil Memorial Hall, Cranborne at 7.30pm.

Invited speakers who have confirmed:

Cranborne Estate

Cranborne Fire Department

Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector/Sergeant

Wessex Rivers Trust

Lady Borne Gardens – Cranborne

A car drove into the gardens on Saturday night (05.02.2022). I have been in touch with our maintenance team, Grass & Grounds Maintenance, who will be tending to the area on the 07.02.2022. In view of the hole through the bushes it was discussed that this was a good time to give the area a really good cut. Some of the bushes are encroaching onto the path and these will be cut back too.



Fingerposts – Cranborne

I have been in touch with K. Ridge Building Services regarding the missing letters on the fingerpost in Cranborne (by the telephone box). Kevin has informed me he will replace the missing letters, free of charge as he has some spares.

Cllr Vacancy – Cranborne

A vacancy has arisen due to Cllr M. Nurton stepping down. The Electoral Services have been informed and the correct signage has been placed on the PC noticeboard in Cranborne and on the PC website. If an election is not to be held, the law requires the PC to co-opt a person to fill the vacancy 'as soon as practicable after the expiry of the period of fourteen days'. Dorset Council will inform the clerk if an election is to be called.