

SAMPFORD COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL OPEN MEETING 23RD OCTOBER 2018

1. Present :- Cllrs Colin Coleman, John Friend, John Palmer, Heather Smith & Mathew McIlwraith + Dilys Lord – WDBC Locality Engagement Officer + 24 members of the public.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Michele Wilson & Jon Clatworthy Edwards.

Sampford Courtenay Survey

3. Cllr Heather Smith introduced the new Sampford Courtenay Survey and encouraged parishioners to please complete it. It is available on the front page of the website www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk or hard copies are available at the New Inn, The Countryman or at the Church. SCPC would prefer parishioners to complete the survey online if possible, as this will make assimilating the results quicker and easier. Cllr Jon Clatworthy Edwards has offered to help people complete the survey on line in his office in the Square. Or contact the Clerk, Marion Pratt, on 01837 82285, to arrange help in completing online. Parishioners were asked to spread the news and offer to help any of their neighbours in completing this survey.

Speed Issues in the Parish

4. Cllr John Palmer explained that SCPC are still endeavouring to get the overall speed throughout the parish reduced. However, recent (and previous) responses from the Police and Devon Highways are not encouraging. They still say that it is unlikely the speed limit will be reduced until there has been at least 2 fatalities caused by speed.
5. SCPC have been keeping a list of any accident in the parish and would encourage parishioners to continue to report accidents (together with photos) if possible to the Clerk. SCPC will also see if it is possible to set up a Report page on the Website.
6. A member of the public suggested SCPC could draft a letter for all parishioners to use as a template to send to their MP regarding the ongoing concerns about speeding issues.
7. Cllr Coleman also suggested that SCPC could look into a Community Speed Watch where trained volunteers use a speed gun to check speeds and report back to police. The only problem being that it is most likely to be speeding parishioners and your neighbours that you would be reporting.
8. The Clerk also showed where other parishes have used ScareCrows with yellow jackets and clipboards at strategic places to try and slow traffic. Also Solar/battery powered mobile interactive LED speed signs that show either a Smiley or Sad face to indicate your speed.
9. **Your own ideas, or support for any of the suggestions raised at this meeting would be appreciated. There is an opportunity to comment on the Survey.**

Link Road

10. Cllr Heather Smith would like to know why they say we will still have to wait another 2 years before a 2 lane link road between Crediton and Okehampton Roads will be completed. Apparently, she was told it would be 2 years over 2 years ago!

Recycling

11. Dilys Lord from WDBC explained that the current recycling contract is coming to an end in March 2019 and WDBC are looking at new tenders for the contract. This will include an improved recycling service with an increase in the variety of materials that can be collected from the kerbside and recycled.
12. Dilys also explained that the elected members had made the decision not to buy trucks with ability to lift and tip dustbins/wheelie bins & that Health & Safety restraints for lifting certain weights above waist height meant that black plastic bags for general rubbish at the kerbside was the only solution.
13. Members of the public expressed their opinion that Recycling in other countries and by other councils was much better than WDBC and hoped that they were seeking informed, professional advice when deciding on who to award the new recycling contract to.
14. Cllr Coleman invited WDBC to produce a Policy statement regarding their Recycling Policy.

Planning

15. Cllr Coleman explained that there is a new planning category of Permission in Principle, where applicants can submit a simple application to see if a piece of land is deemed suitable for development before committing to expensive Full Planning details.
16. Cllr Coleman also explained that SCPC now use a set of guidelines when deciding on all Planning Applications put before them, and that the more details an applicant can put before the council makes it easier for their plans to be supported.

Defibrillators, CPR & First Aid Training.

17. A member of the public from The Beeches explained how she is in the process of obtaining a defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation with the help of a grant of £600 from Cllr James McInnes Community Fund. She still needs funding for a storage cabinet and annual running costs. Cllr Coleman asked that she notify SCPC so that help with funding could be considered in next year's budget.
18. Another member of the public informed the meeting that she had support for another defibrillator sited near the Iron Bridge group of properties.
19. The Clerk highlighted the leasing option from South West Ambulance Service which costs £1,800 for 4 years & includes an Annual Basic Life Saving Course.
20. Cllr Coleman also explained that SCPC are keen to run regular First Aid courses to build up a number of individuals throughout the parish who are trained and confident in CPR.
21. Another member of the public, who had had need to call and use the 999 ambulance service, praised the service and care she had received.
22. A member of the public highlighted Okepads <https://www.facebook.com/Okepads/>
- 23. Parishioners thoughts on which, if any, of the above options you would like SCPC to consider would be appreciated. Comments can be made on the Survey form.**

Grant Requests

24. SCPC currently has requests for funding from 5 local groups. The feeling of those present at the meeting that SCPC should support The Beeches Defibrillator request, Village Hall request for paint, and Okehampton District Community Transport Group (Ring N' Ride) before considering requests from further afield.

Parishioners' Items

25. Airband Telecommunications Planning Applications – there have been 2 applications for Airband Wifi poles in the parish. The concerned parishioner was reassured that any electricity supply to the pole nearest his home would be underground.
26. Broadband in general – a parishioner who took up the Connecting Devon and Somerset offer of a voucher last year reported that the coverage via an EE Sim card and a South West Mobile Broadband dish was not satisfactory, although other parishioners have found it has increased the speed of their broadband service tremendously.
27. Active Parishioners – a member of the public would like SCPC to encourage parishioners to become more active. SCPC would welcome any volunteers to organise the annual or more regular “strolls” along the network of local footpaths and green lanes. Your comments would also be welcome regarding “Adult” exercise equipment on the Village Green.
28. Air Ambulance Night Landing – it is believed the nearest landing spot to Sampford Courtenay at the moment is North Tawton Rugby Club.
29. Bus Service to the Beeches – the clerk was actioned to contact Cllr James McInness about the possibility of re-instating a bus service past the Beeches.
30. **Goodbye and Thank you to Christine Murray**, our Paper lady – members of the parish wished to express their thanks for over 20 years of delivering papers in the area. Chairman Cllr Coleman has subsequently sent Christine a Thank you card which was much appreciated.
31. **Snow Wardens** – if anyone would still like to volunteer as a Snow Warden for the parish there are yellow jackets and snow shovels available. Please contact the Clerk.

Thank you to all who attended the meeting. We hope you found it interesting and informative. Please complete our survey so that we can see what is important to you, and for the future of Sampford Courtenay.