

May 2021 Report to the Parish Council, Jill Haynes Chalk Valleys Ward

Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying the good weather now it has at last arrived. I'm never too sure if my reports are of interest or what you want to hear from me so please let me know if there are particular areas you want me to cover. I am aware that a lot of information now comes out to the parishes from Dorset Council and the DAPTC and I don't want to duplicate that.

This has been a very busy month for me as the lockdown starts to be lifted, I have been out on a number of site visits. At the beginning of May I visited five different leisure facilities in the East of Dorset, four of which are run by the council. Many leisure centres were put in during the 70's and 80's and many are dual use with schools, the swimming pools in particular are expensive to run, don't cover their costs, and are only available to the public out of school hours. We are looking to see what next in this area as many of the facilities are now coming to the end of their natural life.

I also visited Blandford and looked at the library there and Norden lodge where we are opening a customer service point serving North Dorset.

I went up to Shaftesbury to look at St Mary's School which the council purchased at the beginning of the year. This was a private girl's school set in over 50 acres and is a fantastic site. It has everything in place for us to start up the school again to cater for those with special educational needs. We have a great lack of these schools in Dorset and many youngsters have to travel long distances out of county or board to get appropriate education. Paying for this outside provision is extremely expensive and so we have decided to develop our own centre of excellence. The school is fully stocked with books, tables, chairs, kitchens, dormitories and playing fields. It even has a full equipped music centre and some 30 pianos!! It is being run as a stand-alone organisation as Councils can no longer start schools and the recruitment of staff has already begun for opening in the new year.

At Cabinet we covered a wide variety of areas including:

Youth Justice Plan

The Protocol for planning obligations funding and allocation of community schemes

Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy

Dorset Cultural Strategy

A few other areas which might be of interest on which I had meetings included:

The Government and DEFRA consultations on recycling matters including producer obligations to take packaging returns and a deposit scheme for drink containers.

Meetings of the DAPTC larger parishes and Towns and their Executive

Air Quality in Chideock

Taxi Strategy

Meeting with Superintendent Lynne of Dorset Police about anti-social behaviour in Weymouth

All told a total of 54 meetings and site visits in the month

On the next page is a list of the areas of responsibility in my portfolio, it is a huge mish mash of bits and pieces many of which have no connection to the others!! Just though it might be of interest as much of the work is never seen in either the press or in Dorset Council comms!!

Well done if you have managed to read to the end of this report. Best wishes Jill

Areas covered by Portfolio

Commercial Waste

Domestic Waste

Street Cleansing & Town Bins/Rubbish

Trading Standards

Environmental Health including Dog Orders, Food Safety, Premises inspection and abattoirs - anything involving COVID. PSPO's

Bereavement inc. Weymouth Crematorium, the joint Coroners Service and the morgues.

Licensing inc. taxis, private hire, sex shops, pubs and all alcohol and music including noise nuisance

Registration, Births, Deaths and Marriages

Libraries

Public toilets

Food standards inc. Harbours and quality standards for fish landed and stuff like the razor clam beds off West Bay

Leisure services

Town and Parish Councils inc. DAPTC

Vol and Com sector inc. DCA

Grant provision as in nearly all grants the council gives out

Joint Archives service and the preservation of all Dorset Council records, those of predecessor councils and the town and parish records.

Museums

Arts & Culture

Matters of air quality

Customer services including the call centre and Dorset for you web site (This is a big one as the front face of the council and yes I know it could be better and is work in progress!)

Graveyards no longer used! Yet expensive and we have to repair the tombs as they collapse and mow the grass!!

Dorchester Market