

Notes from Annual Parish Meeting Tues 19th April 22.

Please read these notes in conjunction with the Power Point presentation shown at the meeting.

Present: - 23 persons + 4 via Zoom. Apologies received from Cllrs P. Collins & C. Coleman.

- **SCPC Chair Michele Wilson** – welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated that this was a meeting for the parishioners not an SCPC meeting.
- **SCPC Finance** – Cllr Wilson explained the Finance slides showing how the Precept money was spent last year; and explained the current Ear Marked Reserves, which have come from various sources, built up over several years to prevent an enormous increase in a single year's precept.
- **Potholes and water leaks** – a member of the public suggested that ice rather than snow was more of a danger in the parish. Particularly on Frankland Hill where there is a continuous flow of water. # Clerk will report this again to both Highways and SWWA for their attention. Cllr McInnes reminded the meeting that parishioners should continue to report potholes etc on the **Report It** – website, as this was the most effective way of getting it fixed.
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>
- **DCC Cllr James McInnes** – (please see his full Annual Report published on our Website - <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/parish-council-minutes-agendas>)

Budget

Putting together the County Council budget for 2022/23 has been the most difficult in living memory, more difficult than the period of austerity.

The DCC portion of the Council Tax will rise by 2.99%, including 1% additional funding for Adult Social Care. We have taken the unprecedented step of using £23 million from reserves to support the budget. That rainy day has arrived, and we need to support the most vulnerable children and adults as best we can with the resources available. The Budget for 2022/23 is £629.362 million.

Devolution Deal

Working closely with Devon Districts, Plymouth and Torbay, the partnership has put proposals to Government for a Devolution Deal. This is not a change to Local government structures in Devon. We are asking for powers to be able to work closer together in the eight areas below, to speed up the recovery from the pandemic.

What do we want?

Partner authorities, working closely with stakeholders have identified eight initial areas to focus on in negotiations with Government:

- **Housing**, more affordable housing for key workers and local families and drive economic growth.
- **Skills, Employment and Education**, better support for young people and adults to learn and gain the skills that the economy needs.
- **Transport and Infrastructure**, tackling gaps in our public transport, and improving our broader transport, energy and digital infrastructure, supporting the area to thrive
- **Economic Development, Business Support and Innovation**, working with the business community to ensure that they have the support they need to drive economic growth.
- **Health and Care**, working together to better align national funding to support the health and care needs of Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay's residents.
- **Climate Change**, working together and aligning national funding and activity to accelerate our progress towards net zero
- **Regeneration and Place**, securing the funding and flexibilities we need to accelerate levelling up, and ensuring that every community can meet its potential.
- **Governance**, securing a governance approach for the Devolution Deal that builds on our existing strong approach to collaboration and partnership working.

Ukraine

You will be well aware of a huge groundswell of positive local support and goodwill and we will want to ensure that this can be utilised by guests, sponsors and partners in a safe way and where appropriate to give guests consistent opportunities to settle and feel welcome. In the coming days we will work with partners to map out an approach in which sponsors, guests, communities and organisations can access responses particularly to sign post to key support and services.

The Council's website is being updated with the latest information and provides wider background and links. [Devon stands with Ukraine - Devon County Council](#)

- **Okehampton Housing Developments out towards Sampford Courtenay** – several members of the public expressed their concerns regarding the seemingly never-ending advance of new housing out of

Okehampton towards Chicacott Cross.(Sampford Courtenay boundary).

Concerns raised included:-

- a) Number of homes being built. (Cllr B Ratcliffe confirmed there is another 400 houses being built)
- b) Seeming lack of Sustainable features eg solar panels, zero carbon build on these new home. (Cllr B Ratcliffe explained that WDBC Planning Dept are urging these measures as far as they lawfully can)
- c) Lack of sufficient school & medical provision for increased population.
- d) Lack of forward planning that has resulted in two extended periods of road closure for access to Okehampton.

Cllr Ratcliffe – suggested that SCPC arrange a separate meeting with Pat Whymer – Head of Planning to discuss these concerns. Plus try and obtain an up-date from the local Medical Group regarding reforming an Okehampton Health Hub which was working so well prior to COVID 19.

- **WDBC Cllr Barry Ratcliffe** – explained that WDBC are looking for land suitable for **affordable/social housing**. LiveWest has funds for joint projects but need somewhere to build 2 bedroom affordable starter homes. **Ukraine** – Good news! – up to 17 families in WD are offering homes and support for 54 Ukrainian refugees. If anyone else is able to Sponsor a family they should first register on the Government website.
<https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>
- **James McIlwraith – CEO of Sampford Courtenay Community Rail Partnership**
James explained that the CIC is currently negotiating with Network Rail
 - ❖ The first priority is to restart calling services at Sampford Courtenay Railway Station.
 - ❖ The Station doesn't currently meet the required ATOC
 - ❖ Safe access to the station is the main difficulty
 - ❖ The Parish, the Borough and the County Council's help and support will all be needed to address the principal issues of road access and bus connectivity
 - ❖ Despite the difficulties, re-opening our station is more achievable than some of the other rail projects underway and has widespread support from the main stake holders
- **Roger Thompson – Chair of Sampford Courtenay Village Hall** –
Roger outlined how the Village Hall is not just a building but at the centre of Sampford Courtenay Community. The slides demonstrate the varied and many events that take place at the hall. The Village Hall Trustees are hopeful that their application for a Lottery Funded Grant will provide the necessary funds to make the essential repairs to the roof.

See the link below for the Video submitted with the Lottery Application.

[SAMPFORD COURTENAY VH GRANT - YouTube](#)

- **Emily Evely – Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator** – explained how a small group of parishioners became qualified to become our local Speed Watch Group. She demonstrated the process and showed the equipment they have been given by the police in order to carry out the speed checks.

Emily would like to get more volunteers to join up, so that more areas of the parish can be regularly checked. For more information contact Emily at emilyevely1@googlemail.com or have a look at this website

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/on-the-road/speed-watch/get-involved-with-speed-watch/>

- **Cllr Janet Palmer – Chair of Sampford Courtenay Environmental and Sustainability Group** explained that as a sub-committee of SCPC we are not trying to change the world but if everybody does a little it can add up to a lot.

All **SCEnSus** meetings are open to the public (the next one is Tues 10th May 7pm at the Village Hall); and it would be good to have some more locals who are interested in Environmental issues to come along and share their ideas at a meeting. There is also a SCEnSus page on the Website <https://www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk/scensus> where the monthly suggestions can be viewed (and in the Roundabout) and lots of other good ideas.

The group also organises regular Litter Picks throughout the parish; and has worked over the past year to enhance the Village Green. Your next chance to volunteer will be **Sat June 11th Himalayan Balsam Clearance**. Look out for more details.

- **Cllr Martin Morrissey – Lead SCPC Cllr for Improved Broadband and Mobile connectivity within the parish** – please refer to Power Point slides. Martin gave an up-date and with maps showing the proposed roll out of Fibre to the Premise by Openreach. There is still no definitive map for Airband, which have been allocated this area by Connecting Devon and Somerset.
- **NHS Video Conferencing** – Martin has also been in contact with the NHS to arrange for parishioners who may be offered a Video Conference rather than a Face-to-Face appointment with their GP, and if their home broadband is not strong enough to allow this, Martin will help set you up

with a computer in a private room in the Village Hall to enable this conference to take place. Anyone interested in taking up Martin's offer please feel free to contact him at Cllr.Morrissey.SCPC@gmail.com

- **Malcolm Craig – Church Warden St Andrew's Church** – gave an update re Church matters :- The local PCC's are still in the process of finding a new vicar. There will be more interviews in June. Church events are getting back to normal after COVID 19 with well attended Armistice Services, Christmas Bazaar, Carols at the Inn and around the parish, (although trying to sing at both the square and The Beeches on the same night may not be viable next year); New Year's Eve Midnight brazier in the square (attendance was a bit down this year), but the Bell Ringer's Coffee Morning and all the Easter Services were well attended.
Church of Engand Buildings have to be inspected every 5 years, and this year is the turn of St Andrews.
- **Michele Wilson** – thanked everyone for attending a long, but very informative evening. If any of the above has given you food for thought or if you had some suggestions/comments you wanted to raise but did not get chance – please let us know and we will give all suggestions our due consideration. ClerkSCPC@gmail.com