

#### **GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

#### **FULL COUNCIL MINUTES**

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Monday 27**<sup>th</sup> **November 2023** at The Town Hall, Gillingham, commencing at 7.30pm.

#### Present:

Cllr Barry von Clemens, Mayor Cllr Roger Weeks, Deputy Mayor Cllr Graham Bashford

Cllr Rupert Evill Cllr Alan Frith Cllr Paul Harris Cllr Mick Hill

Cllr John Kilcourse

Cllr Graham Poulter Cllr Val Pothecary Cllr Sarah Snook Cllr Donna Toye Cllr A von Clemens Cllr Mark Walden Cllr David Walsh

#### In attendance:

Town Clerk, Julie Hawkins Assistant Town Clerk, Jill Ezzard Projects and HR Admin Officer, Serena Burgess 1 members of the public

#### Via MS Teams:

Michael Streeter, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a presentation by Kevin Moore, Dorset Council Programme Coordinator for the Dorset Armed Forces Covenant. This was followed by a minute silence in honour of David Milsted, Freeman and former councillor of Gillingham, who passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

1174. Public Participation. Please note: a period up to a maximum of fifteen minutes will be allowed for public comments and questions restricted to items listed on the following agenda

There was no public participation.

#### 1175. To receive apologies for absence

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies for absence from Cllr Cullingford and Cllr Cullen, who were unable to join the meeting for personal reasons.


# 1176. Declarations of Interest: Members are required to comply with the requirements of Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 disclosable pecuniary interests.

Cllr Walden declared an interest in agenda item 15 as a Trustee of the Gillingham Community Leisure Trust.

#### 1177. To receive questions pertaining to the previous minutes

There were no questions.

## 1178. To approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the Full Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

## 1179. To receive, consider and adopt the draft minutes of the following standing committees:

a) General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the General Purposes meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are approved and adopted.

b) Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are approved and adopted.

c) Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are approved and adopted.

#### 1180. To approve payments of £10,000 and over

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix A

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to approve the payment of £10,000 and over for the month of October.

1181. To receive a draft budget for FY 2024/25 for consideration by Full Council at the Budget meeting scheduled for 15 January 2024.

The draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The draft

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budget is available for members of the public to view by appointment at Gillingham Town Hall, and comment on until 5th January 2024. The budget will be considered and decided by Full Council at the Budget meeting scheduled for 15th January 2023.

#### 1182. To receive and consider a Health and Safety Report

A report was received prior to the meeting.

The report was noted.

## 1183. To receive and consider reports from Sub-committees and Task and Finish groups, as follows:

#### a) Five Year Action Plan Sub-committee

There was no report.

#### b) Sports and Leisure Task and Finish Group

Cllr B von Clemens informed councillors, that members of the Sports and Leisure Task and Finish Group had recently visited several sports and community halls to research future provision ideas for Gillingham.

#### 1184. To receive and consider reports from outside bodies, if available:

#### a) Town Meadow Group (Cllr Toye)

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix B

The report was noted.

#### b) Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Cllr B von Clemens)

There was no report.

## c) Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) Larger Town meetings (Cllr B von Clemens)

There has been no meeting.

## d) Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) Northern Area meetings (Cllr Cullingford)

There has been no meeting.

#### e) Gillingham Transport Forum (Cllr B von Clemens)

There has been no meeting.

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#### f) Gillingham Youth Centre Management Committee (Cllr B von Clemens)

There has been no meeting. Cllr B von Clemens informed members that the lead youth worker will be leaving at the end of the month. A replacement has not yet been appointed.

#### g) Blackmore Vale Community Rail Partnership (Cllr Walden)

There was no report.

# 1185. To receive and consider an application for an event to be held at Hardings Park on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. *Please note that the event includes the lighting of a beacon.*

An application form had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the application from Gillingham Rotary Club for an event to be held at Hardings Park on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day is approved.

Cllr Kilcourse abstained from voting.

## 1186. To receive and consider a report from the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task and Finish Group.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that this agenda item will be deferred to the December Full Council meeting.

#### 1187. To receive and consider a report from the Traffic Management Sub-committee

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix C

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the Traffic Management Sub-committee make an application for 20mph limits across Gillingham funded by Dorset Council

Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter and Cllr Toye voted against the proposal.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that a virement of £3,000 is made from Budget No 5090 – Estate Management Promotions and Signage to Budget No 5408 – Traffic Regulation Orders/Surveys, in case it is needed

Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter and Cllr Toye voted against the proposal.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that the cost of speed surveys not to exceed £3,000 are funded from Budget No 5408 – Traffic Regulation Orders/Surveys

Cllr Harris, Cllr Poulter and Cllr Toye voted against the proposal.

1188. To consider and approve a draft lease between Gillingham Town Council and Gillingham Community Leisure Trust for Hardings Lane car park.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the December Full Council meeting.

Cllr Walden abstained from voting.

1189. To consider and agreed the re-appointment of Cllr Sharon Cullingford as a nominative trustee for the Charity of William Read for a period of four years from November 2023.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** to re-appoint Cllr Sharon Cullingford as a nominative trustee for the Charity of William Read for a period of four years from November 2023.

1190. To consider supporting the Dorset Armed Forces Covenant Programme. Further information is available on the Dorset Council website Here.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix D

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:

- Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.
- In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community, recognising the value that serving personnel, both regular and reservist, veterans and military families contribute to our community and to our country.

It was agreed and **RESOLVED** that Gillingham Town Council will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces** through the publication of our Covenant pledges via our website, social media and newsletter.
- Providing employment support to members of the Armed Forces
   Community by welcoming job applications from members of the armed forces community who meet the criteria in the job specification and recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process.
- **Supporting national events** such as Remembrance Day, Remembrance Sunday, the Poppy Appeal and Armed Forces Day.

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- Supporting armed forces charities with fundraising opportunities.
- Supporting the Gillingham Detachment of the Dorset Army Cadet Force and recognising the benefits of employing cadets/ex-cadets within the workforce.
- Supporting requests for Military Freedom Parades from the Gillingham
  Detachment of the Dorset Army Cadet Force and The Rifles Regiment who have
  been granted Freedom of the town.

Cllr Pothecary abstained from voting.

#### 1191. To receive a report on the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's civic activities

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix E

Cllr B von Clemens congratulated Cllr Weeks for organising the town's remembrance parade and thanked him for his support during the past month.

The report was noted.

#### 1192. To receive and note reports from Dorset Councillors, if available

A report from Cllr Belinda Ridout was circulated prior to the meeting. Please refer to Appendix F.

The report was noted.

Cllr Walsh reported that Dorset Council has prepared documents to provide guidance considering climate change in planning applications. The documents will be non-statutory but will provide guidance and help applications to maximise opportunities to address climate change. Cllr Walsh informed the meeting that the consultation on the Planning for Climate Change document has now closed. Dorset Council has received 800 comments and will now be reviewing the responses received. Further updates will be posted on the Dorset Council website in due course.

Cllr B von Clemens informed members that a meeting has been arranged with the three Dorset Council Councillors and representatives from Dorset Council Waste to discuss street cleaning in Gillingham.

#### 1193. To receive matters pertinent to this meeting

- **a)** The Mayor congratulated the Assistant Town Clerk on passing the CiLCA Qualification.
- b) The Mayor informed the meeting that he and some members of the town council's grounds team have joined the Movember Movement and are growing moustaches to raise awareness for men's health. To date, the team has raised £355 for charity.

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The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.		
nave now been erected by t	he town council grounds staff.	
the Christmas lights on a Su	ks Manager and the Deputy Works Manager for erectunday. Over 100 trees and several Christmas display	ting 's

## Gillingham Town Council Bank payments between £10,000 and over - October 2023

Log Ref No	Supplier	Date	Details	Amount paid (including VAT where applicable)
15747	Lee Holmes Garden Machinery	09/10/2023	Purchase -John Deere 3046R tractor	£40,706.00
			<u>Total</u>	£40,706.00

#### **Gillingham Town Council**

#### **Town Meadow Group**

**Author: Cllr Donna Toye** 

A meeting was held 8 November 2023.

The following events are booked and paperwork will be passed to the Town Clerk:

#### **Bookings 2023:**

- 25th November: Festive Lights switch on.
- 15th December: Carols on the Meadow at 6 pm.

#### Bookings to date for 2024:

- 25th May: 7 Charities Plant Sale.
- 1st June: 3RP market.
- 8th June: Gillingham in Gear.
- 22nd/23rd June: Gillingham Live.
- 13th July: Town Meadow Fete.
- 24th August: Craft Market.

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- 29th Sept. 6th Oct: Carnival.
- 13th October: Wave of Light.

#### **Gillingham Town Council**

## Traffic Management Sub-Committee Report regarding potential 20mph limits in Gillingham

Author: Cllr Val Pothecary, Lead Member

Members: Cllr Val Pothecary (Lead member), Cllr Graham Bashford, Cllr Alan Frith, Cllr Mick Hill, Cllr David Walsh

#### **Background**

Following concerns raised about speeding in Gillingham, a working group was formed to discuss the possibility of requesting some 20mph zones with Dorset Council Highways – who had suggested consideration be given to the wider application of a 20mph limit rather than just one or two streets.

Currently the High Street is the only street with a 20mph limit.

#### **Proposal**

The Sub-committee would like to recommend that the Town Council apply to Dorset Council for 20mph limits on all streets highlighted in green in Appendix A.

#### Criteria

The criteria for setting speed limits is determined by the Department of Transport (DfT) and Dorset Council will evaluate potential 20mph schemes. A summary is given below and full details are available here - 20 Mile Per Hour (mph) Policy - Dorset Council

Locations can be considered for 20mph schemes when **all three** of the following criteria apply:

- A. They are in towns or villages where there is a depth of residential development and high levels of pedestrian and cycle movement or there is a potential for high levels of pedestrian and cycle movement if a 20mph scheme was introduced; they should not be on roads where the movement of motor vehicles is the primary function.
- B. Where existing mean speeds provide a realistic opportunity for compliance: DfT guidance states that 20mph schemes should be self-enforcing. If the mean speed is already at or below 24mph, introducing a 20mph speed limit through signing alone is likely to lead to general compliance with the new speed limit. Mean speeds above 24mph are likely to require additional traffic management or enforcement measures.

C. There is significant community support; in assessing community support, the local Ward Member and town/parish councils should consider residents views to best ensure that there is broad consensus.

#### **Process**

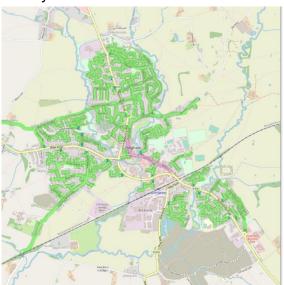
 Application made to the Dorset Council Road Safety Team who will assess against the criteria.

The Town Council would be responsible for funding the required speed surveys at a cost of £275 +VAT for one and £200 +VAT for further surveys. The number of surveys required would be determined by Dorset Council as part of the application process.

If the criteria is met, they will assess against the Priority Criteria Matrix – this will
determine if the scheme is considered high priority and therefore eligible to be funded by
Dorset Council.

If the scheme is funded by Dorset Council they will carry out all the associated work, including the public consultation, at no cost to the Town Council.

• If the scheme is considered low priority or Dorset Council funding has already been allocated, it can be funded by the Town Council.



#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- That the Traffic Management Sub-committee make an application for 20mph limits across Gillingham funded by Dorset Council
- That a virement of £3,000 is made from Budget No 5090 Estate Management Promotions and Signage to Budget No 5408 – Traffic Regulation Orders/Surveys
- That the cost of speed surveys not to exceed £3,000 are funded from Budget No 5408 – Traffic Regulation Orders/Surveys

#### **Gillingham Town Council**

#### **Dorset Armed Forces Covenant**

**Author: Town Clerk** 

Prior to the start of the Full Council meeting, Kevin Moore, Dorset Council Programme Co-ordinator for The Dorset Armed Forces Covenant will be giving a presentation regarding the Armed Forces Covenant.

The following information regarding the Dorset Armed Forces Covenant has been taken from the Dorset Council website.

Further information is available here - The Armed Forces Covenant - Dorset Council

#### What is the Armed Forces Covenant?

The Armed Forces Covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the Government and the Armed Forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the Armed Forces and their families, and it establishes how they should expect to be treated. It considers the Armed Forces Community to include Regular Personnel, Reservists, Veterans, families of these and the bereaved.

The Government describes it as "an enduring Covenant between the people of the United Kingdom, His Majesty's Government and all those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown and their families".

The whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

The Armed Forces Community includes:

- Regular personnel Individuals currently serving as members of the Naval Service (including Royal Navy and Royal Marines), Army or Royal Air Force
- Reservists Volunteer Reservists, who form the Royal Navy Reserve, Royal Marine Reserve, Territorial Army and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and Regular Reservists who comprise the Royal Fleet Reserve, Army Reserve and Royal Air Force Reserve
- Veterans Those who have served for at least a day in the HM Armed Forces, whether as a Regular or a Reservist

- Families of Regular Personnel, Reservists and Veterans The immediate family of those within the above categories
- Bereaved The immediate family of Service Personnel and Veterans who have died whether or not that death has any connection with the service

#### How we support The Armed Forces Covenant

Dorset is fortunate to have a two year MoD Funded Programme that employs a Programme Co-ordinator who is responsible for the delivery of specific projects identified to support the Armed Forces community across the pan-Dorset area.

The main partners in this programme are Dorset Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset HealthCare University Foundation Trust, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Dorset, Bournemouth University, Wessex RFCA, Royal British Legion and SSAFA.

The overarching aim of the programme is to raise the profile of and to embed the Covenant in the day to day activities of all partner organisations across Dorset, ensuring that all members of the armed forces community are treated fairly and equitably.

#### Background Information and statistics for the Armed Forces Covenant

Dorset is a county with above average military presence, particularly veterans, and has strong existing relationships with its Armed Forces Community.

It has 6,500 serving personnel across 4 bases: Blandford Camp, Bovington Camp (Stanley Barracks, Allenby Barracks, Gunnery School Lulworth Camp), West Moors Fuel Depot and Royal Marines at Hamworthy. It is estimated there are around 1,575 spouses and 2,389 children related to those personnel.

Dorset has a large veteran population, being home to 2% of the UK's veterans whilst having only 1.2% of the national population. This is the 4th highest difference between percentage of national population and percentage of veterans of all the regions.

Dorset ranks 5th in percentage of total population that are veterans 7.95% (58,000).

On average 61.5% of those veterans are residing with their spouse meaning there are at least 31,365 veteran's spouses in Dorset.

We estimate the total number of members of the Armed Forces Community in Dorset is in excess of 100,000, around 12.9% of Dorset's 771,900 population.

This means that at least 1 in every 7 person in Dorset should have the capability to benefit from the provisions of the Armed Forces Covenant.

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Further information regarding the armed forces covenant, including a covenant template, is available at www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk <u>HERE</u>

#### Recommendations:

- That Gillingham Town Council endeavour to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant:
  - Members of the Armed Forces Community should not face disadvantages arising from their service in the provision of public and commercial services.
  - In some circumstances special provision may be justified, especially for those who have given the most, such as the injured or bereaved.
- That Gillingham Town Council commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community, recognising the value that serving personnel, both regular and reservist, veterans and military families contribute to our community and to our country.
- That Gillingham Town Council will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:
  - Promoting the Armed Forces through the publication of our Covenant pledges via our website, social media and newsletter.
  - Providing employment support to members of the Armed Forces Community
    by welcoming job applications from members of the armed forces community who
    meet the criteria in the job specification and recognising military skills and
    qualifications in our recruitment and selection process.
  - Supporting national events such as Remembrance Day, Remembrance Sunday, the Poppy Appeal and Armed Forces Day.
  - Supporting armed forces charities with fundraising opportunities.
  - Supporting the Gillingham Detachment of the Dorset Army Cadet Force and recognising the benefits of employing cadets/ex-cadets within the workforce.
  - Supporting requests for Military Freedom Parades from the Gillingham
     Detachment of the Dorset Army Cadet Force and The Rifles Regiment who have
     been granted Freedom of the town.


### **Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Report**

#### 29 Oct 2023 - 20 Nov 2023

Date	Event	Comments
29 Oct 23	High Sheriff legal service	I was very proud to represent our town at this event with the heads of the legal services in Dorset and the UK
11 Nov 23	Armistice Day	I joined members of our community to mark Armistice Day at 11am
12 Nov 23	Remembrance Sunday	It was once again my honour to join the RBL and our town's community to remember those who have fallen in war and have given their lives so that we can live in freedom
13 Nov 23	Royal Forest Project	As the lottery funded Royal Forest project drew to a close, I was invited to say a few words on the project and its legacy
18 Nov 23	Musical Memories Concert	The Deputy Mayor attended this event – it was a lovely evening, well supported and over £1,100 was raised for Dementia Friendly, Gillingham
19 Nov 23	Verwood Civic reception	I was invited along with other civic leaders and representatives to a Civic reception hosted by the Mayor of Verwood

## Dorset Councill Ward Report Cllr Belinda Ridout - November 2023

**Household Support Fund (HSF)** will re-open for applications on Thursday, 2nd November, 2023 for low-income households in the Dorset Council area. Department for Work and Pensions has given local authorities funding to support residents throughout the year. In Dorset, this is in the form of supermarket vouchers and applications open each month for eligible households. Citizens Advice allocate this fund on behalf of Dorset Council. The application form can be found at <a href="https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund">https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund</a> or call Customer Services on 01305 221000.

Cost of living support – Working with Dorset Citizen's Advice, information, support and advice can be found on the Dorset Council website with regard to money, debt and benefits; access to food; housing; support for children; mental health and wellbeing; energy, water, phone and broadband costs; employment and general help with Citizens Advice. Our area is covered by North Dorset Citizens Advice, based in Gillingham and can be contacted by phone on Freephone number 0800 144 88 48, open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, or visit the Gillingham Office at 4 Newbury Court, Gillingham SP8 4QX (wheelchair accessible) on Monday & Thursday's, between 10am to 12pm, 1pm - 3pm, or on Tuesday & Wednesday's, between 10am - 12pm, to book to speak to an adviser.

**Landlines** from the summer of 2024 analogue phone (landlines) will be switched off. Everyone with a current landline will need to change to a digital connection via a router. This is out of Dorset Council's control but will have implications for Dorset's residents. Members will be receiving a webinar about this shortly. In the absence of a national campaign, this is something to bear in mind.

**Donate Children's coats** – With cost of living and winter fast approaching, many families in Dorset are feeling the strain. Dorset Council is encouraging residents to donate clean and undamaged children's coats, hats and gloves for those aged 0-16. Residents can drop off their donations at The Shaftesbury Children's Centre, Wincombe Lane, Shaftesbury SP7 8PZ, Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm. A designated donation box is located at the entrance. Thank you, a great cause.

Helping young people leaving care – if you feel you could provide supported lodgings to a young person leaving Dorset Council care, giving them a safe and secure environment during their transition to adulthood, please get in touch. Supported lodgings is usually for young people aged 16-25, who need a small level of support to help them experience the transition to adulthood in a supportive home environment. It is possible for hosts to combine this with a career or busy lifestyle as you do not need to provide full-time care. To find out more, visit the Dorset Council website or contact <a href="mailto:fosteringenquiries@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk">fosteringenquiries@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</a>.

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Similarly, Dorset Council would like to hear from organisations and businesses to lend their support to young people in care or leaving care, as they head into adulthood. Many care leavers face the challenges of pursuing their studies or finding employment, while developing life skills. This is often without the support that other young people receive from family and friend networks. Dorset

Council has a responsibility as a corporate parent for all children in care and retain a responsibility until they are 25. There are currently 515 care leavers in Dorset aged between 18-25 years old. To find out more about Dorset Council's care leavers or to offer support and opportunities, please contact: Lucy.Benham@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

**Doorstep residents' survey 2023** - this November, doorstep interviewers are asking for views about the council and the services provided. The survey is being conducted by 'Information by Design'. Interviewers will knock on doors between 10am and 8pm and will carry an official 'IbyD' identification card with their photograph. Should you have any concerns about who you are talking to, you can look them up on the internet or give them a call on 01482 467467 or call Dorset Council on 01305 221000 to confirm it is a council survey. All data collected is being held in line with the data protection laws and held securely and will not be passed onto any third party or other company. The data will only be used to create a report to be used by the council, which will be available to view on line. The survey closes at the end of November.

**Local Plan Executive Advisory Panel** – the first meeting of the cross-party panel took place on Thursday, 26th October. It was essentially an overview of all the new planning legislation coming forward, through the Levelling Up Regeneration Bill, (LURB), introducing a new Infrastructure Levy to replace the current system of developer CIL and Section 106 contributions and changes to the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF), including changes to housing targets and the potential impact of all of this on the emerging Local Plan for Dorset.

The Government's proposed changes to Plan Making include a slimmed down version of the Local Plan which will include more National Development Management Policies covering detail, with the option for including Local policies to respond to specific local circumstances, produced over a 30 month period with review every five years. It was clear that there are many 'unknowns' at this stage and hopefully there will be further clarity over the coming months now the LURB has received Royal Assent. Going forward, Panel meetings will be by topic, the next meeting focusing on the Local transport.

**Budget cross-party Task & Finish Groups** – I have been assigned to the Children's Budget Task & Finish Group and will be meeting shortly to receive an overview, with the opportunity for discussion and recommendation on budget setting within this important directorate.

**Community Grants** – the latest round of Community and Culture Project grants is now open for projects and events for community, arts, accredited museums, heritage, sport, youth, play and physical activity. Grants can fund up to £5000 towards a project that will have a social impact and support local communities and hard to reach groups, providing up to 80% of total project costs up to a maximum of £5000. To find out more about eligibility and how to apply, go to the Dorset Council website. Alternatively, if you would like to talk to an officer about your project: Communities: Ian Wells, Grants Officer,

<u>ian.wells@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u> or Fiona Thomas, Community Engagement Officer, <u>Fiona.thomas@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u>. Cultural: Tracy Cooper, Recreation and Culture Officer, <u>tracy.cooper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u> or Vicky Dewit, Museums Advisor for BCP and Dorset Councils, <u>Vicky.dewit@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u>.

### Belinda Ridout, Councillor for the Gillingham Ward

Cllrbelinda.ridout@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk 07496413114

For those residents not on line, who have important questions or concerns, call Dorset Council on 01305 221000, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week or email:

<u>communityresponse@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</u>. All minutes of meetings can be found on the Dorset Council website: https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk