

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428
Email: clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Newsletter for September 2024

Police report

The Coleford drop-in sessions continue to be held at the Hub on:

30th September
28th October

25th November
23rd December

There is no need to make an appointment just drop in just drop in between 10am and 11am to discuss any crime prevention or policing matters.

Planning Applications

2024/1337/FUL - Creation of sensory garden to rear, Newbury Manor School, Tinkers Lane, Newbury. The Parish Council recommended that the application should be approved. The planning department are due to make their decision by the 9th October.



Speed watch



We know that speeding is a concern for many residents in the village and one way to deter speeding and gather data to support future action and support from Somerset Highways is to conduct speed watch sessions. At present we have 3 volunteers which is not enough to run effectively. Could you spare an hour every couple of weeks to help make this happen? If so, please do contact the Clerk on clerk@colefordpc.org.uk - All training and equipment provided.

Highways

Issues in our Parish:

Charmborough Lane – Major incident reported around 8-30 on 6th September. An HGV and a van met on a narrow stretch, neither would/could reverse so the van half mounted the bank and scraped its way all along the side of the HGV. No injuries reported so will not appear on any database. BUT the road was blocked for 15 minutes, people were late for school, work, appointments.

Anchor Road – We have reports of 3 cars being scraped at Upper Merryfield, ducks killed and a cat killed. Residents are concerned at speeding and ask whether Speed watch or other measures could help.

It was agreed that these issues would be reported to Somerset Highways to reinforce the cases we have already made about Highway Safety.



Other issues:

Leigh on Mendip - with the recent heavy rains concern had been raised about the flood that appears across the road at the entrance to the old Barnclose Quarry.

Although not in Coleford many residents use the road. It was asked if the Council should discuss the issue with Leigh Parish Council to see if they have action in hand? Cllr Ham said that Leigh on Mendip Parish Council are already dealing with the issue.

Beacon Cross – the response from Highways was not as positive as hoped. It was asked if the Council should discuss the issue with Oakhill Parish and also the quarries to reinforce the case for urgent action. Cllr Ham said that this is an agenda item for the next LCN.

Dark Lane – Unbelievable that this was given as the official diversion route for the recent closure at Vobster. It was already agreed earlier in the meeting that this would be addressed with Somerset Highways.

Kings Head Bridge repair, Lipyeate Cross repairs and Charmborough Lane edge markers – update awaited from Highways.

Christmas Tree and lights

The Council has agreed with the Royal British Legion that this year a Christmas Tree will be erected on the grass outside of the Legion. The Council has agreed to purchase the lights and will source the tree, which we hope will bring some Christmas cheer as we lead up to Christmas. Look out for further details on when the ‘Christmas Switch on’ will take place.



Climate Action Group (CCA)

The presentation on the 9th September by Eco All Together was well attended. The evening gave an introduction into ‘Adaptation’, showing ways that the village can work towards being carbon zero. There will be 5 further training sessions.

James Smithers of Bus Partnership had shared a potential new timetable, which provided a bus service later into the evening and at the weekends for Coleford, which had been shared on the council website and Facebook pages. Cllr Moulding had voiced a wish that a link to Radstock be included. This was important as users could then easily access other key locations direct like Bath and Bristol.

Some of the CCA members visited Wedmore who have implemented great schemes which have helped them to become carbon neutral. Cllr Moulding suggested some of the Parish Councillors should visit to see what can be achieved here in Coleford.

For information about the Coleford Climate Action group please see their Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/colefordclimateaction/>

Unwanted bonfires in the village

Fires have been used throughout the centuries to mark occasions, as signals and to dispose of waste. However, we now have alternatives for disposing of most materials and burning some things is illegal. Take a look at the information on the Coleford Parish Council website on how to dispose of your waste responsibly: https://www.colefordpc.org.uk/news_details.php?id=11



If bothered by smoke, approach your neighbour and explain the problem. You might feel awkward but they may not be aware of the distress they are causing and it will hopefully make them more considerate in the future. If this fails, environmental health at your local council should be notified. More info available on via this link: [Bonfires and wood burners \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/bonfires-and-wood-burners)

Consider seeking a volunteer for the Somerset Strimmer Scheme

Do you love walking the Coleford footpaths? Would you consider volunteering to help strim some of the routes? The Somerset Strimmer Scheme provides training and loans equipment to cut back vegetation along public Rights of Way, ensuring they are open and clear for users throughout the year. If this is something that you would like to do, please contact the Parish Clerk by emailing: clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Somerset Council

Somerset Cllr Ham and Cllr Clarke circulated the following report:



Winter Fuel Payments:

The announcement by the new Labour Government to stop paying Winter Fuel Payments to those pensioners not receiving Pension Credits will impact over 110,000 residents in Somerset. This together with the rise in the fuel cap will have a significant impact upon a large proportion of them.

Commercial Investments: Somerset Council has completed the sale of another Commercial Investment - its property at Aztec West, Bristol. The building is one of many commercial assets that the Council is disposing of as part of its property rationalisation programme established in response to the financial emergency. Other commercial assets recently sold include the Steelite factory in Stoke-on-Trent and Howdens in Bromsgrove.

Bridgwater Golden Mile: Work on Bridgwater’s Celebration Mile has now commenced. The pedestrian and cycle route will connect the railway station and the Northgate Docks which are also in line for regeneration. Both are funded by money from the Government through the Bridgwater Town Deal. The closure of Eastover is expected to be in place until November when construction moves to the next phase. The scheme aims to re-energise the centre of Bridgwater by improving footfall and encouraging visitors to spend more time in the town

centre. The route will include coordinated quality public realm materials, street furniture, shared surfaces, paving, lighting, street trees, interpretative material, public art, and improved wayfinding.

Reducing carbon emissions: Somerset Council is encouraging businesses to reduce their carbon emissions by registering for the Go Green Scheme. Part of the scheme will enable businesses to take advantage of a free carbon reduction plan, which will improve energy efficiency and is likely to reduce running costs. The Go Green Scheme is funded by the UK Government to support businesses transition to a cleaner, greener economy. A tailored report then sets out the current energy usage, the alterations and support needed to achieve the predicted energy reduction. To find out more about the Go Green Scheme and to register interest visit <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/net-zero-for-business/> and scroll down to the Sustainability Audit.

Trading Standards: Businesses across Somerset are being warned that they are putting their livelihoods at risk by not asking for identification when selling age-restricted goods such as vapes, tobacco and alcohol. This follows the prosecution of a shopkeeper from Bridgwater who has been ordered to pay more than £3,500 after being caught selling vapes to a 15-year-old girl. The girl was in fact a volunteer in a test purchasing exercise on behalf of the Trading Standards Service.

Evercreech recycling centre open day: As part of this year's Heritage Open Days SUEZ recycling and recovery UK will be providing another look behind the scenes at a recycling facility in Somerset. Evercreech Materials Recycling Facility will be open to the public for a series of free tours in September. Not normally open to members of the public, the open day gives a unique opportunity to go behind the scenes. Tours will be taking place on Saturday, 14 September, every hour from 10am, with the last tour at 2pm. Entry is free but visitors must book in advance to avoid disappointment on the day. Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-open-day-evercreech-household-recycling-sorting-facility-tickets-976107793687>

Walk for life: The third annual 'Walk for Life' event, aimed at raising awareness of suicide prevention, is being held on Saturday 7 September. The walk starts at 10:30am at the Quaker Meeting House in Taunton and will pass through Taunton Town Centre, stopping in Vivary Park at the "Afterlife" bench to lay flowers to commemorate loved ones who have died by suicide. Participants can download a free back sign from <https://walkforalife.org.uk> to personalise in remembrance of a loved one or collect one on the day. The event is run in support of World Suicide Prevention Day which occurs annually on 10 September and this year's theme, 'Change the Narrative', encourages open discussions about mental health and suicide to break the stigma and foster understanding and support.

Green Flag Awards: Four of the Councils managed open spaces have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for 2024 – Ham Hill, Yeovil Country Park, Wellington Park and Blenheim Gardens in Minehead. Somerset Council had taken the decision not to enter their parks into the Green Flag Award competition this year due to budget constraints but the four which retained their green flag status were entered by local voluntary groups and Minehead Town Council.

On Your Bike: A new initiative with SUEZ and charity, On Your Bike means that bikes collected via the council's bulky collection service will now be donated to On Your Bike. Bikes are often collected and although previously recycled as scrap metal, they will now go to new homes. On Your Bike is based in Bridgwater and Taunton with an aim to train and support those in the community who have suffered social exclusion, have physical disabilities or mental health issues. This includes ex-service personnel, refugees, ex-offenders, homeless and long term unemployed. Bikes that are donated to On Your Bike are then refurbished and sold in their Bridgwater and Taunton shops. All funds generated go back into local projects. During the first month On Your Bike received more than 25 bikes.

Fostering: With over 600 children in care and fewer than 200 in-house Foster homes more people are needed to come forward to train as foster carers. More information can be found at www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk or by calling 0800 587 9900.

Date of Next Meetings:

25th September 2024

9th October 2024

Planning meeting

Parish Council meeting



Please contact the Clerk if you wish to have something discussed at a meeting.

Clerk@colefordpc.org.uk